

BUREAU OF EMS: VITALS



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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AMBULANCE DEPLOYMENT PLAN by: Dr. Brad Elias

I am pleased to announce that the EMS Advisory Council has endorsed the Ambulance Deployment Plan (ADP) drafted by the Disaster Response Guideline Committee.

This plan was developed to enhance the process of deploying EMS ambulance assets during a large scale event. This plan is NIMS compliant and represents an all-hazards approach to emergency management.

There has been a great deal of cooperation and valuable input from all aspects of the EMS community, Department of Health, Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Florida Fire Chiefs, Florida Air Medical Association, Florida Association of County EMS, Florida Association of EMS Providers, Florida Ambulance Association and the Florida EMS Advisory Council. Collectively, all the parties involved have emphasized teamwork and put the interests of Florida first.

Florida statute requires that ESF 8 be the lead for EMS/ambulance deployment. The ESF 8 Ambulance Deployment Plan will interface with the Florida Chief's State Emergency Response Plan

(SERP). We have begun to select individuals from Fire and Non-Fire based organizations throughout all seven regions in the state to fill the position as the SERP Regional EMS Liaisons. The liaisons will serve as an essential interface between the EMS community and the SERP Regional Coordinator.

In accordance with the National Response Plan, and Florida Chapter 252, requests for ambulance assets will come from the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where the incident occurred, to the State EOC. This request should occur once local/regional assets have been exhausted. The request will then be processed at the State EOC, ESF 8 desk. ESF 8 will assign a tasking number and through coordination with ESF 4 & 9, SERP assets will be tasked, deployed, managed and tracked.

The ADP also details suggested level of training and experience for participants, strike team and task force leaders in addition to equipment list recommendations for the provider agencies.

Efforts are underway to cre-

ate a SERP Regional EMS Liaison training module. An ADP strike team and task force leadership course will also be examined.

I encourage EMS agencies to become familiar with the ADP. It will soon be sent out via FLEMSCOMM shortly. Agencies should also begin to look internally for possible strike team leadership candidates for the ADP. Please feel free to contact myself or Mr. Bobby Bailey, DEMO_EmergencyMedicalServices@doh.state.fl.us, Office of Emergency Operations, with any questions.

Brad Elias, MD

Disaster Response Guideline Committee Chairman

Belias@airmethods.com



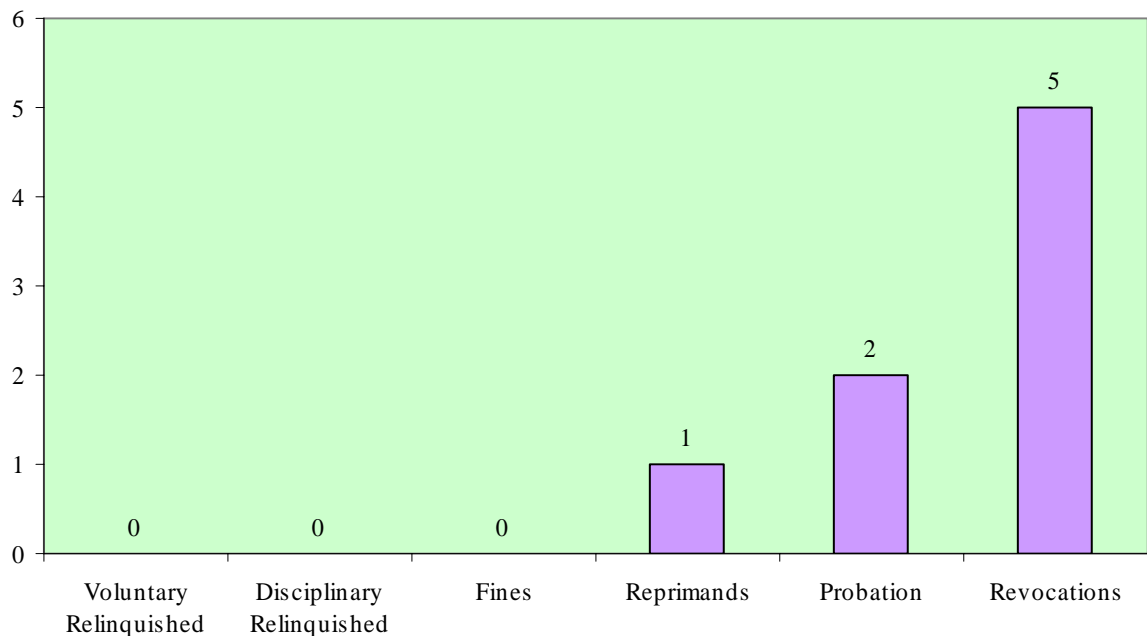
Inside this issue:

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS	2
EMSC SURVEYS	3
INJURY PREVENTION SURVEYS	3
LEGISLATIVE BILLS	4
EMS INSTRUCTORS CERTIFICATION	4
EMS AGENCY INSPECTION TRENDS	5
BUREAU CHIEF'S CORNER	6
MEMORIAM FOR GARY VICKERS	6
EMS WEEK	7
CLINCON	7
12 YEAR RECOGNITION	8

Bureau of EMS: Vitals

EMT and Paramedic Disciplinary Actions December 28, 2006-February 27, 2007

Violation	Discipline	Date Imposed
Tested positive for Cannabinoids/THC	Probation	1/19/2007
Violated final order- failure to submit monthly drug screenings	Revocation	1/19/2007
Making false or fraudulent claims to procure a certificate	Revocation	2/26/2007
Tested positive for alcohol	Revocation	2/26/2007
Violated final order- failure to pay administrative fines	Reprimand	2/26/2007
Arrested for illegal narcotics	Probation	2/26/2007
Convicted of grand larceny of \$100,000 or more	Revocation	2/26/2007
Convicted of a felony and made fraudulent claims to renew a certificate by misrepresentation	Revocation	2/26/2007





EMS for Children Surveys by Patricia Kenyon, Bureau of EMS

To date, the Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program has provided the Broselow Pediatric Antidotes for Chemical Warfare Tapes and Jump-START/START Triage badge cards as complementary resources to over 127 hospitals with emergency departments, 26 EMS Initial training centers and 127 EMS provider agencies. These resources were sent in response to the Hospital, Pediatric Education, and Pediatric Medical Direction surveys required by the Na-

tional EMSC Performance Measures. Funding to provide these resources were furnished by the HRSA bioterrorism preparedness grant.

The data collected from these surveys will provide useful and valuable information that will improve and expand pediatric care in the EMS community in Florida. In fact, the EMSC Program goals and objectives align specifically with the EMS strategic plan objectives 3.5, 5.4 and 5.5. These objectives focus on

integrating pediatric issues into educational programs, improving effectiveness of on-site EMS treatment and ensuring appropriate transport.

For more on EMSC please visit their website at:

<http://www.fl-ems.com/EMSC/EMSCHome.html>

2006 EMS Injury Prevention Survey Results by Freida Travis, PIER Committee

The Public Information, Education and Relations (PIER) for EMS Committee is a standing committee of the EMS Advisory Council and serves in an advisory capacity to the council on issues related to injury prevention. In February 2006, the PIER for EMS Committee developed an injury prevention online survey that was e-mailed to licensed ground EMS providers. The survey was made available to EMS providers from April-December 2006. The purpose of the survey was to help evaluate EMS' participation in injury prevention activities within each county. The survey also served as an injury awareness tool. Specifically, to complete the survey, EMS providers had to click on a link which took them to the 2004 Nonfatal Injury

Hospitalizations Data. They were to view the ten leading mechanisms of injury in their county before answering the survey questions. This provided an opportunity for each provider to view county specific data even if they chose not to complete the survey. The survey pertained to EMS injury prevention activities for the calendar year 2005. The survey reached 228 licensed ground EMS providers. 90 EMS providers responded giving a 39% response rate.

When asked whether they had participated in prevention activities related to the ten leading mechanisms of injury in their county, 49% said yes, 50% said no and 1% gave no answer.

When asked whether they had participated in preven-

tion activities other than the ten leading ones, 29% answered yes (mostly related to job safety) and 70% answered no.

What comes next? All survey respondents have been invited to attend the eight hour Injury Prevention 101 course in Tampa at the Quorum Hotel on May 15, 2007.

The apparent low rate of participation in injury prevention activities by EMS providers will continue to be the focus of the PIER for EMS Committee. Injury remains the leading cause of death for ages 1-44 in Florida and falls remain the leading cause of hospitalization for the elderly.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.fl-ems.com/Stratplan/stratplan.html>

“INJURY REMAINS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AGES 1-44 IN FLORIDA AND FALLS REMAIN THE LEADING CAUSE OF HOSPITALIZATION FOR THE ELDERLY.”

