



PULSE LINES

Director's Corner

The EMS division of the Oklahoma State Health Department can be an odd place to work. We are poised between twin expectations Oklahomans have of government: 1) "The government oughta do something about that" and 2) "The government needs to keep its nose out of folk's business." Our legislative mandate – an elegant piece of legislation with the unfortunate title "Oklahoma Emergency Response Systems Development Act" – requires us both to develop and regulate the EMS system in Oklahoma. If our office seems a little schizophrenic at times, it's with good reason.

The Oklahoma EMS Data system is a great example of that dilemma. Folks want data out of it, but resent having to submit data to it.

We frequently get questions like "How many heart attacks does EMS take care of?" "How many children did we transport last year?" "How many strokes did we take to stroke centers?" and so forth. Then we get questions like "Why do I have to fill out all these fields?" "How can the government require all this work

done for free?" and "Who cares about this crap?"

We can't answer the first group of questions very well yet. Our database has too many gaps for research quality reporting. That said, we've made a lot of progress over the last five years. Data quantity and quality have improved steadily. We can tell you how many calls you ran, what time of day you ran them and what your destination was. Statewide, most agencies are reporting well, and most entries are complete and accurate.

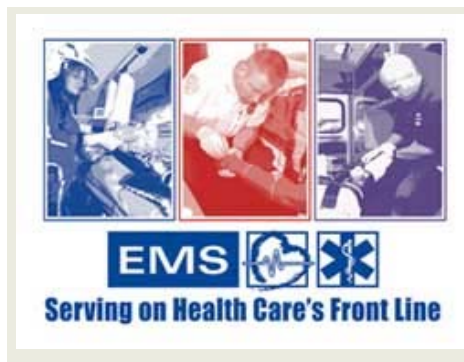
The second group of questions is easier. *We need to be able to show that EMS makes a difference.*

While we all feel in our hearts that EMS is a critical link in the "chain of survival," there is almost no objective data in the US to support that. We just don't have data that clearly shows that good EMS improves outcomes. Without such data, it is hard to argue that EMS needs better funding, or that good EMS saves more dollars than it costs.

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Director's Corner, cont'd

Now we are getting ready for our first system upgrade, to meet Federal National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) requirements. We have a new state run report form, we're buying new database software, and we have a new opportunity to prove definitively that EMS makes a difference.

We hope to have the new system implemented by January 1, 2009. You are the key to quality. When you record everything you did on a run, you're not just recording that run. You're adding to the body of knowledge about EMS, helping everyone understand what we do and why it's important. You

strengthen our case for better pay, better equipment and a better EMS. Strong data gives us real leverage in obtaining new funding.

We're all counting on you!

R. Shawn Rogers, Director

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR NEW OSDH—EMS WEBSITE AT:

http://www.ok.gov/health/Protective_Health/Emergency_Medical_Services/

EMS Legislative Day

The EMS Division of the Oklahoma State Department of Health will be hosting a Legislative Day at the State Capitol Monday, March 24, 2008:

Legislative Update Briefing— 0930 (Room to be announced)

Rotunda Displays 0830– 1500 EMS providers will have an opportunity to present displays for the state legislature. Display areas will be available all day on the 4th floor rotunda for EMS services and organizations.

This is an excellent opportunity to invite your legislator to visit your booth and discuss EMS issues in your district. The briefing will cover the most

effective and appropriate ways to communicate with your legislator.

We will also have copies of relevant documents you may wish to share, such as the Governor's EMS Readiness Task Force Report, pending EMS legislation, recent media articles on the rural EMS crisis, etc.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT !!

Please consider attending this very important meeting. Our attendance last year was good, and the effect was notable. EMS legislation did very well in all floor votes.

