

# BUREAU OF EMS: VITALS

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## SHANDSCAIR SECURES FASTER OPTIONS FOR PATIENT TRANSPORTS

ShandsCair can now transport patients faster and safer in low-visibility situations. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has given ShandsCair approval for pilots to land the emergency-transportation program's helicopter during cloudy and low-visibility conditions using only their instrumentation and global positioning system (GPS) for guidance.

ShandsCair is the first program in Florida to get this FAA approval and has the only helicopter in North Central Florida equipped with the technology to land using instruments.

Prior to this approval, which extends to five strategic landing sites in North and North Central Florida, pilots were required to land at airports during flights with low visibility caused by fog or low cloud ceilings because they needed guidance from the airports' control towers. Patients were then transported by ground vehicles, delaying their arrival at

the hospital. This approval enables the designated landing sites, including the rooftop of Shands at the University of Florida, to play the role of control tower.

"Florida weather can be unpredictable and causes us to divert to airport landings quite often. Now we can get patients to their destination much more quickly and safely," said Steve Pierce, one of four pilots contracted by ShandsCair from Air Methods Corp.

The approved landing sites are: Shands at UF in Gainesville, Shands Jacksonville, The Villages Regional Medical Center, Shands Live Oak, and a rest area on Interstate 10.

"The I-10 site provides a rendezvous point for Shands and emergency medical service agencies that are trying to get to Gainesville or Jacksonville with critical patients but need air medical support," said James Howard, ShandsCair clinical coordinator.

Howard stressed that while

the FAA approval provides pilots with more flexibility, safety remains their top priority. ShandsCair does not plan on flying in bad weather, rather these instruments give pilots enhanced capability for flying in marginal forecast conditions.

ShandsCair is one of only three EMS programs in the Southeast with the certification for pilots to fly helicopters in clouds using instrumentation only. Plans to get FAA approval began four years ago. The Florida Department of Health awarded Shands HealthCare a \$75,000 grant and Shands provided the additional \$25,000 to hire a contractor, who set up the network of GPS-capable landing sites and oversaw the FAA application and approval process.

*For more information regarding ShandsCair and Shands HealthCare, please visit:*

<http://www.shands.org>

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## CARFIT FLORIDA KEEPS SENIORS SAFE & MOBILE

*A PIER SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE*

A national injury prevention program geared towards seniors is available for your community to help keep seniors safe while behind the wheel. Statistics tell us that seniors drive fewer miles, but are more likely to be involved in a crash causing injuries and/or fatalities. Normal age-related changes can make it more difficult to buckle your seatbelt, adjust your seat, or to simply maneuver through traffic. All these factors can have a direct impact on an individual's safety and comfort while operating an automobile. An off-the-shelf device, such as a seatbelt cushion, can make all the difference in a senior's ability or willingness to wear their seatbelt properly. Sitting at least 10" away from a steering wheel, equipped with an air bag, decreases their risk of injury from the air bag should it deploy in a crash. Properly adjusted mirrors may assist drivers when changing lanes, turning and entering/exiting major highways. CarFit is designed as a parking lot activ-

ity where a senior drives their vehicle in for a "safety check up". A team of trained volunteers utilize a 12-point checklist. Although educational in nature, this program does not assess driver ability. Recommendations for possible safety improvements may be made and information about community resources is provided to every participant.

With the support from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), a statewide training and rollout of CarFit is underway. An event requires the sponsorship of a local agency, a team of volunteers willing to be trained to conduct the event, and a vacant parking lot area where one-way traffic can be established. Several community organizations may wish to partner in their efforts to bring this program to your area. There is no cost for the training or the event. The CarFit Florida program prepares the team to conduct future events in their area. To help facilitate this program, toolkits of select event supplies

and technical assistance are available through the Senior Resource Alliance. Best of all, for sponsors and for participants, CarFit is fun, free and fast!

For more information, visit the national website at:

<http://www.car-fit.org/>

Or contact Fran Carlin-Rogers, CarFit instructor, at 407-422-0991; email at [fcr201@aol.com](mailto:fcr201@aol.com).

*PIER (Public Information Education and Relations) Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the EMS Advisory Council on issues related to injury prevention.*

*If you have established a program that you wish to be considered for a PIER Spotlight article please e-mail Cory Richter at:*

[crichter@ircgov.com](mailto:crichter@ircgov.com)



## OKALOOSA COUNTY EMS: HELPING THEIR COMMUNITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety's EMS division offered free transportation to local residents who would otherwise be unable to come home for holiday celebrations. The "Home for the Holidays" program provided transportation on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for patients in skilled nursing and adult congregate living facilities in order for them to be with family members for holiday dinner.

"The "Home for the Holidays" program has been very successful for the past ten years and has brought good cheer to local families, as well as the EMS staff who look forward to providing this special service each year," stated EMS Division Chief Al Herndon.

