

By: Don Hauge, Executive Director

Happy Holidays from all of us at the SE EMS Regional Office! It is very hard to believe that 2013 is over and 2014 is ahead, where does the time go???

I would like to say THANK YOU to all of you who take care of the patients in need of help in SE Minnesota! Regardless if you are a volunteer or paid for the work you do, you are a very valuable part of the healthcare team and the citizens of SE Minnesota and those who travel through our region are very lucky that you continue to be a dedicated healthcare professional! For EMS, there continue to be many challenges that lie ahead. Some EMS services continue to struggle with low volunteer numbers which puts pressure on those who continue to meet the need of a 24/7 schedule. We all need to promote the importance of EMS in our communities and also communicate the need for volunteers on our ambulance and First Responder crews. Many communities often assume that EMS will ALWAYS be there, but we all probably know of communities that this has not been the case. Be proactive in your communities and let them know what you are doing for them and what a great experience it has been for you! Talk to your community groups, church groups and any other group you choose to let them know not only the benefits of having EMS available in your community but also the alternative if they were NOT in your community. Hopefully, we can find more people who would be willing to join our area EMS services and continue to provide the quality care to the people we serve.

Again, THANK YOU for all of your dedication and service to the people who call for help! Hoping you all have a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year!!!

Changing of the guard....Regional Program Medical Director



On December 31st at the stroke of midnight, the SE Regional Program will have a “changing of the guard” so to speak. After 21 years of being the Regional Medical Director, Dr. Dan Hankins will retire from that position.

Dr. Hankins has been a very active member of the Regional EMS team and has made many contributions of time and talent over the years. He is one of the people who came up with the Medical Directors Consortium which has been active in our region for 20 years and continues to gain members and be a very valuable program. He has been active as a speaker at our Regional EMS Conference for many years and was always our “Go To” person when a speaker for the conference had to cancel or could not make it due to weather. I recall a few years ago when we received 19 inches of snow in Rochester the night before the conference. Our Keynote speaker called me at 8 pm Thursday evening saying they could not make it until later in the day Friday due to the weather, oh and he was speaking FIRST Friday morning!!! Well, one call to Dr. Hankins at 8:30 pm Thursday night fixed the problem. He stayed up late that night and put a presentation together and was at the conference ready to go at 8:00 am!!! He is not just a life saver in the ED!!

His contributions to this region have been far reaching and have touched many lives over the years. While we will miss his smiling face and wise council, we wish him the very best on his retirement and say THANK YOU to Dr. Hankins for all the years of dedicated service to the SE Region! YOU WILL BE MISSED!



AND at the stroke of midnight December 31st, the SE Regional Program welcomes its NEW Regional Program Medical Director, Dr. Dennis Laudon!

Dr. Laudon is no stranger to the Regional Program or too many of the providers in the region. He has been a Medical Director for the Medical Directors Consortium since 1999 and has been active in recruiting more Medical Directors and Nurses for the program. Dr. Laudon is an ED Physician at St. Mary's in Rochester and works primarily the night shift.

He has also been named the Medical Director for the Mayo One Helicopter program after Dr. Hankins retirement. Like Dr. Hankins, he is very much a supporter of EMS and will continue to promote the programs and services offered by the Regional Program.

We are very happy to WELCOME Dr. Laudon as the Regional Program Medical Director and look forward to working with him for many years to come!

2014 "Heroes Among Us" Conference.....



Mark your calendars for March 14 & 15, 2014!!! Those are the dates for the 30th Annual SE Minnesota EMS Conference now known as the "Heroes Among Us" Conference. The Conference brochure should be coming in the mail in the next few days! Mr. Ken Bouvier, Deputy Chief of the New Orleans EMS will be our visiting National Speaker in 2014. He has been here before and was one of the most requested to have again and we are pleased that he will return!!

NEW this year, we are offering an **ONLINE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT** option!!!! This has been a request by many in the past so they can pay by Credit Card.

