



John J. Barthelmes
Commissioner

State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY DIVISION OF FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING and EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

RICHARD M. FLYNN FIRE ACADEMY
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03305



Richard A. Mason
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: EMS Unit Leaders
EMS Hospital Coordinators
EMS Regional Chairs

FROM: Sue Prentiss, BA, NREMT-P, Chief
FST & EMS
Bureau of EMS

RE: Bureau of EMS Report

DATE: August 21, 2007

On behalf of the New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services (FST & EMS), I hope you and the members of your organization(s) are having a great summer. As always, we are busy and below is an update on FST & EMS activities.

As of August 21, the Bureau licensing numbers are:

Apprentice	15
First Responders:	323
NH EMT-B	85
NREMT-B	2126
EMT-I	1142
EMT-P	701
IFTE	4
TOTAL:	4396

We are up to 144 I/C's, including 12 Provisional. There are 298 licensed Units.

Bureau of EMS Report: The Northern NH EMS Field Office search is still on-going. Thanks to Androscoggin Valley Hospital (AVH) for our temporary home. Recently, staff relocated to the NH Technical College in Berlin. Phone and e-mail is working. We have increased the radius of our search after already conducting a preliminary investigation of what was available that met our specifications. Our first pass did not go as well as hoped. The most recent Request for Proposals includes the Lancaster area. It is our hope to stay within Berlin. However, if things don't change, this may not be possible. We will keep everyone posted.

Serving the New Hampshire Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Business: (603) 271-2661

Fax: (603) 271-1091

Toll Free: 1-800-371-4503

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www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems

Please join me in welcoming our new Research and Quality Management Coordinator, Mike Schnyder and our new Field Services Representative Shawn Jackson. Mike has been on board since May 21, 2007 and had his first TEMSIS user group last Friday. He is busy acclimating to NH and trying to find a new home. No sooner was Mike in the door, than Michele Duchesne tendered her resignation. Michele has accepted a position at Granite State Management & Resources as an Internal Controls Specialist. Michele has been with us since she was an Intern from the University of NH (UNH). Please join me in wishing Michele well, her last day was July 6th. The position Michele previously held, Program Specialist III, has been posted and the closing date is August 24, 2007. Shawn Jackson has been on board since June 1, 2007. After spending two weeks in Concord orienting, he was officially assigned to Wilton as the Field Representative for the Southern NH, Region II areas. Shawn came to us from Milford Ambulance, is a licensed I/C and continues to practice as a Paramedic.

Licensing Update and Reminders: NH RSA 153-A:21 prohibits any person from providing emergency medical services without having obtained the appropriate license. NH RSA 153-A: "Licensure of Emergency Medical Care Providers" is the section of the law that provides the statutory description of who should be licensed, specifically:

I. Except for automated external defibrillation pursuant to RSA 153-A:28-31, a person shall not provide emergency medical services as a paid or volunteer member of a public or private emergency medical services unit in this state, or as a paid or volunteer member of any police or fire department who, as a condition of employment, may be expected to routinely provide emergency medical services in the line of duty, without being licensed by the commissioner.

Our Administrative Code, Saf-C 5900 covers the details of the application that needs to be filed and requirements for licensure. It is each Providers responsibility to maintain their certification and licensure status. When your providers file an application for licensure, please assure the following:

- the appropriate signatures have been obtained
- that you have supplied copies of your National Registry card and current CPR card,
- that you have completed a protocol exam
- that you have completed a Transition Program

All new/initial providers into the system need a Transition Course at whatever level of certification they are seeking licensure for in NH. Currently licensed providers as they renew between last August 1, 2006 and March 31, 2008 need a course. If you change your certification and then licensure status (upgrades and/or step downs) you will need to complete a Transition for that level of care.

