



SHOCKING NEWS



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VOLUME I

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MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S NOTES



BY DR. STACY GOUZENNE, MD

Where are we? Well, last I heard the hospital was waiting for our roster, with updated vaccination records to begin scheduling 'OR' time for intubations...

I have another article to post on RSI...the good, the bad and the ugly it would seem... I still look on this process as a great opportunity for us to improve our basic and advanced airway skills. In addition, we will be able to hopefully collect some good data both pre and post RSI implementation in Rowan County and add our "two cents" in to the ongoing debate. As we continue to monitor this debate we need to be clear on our inclusion criteria, and careful in our application of these skills.

Familiarize yourself with the new Aeromedical Transport Policy. Please use an LZ within Rowan County if at all possible. Predetermined LZ's are being (have been) scouted and mapped. You should be able to get the closest LZ to your scene location from communications. (My understanding, but confirm it with EMS leadership) If you get to a "qualified hospital" before the helicopter gets to you, you are to off load the patient in the hospital's Emergency Department for initial stabilization. If you are not aware of the issues that necessitated these changes at this time, I refer you to a posted letter addressed to the Metrolina T-RAC from your Medical Director.

In that vein, please monitor what you say to outside agencies and personnel. I know that there have been difficult encounters with Medical Control at Rowan Regional, with outside agencies and the like. Please bring those issues to me or your EMS leadership team. Please don't go to a "competing" hospital and vent. We are guilty on occasion of perpetuating some of our own bad press...let's not!

I hope you all found the Cricothyrotomy Lab helpful. The landmarks are trickier than you'd expect, ain't they? The cat was a great thought as well, to simulate neonatal intubations. Thank you to John, his wife and Lennie for making it happen! I appreciate the attendance and the encouraging words I received after class.

I can't tell you how lucky I am, you all are and the citizens of Rowan County to have so many truly dedicated professionals in the Rowan County EMS ranks. As your leadership group continues their hard work on improving PARAMEDIC and EMT performance in specific areas, like advanced airway skills, I fully expect the bar to rise for EVERYONE in ALL areas of their performance.

"It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end" Le Guin

FROM THE EMS DIRECTOR'S DESK



HAIL CAESAR !

BY FRANK THOMASON

Greetings to all from "down the hall". thanks to each of you for taking the time and opportunity to either call, come by, visit, or email me congratulations and welcoming me to Emergency Services. I hope you share with me the excitement for the opportunities that we all have before us. You will most likely see me out and around in the coming weeks. I feel that the best way to get the big picture is see and talk about it first hand. I have already begun this process and extend my appreciation for the help to each of you in making my transition to the department a positive one.

You will see elsewhere in the newsletter information about the upcoming budget process which is upon us once again. We will again be seeking a training officer position in an effort to improve this area.

Many of you have played a part in our grant process that has been ongoing throughout the year. This process continues with our recent HRSA grant award and the SMAT application that is under review at this time. Thanks to each of you for the important roles you play in this process. In these times of tight budgets and a lean economy, these grants mean more now than they ever have. We will be continuing to look into 2004 for future opportunities as well.

Until next time.....

YO QUIERO TRAINING



BY **LENNIE COOPER**

Good News! Finally, the policy and procedure document is done. This was the last piece needed to get our protocols approved. I send the package off to Dr. Mears via Priority Mail on 2/26. They have been APPROVED with minor changes and we are currently looking for a printer. With printing time and training maybe we can be up and running by mid April.

It seems that everyone enjoyed the airway class, even those that had some objections. Please take time to thank Dr. Gouzenne for her effort. She didn't have to take her time to provide the lecture, but she did and I hope that all of you appreciate her contribution.

YES?????? 12 LEAD CAPABILITY. Three protocols have been rewritten to include 12 lead ECG. Hypertension, Chest Pain (suspected cardiac event) and Pulmonary Edema. Take time to practice your 12 lead electrode placement on your partner, friends or family so that when the time comes you will be ready. Remember no 12 leads on patients until after the classes in March. The 12 Lead Classes will be March 19th and 26th. You must attend 1 all day session either March 19th or March 26th, it is **REQUIRED!**

There will also be a Respiratory/Capnography class April 6th (pm) and April 7th (am). This is a **REQUIRED** class and you must attend either the April 6th or April 7th class.

The email distribution list for CE is progressing nicely. Please make sure your account is active. I am already using this for some information. I will be *alternating* **GREEN** & **YELLOW** monthly postings, if the color changes the posting has changed - please review it. Feeny is still working on the follow-up Difficult Airway Class. He also has a contact that may be able to arrange a moulage class here for all that are interested.

If you have any suggestions for classes let me know. Stay tuned.....

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER



BY **BETH CONNELL**

(READ AT YOUR OWN RISK!)

The staff and I are beginning the spring budget cycle. Our instructions came Monday. All expansion budget requests and continuation budget requests are due April 1st. John Sharp has taken digital photographs of all maintenance problems at 84, 86 and 83. I am forwarding these to Maintenance so they can add these jobs to their budget requests. If you are aware of equipment or repair needs report them right away to one of the supervisors. Suggestions for training items should go to Lennie Cooper., any suggestions are welcomed.

I got official word that EMS's HRSA grant was approved! This will bring in about \$29,000 dollars for our EMS system. We will be purchasing fiber optic laryngoscopes with disposable blades for EMS, Rowan Rescue and Enochville Fire & Rescue. I think you will really like this new equipment. The light is very bright and should make visualization of patient anatomy easier. This grant also provides us with pulse oximeter/capnography devices. These are handheld and show both a digital readout and actual Capnography wave forms. The Training Office will receive a PowerPoint projector and laptop computer. Expect some lively programs in CE with these new items.

