



# SHOCKING NEWS



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## MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S NOTES



BY DR. STACEY GOUZENNE, MD *Continued next page*

Well RSI finally came...and to date we have "smoked" 2. I have reviewed both ACR's and must say they looked great! I think we probably saved a life...maybe both with the procedure. These were well selected candidates and the procedure seemed well organized. I would ask, if you could document meds in order of time given. It's not critical, but makes reading the flow of the case easier. The one case was a CHF patient who received excellent and appropriate care throughout her rocky time with us. Just a note, please remember to document how the ETT placement was confirmed and by whom at the receiving facility. Keep it up!!!

Of note, we had peer review the other day. When we first began this process...each of us had comments or questions, serious questions, on at least 4 of the 5 calls. It struck me the other day that we had maybe one of 5 ACR's with questions...and even fewer with any serious issues. Again, great work...

While we are moving forward with more technical and serious interventions let us not forget the simple things. We don't need to over-think. Spinal everyone if you have to. Bad car crash, elderly lady with an obvious distal femur fracture...cannot refuse spinal, guy with a shovel buried in his head, and you can see the fracture in his skull...cannot refuse spinal...found down in the yard, don't know what happened, alcohol on board...cannot refuse spinal...altered mental status...narcan, accucheck....PEA...wants atropine and bicarb...

RRMC is really pushing for an interventional cath lab...it would be optimal if we could transmit our 12 leads to the hospital to mobilize the team that much quicker....

Sometime after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, when we get the new crew hired and tested I would like to have another dog/cat lab. Anyone interested in sitting in again should let Lennie know so we can plan how many nights and how many animals we may need. This is a big project for several folks, but I want anyone interested to feel free to attend. For the new folks, it will of course, be mandatory.

Tim will be looking to schedule the new folks through the Operating Room at RRMC for their ETT and LMA experience.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas party at the Templeton's, and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. In retrospect, it has been a year of extraordinary growth for the service and you should all feel proud of your contributions. Thanks!

*Great Faith. Great Doubt. Great Effort. - the three qualities necessary for training*  
(From The Little Zen Companion)

### FROM THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S DESK



HAIL CAESAR! BY [FRANK THOMASON](#)

With this writing I hope everyone enjoyed a great Thanksgiving. Spending time with my family this time of year certainly makes one reflect on what matters and how thankful we really should be. With so much going on during every day, we get tunnel vision and wrapped up in the daily chores of life and work. Frustration sometimes sets in and we forget. One of our staff recently mentioned to me how really great a department we have, not because we are Rowan County, but because of the dedication of the people that work here. They are so right, how do I know this? Just seeing first hand how intent each of you are about doing your jobs. While yes, we have "bad days", the commitment and desire that each of you show comes through day after day. It shows in all levels of our department, from part time employee all the way up to administration. I see it in each of you by the desire to do the work in the best manner possible. I see each of you take serious effort when mistakes are made to correct them and help others to see ways to do things better. As we quickly move into the Christmas and New Years season, the hectic pace will continue, even heighten somewhat as we decorate, shop, visit, party, and celebrate this wonderful season. So during this time, don't forget to stop periodically to take a deep breath and remember what matters most, and how much each of you mean to your family, friends, co-workers, and the citizens of Rowan County. Have a Happy Holiday! See you in 2005!

### YO QUIERO TRAINING



BY [LENNIE COOPER](#)

Well, you'll be glad that I don't have a whole lot this month.

First of all, a hearty THANK YOU to everyone for all you have done this year. Many of you have worked very hard at making Rowan EMS a better place and you deserve a good pat on the back for you efforts. Again, Thanks.

Congratulations to June Bug for getting that first RSI. Skipper, Feeney and Potts, you let me down. I know some of you are still a little concerned about this procedure, so talk to June Bug or Skipper as they have both been "team leaders" for an event. TJ and I had an RSI candidate that was under the weight limit. I advised the ED on call in that he was a candidate but to light for our protocol. Retrospectively, Dr. G said that I could have asked for the procedure. You are limited to patients between 90lbs and 300lbs by protocol but you may request an order if they are outside of these parameters. I urge

common sense in this, they should be close to the guidelines that we have in place. Our patient weighed about 70 lbs., Jerry has prepared a new drug calculations sheet with the criteria attached and I hope to get them printed soon. They will be for the kits themselves in place of the loose sheet that you currently have to use.

On a protocol issue, we should be mixing atrovent and albuterol for nebs. I know the protocol says Atrovent or Albuterol but that is only supposed to be for metered dose inhalers. My fault for not catching this earlier. According to Dr. G the Atrovent doesn't work without the Albuterol. Also, I will be printing a correction for the Pain Control Protocol when it is approved by OEMS.

### MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER



BY BETH CONNELL

*(READ AT YOUR OWN RISK!)*

County administration has committed to purchasing an electronic reporting system for EMS, which will be coupled with a new software billing package for Ambulance Billing and Collections. An RFP (request for proposal) has been sent out to seven companies as of last week. Hopefully a recommendation will go to the commissioners at their December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Once approved it will take awhile for the new equipment and programs to be installed. Then employees will need classes on the use of the tablet or laptop computer.

So unfortunately we cannot begin with the new data collection on January 1<sup>st</sup>. To be compliant with state regulations we must be electronically submitting call reports on January 1, 2005. After a meeting with the Finance and Information Systems Directors, an interim plan has been devised. In the next two weeks Information Systems will put computers in all outlying stations with internet connections. Classes are being set up to teach us all how to use PreMIS online. This will enable our department to be compliant with state regulations.

OEMS is prepared to withhold grants to counties who do not meet the PreMIS data submission requirement. Such action could affect our 2005 HRSA grant (\$27,000+). It was hoped that some of these HRSA funds could be used to help with PreMIS compliance. Stay tuned! Classes will be announced soon!

Documentation review has used much of my time over the last three months. Accuracy ratings have steadily improved. Many good examples of documentation have been posted in the dayroom at 87. I hope you will take the time to look these over.

I have been collecting samples and problems for a documentation class. A representative from Finance will be assisting me with the class. The review will cover documentation requirements from protocols and policies, and information on insurance company requirements for paying claims.

Rowan SAFE KIDS has a new display on the bulletin board in the Training Room. Carole Dellinger has highlighted the new booster seat law taking effect January 1, 2005.

Children under age 8 or under 80 pounds must ride in the booster seat!

Our SAFE KIDS chapter has received \$2500 in donations for a trailer. The trailer will store car seats, bike helmets and supplies. Granite Quarry Volunteer Fire Department has graciously volunteered to house the trailer.

TJ Brown has agreed to help SAFE KIDS by doing some radio public service announcements. The first batch will air locally in December. SAFE KIDS would like to recruit a ghostwriter to draft public service announcements. If you would be interested SAFE KIDS has an unlimited supply of information you can use to develop public service announcements. WSTP would be happy to air a new PSA every week if we can supply them. A good PSA is 30 seconds. Your help would be appreciated, so see Carole.

On a personal note I want to wish everyone on our staff a happy holiday. If you are like most folks, this is a contemplative time of year when you count your blessings and make resolutions for the future. My resolution is to foster teamwork within our organization. Together we can accomplish great things for the benefit of the community.

### WHERE'S OUR TRUCKS?



BY BOB TURNER

**Editorial Insert: It's my fault some of the following information is a little outta date..I told everyone to send me information ASAP..Bob won a Gold Star!**

Monday, November 22nd: The next two new ambulances have finally arrived. The radios have been installed in Unit 0527 and hopefully we will have the radios in 0526 in the next few days. The trucks will not take long to stock but have to be inspected by OEMS. With the Thanksgiving holiday upon us, it will probably be one day next week before they can be inspected. The title paperwork has been turned in to the County Office, but again with the holiday schedule, they may be a few days delay in applying for tags.

These new trucks will be replacing Units 0202 (87) and 0203 (81) which will be used as reserve ambulances. This will give us four relatively good reserve trucks. Since I have been with Rowan EMS, we have never had reserve trucks of this quality. Usually they are completely wore out when they come off the front line. I want to thank everyone for the great job you have done in keeping this fleet in good condition. I think we have one of the best fleets in the state.

As 0202 and 0203 go to reserve status, 9906 (85) and 0018 (80) will be disposed of. 9906 will be sold as surplus, possibly to one of the volunteer fire departments. 0018 will be transferred to the Sheriff's Department.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holidays,

\*\* EDITORS COMMENTS \*\*



BY JERRY LITTLE

Not a lot to say this month, on my end. Field staff as well as Administration is doing an awesome job and out service is definitely benefiting from the changes being made.

June Bug & Carrie and Skipper & Derrick...way to go...anyone with questions about RSI would do well to speak to these folks about their experience performing the intervention recently.

As ALWAYS I welcome submissions from everyone who has something EMS related to ad. Feel free to contact me if you would like to submit something for the next issue.

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](mailto:littlejn@co.rowan.nc.us) or [med1171@aol.com](mailto:med1171@aol.com)

- Happy Holidays and Be safe - J. Little, editor