We will accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. Participants and Vendors will be able to use this option to register for the Conference in 2014.

You can go to our website to see the Conference Brochure for 2014 as well as register Online by clicking on the following link.

<http://www.seems.com/conferences.html>

We hope to see many of our EMS providers at the conference in 2014!!!!

Recertification Reminder for Consortium Services.....

Just a friendly little reminder that services in the Medical Direction Consortium are responsible to contact our office or another qualified educational facility to schedule their crew-members' recertification for CPR, EMR, and EMT. EMR's expire each October 31st and EMT each March 31st following a 2 year certification. If you have questions or need to schedule the training, please contact our office.



Immediate Run Reviews for Consortium Services.....

Please remember to fax, mail or email in copies of the runs which fall under the criteria for immediate review. Those calls are: Cardiac Arrest, ALS Intercepts, Serious Illness or Injury to a child, and any use of the variance medications or procedures, such as CPAP, I.V., Epi-pen, Albuterol, Nitroglycerin, etc. Under the guidelines of the Medical Direction Consortium any call that meets these requirements needs to be reviewed by the Medical Director within 48 hours. We are working on a process that we hope will make this easier for the providers to comply – stay tuned for more information.

Next Regional Ambulance Directors Meeting.....

The NEXT **Ambulance Managers meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 5, 2014 at 6:30 (meal provided at 6:00)** at the Gold Cross Main Station Conference Rooms.

One of the topics for the evening will be to review the recommended Triage and Transport guideline developed at SMRTAC for use by Ambulance Services throughout the South Central and SE Region.

The EMS branch of SMRTAC is looking for Providers who can attend the meetings and be part of the EMS Committee. This committee works on improving Trauma care throughout the South Central and Southeastern Regions of Minnesota. The group works on Best Practice guidelines that could be adopted by EMS services around the region. It is a good group and interesting to work on.

Items for the website????

LOTS of good information on Programs and Services offered by the SE Minnesota EMS Regional Program on the website, please go to www.seems.com and check them out!!!!

If you have an item for the website, please contact us by email or phone, we would be happy to assist you!

First Responder/EMT Training Subsidy Update.....

FIRST RESPONDER/EMT TRAINING SUBSIDY

The Deadline for receiving applications for the First Responder/EMT Training Subsidy was September 30, 2013. We had 30 services send in applications and Acceptance Letters have already been sent out. Services who received an Acceptance Letter can send in the receipts for their training classes now through mid-June to be reimbursed. If you have any questions, please call the Regional Office.



Minnesota Mission: Lifeline Update.....

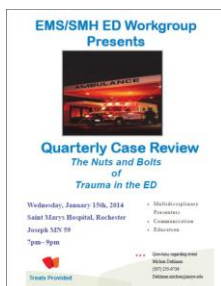
The Minnesota Mission: Lifeline project continues..... The Northwest and West Central services that were awarded the grant dollars have now been ordering their equipment and the meetings with the hospitals have begun in those regions as well. The grant awards have also been handed out in the Northeast and Central regions and they will also begin to purchase equipment. The next region to get applications for the grant will be the Southwest region. The SE Region is not slated to receive applications until March/April of 2014. Even though that seems like a long time away, it will come quickly so it gives you time as a service to figure out what equipment you currently have and will it work to acquire and transmit 12 Lead EKG's. Your monitor Sales Representatives may be able to assist you in answering those questions.

This grant focuses on improving care for those in the most rural areas so that is why they have started in the Northern part of the State. As has been stated before, not all services will get grant money but they are trying to make the money go as far as possible by asking services to look at their needs and doing upgrades to their current equipment if possible. Upgrade current machines to add 12 lead capabilities, possibly the ability to transmit 12 Lead information to the hospital, ect. Remember, after services that are awarded grants receive their equipment, there will also be training for service members provided by the grant as well.

You should be in contact with the hospital you work with and the Monitor Sales people from Zoll, Physio Control and Phillips so you know what is available as well.

