



The Monitor

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

April 2016

COMMAND: Dr. Haake and the staff of the EMS Office hope that everyone had an uneventful and prank-free April Fools Day.

FINANCE: Well, due to the lack of a state budget, the EMS Assistance Grants and the Heartsaver AED Grants have been frozen. We will pass on more information as it is received.

LOGISTICS: Non Transport Departments: The annual inspections were due March 31, 2016 and there are still some agencies that have not completed their inspections. The EMS Office will be contacting these departments in the coming days. Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

There has been scuttle recently about the Illinois Supreme Court's 4-3 decision to strike down The Public Duty Doctrine. Paramedic and attorney Frank Nagorka spoke on the subject at the 2016 Illinois EMS Summit on April 5th. Frank explained how the decision will effect EMS and here are a few of the main points presented.

- This decision does not affect individual EMS providers.
- This decision affects public sector agencies, not private ambulance services.
- The decision changes the premise that a public sector service is not responsible for each individual community member, but only the community as a whole. Now, the public sector service is responsible to provide EMS for each individual citizen of their community, no matter the population, manpower, or equipment availability.
- The case that brought this to the Illinois Supreme Court may take two years to play out, so many questions will continue to be raised.

Even though the continuing education changes have not been officially released by IDPH yet, we are encouraging everyone to earn your CEUs on a wide range of topics. The changes that are coming will require a minimum number of hours in specific topics and subjects. We do not know the release date nor do we know the proposed implementation date. It will be best to start diversifying your con-ed topics and classes. It is also recommended to keep the agendas of conferences, seminars, or events that have multiple topics but one CEU certificate. There will come a time that you will need to separate out the hours into subject areas in the near future.

OPERATIONS: We are still finding issues with the documentation of times on PCRs. Specifically, the times of interventions and medication administrations have been lacking. Please be sure to document the times that you perform an intervention or give a medication. This is crucial to your patient's continuum of care. Also, ask and document the times medications were given prior to arrival. An example of the need to document "prior to arrival" medication administration time is aspirin. The receiving facility will need to know when ASA was taken so they can properly re-dose in 4 hours.

Remember to use triage tags when the patients outnumber the available resources. Many times, we mentally triage multiple patients without the use of the triage tags. When additional units arrive, it takes a lot of time to give a verbal report on all the patients that have been assessed/triaged, versus simply notifying the incoming crew to take the priority one or two patients, etc. It is proven that the use of triage and tags saves lives. Triage tags are not only for the large scale, hundreds of patients types of incidents.

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

- April 12: SPARC Coalition Meeting, Marion Pavilion
- April 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day
- April 15: Tax Day
- April 21: Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council, HRMC Marion
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 25: IDPH EMS Education Committee, ICEP and Video Conference

TIP OF THE MONTH: Here are some tips to reduce the risk of lightning strike if you are outdoors. Get off of elevated areas like hills, peaks, etc. Never lie flat on the ground. Never shelter under an isolated tree. Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter. Immediately get out of and away from bodies of water. Stay away from objects that conduct electricity like wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at Brad.Robinson@sih.net or SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com (04-06-16).