



## *Southeastern Minnesota Emergency Medical Services*

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# SE Minnesota EMS Regional Update

## April 2013

**By: Don Hauge, Executive Director**

The saying goes “April showers bring May flowers” and if that is true, we should have a lot of flowers blooming soon! We are all anxiously waiting for SPRING and it looks like it may show up later this week! Cross your fingers!!!!

Here are a few things I would like to update you on:

### ***EMS WEEK IS COMING.....***



EMS Week is May 19 – 25, 2013 so if your service has something planned for this very special week which recognizes your EMS providers for all the work they do in their communities, please let me know and I will post your event on our website.

I have made an EMS WEEK tab on our website [www.seems.com](http://www.seems.com) so please go to that site and check out any of the activities that are listed there.

Mayo Clinic Medical Transport will again host an EMS Appreciation night on May 22, 2013 from 6 pm – 8:30 pm at the Signature Aviation Terminal (just west of the Rochester Airport Main Terminal Road). All EMS services in the SE Region are invited, they ask that you RSVP so they have a count for food. (See flyer on seems website)

There will be food, educational presentations and other activities so come out and join us!!!!

### ***Road Construction is underway.....***

I have emailed a map and list of MNDOT road construction projects to all ambulance services and First Responder groups. These documents will show the projects that will take place this summer throughout the SE Region. Please take a look at this so you can see what roads will be

affected in your response area and the approximate dates that they will occur. If you did not receive the notice from me and want it, please just send me an email.

Also remember to remind your crews to drive with **CAUTION** as they pass through these construction sites. Thank you!

***Regional Communications Drill for Ambulance Services to be held on May 15, 2013.....***

The SE EMS Healthcare Coalition Sub-Committee will be conducting a Communications Drill on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 5p.m. – 7 p.m. for ALL Ambulance Services in the SE Region. This would be a great opportunity for every service to have 2-3 members participate and be familiar with radio operation, ability to contact mutual aide services and use of the MNTrac system.

More information on the details of the drill will be emailed to you in the next few days.

***Rochester St. Mary's Hospital ED/EMS meetings.....***

I have been involved with the ED/EMS Committee which includes members of the ED team and EMS members and the Regional Program. This committee has been working on improving communications between the St. Mary's ED and EMS Providers and some very good things have been happening because of this committee. I recently sent out an email that came from Michon Dohman, RN and one of the Nurse Managers of the ED, which talked about the new area that was created for EMS to complete their reports. It also talked about how EMS should handle their Patient Care Reports once they arrive at the ED so the information gets into the patient record. A printer has also been added to the EMS Area which is inside the Control Room right across the hall from Critical Care. This printer can be used by any of the EMS personnel who may need to print their reports.

At our last meeting, the following items were discussed:

1. More needs to be done on how ED staff receives the patient handoff from EMS. Also talked about a standardized format that EMS could follow when giving handoff.

***Some requests that were made of EMS.....***

1. The ED asks that services try and give their radio reports AT LEAST 20-30 minutes prior to arrival at the hospital and also to give as accurate ETA as possible. Early notification will allow ED staff to begin working on a bed for the patient and attempt to DECREASE the amount of time EMS spends waiting in the ED for a patient room. The accurate ETA is important because requesting a patient room is a very "fluid" situation at the hospital. The sending facility may have given one time that your service would arrive but it is YOUR ETA that allows the staff to request a patient room, so EARLY NOTIFICATION (20-30 Minutes if possible) and ACCURATE ETA to St. Mary's helps the staff reduce the amount of wait time that services sometimes experience. The ED staff is VERY aware of wait times and the frustration that can occur, so early notification is important in preventing this.
2. The committee would also like to hear your comments on:
  - a. Is the EMS Work Area a place you feel was needed and do you have what you need in that area?
  - b. What is your opinion on how your Patient Care Reports are received by ED staff?
  - c. Is your service using the new printers that is located in the EMS Work Area, if not, are there issues that prevent you from using the printer?

d. Is there anything else that could be done to make the EMS Work Area better for your service?

