

**By: Don Hauge, Executive Director**

May is upon us and we are all ready for the April showers to be done and the May flowers to begin! We have been very busy in the SE Regional Office and I am going to share some of the items that we have been busy with.

But FIRST, I would like to talk about EMS Week which is May 18 – 24. This year's theme is:



That certainly is a true statement for many of the providers in the SE Region and all over this great State of Minnesota. This includes Dispatchers, First Responders, BLS and ALS Ambulance Providers, Police, Fire Fighters as well as those who do not have an affiliation but have taken a class and are willing to help when they see someone in need.

EMS Week is about recognizing the **GREAT WORK** that all of our EMS providers do on a daily basis and also how they are able to work together for the good of the patient! Many of us who are in the EMS profession would probably tell you that we did not get into EMS for the money but because there is something inside us that drives us to want to care for those who are sick and the injured, to help those in need. It is an adrenalin filled job that not everyone can do, and it takes a special person to be able to deal with the ups and downs of EMS care on a daily basis.

As EMS Providers, we take great pride in bringing a new life into the world but also the same pride is felt when we help to comfort a family who has suffered the loss of a loved one. Certainly one is a joyous event while the other may be very tragic, but in our role as EMS providers, they are equally important to the patients and families we serve.

I have often noticed that EMS providers seldom want to take credit or to be labeled a "Hero" for the jobs that they do, they just say it is "part of the job". EMS Week is a chance for all of us who provide Emergency Care to stand up and be recognized for all the good that we do. Take pride in the jobs you do and know that what you are doing makes a HUGE difference in the lives of those you come into contact with! You may not realize it, but the quality care you provide to your patients will stay in their memories for a lifetime. What you do and how you treat patients is a **BIG DEAL!!**

On behalf of the SE EMS Joint Powers Board and the Regional Office Staff, I want to wish you all a very **HAPPY EMS WEEK!!!** I thank you for all you do to help the citizens of the SE Region on a daily basis! You are the BEST!

## **2014/2015 “Heroes Among Us” Conference**



### **Mark your calendars for March 20 & 21, 2015!!!**

The 2014 Conference is in our rear view mirror and it is now full steam ahead planning for the 2015 conference! We are working to get our National Speaker and also working on other presentations for the conference. I encourage you to contact me if you have recently been to another conference and saw a presenter that you thought would be good for our conference. Many times those are the most popular that we have so your opinions do make a difference on who presents each year.

Our Conference planning committee meets on May 22, 2014 to begin the process of reviewing comments from the 2014 conference and working to make improvement for 2015.

We will also be working on plans for our **2014 Fall Workshop**. We are currently looking into a “Farm accident/Injury” Workshop for either September 13<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup>. More information on this workshop as details come together!

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## **Prescription drugs for Ambulance and First Responders**

Over the last several months we have been contacted by several of you in the region telling us that your local pharmacy will no longer refill or renew your prescriptions as the pharmacy does not hold a wholesale license.

It seems that the Minnesota State Board of Pharmacies has either recently placed into law or is now enforcing a statute that prohibits pharmacies without a wholesale license from selling prescription medications to agencies. After speaking with the head pharmacist of a major pharmacy in Rochester he explained that without a wholesale license, they can only fill prescriptions written out for individuals. When I asked, he told me he is not aware of any pharmacy in Rochester that has a wholesale license.

You may wish to contact the pharmacy you purchase your medications from and verify if they will be able to refill your prescriptions before you need them.

The following is a list of well-known wholesalers you can order your prescription medications through.

BoundTree 800-533-0523 [www.boundtree.com](http://www.boundtree.com)

Emergency Medical Products (EMP) 800-558-6270 [www.buyemp.com](http://www.buyemp.com)

Moore Medical 800-234-1464 [www.mooremedical.com](http://www.mooremedical.com)



## Information from the EMSRB

The EMSRB has a new website location <http://mn.gov/health-licensing-boards/emsrb/>

As always, this is a work in progress.

We hope you find the new site user friendly and easy to locate what you are looking for.

## Volunteer training reimbursement

*If your ambulance service does not participate in the Volunteer Training Reimbursement program, please disregard this message.*

Volunteer training reimbursement requests have been received from a number of ambulance services. These requests will be processed in batches in the order received. Processing of these reimbursements was delayed due to the high volume of requests related to the renewals of EMTs and paramedic.

If your ambulance service has not submitted applications for volunteer training reimbursement, please have the forms completed and submitted within the next month to allow enough time to process the payments by the June 30, 2014 deadline.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Melody Nagy at 651-201-2802 or 1-800-747-2011 or by e-mail at [melody.nagy@state.mn.us](mailto:melody.nagy@state.mn.us)

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## Next Regional Ambulance Directors Meeting.....

