



SHOCKING NEWS



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MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S NOTES



BY DR. STACEY GOUZENNE, MD

I apologize for not making the May newsletter cutoff....went to the beach, had a great time, got a year older and forgot...

As of June 1 we are a "GO" for the OR. Please take your evaluation form and insure it is filled out by the supervising physician or CRNA. Remember to review the RRMC orientation material. The Metrolina Trauma Advisory Committee was very positive about our preparation for implementing RSI. In addition, they would like to be involved in the study I've been musing about. We are trying to find a QA/data collection tool that all participating counties can use.

Protocols are **HERE**. Learn 'em..live 'em...There is a copy at the nurses' station at RRMC. I have a note to myself to educate the physicians...

Please use the LA Stroke Scale...a laminated copy should be (will be) posted near the radio to cue the nurses. They were supposed to discuss it at their last charge nurse meeting...I have a note to myself to educate the physicians...The hospital is aiming for a Stroke Center designation and we are doing our part to aid them.

I have asked Lennie if it is feasible that, at the end of each educational session, we can practice some oral board scenarios related to the subject matter. One medic will be the examiner and the other the student. This will help everyone with critical thinking, thinking on their feet, and will demonstrate different approaches different medics will take with the same scenarios. It should also increase the comfort level with the testing process. Thoughts on this?

Any interest in medical Spanish instruction? I can translate some "often used" phrases, and we can practice some pronunciation. I need feedback.

I heard nothing about interest in a Best Case contest???

I have offered multiple people on multiple occasions to speak in person and directly to the need for a training officer. No one has taken me up on my offer as yet...

We are working on spider straps...one set for each truck for the occasional combative or OB trauma patient that truly requires them. If we lose 'em...they may be a long time in getting replaced. More on this...

"Fundamentally the marksman aims at himself." - Zen in the Art of Archery

FROM THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S DESK



HAIL CAESAR !

BY [FRANK THOMASON](#)

With us rolling into June, your administration is well into finishing up the current budget year. Quite a lot has been accomplished over the last year, and each of you know as well as I do there have been many things that has happened to most of us. If someone had told me a year ago that I would be where I am today, along with other changes that have occurred in my life and family, I would have thought they were on some good drugs or had knocked themselves silly. We all face these same realities in both our professional, individual and personal lives. Now having just finished my third month with you I have been afforded the opportunities to begin getting out and about a little, (from an anonymous quote: "who is that 300 on the radio?"), meeting a few more of you, and most importantly talking and listening.

We have lots to do and high peaks to climb. But two things come to mind: one, it's not all going to get accomplished overnight - or even in a year, and two, we all must accept that to climb those peaks come valleys sometime that we will drop off into. We must all be prepared for the tasks ahead, whatever they are, and ready to not only help ourselves but help each other along the way too. We are all in this together. Its not administration verses the field techs verses the supervisors verses the fire departments or the law officers or the fire marshals or the telecommunicators. It takes all of us pulling in the SAME direction (and sometimes its going to appear that individually we shouldn't do something one certain way) to make the boat go forward. Otherwise, just like the boat, we either end up going nowhere or worse yet, in circles. I don't want this, nor can we afford to do it. WE have begun the processes on a couple fronts to move issues along that are ultimately slowing us from moving forward. Already efforts not from just one or two particular individuals, but a commitment from a many, many individuals to see the big picture of where we want to be are helping these efforts to build better and stronger relationships and work through problems when they arise. And all the while that "big picture" in some respects is still being painted and will continue to change. I know a lot of you that I have personally spoken to either in the office or out in the field are as excited about these opportunities as I am. But - it's going to take the "we" and "all" of us working together to make things happen and to get around bumps the road. I'm already grateful to each of you for being where you are as we continue our journey.

Until next time -

Frank

YO QUIERO TRAINING



BY [LENNIE COOPER](#)

Well, its done, almost. You should have your protocols by now. If not, check the table in front of the classroom at Station 87. Many thanks to all that offered to help and those who happened to be standing around when I needed help in the publishing process. Kelly Potts and Onion did a significant amount of the printing and binding in order to get them done quickly. Remember that you will need to attend a required class on June 15, 16 or 17. I have spoken to Dr. G and she is OK with the take home test plan for competency testing. The target date for implementation remains July 1.

