

BUCKS COUNTY EMS NEWSLETTER – MAY/JUNE 2005

(PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER MONTH AND MAILED TO PROVIDERS)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

EMS – What does it stand for? I am sure a few of you answered with your own versions. I would like to concentrate on getting back to saying Emergency Medical Services – with PRIDE! Yes, your versions have been around a long time; however, we are teaching our new recruits our own bad habits. How about we try to be positive and look toward our future? We, as a community of providers, can write our own futures. We do this everyday – how we act, talk, present ourselves, and our attitudes. We are looking for the respect we feel we deserve, however, let's not forget that respect is earned, not demanded. You as a provider will always be judged, whether it is out on a call, at the hospital, or just out getting a bite to eat. The public watches us; they look to us for professionalism, good judgement, courtesy, and manners. Yes, that's right – we are held to a higher standard. Let's all meet that standard and make Bucks County Emergency Medical Services the best, and in return, you will be given the respect you deserve.

Do you remember why you decided on this field? Was it an impression left by a provider that helped you or someone you loved? Was it Johnny and Roy, Dixie and Rampart Hospital? Did you just want to help someone in need? I would like to hear from you on what spurred your interest. If you could also add what has kept you on or off the street, and approximately when you started, that would be great. Send it to me email at jldegideo@co.bucks.pa.us, regular mail, or fax at 215-957-0765. In the next newsletter, I will give you feedback on the responses, generically of course, so please, tell me how you really feel!!!!

HOW MANY CON-ED CREDITS DO YOU HAVE???? - REMEMBER IT IS JUNE ALREADY!!!!

CPI

The past several months I have been running several different reports in the Pinpoint Data Collection System. I think a majority of providers are doing a better job with their documentation, but there is still room for improvement (There's no room bigger than the room for improvement). We should always strive to be better tomorrow than we are today. I am very happy with the accuracy of the reporting from most providers, this includes our hits and misses. It is important to know our strengths and weaknesses. This data also helps with benchmarking, how do we compare with others? What we may perceive as a weakness may actually be the norm in EMS or we may need to change a process to improve ourselves. It is important to continue supplying good accurate data, so we can continue to improve and eventually progress.

WANTED: People frequently advise me of all the bad things going on in EMS (that's easy to do). Now the challenge, find someone doing a good job and report him/her. Please send me an email at ljloose@co.bucks.pa.us with something positive in our system.

DATA COLLECTION

EMSPRO Field Data Collection (Pinpoint) – Thank you for all your patience during our problems with the Comcast internet connection. Hopefully, all of the problems have been corrected and there should be much better connectivity.

In the near future, we will be establishing a focus group to meet on a monthly basis to bring recommendations and make changes to the EMSPRO application. If you are interested, please contact me via email at jsdiefenderfer@co.bucks.pa.us.

TRAINING/CON-ED

Pennsylvania Act 59 of 2002 - Out-of-Hospital DNR – This law was passed to provide guidelines for EMS providers to follow in the prehospital setting. The law enables people with terminal conditions or who wish no CPR performed, a legal way of conveying their wishes to EMS crews. The crew will be presented with a DNR order on a PA DOH form or a DOH bracelet or necklace. Providers should check with their squad's education officer or the PA DOH website at www.health.state.pa.us. On the website, click on Health Topics, then DNR orders.

Learning Management System (LMS) – Are you registered? Currently, there are over 75 con-ed courses available. This is the State's website where you can complete con-ed courses. You need to subscribe to it through our office. There is a link on our website called LMS. After you complete the registration form, it will be routed to our office and then forwarded to the State. You will receive a confirmation email from the State in 5-7 business days. After you complete a course, print the certificate and forward to our office so the credits can be applied to your certification.

First Responder/EMT Reinstatement – The State has a process called "Reinstatement" that allows expired First Responders or EMTs to become recertified without taking another certification class or testing. The requirements include completing paperwork that is available from our Office, completing all required con-ed credits (16 for FR and 24 for EMT) (at least half of the credits have to be in the medical/trauma category), and completing a Healthcare Provider or Professional Rescuer CPR course. When all these requirements are completed and submitted to our Office, the recertification will be issued. To receive the reinstatement packet, please call our office.

BUCKS COUNTY SQUAD CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

An EMT Scholarship award is available for any 2005-2006 paramedic Fall class. For more information, contact your squad chief or Carl Raphael at pamedic@comcast.net or 215-778-0864. The application is also available through our website.

WEBSITE

Please refer to our website, www.bcehc.org for information on courses, protocols, licensure, etc.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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