Okaloosa County EMS also partnered with Toys for Tots and placed ambulances outside local Wal-Mart stores to help boost collections. They were able

to collect enough toys to fill two ambulances! Okaloosa County EMS donated bike helmets for all the bikes collected during the toy drive.

For more information on Okaloosa County EMS please visit their website at:

[http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept\\_ps\\_ems.html](http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept_ps_ems.html)

# EMT AND PARAMEDIC VIOLATIONS & DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS: SEPTEMBER 2008-NOVEMBER 2008

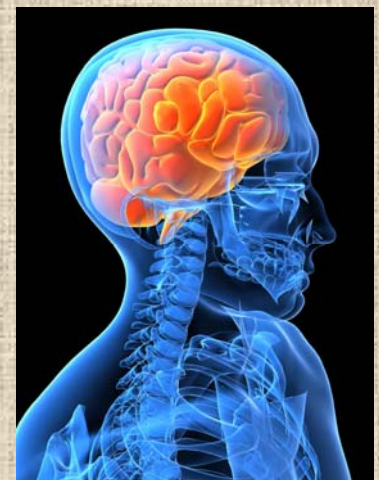
*This chart outlines the types of violations by profession.*



Violation	EMT	Paramedic
DUI- arrest, violation of probation	1	0
Positive drug test	3	3
Violation of final order- failure to submit to drug test	1	1
Fraudulently renew certificate	18	4
Lewd and lascivious battery	1	0
Failure to pay bad check	4	1
Forged prescription for controlled substance	1	0
Aggravated assault, possession of drugs	1	0
Child pornography	0	1
Violation of final order- failure to submit to drug test and pay fine	0	1
Misconduct	0	1
Fraudulently issuing BLS, ACLS and PALS instructor cards	0	1
Sexual misconduct on a minor	0	1
ACLS card to expire	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>

Disciplinary Action	EMT	Paramedic
Revocation	7	7
Voluntary Surrender	7	2
Suspension	2	0
Suspension- penalty stayed	7	2
Probation	3	3
Obligation(s) Imposed	0	1
Reprimand	2	0
Suspension Lifted	1	0
Obligation(s) Satisfied	1	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>

*This chart outlines the disciplinary actions for the violations listed in the previous chart.*



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# TRAINING & COMPLIANCE NEWS

Each EMS provider is due for an inspection every 24 months and new services are due within 90 days of receiving their license. In 2008, the Training & Compliance Unit at the Bureau of EMS has met their target by inspecting 142 providers. This is the third year in a row the Bureau has achieved this goal!

Here are the statistics of the 142 services inspected for 2008:

- 62 inspections were announced.
- 80 inspections were unannounced.
- 72 providers were in compliance at the time of the inspection (no corrections onsite and no deficiencies).

- 70 providers had deficiencies corrected onsite. Most of the corrections were for supplies, equipment and personnel records.
- 11 providers had deficiencies that needed to be corrected within a 24-hour period.
- 8 providers had pediatric deficiencies, most of which were corrected onsite. Last year 18% of the services inspected had pediatric deficiencies. This year the percentage is only 6%!

## PREHOSPITAL PEDIATRIC EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM 2008

The Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program and the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center partnered together to present the Prehospital Pediatric Symposium 2008, "The Premier Pediatric Emergency Medical Services Conference", on November 11-12 in Orlando at the Rosen Centre Hotel. Over 100 prehospital and hospital professionals attended the symposium. The symposium was designed to create an educational experience that will empower EMS and Emergency Department personnel to provide the highest quality emergency care to pediatric patients. The EMSC program awarded scholarships to both prehospital and hospital professionals statewide to ensure pediatric care excellence.

The symposium also hosted the only national roll-out of the National Association of EMTs "hybrid"

Emergency Pediatric Care Provider/Instructor course, which was attended by Florida's finest EMS educators. The course is designed for prehospital practitioners committed to providing quality care for pediatric patients. Course lectures and interactive sessions address assessment; airway, breathing and circulation; understanding and caring for children; hypoperfusion and shock; cardiac emergencies and congenital heart defects; common medical emergencies; trauma; newborn resuscitation; vascular access; care team management; spinal motion restriction; children with special healthcare needs; identification of life threats; scene choreography; transport decisions; and child abuse and neglect. For further information please visit:

[http://www.naemt.org/education/epc\\_a.aspx](http://www.naemt.org/education/epc_a.aspx)



### Dates to Remember

January 27, 2009	Rule Workshop: Neonatal Interfacility Transfers & EMS Instructor Criteria Plaza Resort and Spa Daytona Beach, FL
January 28-30, 2009	EMS Advisory Council and Constituency Meetings Ocean Center at Ocean Walk Village Daytona Beach, FL
March 3, 2009	Florida Legislative Session Begins
May 17-23, 2009	National EMS Week