

# The Page-out



## Glacier County EMS Newsletter

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

### More A-2 Troubles

The injector problems that we have had in the past with the 6L diesel engine in A-2 have resurfaced, leaving a crew stranded recently. Fortunately, this did not occur with a patient onboard. Overall, everyone seems to be doing a good job in putting the fuel additive in every time they fill up A-2. Please remember that diesel engines are not meant to be driven at high speeds for long periods!!

### Record Year For Call Volume

With the close of the 2006 fiscal year, we were happy to find that the department has set an all-time record for calls in a fiscal year. This year's tally, 708 runs, beats the previous record of 702, set in 2002. This record number comes at a time when we are operating with a skeleton crew. Everyone is to be commended for pulling together to get the job done. Nationwide, call volumes are continuing to trend upward, and we are no exception. We can expect our calls to increase more and more as the years go by, and we are looking ahead to ensure that GCEMS will be ready to meet the needs of our community in the future.

### Stocking Up

In an effort to allow our personnel to be self-sufficient in the event of a major incident, we are stocking up on some essential equipment such as MRE's and water. Any time there is a large-scale incident, it takes time to get all the logistics in place, so it is recommended that agencies have their own food and water stockpiles to support their personnel for the first 3 days of an incident. The reserves will be kept at station 1 in a readily accessible location where they can be mobilized quickly. We are looking to purchase a food ration called the "A-Pack", which has many similarities to the military MRE but is tailored towards emergency services and non-military applications.

**Lewis and Clark Days and the Relay for Life is on July 28-29. We will be set up at the park.**

### This Week in EMS From [emsresponder.com](http://emsresponder.com)

- In Washington D.C., three people were injured after a fireworks mishap on the National Mall. The three are employees of the fireworks production company, and were injured when unused fireworks exploded in the pit after the show. One was transported by helicopter, another by ambulance, and the third was treated on the scene.
- A Wilton, Maine paramedic was killed in an ambulance accident. Allan Parsons of Med-Care was tending to a patient in the back of the ambulance when it collided with a pickup truck. Parsons, 46, died at the scene.
- Oregon rescue personnel were under the microscope for failing to locate a reported car wreck. Despite an eyewitness's detailed report to 9-1-1 on June 8, rescuers couldn't find the car, and each involved agency gave up its search within 20-40 minutes. The bodies of the car's two occupants were found inside the wrecked vehicle July 30th after a plane spotted the maroon Toyota Corolla from overhead. State police are conducting an internal investigation into the 9-1-1 response.
- In Vienna, Virginia at least seven people -- five children and two adults - were injured when fireworks shot across the ground toward the crowd.
- NYC city is moving forward with a \$1.5 billion plan to upgrade its 911 system by 2009, officials confirmed this week. As it stands, police operators transfer fire and medical emergency calls to FDNY and EMS phone dispatchers, meaning 911 callers often have to repeat details of their emergencies before getting help. Under the new plan, police operators will field all calls, then communicate by computer with FDNY and EMS dispatchers.



Paramedic Ralph Knapp, CCEMT/P, talks with kids at the 2007 Vacation Bible School June 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Breakdown of Fiscal Year '06

Total calls for fiscal year:	708
Busiest month:	March – 78 calls
Slowest month:	August – 47 calls
Transfers from NRMC:	209
Transfers from IHS:	83
Transfer from others:	55
911 and other calls:	361

Did you know that our call volume has more than doubled from that of the 1999 fiscal year? Here are some of the old figures to look at. . .

Fiscal year 2005	675 calls
Fiscal year 2004	658 calls
Fiscal year 2003	699 calls
Fiscal year 2002	702 calls
Fiscal year 2001	464 calls
Fiscal year 2000	345 calls
Fiscal year 1999	296 calls

When do you think we'll break 800 ??

## Status of the Department

As we head into a new fiscal year, here some things that we are looking to in this fiscal year.

- Establishing a stockpile of food and water rations for our personnel for large incidents.
  - Pursuing funding for a new station 1.
  - Going ahead with construction on the new station 2.
  - Adding technical rescue equipment to our inventory and getting personnel trained in it's use.
  - Recruiting more EMT's and first responders into the department.
  - Offering more in-house training for our personnel.
  - Putting together specifications and ordering our next frontline ambulance.
  - Possibly filling the empty full-time paramedic position to allow the chief more time to fulfill administrative duties.
  - We will be placing the new uniform t-shirt order , including our summer shirts, the week of July 9<sup>th</sup>. A price list will be posted for those interested in purchasing extras at their expense.
- Fiscal year 2006 was an evaluation period for the off-site billing that is being done with Montana Healthcare Consultants. We have been impressed with their performance and the funds that they are bringing in and have renewed the contract.

## Tidbits

- We have two new members to welcome. Raylee and Lyle. Both are presently first responders and will be completing their EMT class in August. Welcome aboard and good luck with your EMT exam next month.
- There is a PEPP class on 7/21 at station 1. See the bulletin board for more information.
- The website has a staff-only section now that includes a page with all the open shifts for medics and for EMT/first responders. Now you can check for any available shifts from the comfort of your home. The section has many other features, check it out when you get a chance. Ask EMS 1 or 2 for your password.

## Safety Corner

- Summer is upon us. With the warm weather and the low humidity, you can become dehydrated very quickly. Drink plenty of fluids and stay out of the direct sun as much as possible.
- Speed kills. We are going to be watching the GPS, which tracks speeds as well. If you have a tire blowout at high speeds, it can be disastrous, no matter how good of a driver you are. Slow down and live!!