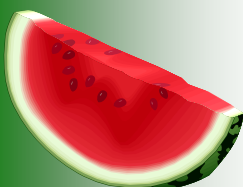


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Bureau of EMS: Vitals

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

JULY 2009

EMS Advisory Council Adopts Air Medical Safety as Goal 7 for the 2008-2010 Florida EMS Strategic Plan *By Lisa Walker, Bureau of EMS*

Air ambulances, rotary and fixed-wing aircraft, play a vital role in EMS disaster preparedness and disaster response. On July 1, 2009, the Florida EMS Advisory Council (EMSAC) approved the air medical safety plan developed by Florida's air medical industry in partnership with the Bureau of EMS. "In keeping with its proactive approach, Florida's air medical industry met in its third Safety Summit to review issues that were discussed at the National Transportation Safety Board hearings on the 2008 crashes," said Dr. David Muerer, EMS Advisory Council. We believe this to be the first state air medical safety plan in the country and it will be shared with other states via the

National Association of State EMS Officials and other partners. The Florida Department of Health is proud to have sponsored an educational video, in conjunction with the development of the plan, that highlights the impact Florida's air medical providers have on access to care, educates stakeholders on the importance of proper use of air ambulances, showcases the existing measures Florida's air medical professionals take to ensure safety, shares perspectives of all stakeholders (patients, pilots, physicians, nurses, crew members, communication specialists, ground EMS providers, hospitals, federal and state government, etc.), and

encourages ongoing collaboration by all the stakeholders in order to maintain an accident-free environment with zero fatalities.

For more information on the 2008-2010 Florida EMS Strategic Plan and a copy of Goal 7, with the associated action plans to meet the four objectives of Goal 7, visit the "Strategic Visions" page on the Bureau of EMS website at:

<http://www.fl-ems.com>



Goal 7: Maintain an accident-free environment and promote a culture of safe and appropriate utilization of Florida air assets.

Objectives:

- ◆ 7.1 Develop statewide criteria for appropriate air asset utilization (prehospital and interfacility transfers).
- ◆ 7.2 Improve air medical communications and dispatch procedures for communication centers, flight crew, hospitals, and EMS providers.
- ◆ 7.3 Improve air medical crew resource management and education.
- ◆ 7.4 Improve use of air asset technology to enhance safety.

Sunstar Paramedics Wins State Quality Award

Sunstar Paramedics, a 24 hours, seven days a week operation in Pinellas County, that serves 280 square miles with a population of 945,000 residents and 4 million annual visitors, has received the 2009 Governor's Sterling Award. The Governor's Sterling Award is derived from the internationally acclaimed Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence and is the highest award an organization can receive for performance excellence in Florida. Debbie Vass, Director of Clinical Services, stated that using Sterling/Baldrige criteria has been a con-

tributing factor to Sunstar Paramedics' high success in providing quality clinical care to their patients. Sunstar Paramedics adopted the Sterling/Baldrige management system in 2006 to help take its ambulance delivery service model to the next level without cost to the tax payers in Pinellas County.

Mark Postma, Chief Operation Officer, said he was proud of the organization's achievements. In addition to being the first ambulance/EMS agency in the state to receive the honor and first in the nation to re-

ceive the highest state quality award, Sunstar Paramedics attained a 97 percent patient satisfaction rating in 2008. Sunstar Paramedics is one of only two EMS agencies in the world to hold accreditation from all three of the top accreditation agencies.

The Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Operations, and the Bureau of EMS, congratulates Sunstar Paramedics for this prestigious honor.



State Surgeon General's "Health Innovation Prevention and Management Awards"

The Florida State Surgeon General, Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros, is pleased to announce the opening of the nomination period for the 2009-2010 "Health Innovation Prevention and Management Awards". The intent is to celebrate individuals, organizations, businesses, or programs for identifying innovative and creative approaches in addressing rising healthcare concerns within their communities.

The selection process and criteria for nominees are specified in detail at the link below. To be

considered, completed nominations must be received by Deputy Secretary Kimberly Berfield no later than Monday, August 31, 2009.

The State Surgeon General encourages everyone to share this opportunity with those who have truly influenced and positively impacted the health of their local environment.