Please contact Sharon Dellavecchio at SharonD@health.ok.gov

Greetings from the Northeast Region

I'd like to recognize a few of the fire departments in Wagoner Co. for their efforts in becoming certified Emergency Response Agencies; Toppers Rural Fire District, Taylor's Ferry Fire Department, and Porter Fire Department. With the addition of these agencies, sponsored by Wagoner EMS, the EMS system in Wagoner county is becoming a stable system to provide efficient quality patient care.

Several of our services have been fortunate in obtaining new ambulances, some with really nice paint schemes and decals. Congratulations to Okmulgee Co., Creek Co., Mercy Regional, and EMSA. Until next time, be safe and stay healthy,

For questions or comments, please contact Elizabeth Sullivan at ElizabethS@health.ok.gov .

The Moving Wall Memorial, Update

On June 26th through 30th, 2008 at the Tishomingo Football Field we will be hosting the Moving Wall. The Moving Wall is a traveling ½ replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C. This display is through the cooperation with the American Legion and the VFW here in Johnston County and I have volunteered to organize and coordinate this effort. There are very strict rules that go along with displaying this memorial. We are accepting donations and recruiting volunteers for this wonderful exhibit.

It costs \$4,000 to display the wall. \$1500 of this fee will be due by the end of January and the balance when the Wall arrives. In addition we must provide a walk-way, 24 hr security, an exhibit tent, and have other committees in place to assist from the looking up of names to trash detail. We will also need to provide lodging for 6 days for the two people who travel with the Wall.

The Wall **CANNOT** be used as or for any type of Fund-raising nor to support any political gatherings. This Wall is a memorial to 58,000+ men and women who gave their lives. It will be displayed and treated with a great deal of dignity.

If you, your organization or your company feels that you would like to help sponsor or participate in this endeavor please let me know. As always yes, money is needed, but so are volunteers. All checks should be made payable to The Moving Wall Memorial Fund.

We have held our first organizational meeting and another meeting is scheduled for February 16th @ 10 A.M. in the back dining room of the Western Inn Restaurant in Tishomingo. Until then, if you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

If you have questions, please contact Betty Roan at iremt@swbell.net.

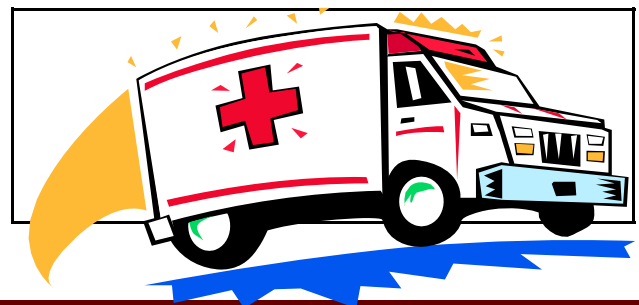
Northern Region EMS

The Regional Emergency Medical Services System and Disaster Medical Response Teams are nearing the final development stages. All EMS services were given the opportunity to apply for one of the new mass casualty trailers. We received many applications. The REMSS oversight committee will review the applications and check for NIMS compliance with the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security. As soon as the trailers are awarded and the DMR Teams are in place, Oklahoma will have organized disaster response teams for intra-regional and inter-regional disasters.

This is a very exciting time for those of us at the EMS Division. The development of the regional systems is going to be a great asset for the state. Also, remember to talk to your congressmen/women about the EMS legislation.

Governor Henry mentioned that there is a crisis for EMS in his state of the State address. The Board of Health as signed a resolution that states there is an EMS crisis in Oklahoma. Thanks to those who worked so hard on the Governor's Task Force for EMS. Thanks to the Governor and the Board of Health for recognizing that there are communities and citizens who don't have good access to EMS because there are no services in their area. We appreciate their support.

For questions or comments, please contact Roger Schilling at RogerS@health.ok.gov.



Training Section News

"The Oklahoma EMS Educators' Consensus Group functions to enhance the delivery of emergency care through improved EMS education and training."

