
AMBUGLANCES

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THE NUMBER ONE EMS REGION IN GEORGIA

JANUARY 2014

Floyd and Redmond EMS to merge into single service

Floyd Medical Center and Redmond Regional Medical Center are expected to issue a request for proposals within the next few weeks to create a single emergency medical services provider in the region. Hospital leaders, have been talking about some sort of merger, or consolidation, or bringing in an outside operator for several months. Redmond operates ambulance service in Floyd, Polk and Chattooga counties while Floyd operates in Floyd and Polk Counties. The leadership of the two hospitals has sent out an email to current employees asking them to be open-minded about the future of emergency medical services. FMC President Kurt Stuenkel and Redmond Regional Medical Center President John Quinlivan have confirmed the letter has been sent to their EMS employees. The email to employees reads in part, "We hope you will join us and commit to remain diligent and support each other to be our best as we move forward. You are a valuable asset to our community and our organization! During this

evaluation process, we are committed to providing regular communication with each of you." "We all have to, in the health arena, figure out how to do things more efficiently and cuts in reimbursements are occurring as we speak," Stuenkel said.

EMS COUNCIL TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN JANUARY

The Northwest Georgia Region 1 Emergency Medical Services Council will hold elections at the annual meeting to be held on January 23, 2014 at the Trinity Baptist Church in Calhoun, Georgia. Applications for at-large membership and county representatives as well as chair, vice-chair and membership in the executive committee were taken until December 31, 2013. Applications for these positions may also be received from the floor at the annual meeting. Contact David Foster at dtfoster@dhr.state.ga.us for more information.

DONATIONS BEING SOLICITED FOR AWARDS BANQUET

Donations are now being solicited for the 2014

Northwest Georgia Region 1 EMS Awards Banquet. The donations will be made to the Northwest Georgia Emergency Medical Services System Inc. account for this purpose and may be given to either David Loftin, Lana Duff or Randy Pierson or mailed to Northwest Georgia EMS Systems Inc.; 500 Riverside Parkway N.E.; Rome, GA 30161. The Awards Banquet will be held in Dalton, Georgia on March 13, 2014. All donations are tax deductible.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION STROKE RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Heart Association has released new recommendations for the evaluation and treatment of acute ischemic strokes which includes a Class 1B recommendation for official state designation of all stroke centers and rapid transport directly to these centers by EMS. The recommendation also stresses that the most important elements of successful outcomes are public recognition of stroke symptoms and evaluation by EMS of the last time the patient was seen normal and transport to centers.

GAEMS TABLETOP EXERCISES IMPORTANT FOR 2014 EMS FUNDING

The Georgia Association of EMS invites all services to participate in at least one of the tabletop exercises designed to test readiness of EMS Services to respond to a variety of disasters and mass casualty incidents. The results of these tabletop exercises will be used to determine what will be funded through grants to Georgia EMS Services in 2014. The exercises are sponsored by GAEMS, Georgia Emergency Management

Agency/Homeland Security and the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). The locations and dates are as follows:

Decatur, GA

Wednesday, January 8, 2014 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Lunch provided) Stone Mountain Evergreen Marriott; 4021 Lakeview Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083. Scenario – Foodborne Illness

Dalton, GA

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Lunch provided) Dalton State College; 650 College Drive; Dalton, GA 30720 Scenario – foodborne illness

Columbus, GA

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Lunch provided) Columbus Marriott; 800 Front Avenue; Columbus, GA. 31901 Scenario – chemical spill

Savannah, GA

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Lunch provided) Savannah Marriott Riverfront; 100 General McIntosh Boulevard; Savannah, GA 31401 Scenario – chemical spill

Griffin, GA

Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Lunch provided) Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites; 1900 North Express Way; Griffin, GA 30113 Scenario – chemical spill

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 23, 2014

The annual EMS Council meeting will be held on January 23, 2014 in Calhoun, GA at Trinity Baptist Church located at 1170 Rome Road. The following is a schedule of meetings:

EMS-C 9A
RTAC - 10A
Executive Committee
Lunch - 1130A
Council - 12N
NWGA EMS Systems
immediately after council mtg

2014 GEORGIA EMS FOR CHILDREN CONFERENCE

The date of the 2014 Georgia EMS for Children Conference is June 4-5, 2014 at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, GA. Save the date.

The Trauma Communications Center's Resource Availability Display is now available for EMS agencies and dispatch centers.

The Trauma Communications Center is making our Resource Availability Display (RAD) available for any EMS agency wishing to have access. The RAD is our web-based display which shows the resource availability for every designated trauma center in the state. The RAD is updated three times daily by trauma center staff and indicates the availability of multiple individual service lines. The availability of these services lines are indicated by green, yellow, red, or black colored icons. Use of the RAD in dispatch centers or EMS administration locations can assist in identifying the closest available trauma centers for patients meeting Trauma System Entry Criteria. In addition, providers may still call the TCC which is staffed 24/7 in order to obtain assistance with identifying trauma system patients, locating the closest available trauma center, or for a communications patch to a receiving trauma center.

To obtain access to the Resource Availability Display for EMS agency or dispatch center, please e-mail Michelle Martin at michelle@gtcnc.org.