For more information please visit the following website:

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/statesurgeongeneral.htm>



Palm Beach County Fire Rescue's Mobile Safety Sign Campaign

A PIER Spotlight Article by Gerri Penney, M.Ed.

What would you think if you were driving down the road and a big red fire truck pulled up beside you with a sign on the side that read: "Pay Attention to Drowning Prevention: There's No Sound When A Child Drowns!?" In efforts to be proactive, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR) is advertising safety to everyone driving on their streets by utilizing signage on their fire engines and rescue trucks.

There are 87 engines on the road every day of the year equipped with a total of 174 safety signs. Six safety campaigns, each running for two months coincide with specific events at different times during the year. The first campaign starts in October, Fire Prevention month, so for October and November PBCFR will highlight smoke alarms and replacing their batteries. The signs will state " You Can Replace A Battery. YOU CAN'T Replace A Life! Check Your Smoke Alarms" and will be accompanied by a picture of a smoke alarm and

PBCFR's phone number to call for firefighters to come out to install smoke alarms – of course they will come out to the residence in a truck with a sign on it!

December and January will highlight traffic safety and the importance of buckling up; February and March will focus on home safety; April and May will feature drowning prevention; June and July will display signs appropriate for the hurricane season and generator safety; and finally, in August and September, the trucks will display signs stating "Never Leave a Child Unattended in a Car," while PBCFR partners with 4 R Kids Sake to hand out purple ribbons and perform demonstrations of how hot the temperature can get in an enclosed car and how quickly children can die.

Lt. John Flaherty saw these signs in California and brought this idea back to one of PBCFR's Education Specialists, Elyse Brown, who was instrumental in getting the program up and running. The Community Education section along with Operations and Mechanics in

Support Services all got behind the idea and literally got the project "rolling"! PBCFR knows that if one person makes a good decision because of the signs they saw on vehicles, lives can be saved.

Gerri Penney is the Community Education Coordinator with PBCFR. For more information please contact Ms. Penney at:

gpenney@pbcgov.org

or visit their website at:

<http://www.pbcfr.org>

PIER (Public Information Education and Relations) Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the EMS Advisory Council on issues related to injury prevention. If you have established a program that you wish to be considered for a PIER Spotlight article please e-mail Cory Richter at:

crichter@ircgov.com



EMS Advisory Council Member Appointments

Please join the Bureau of EMS in welcoming our new council members. Effective July 1, 2009, State Surgeon General, Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros, appointed the following individuals to four-year terms:

- ◆ Paramedic (non-fire): Karen Chamberlain, R.N., B.S.N., Air Ambulance Professionals, Inc.
- ◆ Paramedic (fire): Charles E. More-

land, Ed.D., Paramedic, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue

- ◆ EMS Educator: Danny Griffin, Paramedic, Florida Association of EMS Educators
- ◆ Physician: Bradley Elias, M.D., Baptist Medical Center

Mr. John Scott with Tampa General Healthcare was appointed as the EMS Advisory

Council Chairperson for a one-year term.

Alex Sink, the Florida Chief Financial Officer, appointed Barry Barker, Chief of the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, Division of the State Fire Marshal, as the representative of the Department of Financial Services to the council.

At this time, all positions on the EMS Advisory Council are filled.

EMT and Paramedic Violations & Disciplinary Actions:

March 2009-May 2009

In the months of March 2009 to May 2009, there were 12 violations of rules found in 64J-1, Florida Administrative Code; eleven by paramedics and one by an EMT. The chart below identifies the type of licensee, the violation, and the disciplinary action taken against the licensee.

To file a complaint regarding EMS personnel or an EMS service, please visit the "Investigations" page on the bureau's website at: <http://www.fl-ems.com>

The complaint is confidential until 10 days after probable cause or if the subject (in writing) waves confidentiality.