Bureau of EMS: Vitals



Bills That May Affect the EMS Community

The Florida legislative session began in March in Tallahassee. Monitoring the progress of the EMS related bills is a standard function of the Bureau of EMS. Anyone can visit the State's official website where you can read in more detail all of the bills for the house and senate. The website address is <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>.

Some bills that could affect the EMS community are:

HB=House Bill

SB=Senate Bill

HB947-An act related to Cardiology Services.

SB1758-An act related to Cardiology Services.

HB929-An act relating to emergency health care providers.

SB1340-An act relating to a public records exemption.

HB281-An act relating to paramedic certification.

SB1700-An act relating to paramedic certification.

HB301-An act relating to firefighters and paramedics.

SB1440-An act relating to firefighters and paramedics.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Bureau of EMS by e-mail at DEMO_EmergencyMedicalServices@doh.state.fl.us

For the in-depth article please visit:

<http://www.fl-ems.com/RulesStatutes/rulesreghome.html>

Florida Certified EMS Instructor by Rob Holborn, Seminole Community College

"IT WAS TIME FOR FLORIDA TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CREATING SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO TEACH OUR EMT'S AND PARAMEDICS."

In January 2001, the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to design an instructor preparation curriculum for EMS educators. Last year, the Bureau of EMS approached the President of the Florida Association of EMS Educators (FAEMSE) Danny Griffin requesting his assistance in establishing guidelines for EMS Instructor qualifications and training. Throughout the country there are many states that have specific requirements for individuals who wish to become an EMS instructor however, there are no requirements in

Florida. With that knowledge, it was time for Florida to begin the process of creating specific guidelines for individuals who teach our EMT's and Paramedics. FAEMSE formed a committee charged with creating a plan to establish and implement EMS instructor guidelines. Many members of FAEMSE have been communicating over the last several months, creating a plan that defines four levels of EMS instructors in Florida, with specific educational requirements for each level. The draft of the plan was posted on the FAEMSE list serve for several months, to allow all members an opportunity to offer input on the proposed plan. After

many discussions, a final draft was produced and will be presented to the Advisory Council at the April meeting. The committee believes that this is the first step for Florida to once again lead the nation in EMS education. If you would like to receive a copy of the EMS instructor proposal, contact Rob Holborn at RobHolborn@cfl.rr.com.

For the in-depth article please visit:

<http://www.fl-ems.com/Stratplan/stratplan.html>

2006 EMS Agency Inspection Trends

The Bureau of EMS utilizes experienced Florida Paramedics to perform all EMS agency inspections. This staffing provides accurate recording of deficiencies, along with an ability to provide technical assistance to EMS providers during the inspection. Each member of the licensure and compliance staff is experienced in assisting EMS agencies in understanding compliance with state law. Each EMS agency will experience a state inspection approximately every two years.

The Compliance and Licensure program utilizes a deficiency trending mechanism to allow the Bureau to report common deficiencies found to the membership of the Florida EMS community. This mechanism will allow EMS

agencies to identify areas for improvement prior to inspection.

As of December 2006, for the first time in the history of the Bureau of EMS, EMS inspections were caught up.

The chart compares findings between announced and unannounced inspections and depicts the following information:

Total Inspections: 145 services inspected in 2006; 57% announced, 43% unannounced

Corrected On-Site: 1a deficiencies corrected at time of inspection (majority involving supplies and equipment and some personnel records)