If you can share your opinions on the above questions with me, it would be appreciated by me and the committee. Change can only happen when we know what the concerns are so please email me your opinions.

We would welcome more EMS providers to participate on this committee. The next meeting will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at St. Mary's. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

### ***2013 SE EMS Conference report.....***

A BIG THANK YOU to all who were able to attend our 2013 conference at the Mayo Civic Center in March! I think I can safely say that the conference was a success from the Planning Committee's prospective. We had more participants each day (about 50 each day) than last year and we went from 17 vendors to 30 vendors who participated. We have been reviewing the evaluations and they are mostly positive but we appreciate the suggestions for improvements and we always look at them when we are planning for the next conference. We make as many of the suggested changes as possible to make our conference one that you want to come back to and we hope that next year you will tell others about it so we can continue to grow.

The planning committee will be getting together in May to begin plans for 2014 and one thing I can tell you about the 2014 Conference in March is that ***KEN BOUVIER*** has agreed to be our National Speaker! Some of you know that Ken was slated to be our National Speaker at the 2013 Conference but had to cancel due to health conditions, well he assures me that as long as his health continues to improve, he will be in ROCHESTER in March of 2014! We look forward to seeing him and we also say THANK YOU to Dave Page for filling in for Ken during the 2013 conference! He did a great job!!!

The committee will also be working on our FALL 2013 One Day Pediatric Workshop. We had advertised it for September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Conference BUT I have since found out that there is an Educators conference planned for that date in the SW Region. I will send out information on a date when the final decision is made. The Pediatric Workshop will be a mix of lecture and hands on skills and should be a fun and educational day for providers!

Please stay tuned!!!!

### ***Find us on Facebook!***



**You can now Find Us on Facebook!** By “Liking” us on Facebook you can have information about the regional program come to you in your newsfeed. You can keep up with conference activities, upcoming programs and classes being offered. We will post photos from the conference and you can even share your services events and pictures as well.

Just go to [www.facebook.com/semnemergencymedicalservices](http://www.facebook.com/semnemergencymedicalservices) or by going to our website at [www.seems.com](http://www.seems.com) and clicking on the Find Us on Facebook icon in the upper right corner. The more “Likes” we get, the more interactive the site becomes.

I encourage you to pass on this information to your staff/crews. We would like to be able to get information on our classes, programs and upcoming events to more of our SE providers and Facebook can easily do that for us. Hope you “Like” us!

## **Training Program/ Consortium**

### ***Consortium.....***

The Consortium classes are beginning to wind down for the summer. Many services take a little break from training during the summer months but we also have services that like to keep the training going and that is great as well. Cathy is busy working on the consortium issues now that recertification's for First Responders and EMTs are winding down.

Cathy is working on forming a Consortium Advisory Committee. That committee will be made up of a few member service Directors, Instructors and Medical Directors. We want to find out how services feel about the consortium and what direction they feel the consortium should go to keep it a valuable education tool to their services. The input from this committee will be very valuable to the future education provided by the consortium. We have randomly chosen a few Directors and Instructors to be on the committee, but we value the opinions of ALL of our Directors, Providers and Instructors as well as our Medical Directors so feel free to email Cathy or myself with your ideas and suggestions on how to improve the consortium classes. We hope by forming this committee we can get a good picture of how the consortium is currently working and what changes need to be made to make it better.

We will also be holding an orientation for NEW Consortium Instructors soon. If you have staff that may be interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Cathy Anderson. Room in the course is limited.

### ***TRAINING PROGRAM.....***

We had a successful and busy winter with the training program. Cathy has been very busy lining up CPR classes and Skills Test outs for our First Responder groups that belong to the consortium and also have had a few EMT refresher classes and a First Responder initial course.

We appreciate all of our services in the region and the dedication and sacrifice all of our providers make to assure that they keep their certification current. Please make sure that all providers are current in their certification.

Please contact Cathy for any of your training needs!