As Unit Leaders please do not assume once you have placed the application with the required documentation into the mail, that your are licensed. Receipt of your actual license is proof. If you need verification so that you can start practicing before the license is in your hand, then call and verify that the documents have arrived and are all

in order, or have the Head of the Unit call. Also, if you are using the TEMSIS, your System Administrator can check the active staff list. We will honor verbal verifications.

Also, if you have been given a waiver to practice, either because your paperwork did not head to the Registry in a timely manner, or you are awaiting a Transition Program, make sure you physically see the waiver. These documents are sent to the Head of the Unit, as they make the waiver request. Know the terms and time limits on the document.

At any time, if you have question, just call, we will help you.

NH EMS Awards: Once again we received a number of outstanding nominations for the EMS awards. The Awards Committee met on August 7th and listed below are the recipients:

- **Pamela Mitchell/Richard Connolly Achievement Award – Frisbie Hospital EMS;**
- **BoundTree Corporation EMS Unit of the Year – Londonderry Fire Department;**
- **EMS Educator of the Year – Michele “Mickey” Rudolph, Hudson Fire Department;**
- **Lawrence A. Volz Heroism Award – Jason Albert Ferns, UCVH Ambulance, Colebrook, NH;**
- **David J. Connor Memorial EMS Appreciation Award "The Connor Award" – Steve Achilles, Portsmouth Fire Department;**
- **David F. Dow Memorial Award EMS Provider of the Year – Karen Seelley, Souhegan Valley Ambulance, New Ipswich.**

Again this year, the NH EMS Awards ceremony will be combined with the Fire Service Committee of Merit Awards. The awards ceremony will be held on October 10, 2007, at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord. The awards are as follows:

Trauma System: There are a number of projects on-going with NH's Trauma System that are listed below:

- **Trauma Plan Revision – We are currently analyzing changes to the American College of Surgeon's (ACS) Trauma Hospital clinical capabilities/standards requirements to see how they might impact NH hospital standards. Clinical standards (what hospitals are required to do as a condition of participation in the NH trauma system) will be up for reconsideration starting in August by the Trauma Medical Review Committee.**
- **Trauma Conference - In the planning phase for the annual trauma conference. Currently this is scheduled for November 28th.**

- **Trauma Sim Training** – We are continuing to beta test the simulation program at Weeks Medical Center in Lancaster. Clay is scheduled to do another class next week. It is going very well and feedback from participants has been very positive. We continue to do minor tweaks to improve the program. We are looking to recruit a hospital to host the program in August.
- **Interfacility Transport** - The IFT Task Force has been working with Dave Tauber of ALSI to put on a **Critical Care Transport Program**. The University of Maryland at Baltimore has granted permission for Dave to conduct a Critical Care Paramedic course this fall. The primary sponsors of the course are Speare Memorial Hospital and Weeks Memorial Hospital. The program will be held at LinWood Ambulance, North Woodstock NH and the course will run one day a week from September through February including: 9/21, 10/05, 11/2, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 1/4, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/15, 2/22. The course is open to anyone in the state. The cost of the program is \$1200. Minimum number of students required to run the program is 15. The application deadline has been extended to September 1, 2007. For more information contact the Advanced Life Support Institute at 447-4249.

Diversion Summit: In response to concerns raised to the EMS & Trauma Services Coordinating Board from multiple EMS Regions, the Bureau is assisting in setting up a Diversion Summit on September 5, 2007 in Concord. This is the Board's initiative lead by Chairperson Steve Achilles. Field Services will be the point of contact. Invitations to Hospitals, Regions, and Board members, and the EMS Associations have been sent out.

Protocols and ALS: With all the updates complete, a color set of the 2007 NH Statewide Patient Care Protocols is being distributed to all EMS Units in NH. This now stands as "version 2" and unless we have a major practice and/or medication change, will be final during our two year cycle.

