



The Monitor

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

July 2018

COMMAND: Dr. Haake and the EMS Office staff want to say goodbye to retired Jackson County Ambulance Director Dottie Miles. Dottie died on June 26th after a battle with cancer. Dottie was a pioneer of EMS in Southern Illinois and responsible for helping build the foundation on which we all function today. Dottie was not only a local EMS representative, she was a very active and successful state level advocate for Southern Illinois EMS issues. Her services are being held on Monday July 2, 2018 at Meredith Funeral Home in Grand Tower, with a PD, FD, and EMS walk through starting at 3:00pm.

Our country's Independence Day is Wednesday, July 4th. Dr. Haake and the EMS Office extends the United States a happy 242nd birthday and wishes all of our EMS family a safe and happy Independence Day!

FINANCE: Nothing new on the grant or finance front this month. We have received word that some applicants to the AFG grant program have not received their "Dear John" rejection/denial letters yet... so good luck to those that remain.

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, but we do not yet have an estimated completion date on the new website.

Reminder to all: The new First Responder protocols and the new Pediatric protocols are posted on the website. The First Responder protocols are under section "L" and the Pediatric protocols are under section "GG" on www.sirems.com.

Because of the previously mentioned new protocols and many recent updates, the alphabetical index may not take you to the correct policies and protocols. The EMS Office will make the needed updates to the alphabetical index later in July and possibly spanning into August. The most recent and correct protocols can always be accessed under the protocols tab of the website, the link that lists the protocols in the non-alphabetical format. If you have any questions, please contact the EMS Office.

IDPH is coming to inspect our EMS System on July 9-10, 2018. We at the EMS Office will be very busy in the coming days, and hope to get back to normal after July 10th.

OPERATIONS: Ambulance services that transport to Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and/or St. Joseph's Hospital in Murphysboro can now fax their completed PCR's to a digital fax file. The fax number is 618-351-4893. If there are any questions about the use of this digital fax file, contact the EMS Office.

Consider the possible use of blood thinner medications on all calls, especially on traumatic cases and refusals. These medications don't actually thin blood, they reduce the ability of blood to form clots and slow the growth of existing clots. There are two classes of medications that are included:

Anticoagulants: Warfarin, Xarelto, Heparin, Lovenox, Pradaxa, Eliquis

Antiplatelets: Aspirin, Plavix, Effient, Persantine

There is a conservative estimate that over 3 million people are on "thinners" daily. These medications increase the bleeding tendencies on all injuries, even on those previous run of the mill refusal calls. Falls and bumps to the head, that at one time were low risk, can now be very high risk if the patient takes any of the above medications. Be very cautious with all trauma patients, even those that want to refuse. Be vigilant in determining if they take anticoagulants or antiplatelet medications. Do not hesitate to contact Medical Control with any questions, concerns, or for guidance.

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

July 04: Independence Day

July 9-10: IDPH EMS Site Visit of SIREMS

July 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day

July 19: Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Committees, HRMC Marion

TIP OF THE MONTH: Constantly refresh your patient assessment skills! The patient assessment skill sheets for trauma and medical assessments are available on the National Registry website, www.nremt.org. Patient assessment is a skill that is underestimated by new and veteran EMS providers alike. Even though we don't read/recite every line on the assessment skill sheet like a robot to our patients, doesn't mean that we should not be able to do so. The patient assessment skill sheet is a guide to a proven process of evaluating and treating your patient while decreasing the possibility of missing a life threatening injury or condition.

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at Brad.Robinson@sih.net or SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com (07-01-18).