The NEXT Ambulance Managers meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday July 23, 2014** @ 6:30 (meal provided at 6:00) at the Gold Cross Main Station Conference Rooms.

If you have topics you would like to discuss or a presentation you would like to talk about, please feel free to contact Holly Hammann-Jacobs or Don Hauge.

[holly.hammann@state.mn.us](mailto:holly.hammann@state.mn.us) or [hauge.donovan@mayo.edu](mailto:hauge.donovan@mayo.edu)

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## SMRTAC (Southern Minnesota Regional Trauma Advisory Committee)

<http://smrtac.org/>

The next meeting of **SMRTAC** will be on June 12, 2014 at the Gainey Conference Center in Owatonna at 1:00 p.m. We continue to encourage EMS providers to participate in this group which continues to grow each meeting. The meeting is also available to view via Webcast which can be found on the website listed above. The August 14, 2014 meeting will be a night meeting in hopes of more EMS participation. I have been told that a BBQ meal is in the works for that meeting!!! Contact Don Hauge if you have any questions. [hauge.donovan@mayo.edu](mailto:hauge.donovan@mayo.edu)



## 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](http://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

We had 30 First Responder and Ambulance services apply for this year's Training Subsidy Grant. If your service received an acceptance letter from the Regional Office for the Subsidy Funds, **your service will have until June 6, 2014 to turn in the paid invoices** from the training program that taught your class to be reimbursed. REMEMBER, this is a "first come, first serve" subsidy and we will only reimburse services until the funds are depleted. Any questions, please call the Regional Office.

## EMS Equipment Grant Update

We have had a good response to the FY 2014 Equipment Grant, Thank You to all of the services that sent in their applications. As you know, there is \$46,000 available in grant funds for FY 2014 which ends June 30, 2014. As expected, we received more applications than we have funding for so we will be unable to meet the financial needs of all the requests in FY 2014.

Services who have applied AND received a CONFIRMATION LETTER from our office, are eligible to receive the grant funds upon the Regional Office receiving Proof of Purchase of the items that were requested. Purchase of the items should have been made after the date of the confirmation letter being received.

**This Proof of Purchase MUST be submitted to the Regional Office NO LATER than June 1, 2014.**

If your service applied and funds were no longer available, you will receive a denial letter from the Regional Office.

## CEVO Courses

We are looking for services who are interested in hosting a CEVO class this spring and summer. If you are, the Regional Office will advertise the course and take registrations as well as get the instructors and materials for the class. All you have to do is find a classroom that is big enough for 10 (min) – 24 (max) people, have a parking lot large enough for the driving course and provide an ambulance to use during the driving course

The cost of the course would be \$50/person (\$65 for out of Region). We currently have a course planned for Northfield on May 17, 2014 and also one in Chatfield in July. More information on this as plans are finalized.





## **Minnesota Mission: Lifeline Update**

The Minnesota Mission: Lifeline project continues..... The applications for the Minnesota Mission: Lifeline Grant was sent to Ambulance providers in the SE and SC Regions on Monday May 5, 2014. If you did not receive an email regarding this from the Regional Office, please contact us.

Eligible services have until **May 30, 2014 @ 17:00** to submit their application. We are hopeful that all services in SC and SE that are eligible will apply for the grant. It is a competitive grant so applying does not guarantee that the funds will be secured for your service. Following the application close deadline listed above, the applications will be reviewed by a committee of approximately 30 people. This committee will go through a scoring process that has been used in all of the regions so far. Once that process has been completed, the scores will be tabulated by the Mission Lifeline staff and awards will be made based on scoring totals. We would anticipate the awards being made in late June. There will also be training provided by the Minnesota Mission Lifeline grant to ALL services in our region, even if you were not eligible or did not receive grant funding. I have 6 instructors who have agreed to go out to our ambulance services in SE and do a standardized training on the application and use of 12 Lead EKG's. Training will begin in July-August timeframe and one of the instructors will be contacting every Ambulance service director to set up a time for the training.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. [hauge.donovan@mayo.edu](mailto:hauge.donovan@mayo.edu)

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## **EMS/ SMH ED Workgroup – Case Reviews**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR for July 22, 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. There will also be TREATS available!!!!

Dispatchers, First Responders, EMT's, Paramedics, ED Nurses and Physicians will all be able to learn from this session! CEU's/Contact Hours 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!  
NOTE: If your service has been involved in an interesting case, maybe a cardiac arrest save or a severe trauma situation that used multiple resources, please let Don Hauge know and we may use it for the next Case Review session.

