



The Monitor

The monthly electronic newsletter for the Southern Illinois Regional EMS System.

April 2018

COMMAND: Dr. Haake and the EMS Office staff hopes everyone had a safe and happy Easter weekend. We also hope everyone made it through April Fool's Day virtually unscathed. EMS 1 had some funny "news articles" released on April 1st. One of our favorites was how an ambulance service solved the confusion of when to leave a scene by placing a "cops slap here" hand shaped logo on the back of the ambulance. This made a place for the proverbial double tap, which tells the ambulance driver the proper time to start driving away. ☺

FINANCE: The Fiscal Year 2019 EMS Assistance Grant application period is now closed. The next step is for the regional EMS System Coordinators to review the applications. Announcements should come out, assuming the state funds the grants, in the fall of 2018.

LOGISTICS: Reminder: If you navigate to www.sirems.com and receive a security alert, simply choose to continue to the site. The site is completely safe, it is causing this problem because it's built on an old format. A new site is being built.

First Responders: The draft set of new FRD/EMR protocols are complete and have been submitted to IDPH for approval. They are in flow chart format and will be separate from the BLS, ILS, and ALS protocol sets. They include the new scope of practice changes and should be easier to use.

The EMS Office strongly encourages all EMS agencies to join the Shawnee Preparedness and Response Coalition (SPARC). SPARC is a whole community coalition that has representation from EMS, healthcare facilities, law enforcement, fire, EMA, Public Health, government, and private businesses. It is a great way to network, learn new laws and regulations, and connect with subject matter experts on everything from planning, exercising, and response topics. Learn more at www.shawneepreparednessandresponsecoalition.com

Non-Transport Agencies: Your self-inspections are now due. If your agency has not completed their non-transport self-inspections, that needs to be done ASAP and sent to the EMS Office. Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

John A. Logan College has eliminated the EMS tuition waiver program for the EMT and Paramedic classes, effective summer semester 2018. This means EMT students will be subject to full tuition for the fall 2018 semester (EMT 111) and the Paramedic students will be subject to full tuition for the summer 2018 semester (EMS 252). Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

NASEMSO (the National Association of State EMS Officials) announced the availability of *Evidence-Based Guidelines for Fatigue Risk Management in Emergency Medical Services*. With funding from NHTSA's Office of Behavioral Safety Research and in collaboration with researchers at the University of Pittsburgh, the results of the systematic review of literature have been completed and evaluated via the GRADE process.

Recommendations from a team of experts have been published early online in Prehospital Emergency Care. While the recommendations might seem intuitive, these guidelines provide a body of evidence to support them, an important first step towards reducing the effects of fatigue in the EMS industry. The project also establishes a framework for future research to inform sound EMS decision-making. A table of contents of all 15 articles in the fatigue supplement is available at <http://www.nasemso.org/Projects/Fatigue-in-EMS/index.asp>

The EMS Education rules have been filed for 1st notice and can be found on the Illinois Registry at: http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/register/volume42/register_volume42_issue14.pdf Our rules start on page 6024, use "control find" to get to the page. This is the opportunity for all of us to give our opinions on rule changes during consideration and prior to IDPH implementation.

OPERATIONS: IDPH has released a warning on severe bleeding risks with the use of synthetic cannabinoids like bath salts, K2, Spice, etc. As of April 5th, there have been 89 reported cases with two deaths. Blood tests have shown the presence of brodifacoum, a lethal anticoagulant often used as a rodenticide, or rat poison. Cases have presented with various forms of bleeding, including persistent nose bleeds, blood in the urine or stool, vomiting blood, significant bruising, heavy menstrual periods, as well as with intra-cranial bleeding. Some cases have been hemodynamically stable, whereas others have been critically ill at presentation. The full IDPH memo has been posted on www.sirems.com.

The EMS System measures the amount of time it takes from call received to enroute to the scene. If you have a delay from call received to enroute, the reason needs to be documented in the run report. There are many reasons from on call staff response to delays with transferring care of another patient. If you don't document the reason for the delay, it will probably be assumed you wanted to finish watching Spongebob Squarepants....so please document the reasons for the delays.

PLANNING: Don't forget about our EMS Calendar at www.sirems.com

April 10:	SPARC Quarterly Meeting, Marion Pavilion (open to everyone)
April 13:	SIREMS Triage Tag Day
April 17:	Tax Day
April 19:	IDPH EMS Advisory Council, videoconference at IDPH Marion
April 22:	Earth Day

TIP OF THE MONTH: During the Illinois EMS Summit in late March, Attorney and Paramedic Frank Nagorka spoke about legal liabilities in EMS. The most surprising fact shared with the crowd was this.

You are 25-35 times more likely to be pulled into litigation from an EMS call as the driver than the person in the back providing care.

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at Brad.Robinson@sih.net or SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com (04-08-18).