Licensee	Violation	Disciplinary Action
Paramedic	Writing a Bad Check	Revocation of License
Paramedic	Continuing Education Unit Violation	Voluntary Surrender of License
Paramedic	Continuing Education Unit Violation	Voluntary Surrender of License
Paramedic	Failure to Report a Felony	Suspension of License
Paramedic	Falsified CPR Card	Fined
Paramedic	Positive Drug Test	Fined
Paramedic	Stole Drugs from a Patient	Reprimand on License
Paramedic	Continuing Education Unit Violation	Obligations Administered
Paramedic	Positive Drug test	Voluntary Surrender of License
Paramedic	Positive Drug Test	Probation
Paramedic	Unlicensed Activity	Voluntary Surrender of License
EMT	Continuing Education Unit Violation	Voluntary Surrender of License



Did You Know?

This year the awards committee selected the picture on the left, submitted by Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue, as the EMS Photo of the Year, best depicting the National EMS Week theme, "EMS: A Proud Partner in Your Community". They felt it captured another side of EMS that many in the public may not be aware of, such as humanitarian aide to other countries in need. In 2008, Haiti was ravaged by hurricanes resulting in over 100 dead and left 200,000 homes in shambles. Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue was approached for volunteers and three paramedics graciously and selflessly accepted: Lt. Noah Connel, Lt. Jason Allis (pictured holding the newborn) and Firefighter Medic Ben Driscoll. On the last day of their visit, the newborn in the picture was brought to their clinic severely dehydrated. Thanks to their invaluable skills, the newborn survived. In honor of the paramedics' valiant efforts, the newborn was named Noah Jason Benjamin. Congratulations to Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue for not only being a proud partner in their local community, but the world's community as well.

19th Annual EMS State Awards

By Alexander Macy, Bureau of EMS

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2009 Excellence in EMS Awards. This marks the 19th year the bureau has honored outstanding Florida EMS organizations and individuals who make a positive impact on the state EMS system.

This year heralds new firsts for the awards ceremony - the charter of a new award, "EMS Disaster Preparedness and Response", and, for the first time since its inception in 1991, a woman has won the "Larry S. Jordan Hall of Fame" award.

The bureau would like to extend our appreciation to all those who submitted nominations and encourages the community to continue submitting nominations each year, as it is important to recognize our everyday heroes who help to promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida.

For information about the bureau, please visit our website at:

<http://www.fl-ems.com>



EMS State Award Winners- Photo courtesy of David Summers

2009 EMS State Award Winners

Provider: Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

EMT: Gabe Trujillo, Nature Coast EMS

Paramedic: Henrique (Rick) F. Chipelo, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue

Educator: Chad Brocato, EMT-P, DHSc, Deerfield Beach Fire-Rescue

Dispatcher: Paul Button, Indian River County Sheriff's Office

EMS for Children Heroes: All Children's Hospital Neonatal & Pediatric Transport Team

EMS Nurse: Heather Collins, REMT-P, R.N., B.S.N., Tampa General Hospital

EMS Injury Prevention: Cory Richter, NREMT-P, B.A., Battalion Chief, Indian River County Fire Rescue

Raymond H. Alexander EMS Medical Direction: Robert Tober, M.D., Collier County EMS

Video of the Year: Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

Photo of the Year: Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue

EMS Disaster Preparedness and Response: Julie Downey, Chief, Town of Davie Fire Rescue

Marilyn Crook EMS Pioneer: Frances I. Council, Paramedic, R.N., M.A., Wakulla County EMS

Larry S. Jordan Hall of Fame: Beth Brunner, M.B.A., C.A.E., Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center

Inductees to EMS Memorial:

Fred Pierno, Jr., Firefighter, EMT, Martin County Fire Rescue— June 1, 1953-February 25, 2009

James Reeder, Firefighter, Paramedic, Martin County Fire Rescue— May 21, 1966-March 8, 2009

Neal Tarkington, Fire Engineer, EMT, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue— March 23, 1965-October 11, 2008

Lt. Robert Strang, Firefighter, Paramedic, Melbourne Fire Department— March 9, 1949-March 26, 2009

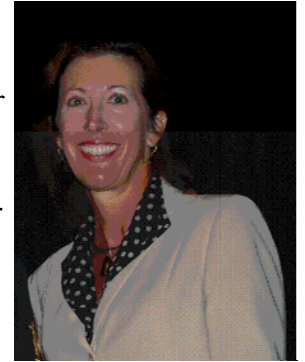
Captain Richard L. Rhea, EMT, Crawfordville Volunteer Fire Department- October 12, 1948-January 24, 2009

Best Wishes Dr. Bencie!