At the Medical Control Board (MCB) meeting in July, the education programs for Paramedic's and assistants for Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) were reviewed and approved with a 30 day comment period for the Board on follow-up. Also, the Quality Management indicators that will be used for the RSI approved programs were approved. Both are for EMS Units who meet the Prerequisite's for the RSI protocol. The Prerequisite packet will become available in September. Vascular Access via Central Lines program is out for peer review at this time. It still needs some brushing up, but we hope to have this released in September as well.

The Protocol Subcommittee began meeting on August 10th and will meet the 2nd Friday of each month until May 2008. Some "mini" goals include the continued clean up of any typos to investigate hypothermia treatment for cardiac arrest, plus any new direction the MCB comes up with based on input for all Acute Care Hospitals.

The Paramedic Immunization Prerequisite program, including a training program, has been updated and will be rolled out this fall.

Education: The Course & Exam Schedule is undergoing a radical make over as well as merger with Fire Academy programs. The last update to the web was a couple weeks ago and can still be used as a reference. The new format should be together soon and will be sent via email as well as posted on the web. If you have questions about a specific course and cannot find it in the C&E schedule online, please contact our office.

The statewide Education Database has been up and running as of June 29, 2007. The process for instructors is the same. Internally, this means big changes; central processing of course authorizations, rosters for course completion, standardized filing, exam forms, and overall data entry. Customer service will be greatly improved.

Instructor / Coordinators have received the following updates:

- Updating I/C Handbook with CBT information
- Updating I/C Handbook with new forms / documents (I/C Request)
- Mailing (w/ FR Bridge) to all I/C's with Word forms (I/C Request)

In an effort to improve communications between the Bureau and the EMS Instructor/Coordinator community, a "Kitchen Cabinet" with representatives from each EMS Region has been formed and met twice. To start, the group has been reviewing instructor related Administrative Rules, making suggestions for changes, and discussing/researching options for refresher alternatives. The group meets every other month.

The First Responder to EMT Bridge/Transition Program was moved up from its spring 2007 release after the Northern NH EMS Field Office fire. There were two additional meetings related to this project in July, including presenting this "Bridge" to the initial First Responder Task Force that crafted the final recommendations. If all goes well, a September 1, 2007 release is possible.

PEETE / BLS Evaluator Program is undergoing some revisions. Unfortunately, some PEETE files were lost in the Berlin fire. A plan is in place to get PEETE lists up to date and out in September of 2007. A PEETE newsletter is in the works and we have begun Evaluator / Exam audits as of this month.

All Bureau equipment (training & testing) is being evaluated for condition and amount used. Recommendations are being made for purchase / re-assignment of equipment and all disposable equipment will now be coordinated / warehoused in Concord.

Field Training Programs: We continue to work on the development and implementation of EMS Field Training coordinated by the Division. As you may recall, within the last year we did hold two Refresher Training Programs, Newport and Wolfeboro. Four additional programs are being organized:

EMT-Basic RTP's:

- October 5 & 6, 2007 Littleton, NH
- November 16 & 17 Newport, NH
- December 1 & 2, 2007 New Durham NH

Also and ALS Transition module, EMT-I and EMT-P will be held at the North Country Conference on October 18, 2007. For more information contact Mike Kennard at 271-2661.

Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Program Update: An EMS Provider interested in becoming an I/C can now approach this in a modular form starting with Instructor I and "Bridge" to Instructor III or take a complete Instructor III program. As we completed three Instructor III programs last year, we are test driving the modular method. This is open to EMS. Our first Instructor I program with the new curriculum has been completed at the Academy and all went well. Our second program started on July 17th in Manchester. The third program will be held this fall and the location and exact date is still TBA. Soon to follow will be a module to "Bridge" to Instructor III.

Final touches are being placed on the New Instructor Mentor TtT program and announcements will be sent out for this fall on available training dates and times. This program will train interested, "experienced" instructors on becoming a mentor to help train new instructors and assist them in achieving their 20 hours of instructional mentor time before they can be moved from provisional/probation to full instructor status. A list of Division approved mentors will be released after this program has taught and trained several people in each region.