In Compliance: 36% of the services were compliant

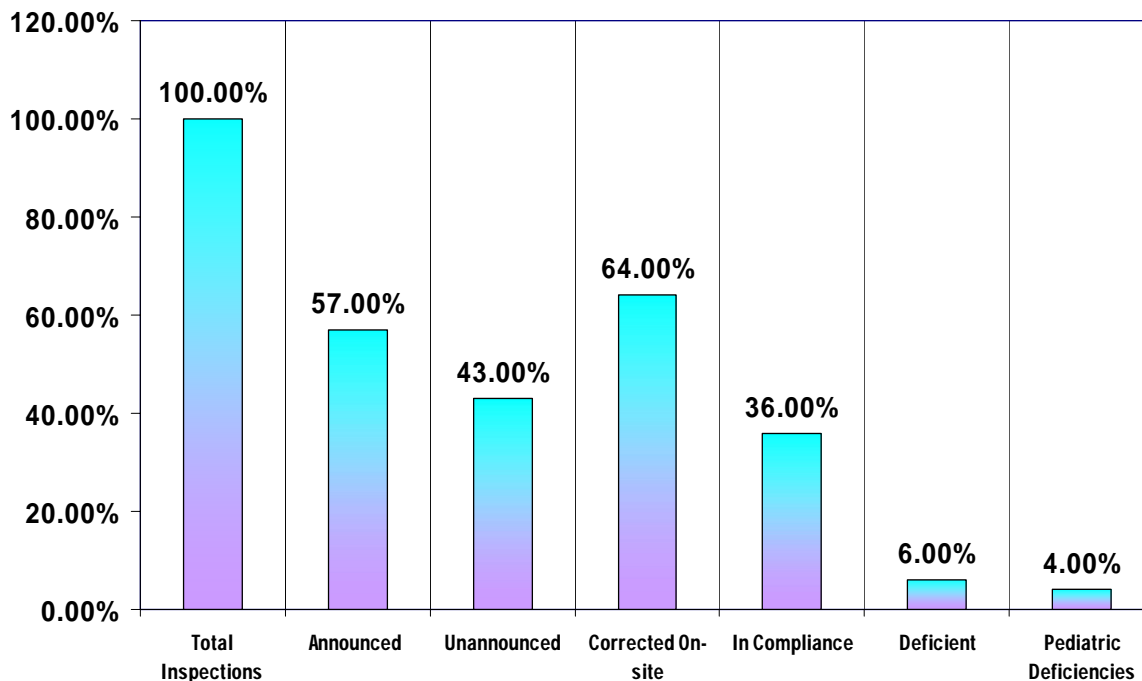
Deficient: Category 1 deficiencies are required to be corrected within 24 hours and corrective action documentation provided to the Bureau of EMS within 14 days. Only 6% had these deficiencies mostly in the area of personnel records and medical director certification needs.

Pediatric Deficiencies: 4% of the services had pediatric deficiencies all corrected at the time of inspection.

Inspection forms and information are available at the Bureau of EMS website: <http://www.fl-ems.com>

“THIS MECHANISM WILL ALLOW EMS AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT PRIOR TO INSPECTION.”

2006 EMS Inspections



Bureau Chief's Corner

On February 19, 2007, the Bureau of EMS appeared in front of the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC) in an effort to address its objections with the proposed definition of "operate" as it relates to a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (C.O.P.C.N.). This was a difficult task, but we rallied together and JAPC has allowed us to move forward with the adoption of the definition of "operate" in 64E-2, Florida Administrative Code.

This proposed change was a result of extensive work by

members of the Bureau of EMS, our attorney, Michael Greif, and you, the EMS Community. I appreciate everyone that contributed to this process, whether you traveled across the state to attend the hearing, dialed into the conference line, or assisted in the development of this new rule.

I thank all of you for your continued dedication in improving EMS and patient care in the State of Florida. Working together, we can shape the future of EMS.

Sincerely,

John C. Bixler,

Paramedic, RN, BSN

Chief, Bureau of EMS



JAPC Hearing February 19, 2007 Members of the EMS Community

In Memoriam...Gary Vickers



Gary Vickers, Pinellas County emergency management director, died March 19 at Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Florida. Gary, 53, sustained multiple injuries during a February car accident. He is survived by his three daughters: Breena, 23, Beleek, 19, and Brogan, 16.

Gary was born and raised in Indian River County. In 1975, he moved to Pinellas County to pursue a career in public

safety services and took a job as an EMT and promoted into a management position of the ambulance communications center. He moved on to become the Police Fire EMS Communications supervisor for the city of Largo then became 911 supervisor with Pinellas County in 1986.

He began his career with the County

Emergency Management Department in 1988. Here he became a specialist in the department involved in planning hazardous materials emergencies. At the end of 2002, Gary was appointed to director which marked the beginning of a mainstay on local television during hurricane season. Gary gave comfort to citizens through his easygoing and cool-under-pressure nature which he exemplified during the 2004 hurricane season; Gary Vickers became a household name.