By Lisa Walker, Bureau of EMS



The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services would like to congratulate Jennifer Bencie Fairburn, MD, MSA, for her appointment as the new administrator for the Manatee County Health Department. Dr. Bencie has a Master's of Science Administration in health services from Central Michigan University and is a graduate from the Universidad Autonoma Medical School, in Guadalajara, Mexico. Her extensive career portfolio reflects an overwhelming commitment and passion to improve public health. Under Dr. Bencie's leadership and support the bureau has been able to add the following, just to name a few, to its list of accomplishments:



- ◆ New and enhanced partnerships with national, state, and local officials; including, the EMS Advisory Council and EMS constituency groups
- ◆ Nationally recognized EMS Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS)
- ◆ National Recognition/Model for the EMS for Children Program
- ◆ Ongoing development and implementation of the Florida EMS strategic plan
- ◆ Adoption of a Florida air medical safety goal into the Florida EMS strategic plan— expected to be the first state air medical safety plan in the country
- ◆ Bureau of EMS staff participating on and/or serving as leaders on national committees



Dr. Bencie, thank you for being our champion and a leading advocate for emergency medical services for the past four years. We will miss you and look forward to working with you in your new role. Best wishes Jennifer!

Bureau of EMS Welcomes New Division Director

By Lisa Walker, Bureau of EMS



Jean Kline, RN, BSN, MPH, (*pictured on left*) will be joining the Division of Emergency Medical Operations (DEMO) as the new director. She is a registered nurse with a Masters in Public Health; both undergraduate and graduate degrees earned through the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Like Dr. Bencie, she has an extensive career portfolio and is a leading advocate for public health. Since coming to department headquarters in February of 2007 from Indian River County Health Department, Ms. Kline has spent countless hours in the State Emergency Operations Center and provided oversight to the 67 county health departments, the Office of Public Health Nursing, DOH Labs, Bureau of Statewide Pharmaceutical Services, the Divisions of Disease Control, Emergency Medical Operations, Environmental Health, Family Health, and Medical Quality Assurance.

While doing all this she has stayed informed on EMS initiatives and served as a champion of the Florida EMS strategic plan. Ms. Kline's background and experience in health and emergency medical preparedness will continue to be an asset to the EMS community as she makes this transition to DEMO. We are thrilled to have her join us and look forward to serving under her leadership.



DATES TO REMEMBER

August 13-14, 2009 Orange County EOC Winter Park, FL	Rule Workshops August 13th– 8:30 am - 4 pm; EMSTARS, EMT Skills, EMSC Hours August 14th– 8:30 am - 4 pm (or until all subject areas addressed); Paramedic Ride Times, COPCN For more information visit: http://www.fl-ems.com/Rulesstatutes/rulesreghome.html
August 17-18, 2009 National Training Center at South Lake Hospital Clermont, FL	July 2010-June 2012 Strategic Planning Session Beginning at noon on August 17th, Ending at 3 pm on August 18th Registration required (space is limited) For more information visit: http://www.-fl-ems.com/stratplan/stratplan.htm
August 28, 2009 Florida Department of Health Tallahassee, FL	Rule Hearing 2:30 pm-4 pm 911 Emergency Dispatcher Equivalency & Recertification For more information visit: http://www.fl-ems.com/Rulesstatutes/rulesreghome.html
September 30, 2009– October 2, 2009 Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club Naples, FL	EMS Advisory Council and Constituency Group Meetings For more information visit: http://www.fl-ems.com/EMSAC/EMSACHome.html
November 17, 2009 National Training Center at South Lake Hospital Clermont, FL	2009 Prehospital Pediatric Symposium 8:30 am-4 pm For upcoming information visit: http://www.fl-ems.com/EMSC/EMSCHome.html
January 20-22, 2010 Ocean Center Daytona Beach, FL	EMS Advisory Council and Constituency Group Meetings In Conjunction with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association Fire-Rescue East 2010 For more information visit: http://www.fl-ems.com/EMSAC/EMSACHome.html

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*DOH Mission: Promote, Protect and Improve
the health of all people in Florida*

