

# The Page-out

## Glacier County EMS Newsletter

**September 2007** Published by Kyle Starr, Captain/CCEMT-P



## Pamida Awards Training Grant

We were notified in late August that Glacier County EMS has been awarded a \$500 grant from the Pamida Corporation. The grant, which was applied for by Captain Starr, is to be used for the purchase of EMS textbooks. The purpose of the grant is to be able to provide textbooks to EMT or first responder students who wish to enroll in EMS training but may not be able to afford textbooks.

### Fleet Update

It looks like we may not have to go with a type 1 (truck cab) rig for our next truck after all. Ford is unveiling a different engine that will be available to replace the problem-laden 6L diesel. The 6L that we have in A2 has left it sitting on the side of the road multiple times, and that kind of reliability is unacceptable in an emergency vehicle. The next truck will still have a full-size box on it, allowing for more room to perform patient care. Sticking to a van front (type 3) does more than just keep our fleet looking more identical, it saves fuel. A rig on a truck chassis will get an average of 2-3 mpg less than one on a van chassis. If the rig were going to be utilized in an urban setting, the lesser mileage would not be as big of a deal, but it adds up to considerable extra fuel expense when you consider the mileage we put on our rigs. This loss of gas mileage can amount to up to \$10,000 extra per year just for fuel. A committee will probably be formed later on this winter to begin work on planning the next ambulance. More information will be given at a business meeting as that time grows closer. The station construction in Babb is the priority at present.

### Upcoming Training

Many of us are going to be going through the re-certification process this spring. If anyone needs more CE hours or a refresher, you are in luck! Here are some upcoming training opportunities.

- BLS/ALS Refresher  
Dec. 7,8,9,14,15,16
- NRP Provider  
Sept. 5 at NRMC
- STABLE Provider  
Sept. 6 at NRMC
- ACLS Provider  
Oct 25,26 at NRMC
- GEMS  
To be announced. In-house.

For more information, check the bulletin board, the department website, or see Training Officer Williams.



**The old station 2 has been demolished and is now just an empty slab. Construction on the new station will begin soon.**

### Ice/Water Rescue Grant

A grant has been applied for that would allow us to equip and train us for ice and water rescue. The grant, for \$5,000 would allow us to purchase the wide array of specialized equipment required for such rescues, and to pay for an instructor to come in to train us in these rescues. Currently, there are no agencies in our community with the capability to perform these specialized rescues. We should find out if we were awarded the grant sometime in November.

## Random Ramblings

Working in a rural setting, we are fortunate to have less of the stressors that our big-city brothers and sisters have to contend with on each shift. Partly to help deal with the stresses and to share his experiences, Boston EMS Paramedic Jay Weaver posts dangerous or otherwise noteworthy professional experiences on his blog "Random Thoughts of an Urban Paramedic". The blog can be viewed at [www.urbanparamedic.blogspot.com](http://www.urbanparamedic.blogspot.com). Some of his postings include experiences dealing with intoxicated physicians on scenes to dealing with psychotic patients intent on causing harm. It reinforces how nice we really have it here.

## State Interested in EMS License Plate

The state board of EMS has taken an interest in our license plate idea and wants to look into it further. The plate, which features a GCEMS rig with the department logo removed, would be the first EMS specialty tag in Montana. The proceeds from the sale of the plate would go to a EMS scholarship fund which would allow EMS providers (especially those in the rural setting) to pursue higher levels of EMS certifications and help with the tuition. It would be an exciting accomplishment for Glacier County EMS. The state is looking into putting the information on the project into the state EMS newsletter and on the list serve on the internet.

**Re-cert time will be here before you know it, be sure you get your hours!!**

## ICE, ICE Baby

Nope, not Vanilla Ice. This ice is saving lives and making things easier for public safety and healthcare workers all around the country. A new program called ICE, which stands for In Case of Emergency, is making it easier for emergency workers to reach people's emergency contacts in the event of emergency. With so many people, including young adults, carrying cell phones now, people are being encouraged to store their emergency contacts in their cell phones under the name ICE. For multiple contact people, they are asked to list them as ICE1, ICE2, etc. If someone is unconscious or unable to speak, their cellphone can be utilized to find information on medical history and other pertinent information to healthcare and public safety staff.

We are going to be looking into the possibility of going public and pushing this safety program here in our community. So far, the results have been positive, and the program is even being utilized in other countries. This may be another way we can help our citizens.

## September Safety Message

The winter months are approaching fast, and with it the slippery roads and the increase in MVA's we are called to. Let's run through a quick scenario. We are paged to a one-vehicle accident east of town on highway 2. A snow storm is underway, and law enforcement and MHP have their hands full with a backlog of calls. We are probably going to be first on-scene and be without them for several minutes. The state has a guideline for motor vehicle incidents. One of the priority items that we need to think about is preventing a secondary accident. If law enforcement is not on-scene yet, we need to take measures to see that other vehicles do not collide with us and the vehicle involved. This can involved placing flares or repositioning our vehicle for best visibility to other motorists. Be extra cautious and watch your backs!

## Tidbits

- EMT student Nancy Underwood passed her EMT written exam on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. She takes her practical later this month. Good luck! We hope to see you on the rigs soon!

- We are looking at purchasing fleet maintenance software to help us track our vehicle maintenance easier and keep up on oil changes, tire rotations, etc.

- Captain Starr met with the USDA regional director in Kalispell on the 10<sup>th</sup> in regards to finding grant funding for a new station 1. They advised us that grant funds for the next year are extremely short, so we will have to look at other options to fund any new station.

- The medic office has moved from the east bay into the old billing office. The billing office, which has better climate control, is also larger and offers more work space.

- A Motorola Spectra radio has been installed in SO-1. The old radio did not have astro capability.

- Thus far we have received two applications for the FT paramedic position. The next step in the hiring process will be coming around mid-September.

There will be a sign up on the bulletin board soon for all those interested in taking any technical rescue training