On another OEMS grant opportunity, I submitted a request for an AED for Pooletown medical responders. Pooletown is the only medical responder group without AED capability in Rowan. This is likely to be approved.

An SMAT III request was also submitted. OEMS only got 36 proposals for this grant. If approved Rowan will get a large trailer filled with mass casualty supplies. We will be forming a multi-agency SMAT Team. The team will need a minimum of 21 members. Members must be willing to respond within 30 minutes to a local event or within two hours on a state assignment. Pagers, radios and special training will be afforded to team members. I think this is an exciting opportunity especially for paramedics. When deployed the response team is seven members and at least one must be a paramedic. Equipment comes in daily on the 2002 grant. You may not notice these new items because most of them are supplies for decontamination, disposable suits for victims, medications, etc. We did get a nice battery charger from this grant which charges both LP-10 batteries and Motorola radio batteries. Homeland Security will continue to bring more equipment and items to the county. Look for more news in the future.

Most of you made our class on LP-12s. Now that the units are in the field I hope you will take every chance to use them. LP-12s are a big leap forward in technology. To add the 12 lead function, I moved a lot of money from other line items to cover the higher cost. Please try to use our supplies wisely so that we can make it through this budget year on our remaining funds. Sufficient money should be left for normal operations.

With our new initiatives for RSI and 12-lead, Lennie has scheduled lots of mandatory classes for this spring. I appreciate your willingness to follow through and attend these sessions. The instructors so far have done a fine job. It has been years since I studied 12-leads so I am anticipating that class with excitement.

Final approval of our protocols, procedures and policies should come soon. Once we get a response from Dr. Mears, any changes will be made and the documents distributed.

Editorial Insert > Beth submitted some material originally e-mailed by Ken Deal to ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEES via the county's YOURNAME@CO.ROWAN.NC.US e-mail accounts. The information pertains to employees' ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT BENEFITS and information on how NOT to get carjacked.

If anyone did not receive this info via your personal e-mail account or can't find it posted somewhere at the bases then see Beth and she should be able to help you out.

WHERE'S OUR TRUCKS?



BY [BOB TURNER](#)

On February 17th I talked to John Daly from Southeastern Specialty Vehicles and Richard Hamilton, the National Sales Manager for McCoy Miller. I was told our three new ambulances were "in production". McCoy Miller can only build 1 truck per week with the aluminum cabinets that we ordered and they had sold more than thirty of these trucks in North Carolina. They should be coming off the line in the next few weeks, but I still do not have specific dates. When they are build, they will be delivered to Jefferson, NC for final detailing.

REQUESTING CLINICAL DATES



BY [TIM MARTIN](#)

EMS personnel must have 6 hours of clinical each year at the RRMC ED. When requesting clinical advance notice of 10 days is needed to schedule your time.

Future clinical opportunities at CMC are being explored, stay tuned for more information.

UNCLE MANKOWSKI WANTS YOU



BY TED MANKOWSKI

A CPR training event is scheduled for March 11th and March 12th to train all of the school bus drivers in Rowan County. Any CPR instructors will to teach or anyone willing to volunteer to help please contact me.

Anyone interested in joining **The Professional Paramedics Of Rowan County** can contact me also. Advantages of joining our association include:

\$10,000 life insurance policy at no cost.

Representation of issues on the State and Federal levels.

Access to an experienced labor lawyer should the need arise.

The local intends to pay a significant if not entire membership dues in the Benevolent Association.

Enrollment coordination/assistance in The Emergency Mgmt. Institutes **Independent Study Program**.

Group representation with Management.

*** EDITORS COMMENTS ***



BY JERRY LITTLE

Well, what a change from the February edition, I actually had to allot time to get all of this typed. Management as well as ED staff have been very receptive to what I'm trying to do here. I want to take time to say THANK YOU to everyone that is contributing to OUR newsletter. I actually think we're onto something here.

Also, a special THANK YOU to Dr. Gouzenne from ALL EMS personnel. I've received numerous requests from staff to add a thank you for the effort and concern she has shown so far with not only our service but personally when 'medics' have went to her for advice or with a concern. Everyone I've spoken with really appreciated her being at the Cric class.

On a different note, I've started a Yahoo! Group called RCEMS. I created this after several people asked about having a place to chat and post concerns about our service. I have sent an 'invitation' to everyone's e-mail that I have on file. If you do not have a YOURNAME@CO.ROWAN.NC.US address I encourage you to speak with Lennie Cooper about it. Through this address you will receive CE info, employee benefit info, and invitation to our Yahoo site. Posting on the RCEMS site can be anonymous and you can say what you feel, however the site is MODERATED which mean the postings are reviewed by myself or 1 of 3 anonymous moderators I've selected through the site. On one hand it's a shame to need a site to review with each other managements shortcomings and air the frustrations of not getting anything done when you follow proper channels. But, on the other hand, it's a shame to have to MODERATE postings from our employees too. Please check the site out and give it a try. It's anonymous and may actually help things around here. Only RCEMS employees are invited to join (that includes part-time employees up the ladder to the Director). Management can air their grievances just as well as field staff. If anyone has any questions you can contact me directly through the below e-mail addresses.

Remember, everyone is invited to submit content for the Newsletter as long as it is on topic and beneficial to our service. Acceptable content includes educational opportunities, ideas and yes - even criticisms - if it may promote a better service or work environment.

Please remember the folks contributing content for OUR newsletter are doing so to help keep you more informed as to current and upcoming events that will affect us all.

A 'hard-copy' of the monthly newsletter will be posted at each base. Content for the newsletter can be left in my mailbox or sent to the following e-mail address:

littlejn@co.rowan.nc.us or med1171@aol.com

- Be safe - J. Little, editor