TEMSIS: To date, here are the latest system updates:

- 189,792 runs in the system
- 83.6 % of EMS Units are reporting
- 92% of Transporting Services reporting
- 27.03 minutes to complete statewide steady since the last report.

Michael has held his first TEMSIS user group meeting and is working with them on some system revisions. A meeting between Maine EMS, ImageTrend, and our Bureau will be held next week specific to possible revisions both states are interested in seeing. This is a preliminary meeting to evaluate the prospects with Image Trend.

Computer Based Testing (CBT): The situation establishing new sites has not changed greatly. After many months of back and forth with Granite State College, they decided not to participate at this time. The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care in NH has dedicated some funds to setting up a private site and Conway Fire has agreed to take this on. I meet with Chief Wade next week to start working on implementation. As the Keene site stalled again, we are now working with Vermont to secure a site in Brattleboro. My hope is that this is only temporary until we can find a site in Keene.

Here are the latest CBT statistics:

- 77 Programs have applied and been authorized by FST & EMS
- First Responder: 42 candidates have tested, 34 passed, 8 failed
- EMT-Basic: 612 tested, 385 passed, 227 failures
- EMT- Intermediate: 107 tested, 87 passed, 20 failures
- EMT-Paramedic 21 tested, 21 passed, no failures

Turn around time for tests results is a little over 24 hours. We will keep you posted on all corners of this program.

Pandemic Planning: Activities continue to move along on the local level with the 19 All Hazard Sites. FST & EMS have been active in Hospital and Medical – Surgical Planning as well. Information is available specific to local EMS planning from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at:

<http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/emgncymedical.html>

To learn more about NH Pandemic Planning, as well as the AHS you are a part of please go to:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dhhs/cdcs/ppcc.htm>

Preparedness Projects: The community based "Getting Connected" Guide is ready to roll. Information on the programs are posted on the front page of our website, including details on the upcoming workshops:

- August 29, 2007 Epping Fire Station
- September 4, 2007 Conway Fire Station
- September 12, 2007 NH Fire Academy
- September 25, 2007 Moultonborough Public Safety Building

You need to pre-register as resources/tools are provided for each participant. A program scheduled for Littleton was postponed due to low enrollment. We will re-schedule that event and notify Units. For more information contact Mitch Harrington at 271-4568 or mharrington@safety.state.nh.us.

MCI Training Programs are being offered in the North Country and are being sponsored by the North Country Health Consortium, Northern NH Area Health Education Center and FST & EMS.

- September 8, 2007 Lisbon Town Hall 8:30a.m. to 12:00p.m.
- September 15, 2007 LinWood Ambulance 8:30a.m. to 12:00[m].
North Woodstock

Information on these programs is also posted on the front page of our website at: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/> . For more information, contact Bill Wood at 271-4568 or bwood@safety.state.nh.us.

Paramedic Mentoring: We have finally kicked off this rural health funded project. Four Paramedic Mentors are teamed up with Paramedics from LinWood Ambulance. Beginning in July, each Mentor is on-site with their Participant Paramedic for 60 hours. There is an ALS education component tied into this as well and below is the information on the upcoming sessions:

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Sessions:

- October 2, 2007 Managing the Difficult Airway
 Jon Bouffard, NREMT-P
- November 6, 2007 Chest Trauma
 Tony Courm, NREMT-P
- December 5, 2007 Pharmacology Review
 David Tauber, NREMT-P

All CME sessions run from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

Certification Programs:

- September 6, 2007 ACLS
 Richard "Pokey" Low
- October 16, 2007 PALS
 Richard "Pokey" Low

Both certification programs will run from 9:00am to 9:00pm.

Cost for the certification programs (ACLS & PALS) is \$75.00 each plus the cost of books. Interested participants will need to pre-register

All sessions will be held at:
LinWood Ambulance
Profile Road
North Woodstock, NH

We will keep you posted on the progress and summary of the evaluations.

As always, if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (603) 271-4569.