The Oklahoma Consensus Group has been very active for some time and has given much valuable input into our training needs and training issues. A consensus means that the group does not always need to agree on what issue has been raised, but can agree to abide by the majority decision. All Instructors and representatives from any of our several training entities are welcome to attend these meetings. Sometimes our meetings are broadcast to remote locations to receive input without having to drive to meeting locations. Topics, curriculums and process regarding training in Oklahoma is the order of business, and if necessary, a consensus recommendation may be forwarded to the Training and Licensure Subcommittee of the Oklahoma EMS Advisory Council. At these statutory levels, rules and changes to the whole State can take place.

At the last Consensus Group meeting, Mike Canada and Clem Ohman were voted Co-Chairs for representation of the technology centers and higher education, respectively. Larry Brewer was given the job of secretary. Harvey Conner and Mike Goldman, as co-moderators, will put together a list of all training programs and interested parties. Invitations will be sent by email to the list to become members of the Group. The listserver to be utilized is <okemsed@yahoogroups.com>. You may get on this group site and ask for permission to join, if you don't receive an invitation. We encourage anyone and all parties interested in Oklahoma training to join and voice your opinions about training.

Issues discussed at the last meeting included:

- CPAP curriculum availability to all interested parties in Oklahoma
- OU Health Science Center simulation lab availability and costs.
- IO training for EMT Intermediate and adding this procedure as an optional extended skill. A new protocol and Quality Assurance must be in place.
- Discussion regarding the Critical Care curriculum. It would be nice to have a State approved curriculum and possible re-certification to keep abreast of updated technologies. . A subcommittee was appointed to start looking into options regard this issue.
- The third draft of the new National Training Standard and the respective 'guidelines' for each level will be coming out soon. Once the final draft is written, this document will go to the National Highway Safety Administration EMS Section for approval. The Group will be working with this when it becomes available for implementation in Oklahoma.

The meeting dates for the remainder of 2008 are as follows:

11 April 2008 -	10:00am - MetroTech OKC (tentative)
11 July 2008 -	10:00am - Rogers State University - Claremore
10 October 2008 -	10:00am - Southwestern Technology Center - Altus

If you have questions, please contact Eddie Manley at JEManley@health.ok.gov .

February is Heart Disease Awareness Month

RECIPE FOR A HEALTHY HEART

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ounce Prevention
- 1 or more motivated individuals
- [YOUR] healthy weight (remove large amounts of fat)
- Well-balanced nutrition
- 4-6 servings of exercise/week
- Blood pressure management
- Less than 200 mg cholesterol/day
- Control blood sugar (glucose), if diabetic
- Pinch of stress management
- Moderate alcohol consumption
- 0 use of tobacco, for best results

from http://www.navy.mil/search/displaybbs.asp?bbs_id=521&cat=5

CLIA

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulates all laboratory testing (except research) performed on humans in the U.S. through the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). CLIA is a federal law that requires facilities that examine materials derived from the human body for the purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of any disease or impairment of, or the assessment of the health of human beings to obtain CLIA certification appropriate for the type of testing they perform.

Most ambulance services perform at least finger stick glucose so they should hold a CLIA certificate of waiver. Certificate of waivers cost \$150 and are good for a two-year period. CLIA details can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/clia/>.

For questions or clarification, please contact Dean Bay at DeanB@health.ok.gov.

Tribute

Joe Ann Fleig

Joe Ann Fleig, former ambulance operator for Vital Care EMS in Westville, OK, passed February 5, 2008. Jo Ann's efforts ensured excellent service to all people living in that area.

Joe Ann will be missed by all who knew her. Let us honor her contributions to EMS and the communities she served and remember her family & friends our prayers.



Oklahoma State Department of Health

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[www.health.state.ok.us/
program/ems/news.html](http://www.health.state.ok.us/program/ems/news.html)

Other EMS SITES:

www.nremt.org National Registry of EMT's
www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, EMS Information
www.coaemsp.org Committee on the Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions
www.oemta.com Okla. EMT Association
www.emsc.ouhsc.edu Emergency Medical Services for Children (Oklahoma)

