Training/Other Info.

April 18th - Good Friday

April 20th - Easter

May 19th - 23rd - EMS Week

May 22nd - EMS Fun Fair 5pm to 7pm.

May 22nd - Mandatory WCEMS Meeting 7pm to 9pm.

All WCEMS Employees required to attend both the fun fair and the training following.

If your department has an upcoming event let us know and we will help you get the word out. If you would like to submit an item for inclusion in upcoming newsletters, contact Dan Miller at the Waushara County Emergency Medical Services office, DanM.PARKSTREET@co.waushara.wi.us or (920) 787-0412. The deadline for submission will be the 20th of the month, for inclusion for the following month. Thanks for your continued support!

Warmer weather is on its way!! Maybe!!
This will be a new section added to The EMS Pager for all future months of the newsletter. I think it is important to let all of you know what is happening in and with the Waushara County EMS system. Some items that I will be reviewing each month are call volume numbers, public relations events, and updates with the service (keeping in mind all numbers will be for a previous month, example the April newsletter will have February Numbers).

Well, it seems like spring is finally peaking its head out every once in a while. With spring on the way, EMS agencies will be looking at some changes in the type of calls they receive. For example, we will start seeing the spring clean-up injuries, insects and bees will start causing problems, and grass fire season will be on us shortly. At least we will have some warmer weather, hopefully.

During our March Public Safety Meeting, there were discussions on how to improve the EMS service. Those discussions included: what direction we would like to go with the service and what changes, if any, do we want to look at immediately. The Public Safety Committee gave their commitment to WCEMS and does not want to look at outside sourcing at this time. The Public Safety Committee also requested we have an outside Medical Director Consultant assist us with our current Medical Director Contract. We will also be reviewing and updating Policy and Procedures within the EMS Department.

In February our ambulances ran a total of 185 calls for the month. These calls included 140-911 responses, 41-Transfers, and 4-Fire Stand-by events. We also participated in 4 Public Relation events in the County which included 2 CPR/AED classes, Polar Plunge, and Redgranite School visit.

April will be an exciting month. I look forward to working with the Sheriff’s Department on Emergency Medical Dispatching and working with Fire Departments on Mutual Aid Box Alarm Systems and Training Center Opportunities. I hope all of you enjoy the first month of spring!

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Becker, Interim Director
EMS BIRTHDAY CLUB for April

Angela Wiese, Plainfield Fire/Rescue - 04/12
Jay Williams, WCEMS - 04/22
Stacy Miller, Plainfield Fire/Rescue - 04/29

EMS Anniversaries For April

Jeremy Becker - 04/07/2008
SKILLS
SCENE SAFETY

We have all heard this before, over and over in the first EMS class we took. Scene safety, if you did not state this during your test you would automatically fail. We all joke about this scene safety thing but it is a very important part of our job!

We have all been paged out to the "suicide attempt", "the fight", "domestic", "the person down at the bar". What about ALL calls? Everyone has heard the term "tunnel vision", it doesn't matter how young/old you are or how short/long you have been in EMS or Fire for that matter. We ALL get it and it gets worse depending how the page comes out.

When that page comes out think about what you are walking into. We have heard the reports from around the U.S. of the Emergency Responders being shot at. Yes, I know this is Waushara County. Yes, this could happen here. In the past year we have had 2 stand-offs in Waushara County.

We all need to remember that even a safe scene can turn into an unsafe scene in just seconds. I have been on scenes where Law Enforcement was on the scene and the scene was cleared for us to come in. We go in and the patient is sitting right there on the couch, intoxicated. We were called because the patient had been beaten up. The scene was clear from the other subject but sitting on the coffee table within 18" of his reach was a steak knife. No I am not knocking or getting digs in on our Law Enforcement. That situation could have easily turned into a very bad situation.

How about a simple EMS call, having difficulty breathing? How about the 2 rifles sitting in the corner of the living room, the pistol tucked between the couch cushions, your patient that is practicing their right to conceal carry, the dunk person sitting at the bar, the irate family member in the back bedroom, the barking and growling dogs in the other room, or the vehicle crash? I guess what I am trying to say is don't get so caught up in patient care that we forget about our safety and our partners safety. Always leave yourself a way out, never let anyone or anything come between you and the exit. If the "safe" scene becomes unsafe or starts getting rowdy don't be afraid to leave, take your equipment if possible otherwise leave it there. When I say leave I am not talking about walking outside and getting in the rig and waiting a block away. I am talking about getting in the rig and going down the road at least a mile if not 2 miles or if in the city/village 3 or 4 blocks away out of sight from the patient's house.

Do you know what the protocol for a patient who is conceal carrying? What do we do with the weapon? If we come across a patient that is conceal carrying we are to contact Law Enforcement right away. We,(EMS), will not secure or transport the weapon. We are not to leave the scene with the weapon. See Jeremy with any further questions.

Be safe on each and every call! Make sure the scene is safe for you and your partner and that it continues to be safe.