
AMBUGLANCES

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FIRST SAVE FOR FEDERAL AED GRANT OCCURS IN ELLIJAY

On November 16, 2010, Cathy Turner, school secretary for Crossroads Alternative School, suffered a cardiac arrest at work. Ordinarily she would have been one of the 97% of patients who die as a result of out of the hospital cardiac arrests. However, she is alive and well due to a federal aed grant and a community effort to train and respond to cardiac arrests in Gilmer County. The federal grant was a Rural Access to Defibrillation Federal Office of Rural Health grant written by David Loftin through the Georgia Public Health District Office in Dalton. One AED was provided to each school, police and fire vehicle in Gilmer, Fannin and Murray counties. Teresa Weeks, school nurse and CPR/AED instructor for the Gilmer County School System, began training all school personnel in CPR and the use of automatic external defibrillators (AED). Ms. Weeks received the Karen Smith Award from Childr.en's Healthcare of Atlanta project SAVE director Allison Ellison. One of the school personnel trained was teacher Michelle Dillworth. Ms. Dillworth responded to perform CPR and use the AED on her best friend, Cathy Turner who had experienced a sudden cardiac arrest at school. Gilmer County Fire Department, Ellijay Fire Department and Ellijay Police Department responded to the event and each had AEDs and were trained in CPR as a result of the grant. Kelly Buddenhagen, Gilmer EMS Training Officer and public safety personnel who responded are surrounding Ms. Turner in the picture.



Pictured front row from right to left are: Kelly Buddenhagen, Training Officer of Gilmer County EMS; Allison Ellison of Childr.en's Healthcare of Atlanta; Teresa Weeks, CPR/AED trainer for Gilmer County School System; Cathy Turner; Michelle Dilworth, AED/CPR Provider and James Jones, School Administrator.



Dr John Campbell and Dr. James H Creel Jr

DR. JAMES H. CREEL JR. RECOGNIZED AT INTERNATIONAL ITLS CONFERENCE

Dr. James H Creel Jr., one of the founding pioneers of Georgia EMS and Region 1 EMS, was awarded the prestigious Medical Director of the Year at the International Trauma Life Support - International Conference in Nashville, TN on October 28th, 2011.

Dr. Creel brought ITLS (BTLS) to Region 1 and the Chattanooga, TN area in 1984 less than 2 years after Dr. John Campbell started the program in 1982. Dr. Creel was presented the Award by Dr. Campbell during the awards ceremony and was joined on the podium by Dr. Ray Fowler, another GA pioneer responsible for bringing BTLS to Metro Atlanta.

The Tennessee/Georgia BTLS Consortium, started by Dr. Creel was the first BTLS Consortium in the nation that relied on the instructional support of the EMS Services and Instructors who served the consortium to keep the cost low and the quality of instruction high for all students whether from pre-hospital or in-hospital professions. Congratulations to Dr. Creel for this long overdue award.



Dr James H Creel Jr



Dr Ray Fowler

REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

The Region 1 EMS Council has approved moving forward to form a Region 1 Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC). Dr. Dennis Ashley, Chairman of the Georgia Trauma Commission and Jim Pettyjohn, Executive Director gave a presentation to the Region 1 EMS Council at the last meeting in October on RTAC formation. David Foster is now taking names for those interested in becoming a member of the Region 1 RTAC. The next step is the modification of the Council bylaws to accommodate the formation of the RTAC. A special task force of the Council will consider the names submitted and work on the bylaws change. The RTAC will report to the Region 1 EMS Council.



Dr Dennis Ashley

FREE PHTLS INSTRUCTOR COURSE TO BE HELD IN FORSYTH

The Georgia EMS Association will be sponsoring a free PHTLS Instructor course at Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth on November 16, 2011. The course is open to all PHTLS providers and current ITLS instructors. You should purchase a 7th edition PHTLS textbook or be prepared to purchase one at the course. An instructor cd will be given to all graduates. Contact Nita Ham at nitajham@yahoo.com for more information.

EMS SAFETY COURSE TO BE HELD IN ROME

An ASPR funded EMS Safety course will be held in Rome on December 12, 2011. This the first time this new course will be taught in Region 1. Instructors who attend this program will become EMS Safety instructors by attending this program.

HUTCHESON MEDICAL CENTER APPROVED TO APPLY FOR DESIGNATION AS TRAUMA CENTER & GETS NEW NAME

The Region 1 EMS Council has approved a proposal submitted by Scott Radeker to allow Hutcheson Medical Center to apply for designation as a trauma center. The process will include purchasing the trauma registry program and an on-site inspection by the Office of EMS and Trauma. Erlanger Medical Center of Chattanooga has entered into a management agreement with the facility causing a name change to Erlanger at Hutcheson.

NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR NAMED FOR REGION 9

The Office of EMS has announced the appointment of Robert Shad as the EMS Program Director for Region 9 (Savannah/Brunswick). Robert has thirty-five years experience in EMS and fire service, most notably serving as EMS Director and Assistant Fire Chief for Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Kingsland (Camden County), Georgia for the past thirty-two years. During that time, he also served as an active member of the Southeast Georgia EMS Council and as an EMT Instructor in the region.

Robert received both his EMT and paramedic training at Florida Junior College in Jacksonville, FL and is a graduate of Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, GA. He began his EMS career in Jacksonville prior to moving to Kingsland to assume his position at Kings Bay.

RSI PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THOMAS COUNTY EMS

Thomas County EMS has submitted a proposal for administration of RSI (sedation plus paralytic drugs) to EMSMDAC for approval. The committee formed by EMSMDAC is examining the proposal for possible approval. If approved this will be the first service to be given the procedure in Georgia.

GEORGIA EMS PROTOCOLS BEING REWRITTEN

Dr. Jill Mabley, Georgia Office of EMS Deputy State Medical Director, announced that the Georgia EMS protocols are being re-written by a committee composed of Matt Jackson, Nita Ham, Mark Bandy, Mary Hill and Jake Lomas. The protocols are being updated with all the new levels and national organization standards. In addition, the protocols will address rural issues previously ignored. The draft is scheduled to be available for inspection after January 1, 2012.

EMS EDUCATOR UPDATE TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 16

The last EMS Educator update in Region 1 for 2011 will be held at Georgia Northwestern Technical College in Rock Spring, Georgia on December 16, 2011. The course will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will offer 6 hours credit. Please contact David Foster at dtfoster@dhr.state.ga.us for more information.