



The Monitor

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

March 2017

COMMAND: Dr. Haake wants to relay condolences to those in our region that suffered losses from the recent storms and tornado activity. He also wanted to thank all of the EMS personnel and volunteers that responded and continue to respond to the needs of our communities.

FINANCE: The Fiscal Year 2018 EMS Assistance Grant application period is now open. The deadline for application submission is April 10, 2017. Visit idphgrants.com for instructions and application requirements.

LOGISTICS: For non-transport agencies: The non-transport inspections will be due at the end of April. First responder non-transports will be able to complete self-inspections. The ILS and ALS non-transports will need a system inspection from someone in the EMS Office. Emails will be going out to the agency representatives to remind everyone of the inspection due date. Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

Reminder: It is a SIREMS requirement to use safety lancets for glucometers. The safety lancets should have a retractable needle to help reduce the chances of accidental needle stick exposures. If you have questions about the types or styles of lancets acceptable for use, contact the EMS Office.

OPERATIONS: Make sure you have participated in N95 mask fit testing. Fit testing is make, model, and size specific. You cannot fit test to a 3M brand size and expect a similar size from another manufacturer to fit exactly the same. Also, if you have experienced a significant weight change since the last fit testing, you will need to repeat testing. Weight gain or loss will change the shape of your face and effect the fit and seal of the masks. Also, whether your department has a facial hair policy or not, you need to keep facial hair to a minimum and at the same level or less from when fit testing was last done and passed.

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

March 12: Daylight Savings Time

March 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day

April 06: 2017 Illinois EMS Summit, Springfield

TIP OF THE MONTH: Don't gauge your entire ambulance response plan and preparation solely on the dispatched nature of the call. Many times, you will find the actual problem on scene is different than what was relayed to dispatch. In my past, there was one particular long term care facility that often reported cardiac arrests as elevated temperatures and elevated temps as cardiac arrests. You can see the issues this would create when arriving down the end of a long hallway at the other end of a building expecting a fever, to find chest compressions in progress. Guess who was running back to the truck for the appropriate equipment??

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at Brad.Robinson@sih.net or SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com (03-08-17).