

# *The Monitor*

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

November 2020

**COMMAND:** As COVID cases rise in our region and throughout the country, Dr. Haake wants to remind everyone to remain diligent with proper PPE use on calls. Also, with equal importance, remain diligent with our personal protective actions (social distancing, wearing a mask, and frequent hand hygiene).

**FINANCE:** FEMA is accepting applications for the second round of the Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – COVID-19 Supplemental Program (AFG-S). The deadline for receipt of AFG-S applications is Friday, November 13, 2020 by 5:00pm ET. The second round of the FY20 AFG-S grant is strictly limited to only fire departments classified as volunteer or combination departments.

IDPH is now accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2021 IDPH EMS Assistance Grant. The EMS Assistance Grant must be applied for through the EGrAMS system by close of business on Friday, November 13, 2020. If you have any questions regarding the grant application process, contact Julie Havens at [Julie.havens@illinois.gov](mailto:Julie.havens@illinois.gov) or 217-785-9220.

**LOGISTICS:** Dr. Haake has agreed to accept American Red Cross BLS CPR certifications along with the AHA BLS certifications. This only applies to CPR, not the Red Cross versions of ACLS or PALS. For ALS personnel, keep in mind the AHA will not allow you participate in their ACLS or PALS classes with an ARC BLS card. The SPARC headquarters is now an American Red Cross Training Center. For more information or questions on AHA versus ARC, contact the EMS Office.

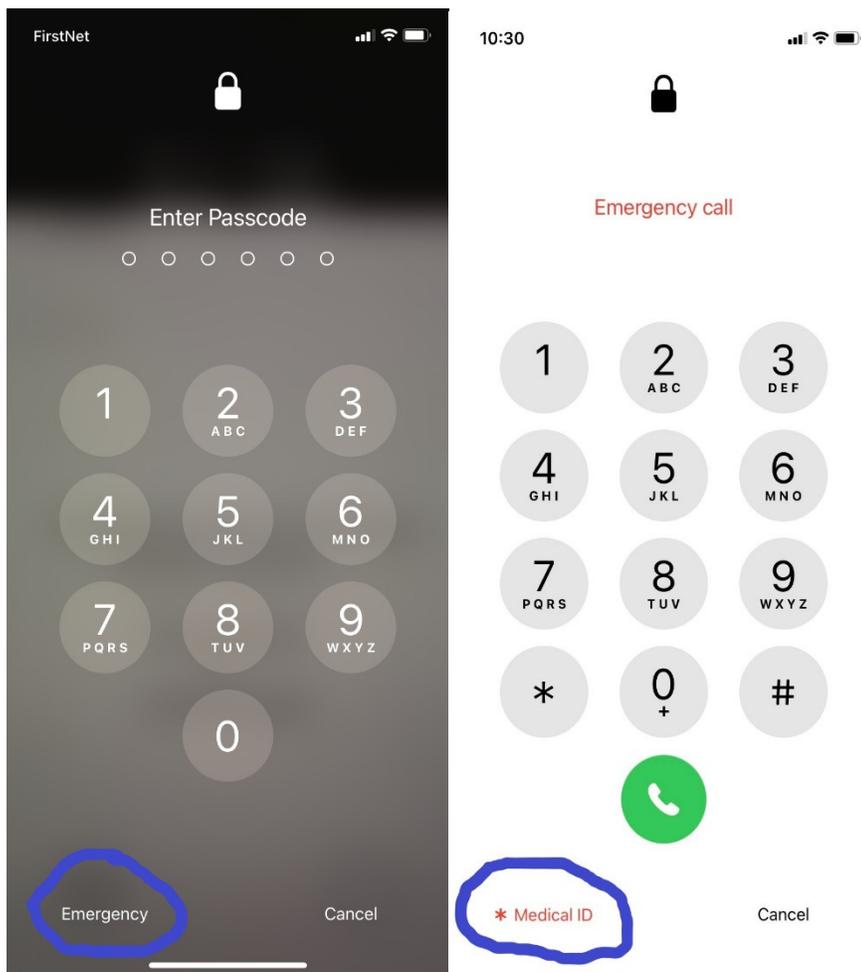
For EMS Agencies that teach their continuing education in-house, remember the training applications must be submitted 60 days prior to the first day of scheduled training. So, for the departments wanting to start their annual training programs in January, those applications need to be into the EMS Office now. If there are questions on training applications, site codes, or training requirements, please contact the EMS Office.

During COVID, OSHA waived the requirement of fit testing as each mask changes during the PPE shortages of the pandemic. However, they did not waive the requirement of annual fit testing. Agencies are still required to annually fit test for the use of N95 respirators.

**OPERATIONS:** There have been recent issues with EMS being called by patients dialing 911 from an emergency department waiting room. In the event you are called to an emergency department by a patient using 911, please consult with Medical Control using the recorded line. There are a number of legal issues with a patient on a medical facility's property not being seen by that medical facility.

The bottom line is an EMS crew must have orders from a Medical Control physician to take/remove a patient from the hospital property. And, we prefer the orders are documented on the recorded line. This is a rare occurrence, but it could create a legal nightmare for the hospitals, EMS agencies, and patients involved. If there are any questions, contact the EMS Office. If there are emergent questions, feel free to contact your EMS Coordinator by phone at any time.

Most cell phones have an emergency contact / medical ID function available and it can be accessed on locked cell phones. Today, we will describe how to access it on an iPhone. When opening the lock screen, there is an emergency option in the lower left corner. Choose/touch the emergency option. After that, you will see a screen that will allow the dialing of an emergency call. In the bottom left corner, there is a Medical ID option. Choose/touch the Medical ID option. If the phone owner has completed their Medical ID app information, there will be a name, DOB, medical history, medications, allergies, and emergency contacts.



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

November 10: IDPH EMS Advisory Council (WebEx)

November 11: Veteran's Day

November 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day

November 26: Thanksgiving Day

*TIP OF THE MONTH:* Remember, as the weather becomes colder, cold fingertips can cause a slow or inaccurate pulse oximeter reading. Try to obtain pulse oximetry readings on warmer parts of the body or fingers after they become warmer.

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) (11-08-2020).