

# *The Monitor*

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

March-April 2021

**COMMAND:** Dr. Haake wanted to thank everyone for their hard work and continued diligence during this spring season. Hopefully, everyone made it through April Fools Day uninjured and ready for the remainder of the month!

Congratulations to Jaime Watkins, Assistant Director of Union County Ambulance Service, on her retirement from the world of EMS. She is moving on to run a family real estate business and we wish her the best of luck!

**FINANCE:** For those agencies that applied for the IDPH EMS Assistance Grant, the EMS Office has been contacted by one applicant agency saying they received notice of award from IDPH. Remember, the EMS Office is not notified by IDPH of who receives grants in our Regions. Contact the EMS Office if you have received notice of award or have any questions.

**LOGISTICS:** IDPH released the EMS Week 2021 documents and applications this week, and they were distributed to the management contacts of all the services by email. One of the applications is for years of service certificates. There are specific instructions for the years of service applications, and they will only be accepted on the provided forms in Word format.

The other distributed EMS Week 2021 related documents are the EMS Week Award Applications. IDPH is taking nominations for the following awards:

- Exemplary EMS Instructor Award

- Exemplary EMS Response Award

- Exemplary Emergency Response Award by a Non-EMS Individual(s)

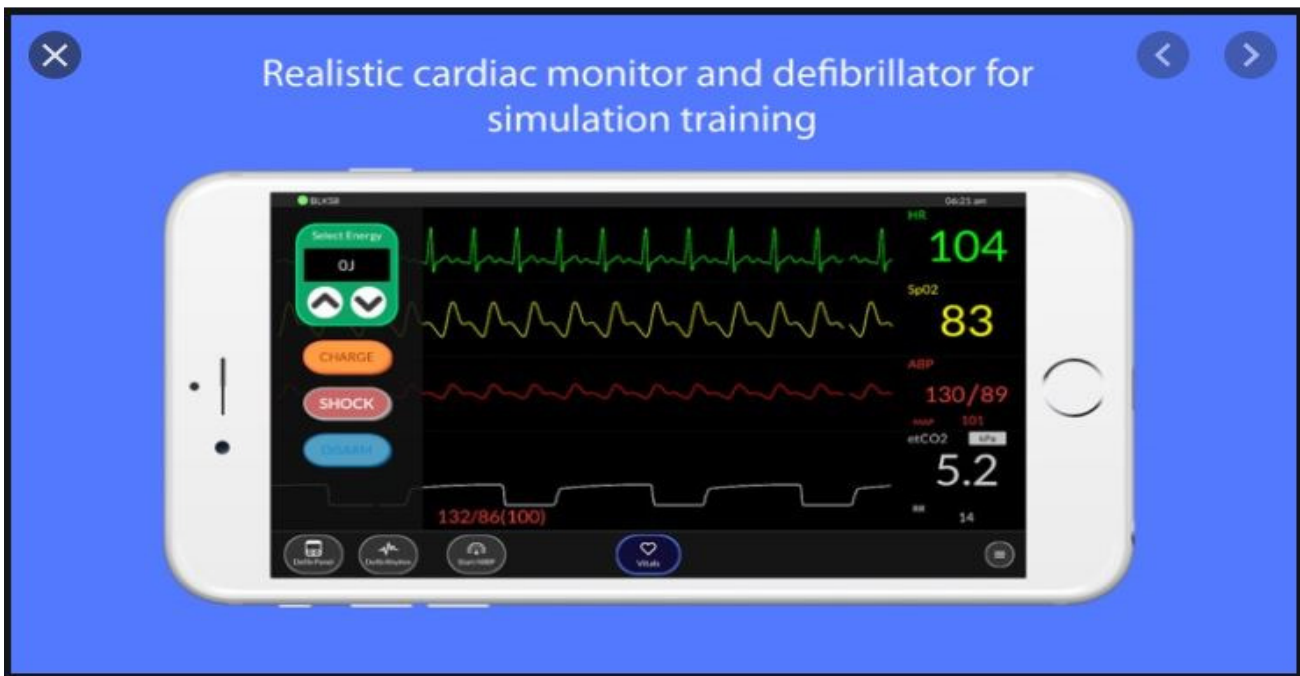
- Exemplary EMS Public Education Award

Contact your department/service manager for the forms. Feel free to contact the EMS Office with any questions.

The EMS Office and the MHC Trauma Center created a Kinematics of Trauma and Trauma Activations training module. The training power point and corresponding quiz is posted on [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com) under the education tab. This training session has been approved for continuing education credit from IDPH, through the end of 2021. We encourage everyone to take this training at your earliest convenience.

Non-Transport Agencies: Please remember to complete your 2021 IDPH self-inspection forms and return them to the EMS Office as soon as possible. Big thanks to Campbell Hill, Carbondale FD, Carbondale TWP, Elkhville FD, Herrin FD, and MHC Offices of EMS and Disaster Preparedness for being the first departments to turn in your inspections!

While attending a webinar on distance learning techniques for EMS during COVID, we learned of a very snazzy application. It's called the Simpl Patient Monitor and it is available on the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store. It simulates a fully functioning cardiac monitor and it works on smartphones and tablets. The initial download is free, and the free version allows you to log into an instructor's simulation and view it in real time. In order to change settings, pace, defibrillate, etc., you will need to pay for the premium service (which is a one-time fee of \$9.99). The EMS Office is not endorsing the product or requiring its use. We simply wanted to share another tool to assist in initial and continuing education for our EMS System participants. A screenshot of how it looks on a smartphone is below.



**OPERATIONS:** For ALS non-transport units, the medication and equipment lists have been updated based on the suggestions given by those agencies last year. The updated protocols are currently in draft form, but we expect IDPH approval very soon. When the changes receive final approval, the EMS Office will work with each ALS non-transport to verify correct stocking and complete the annual inspections. Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

For those ambulance services that transport to Herrin Hospital Emergency Department, the canopy at the ED entrance is closed due to construction. There are two designated ambulance spaces in front of the ED. For more information on the parking situation and for onloading/offloading inpatients, check the top of the newsfeed at [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com).

Please remember to leave your completed PCR at the Emergency Department after delivering a patient. IDPH regulations require a copy of the PCR is left at the hospital prior to leaving the facility. We understand this is occasionally not possible due to other calls pending. Please fax or return those PCRs as soon as possible. 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)

April 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day

April 13-15: Hospital Decon and Team Leader Training, Carterville Comm. Center

April 15: Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Committees, via WebEx

*TIP OF THE MONTH:* Remember, every patient with a rapid respiratory rate is not anxiety induced hyperventilation. Go back to A&P training, specifically acid/base balance. When a patient is experiencing metabolic acidosis, the body has three mechanisms to reverse acidosis; the buffer system, the respiratory system, and the renal system. When the bicarbonate buffer system is overwhelmed by acidosis, the body increases the respiratory rate to blow off excess carbon dioxide, which is acidic. When you encounter a patient that is tachypneic, consider the possibility of acidosis before coaching them to reduce their breathing rate.

In fact, there's a specific term for the rapid breathing caused by ketoacidosis in a diabetic patient....doing exactly what is described above. Do you remember the name??

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) (04-05-2021).