Gary participated in numerous disaster response and recovery operations over almost 30 years he was involved in public safety ser-

vices. Those who knew Gary said that "preparedness was his mantra." He served with the heart of a public servant, "giving of himself selflessly to safeguard the community."

All of us here at the Division of Emergency Medical Operations extend our condolences to Gary's family and friends; and Pinellas County. Gary Vickers' passing is a true loss, but his legacy will continue through all of us as we continue to ensure preparedness in Florida.

EMS Week, EMS Week Kickoff, and EMSC Day

This year the 34th annual Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week will be celebrated throughout the nation May 20-26. The event brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day to day life-saving services on the medical "front line".

National EMS Week will feature hundreds of grassroots activities coast-to-coast that will be planned around this year's theme "Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service". This exemplifies the excellent services provided every day, under any circumstances, by the 750,000 EMS providers who serve their communities.

The Bureau of EMS will be hosting a kickoff celebration on May 19th at the Governor Square Mall in Tallahassee. The event will include activities to honor EMS providers

(paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders, fire fighters, and police) and to raise public awareness about health and safety issues, including how to prevent injuries, what to do in a medical emergency and preparing and responding to disasters.

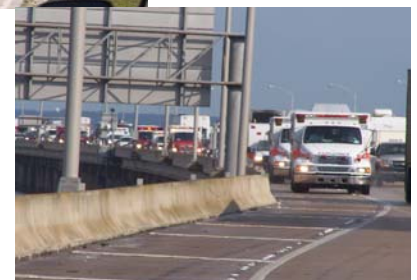
The Bureau of EMS has received the annual *EMS Week Planning Guide* from the American College of Emergency Physicians and will be distributing them to provider agencies. The guide reports on national and community events held during EMS Week 2006 and highlights activities planned for 2007. It also contains numerous fact sheets addressing important injury prevention and health topics. The planning guide can also be downloaded at the American College of Emergency Physicians website at: <http://www.acep.org>.

Also, May 23 is the annual

Emergency Medical Services for Children Day. This day focuses on drawing national attention to the essential need for specialized emergency care for children to ensure that every child in the nation receives the highest quality emergency care possible, from primary prevention to acute care and rehabilitation.

For more information on EMS Week you can email Lisa Walker at DEMO_EmergencyMedicalServices@doh.state.fl.us.

"EMS WEEK: MAY 20-26. "EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE" THE BUREAU OF EMS KICKOFF CELEBRATION: MAY 19 AT GOVERNOR SQUARE MALL IN TALLAHASSEE."



ClinCon 2007

ClinCon 2007 is designed to create an educational experience that will help EMS personnel provide the highest quality pre-hospital care to their patients.

ClinCon 2007 will be held July 19-22 in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort.

Who Should Attend?

Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, Fire-fighters, EMS/Fire Administrators, EMS Medical Directors, EMS Educators, Emergency Physicians, Emergency Physician Assistants, Emergency Nurses, First Responders, and other Allied Health

Professionals interested in learning practical, research based, clinical street medicine.

The *ClinCon 2007 Brochure* is now available online at <http://www.emlrc.org/clincon2007.htm>.

“To provide leadership in EMS that improves and ensures the health, safety and well-being of all people in Florida.”

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Dates to Remember

April 25th-27th	EMS Advisory Council Meeting in Cocoa Beach, FL
May 2nd	EMS County Grants Application Deadline
May 7th and 8th	Rule Workshops for COPCN and EMS Watercraft
May 19th	EMS Week Kickoff Celebration
May 20th-27th	EMS Week “Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service”
May 29th-June 1st	15th Annual Sterling Conference
July 18th	EMS State Awards Ceremony in Conjunction with ClinCon

12 Year Recognition

At the January EMS Advisory Council meeting, the Florida Bureau of EMS awarded its employee, Barbara Hyde, a certificate of appreciation in recognition of 12 years of valuable contributions and dedicated service to the Bureau and the Division of Emergency Medical Operations.

Barbara Hyde is a Licensure Specialist for the Bureau of EMS. She has done an outstanding job to promote and protect the health and safety

of all people in Florida through the delivery of quality public health services and the promotion of health care standards.

Congratulations
Barbara!



Pictured left to right Florida Bureau of EMS Employees:
Roy Pipin, supervisor; Barbara Hyde; John Bixler, Bureau Chief