



# *The Monitor*

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

January 2016

**COMMAND:** Dr. Haake and staff of the EMS Office wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year! We also want to recognize and thank all the EMS Personnel that dealt with the region's flooding issues. Whether it was monitoring levees, responding to emergencies in and around flooded areas or helping evacuate residents, we greatly appreciate your efforts.

**FINANCE:** The 2017 EMS Assistance Grant application period will open in February 2016. If you have registered in the EGRAMS system and applied for this grant before, you should be notified of the opening of the application period by email.

**LOGISTICS:** Every hospital in Illinois is required to build and keep a "Disaster Bag" or sometimes called a "Go Bag." These go bags are stocked with medical supplies and are available for any disaster, large scale event, or multiple casualty incident. The go bags can be picked up by a passing ambulance and it will be a quick way to stock/restock at the treatment area of an incident or casualty collection point. The go bags can also be fetched by police officers and delivered to the needed location. Contact your EMS Coordinator or Resource Hospital to make a request for go bags. You should also be able to stop at any hospital's ED and ask for their disaster bag, but every ED employee may not be aware of the disaster bags or their location. Requesting through your EMS Coordinator will expedite the process. Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

Dr. Haake mandated the use of safety lancets for blood glucose monitoring over a year ago, while allowing time to use existing stock of non-safety lancets. The majority of needle stick incidents reported to the EMS System have involved lancets. Directors and Supervisors, please make sure your department has made this transition. EMS Personnel, please notify the EMS Office if your ambulance is not stocked with safety lancets for the glucometers.

Remember to notify the EMS Office whenever you update a credential like CPR, ACLS, PALS, PEPP, ITLS, or PHTLS. The easiest way to do this, simply take a picture of the new card with your phone and text it to the EMS Office. Brad Robinson 618-713-5688 or Nathan Bressner 618-534-9455.

The process has changed for enrolling in SIH ACLS and PALS classes. Previously, EMS Personnel would register through the Continuing Education department at John A. Logan College. Now, you enroll by contacting Emily York at [Emily.York@sih.net](mailto:Emily.York@sih.net) or by calling 618-457-5200 ext. 68709. The openings for EMS are limited, so reach out early and don't be surprised if you are placed on a waiting list. There is a strict student to instructor ratio and instructor availability is limited. The schedule of classes can be found on the system's website, [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com).

Save the date of February 17, 2016. Our EMS System is working with Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department to host an Ebola/Infectious Disease Seminar at John A. Logan College. The program will have information for all levels of EMS Personnel and EMS Management. The seminar will have three areas of focus. The first will be a subject matter expert on Ebola, speaking on the physiological specifics of Ebola. The next speaker is from OSHA and they will discuss employer and employee requirements like N95 masks, fit testing, respiratory protection medical screenings, exposure control plans, PPE, and more. The last of the three is a Paramedic from Champaign that transported a patient under investigation for Ebola. He will be talking about the real world before, during, and after of the Ebola transport.

**OPERATIONS:** Though we are experiencing a mild winter so far, be mindful of hypothermia. It does not require exposure to snow, ice, or below freezing temperatures for a patient to become hypothermic. Hypothermia can come from something as simple as a ground level fall onto a tile floor with an inability to get up. Keep hypothermia in mind when dealing with our vulnerable populations like children, elderly, and patients with an acute or chronic altered LOC. The key to treatment is recognizing the problem. Literally, the very first sentence in the Paramedic textbook under Hypothermia Management says: "The first step in management of hypothermia is to maintain a high level of suspicion for its presence."

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

January 12:	SPARC Regional Coalition Meeting, Marion
January 13:	SIREMS Triage Tag Day
January 18:	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21:	Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Committees, HRMC
February 2:	Groundhog Day

*TIP OF THE MONTH:* Have you ever had a boo-boo on your hand and the Band-Aid kept snagging on your gloves while donning or doffing? Consider covering the boo-boo with a Tegaderm / Op site. It will seal the wound and won't snag on your gloves. Just don't leave it on there all day. That will cause an over exposure to moisture.

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) (01-08-16).