Here is a link to the flyer on our website:

<http://www.seems.com/quarterly-ems-case-reviews---save-the-date-july-22-2014.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 located at:

SE EMS office 1130 ½ 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## **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.

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## New Home on the Horizon



### **New Eyota Ambulance Garage is going up!**

**I asked Eyota Ambulance Director Chris Arendt to give me some information on the new building and the process that the Eyota group has gone through, below are his answers:**

**When did you start the building project process?** Over 7 years ago we started looking at other facilities and creating a plan for our needs today and into the future. 4 years ago we presented architectural renderings and a plan to the communities we serve. Over the past 2 years we have been coordinating town hall meetings and securing funding. It took a long time, with many hours presenting our plan. No one funding source would work, thus we had to find grants, loans, and multiple benefactors to finish the financing. This is a no frills project, with a focus on function and practicality.

**How many ambulance bays will you have?** 2 bays with Crew Lockers, and a supplies storage room, laundry space and decontamination space.

**Will you have sleeping quarters?** 3 sleeping quarters, with kitchen, lounge, 2 report workstations, and 2 walk-in shower/bathrooms,

**Will you have meeting/class rooms?** Large meeting/classroom with 2 bathrooms, kitchenette, and 2 offices, with plenty of closet space for training equipment.

**Have you experienced any hair loss during process???** I kept my hair, but it sure got gray. My advice to others planning a similar project would be; hang in there, keep a positive attitude and know you are doing a good deed for the right reasons.

Thank you Chris and Congratulations to you and all of the Eyota members! Your dedication and perseverance have paid off and soon you will be in your brand new facility! We look forward to seeing it!!!

*(If your service has a building project or new response vehicle, please let me know so we can include your news in our Update! It is great to see what the services in our Region do to improve!!!)*

## A Linda Horth Update!



Just wanted to include a little update on our former SE EMS Executive Director! She has been basking in the glow of retirement for nearly two years already and has taken a liking to it! She has spent the last couple of years working on her property in Pickwick (near Winona) and making many trips to New York State where her family lives. A few months ago, she decided it was time to sell her home in Pickwick and move out to New York. She has a Brother, Sister and many Nieces and Nephews out east that she enjoys spending time with. There are a couple of babies that will be born this summer in her family and she is looking forward to doing some babysitting with them as well!

At the end of April, a few of her SE friends went and helped her pack the moving truck with her possessions. We had a great day of memories and laughs! She is now at her new home in New York and is very happy and she plans on traveling back to the Midwest next summer to visit friends here.

She is still working on getting her email up and running but if you wish to drop her a note, email her at:

[Linda.kropidowski@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.kropidowski@gmail.com)

We wish her all the best!!!





## Upcoming Events

### MAY 2014

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- 15 EMSRB Board Meeting
- 16 SE ER Nurse Managers Committee Meeting at the SE EMS Office 09:00- 11:00
- 16 [Preston Ambulance 2014 Fundraiser Dinner \(5 pm until gone\)](#)
- 17 CEVO III Course in Northfield @ Northfield Ambulance Station
- 17 [3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Motorcycles and Classic Car Ride \(Fundraiser for the Minnesota EMS Honor Guard\)](#)

### 18-24 HAPPY EMS WEEK!

- 21 [Rochester EMS Appreciation Night at Signature Aviation, Rochester Airport](#)
- 22 CPR Classes at the Regional Office (Pre-registration required)
- 22 SE EMS Conference Planning Committee meeting @ 6:00 pm, SE EMS Office
- 26 **Memorial Day – SE EMS Office Closed**

### June 2014

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- 3 CPR Classes at the Regional Office (Pre-registration required)
- 6 MAA Quarterly Board Meeting
- 12 SE EMS Joint Powers Board Meeting @ 08:30, Workforce Development Building
- 12 [SMRTAC](#) Meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Gainey Conference Center, Owatonna
- 20 CEVO III Instructor Course (Pre-registration Required)
- 20-22 [Back to the 50's Weekend Car Show – Minnesota State Fairgrounds](#)
- 26 CPR Classes at the Regional Office (Pre-registration required)
- 28 [Assault: A New Reality for First Responders – Riverland College, Austin](#)

**July 2014**

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4 July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday – SE EMS Office Closed

22 [Quarterly EMS/ED Case Review – St Mary's Hospital, Alfred Main 459](#)



May 18-24, 2014

*Happy EMS Week to all of our  
SE Minnesota Providers!!!!*

*Thank you for all you do!*