### ***CEVO COURSE SCHEDULED.....***

#### **DODGE CENTER AMBULANCE**

**May 18, 2013 8:30 – 5:00**

Go to [www.seems.com](http://www.seems.com) for more information on registration

If your service is in need of a CEVO course and would be willing to host a course, please contact Cathy Anderson in our office.

### ***THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE.....***

For First Responders (soon to be EMR's or Emergency Medical Responders), the date that their certification expires will now be on a uniform date much like the EMT's and Paramedics have

been for many years. EMR's cards will now ALL EXPIRE ON October 31<sup>st</sup>. Years may vary but the date of October 31<sup>st</sup> will always be on your new EMSRB card. This should help service Directors have a better idea of when their members are expiring and should make it easier to plan for training to keep their member's certification current. This process has already begun and will be a progressive process until October 31, 2015.

If you expire between:	Your new expiration date is:
11/1/12 and 10/31/13	10/31/13
11/1/13 and 10/31/14	10/31/14
11/1/14 and 10/31/15	10/31/15

Any questions, please contact our office or Holly Hammann-Jacobs, EMSRB Specialist for SE/SC Minnesota.

### **First Responder Training Funds DEADLINE approaching!!!!!!!!!!**

For those First Responder/Ambulance services that applied for and were awarded training funds for Fiscal Year 2013, the deadline to claim those funds is approaching. Below are the criteria from the application form:

Regional EMS funds are again available to official First Responder Squads in Southeastern Minnesota for the following courses: **First Responder Certification, First Responder Recertification, Emergency Medical Technician Certification, and Emergency Medical Technician Recertification.** A squad can apply for EMS funds to meet the training needs of both new and current members. Following is the allocation per person for each program: First Responder Certification (**\$175**), First Responder Recertification (**\$100**), EMT Certification (**\$300**), and EMT Recertification (**\$125**). ***BLS ambulance services who have a hardship variance and are using First Responders on their service CAN apply for the FR training funds! They are not, however, eligible for the EMT training funds because that is available through the EMSRB. Ambulance services only need to complete contact info and # to be trained.***

The DEADLINE for those services who received AWARD Letters verifying their participation is ***NO LATER THAN JUNE 7, 2013.***

If you have been awarded these funds, please make sure to get your documentation on training into the Regional office before the deadline!

### **Speakers Bureau**

Need some continuing education for your next meeting???? Please remember that the SE EMS Office offers the Speakers Bureau for services to use to get additional training. We have a wide variety of topics and speakers available. There are topics on Pediatrics, Trauma, Medical, Geriatrics, Hazmat, Drugs and Paraphernalia, Domestic Violence and Psychiatric/Combative Patients. All of these topics are described on our website [www.seems.com](http://www.seems.com) under Speakers Bureau. This is available through a SE regional subsidy that allows your service to train the entire group for only \$75 a session! You choose 2 possible topics that you would like to see and fill out the form on the Speakers Bureau webpage and we will find a speaker to come to YOUR SITE and do the presentation to your group! It does not get much easier than that!

If you have questions, please give us a call!

## **Features on the SE Website**

I have really enjoyed learning more about the Ambulance Services and First Responder groups in our region that have been our “Providers of the Week”! I have had a lot of good comments on this section of the website and I would like to keep it going, BUT I need your help to keep this going! Ambulance Service Directors and First Responder/Fire Department/ Police Directors/Chiefs, please take a few minutes to fill out the SHORT form on the “Providers of the Week” tab so we can feature your service on our website. This is one very small way of recognizing your departments and all of the wonderful people who make it run!

Remember, if you are looking for a class or information about programs provided by the SE EMS Office, check out our website at [www.seems.com](http://www.seems.com) !

### ***Updated email information needed.....***

Has your service had a change in leadership or have you or members of your crew changed your email addresses, if so, please remember to send your new email information to us at the SE EMS so we can update our database.

Thank you for all you do and please be safe! Let me know if we can help you in any way!

Don