We plan on having the Minnesota Mission: Lifeline team do a presentation on the program at our annual conference in March. We also plan to have all 3 of the Monitor Sales Representatives as Vendors at the conference to assist you with any questions you may have.

EMS/ SMH ED Workgroup – Case Reviews a SUCCESS!!!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR for JANUARY 15, 2014. That will be the date of the next Case Review and it will be held at St. Mary's Hospital from 7 – 9 p.m. We had about 70 providers attend the last Case Review and we are looking forward to larger crowd this time! There will also be TREATS available!!!!

“The Nuts and Bolts of Trauma in the ED” will be presented on January 15th from 7-9 pm at St. Mary’s Hospital. Dispatchers, First Responders, EMT’s, Paramedics, ED Nurses and Physicians will all be able to learn from this session! CEU’s will be available at the session.

These are going to be given on a quarterly basis at St. Mary’s and are offered free of charge!

Here is a link to the flyer on our website:

<http://www.seems.com/quarterly-ems-case-reviews---save-the-date-january-15-2014.html>

CPR “Save” Pins/Certificates Available.....



The SE EMS Office now has a C.P.R Save pin available for services to purchase for crew members involved in a “CPR Save” situation. Along with the pin, you will receive a certificate from the Regional EMS Office recognizing this event. The cost of the Pin and Certificate is \$ 5.00 plus tax. For more information, please call the SE EMS Office.



Monthly CPR Classes at SE EMS.....

The SE EMS office will now start holding CPR classes on the first and third Tuesdays of each month starting in August of 2013.

The first Tuesday of each month we will hold an ***American Heart Association Healthcare Provider*** class. Two classes will be scheduled each day; 1pm – 5pm and 6pm – 10pm. Cost: \$65.00 per person.

The third Tuesday of each month we will offer an ***American Heart Association Heartsaver /AED*** class. Two classes will be scheduled each day; 1pm – 5pm and again from 6pm – 10pm. Cost: \$65.00 per person.

These classes will be held in the conference room of the SE EMS office at 1130 ½ 7th St NW, Ste 201, Rochester, MN 55901. Pre-registration and payment is required prior to the start of class. For more information or registration please call our office at 507-536-9333.



Triage Tag Tuesdays and Sundays.....

Reminder to Ambulance Services; continue to encourage your staff to practice with the Triage Tags on a regular basis. The SE Regional Office has LOTS of these tags available for your service to receive FREE OF CHARGE!! The Tags were purchased by the EMS Healthcare Coalition Committee and are to be giving to SE Regional services. At the Ambulance Directors meetings, we have been encouraging services to practice with the tags at least once a month or on calls that fall on Tuesdays and Sundays, which makes it easier for staff to remember to practice on those days. Staff should use the tags on whatever type of patients that they may care for. The practice allows staff members to not only become familiar with the tags looks but actually work with them and place patient information on them. Triage tags are not frequently used but we have had several incidents over the past few months with multiple patients and being familiar with the tags can make the process go MUCH smoother!! Call or stop by the Regional Office to get your tags.

Upcoming Events.....

January 2	Pre-hospital Advisory Committee (PAC)	6:30 p.m.	SE EMS
January 9	Joint Powers Board Meeting (Note time change) 9:30 a.m.		Workforce Building
January 15	EMS Sub-Committee Meeting	08:00 a.m.	SE EMS
January 15	Medical Task Force Meeting	09:00 a.m.	SE EMS
January 15	EMS Case Review	7:00-9:00 pm	St. Mary's Hosp.
January 22-26	Arrowhead Conference		Duluth
February 5	Regional Ambulance Directors Meeting (6:00 meal, 6:30 meeting)		Gold Cross – Rochester
February 7	ER Nurse Managers Meeting	9:00 a.m.	SE EMS
February 13	Joint Powers Board Meeting	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Building
February 13	SMRTAC Meeting	1:00 p.m.	Owatonna
March 14-15	30 th Annual Heroes Among Us Conference		Rochester