



# *The Monitor*

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

August 2018

**COMMAND:** Dr. Haake and the EMS Office staff want to remind everyone that school will be starting soon. Everything from Pre-K all the way through to the colleges. Please use extra caution with the increasing pedestrian, bicycle, bus, and vehicular traffic headed our way.

**FINANCE:** Nothing new on the grant or finance front this month. If you missed it though, EMS1 magazine published an article in June with tips on applying for EMS equipment grants. It can be read online at:  
<https://www.ems1.com/ems-products/patient-handling/articles/383357048-How-to-get-grant-money-for-EMS-equipment-purchases/>

**LOGISTICS:** Reminder: [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com) is completely SAFE, but you may receive a security alert when navigating to the site. Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

The IDPH EMS Office in Springfield is short staffed and over 3000 behind in renewals and applications. If you have applied for an initial license and haven't received it yet...be patient. If you applied for renewal, the July 31<sup>st</sup> expiration dates have been extended 30 days, to August 31, 2018. You can reference the IDPH license extension memo from our website at:

[https://sirems.com/ems.nsf/0/70F06E5168078346862582DF00622C57/\\$FILE/EMS\\_Licensing\\_July\\_Extension\\_Memo\\_07312018.docx.pdf](https://sirems.com/ems.nsf/0/70F06E5168078346862582DF00622C57/$FILE/EMS_Licensing_July_Extension_Memo_07312018.docx.pdf)

If you have any questions about the license extensions or your application status, please contact the EMS Office.

With the complications experienced from IDPH updating their EMS licensing database, there have been some glitches...which has also contributed to the backlog of applications and renewals. Some of those issues included the loss of the online license verification page and the ability to pay fees electronically on the IDPH website. As of today, the online license verification page is functional and the online fee payment is active for renewal fees but not working for initial license fees. Contact the EMS Office with any questions or problems.

Brad Robinson is having trouble with his SIH email account, specifically with emails disappearing. If you have sent something to Brad in the last few weeks that needs attention but haven't seen a response or heard back from him, please call to verify your information was received or is in process.

**OPERATIONS:** Transport services: When you are transporting a possible stroke to an ESRH (Emergent Stroke Ready Hospital) or PSC (Primary Stroke Center), be sure to document on your PCR when you early activate the receiving hospital's stroke response. Even if your call or radio traffic is recorded, you know the old saying "if it wasn't documented, it wasn't done." If you are unfamiliar with the terminology used or the policies of the emergency department to which you are transporting, simply notify the receiving facility the patient failed the pre-hospital stroke scale and you are bringing a suspected stroke...and document that.

In July, there were three cases of secondary exposures to strong carfentanyl type synthetic opiates in our neighboring IDPH EMS Region 4. Please remember that secondary exposures can occur through dermal absorption. Please report any secondary exposures to the EMS Office. Also, please report overdose patients that required multiple doses of naloxone to reverse. If there is a strong strain of an opioid appearing in a city or area, we want to give our first responder family as much of a heads-up as possible.

We have received a few questions about helicopter scene response. Our EMS System's policy is B-16 HELICOPTER SCENE RESPONSE, and here are a few of the high points of the policy.

- There are criteria listed on the policy, but it clearly states the list is not inclusive and the criteria do not replace decisions based on sound medical judgement.
- Medical Control must be consulted when helicopter transport is being considered.
- Once air medical is en route, only Medical Control can make the decision to cancel the helicopter response.

Contact the EMS Office with any questions or concerns.

**PLANNING:** Don't forget about our EMS Calendar at [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com)

August 13:           SIREMS Triage Tag Day

September 03:    Labor Day

*TIP OF THE MONTH:* High school football season is rapidly approaching and practices have already started. Please refresh yourselves on treating patients with football injuries, specifically spinal immobilization and our system's helmet removal protocol (II-44 HELMET REMOVAL).

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