Time to move on to another project, the new 4 year Training plan. If you have suggestions, lets hear them now. We have to have the plan submitted, approved and in place by August 1. I would love to hear your ideas. Work continues on the ROWANEMS Yahoo group. We have had some problems with the county email server but I think that is resolved. Almost everyone now has an email address. If you don't know your address or are having problems, get in touch with me and we will try to work it out. Until next month, have fun.

WHERE'S OUR TRUCKS?



By BOB TURNER

Finally, our 1st new unit IS HERE!



Radios will be installed Monday, we are currently stocking the unit and will have it inspected soon. The new unit is projected to be in-service by the end of the weekend.

We should be receiving the next 2 units within a week or two.

SALUTATIONS FROM SYLVIA



By SYLVIA

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped out at the Station 82 Open House on May 2nd. The food was excellent, the crowd was enthusiastic, we had a good time and met some of our new neighbors. A special thank you to Junius Fredrick who arranged for the MedCenter Air Helicopter and ambulance to make an appearance. I personally was thrilled to see that heli land in the field right beside the station and appreciate the opportunity to get an up close view of the interior. It was interesting to say the least. Other special thank you's go to Anita McCants and John Sharp for all their help and thank you to everyone who showed up to help serve and especially to help clean up. To everyone who attended, **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR EMS DEPARTMENT.** I am so very proud and honored to work with such great people.

Which brings me to our next event. On July 2, 1984 Rowan County Government officially began the Rowan County Emergency Medical Service, it started in a service station. It is now 2004 and look how far we have come. If you want to know about the OLD DAYS just ask Rick Boutilier. Rick has been with the service since the very beginning. We are planning a special outing at Dan Nicholas Park on July 2, 2004 in celebration of the Rowan County EMS 20th Anniversary. Some of you have already made your reservations to attend. Some of you haven't. **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** contact me with your family reservation forms. We are in the planning stage and need to know approximately how many people will attend so we can have enough food for everyone. Also, if we can firm up an attendance list we can see what freebees might be out there and/or assistance in paying for the meal. I hope everyone will be able to attend this once-in-a-lifetime celebration for our EMS.

P.S. I am so very proud of all of you for the fine jobs you do. I really do appreciate your efforts on a day-to-day basis. Keep up the good work.

FROM THE FIRE MARSHALL



BY ART DELANEY

FIRE SERVICE:

Thank you for inviting me to be a part of "Shocking News".

There are a few training opportunities being planned that will include EMS. Chris Lyerly (County Fire-Rescue Training Chief) and I are in the final planning stages of some USAR training on a building we have acquired. The plan is to shove a car into the structure (actually we have two structures), then rescue the occupants (200lb rescue dummies). Right now the city is onboard. Chris is working with Capt Hurlocker and Capt Harkey with SFD to finalize the scenario. I'm hoping to include the Squad, and possibly Kannapolis FD, China Grove FD, and maybe Landis FD. That should be all the organizations who provide rescue services. If this goes right all organizations will get a better understanding of what is required at a major collapse incident...who knows what could come of that!!

With word that we may not get the SMAT trailer, the need for an in-house medical disaster unit is again placed on County Emergency Services. Right now the fire service is purchasing and equipping 2 of 4 disaster trailers that will be strategically located around the county (hopefully to insure a rapid response). I have extended an offer to the EMS Manager to join us. Bringing EMS onboard can only increase our capabilities and improve our level of service during a severe emergency.

** EDITORS COMMENTS **



BY JERRY LITTLE

First, I finally corrected Franks title (sorry Frank). Second, if you haven't had time to thank Sylvia for all she does please take the time to do so. A quick "Thank You" goes a lot further than you think. Third, Dr. G, Lennie and many others have went above and beyond to enhance our service and skills - please don't let em' down. Study hard, learn the new protocols and prove that their effort was well worth it. If your skills are where they need to be then offer to help those who could use a little help. Remember, we are ALL supposed to provide the SAME STANDARD OF CARE.

The new Yahoo! Group is a more of a success than I hoped for. 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. 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.

Thanks to ALL who have been contributing to OUR newsletter and to our new contributors Sylvia & Art. Your commentary is welcome and very much appreciated.

You can submit information in writing to: littlejn@co.rowan.nc.us or med1171@aol.com

- Be safe - J. Little, editor