

# Bureau of EMS Vitals



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## Nature Coast EMS Earns National Ambulance Accreditation

On October 2, 2009, Citrus County's currently contracted 9-1-1 emergency ambulance provider, Nature Coast EMS, received a full three-year national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). Nature Coast EMS also received a special commendation from CAAS for its full compliance for a first-time application. Nature Coast EMS is now one of four ambulance providers in the state of Florida and one of less than 130 ambulance services nationwide to achieve this "gold standard" industry status. Nature Coast EMS's leader, Mike Hall says, "The accreditation process gave us an opportunity to thoroughly examine our current practices and to take the steps necessary for either documenting our current practices or for investing in significant quality upgrades. We have recently purchased new ambulances, updated our policies and procedures, added

new educational opportunities, and purchased new state-of-the-art equipment. Thanks to our staff's diligence and commitment to giving each and every patient excellent service, our company continues to stand apart in Citrus County as a distinguished provider worthy of such a prestigious honor. As a result, everyone benefits, especially the emergency and non-emergency end users of our service.

The Bureau of EMS, Division of Emergency Medical Operations, and the Florida Department of Health congratulates Nature Coast EMS on earning this national accreditation.

Nature Coast EMS is an advanced life support ambulance service and has been serving the citizens of Citrus County for nine years. To learn more about Nature Coast EMS, please visit their website at:

<http://www.naturecoastems.org>

*Help us celebrate your successes! Please send your noteworthy accomplishments with back-up documentation and authorization to publish to either Lisa Walker at:*

[Lisa\\_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Lisa_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us) OR

Alexander Macy at :

[Alexander\\_Macy@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Alexander_Macy@doh.state.fl.us)

*Your achievement may be selected for publication in FLEMSCOMM or the quarterly newsletter, Vitals.*



## EMS Advisory Council Update

In July, Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer for the State of Florida, appointed Barry Baker, Chief of the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, Division of the State Fire Marshal, to the EMS Advisory Council position as the representative for the Department of Financial Services. At this time there are no vacant positions on the council.

## Lake-Sumter EMS: Keeping the Community Healthy

*A PIER Spotlight Article*

Three services join forces this year to distribute the seasonal flu shots: Lake-Sumter EMS, Lake County Health Department, and VaxCare. Through this collaboration, it is the hope of Lake-Sumter EMS to administer as many flu shots as possible to its' community. Together, they annually administer over 7,000 flu shots. Lake-Sumter EMS will travel to local churches, community centers, retirement communities, and private organizations to conduct flu shot clinics. Lake-Sumter EMS, Lake County Health Department, and VaxCare are well under way with this project distributing shots early so they can be ready for the implementation of the H1N1 immunizations when they become available.

The Lake-Sumter EMS Home Bound program continues to be a favorite with their citizens. The Community Resource Officer and the Health Department Flu Coordinator delivered over 100 flu shots to home bound patients in Lake County. Each year they continue to add more patients to the program. Lake-Sumter EMS not only provides this service to the patient, but to the caregiver as well. It is their goal to make certain that every citizen has an opportunity to receive immunization.

Lake-Sumter EMS and Lake County Health Department staff are also trained and prepared to launch a massive immunization program to combat a pandemic flu outbreak. They recently participated in an exercise that focused on how to modify and organize a drive-thru process in an expedient and controlled manner.

To learn more about Lake-Sumter EMS, please visit their website at:

<http://www.lakesumterems.org>

*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 email Cory Richter at:*

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



## 2009 Florida Injury Prevention Award Recipient

Since 2004, the Florida Department of Health, Office of Injury Prevention, in partnership with the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) annually recognizes an individual who has demonstrated commitment to injury prevention. At the October 2009 FIPAC meeting, Stephen McCloskey was presented the 2009 Florida Injury Prevention Award.

In his career, Mr. McCloskey initiated the first Health Department Gun Lock/Violence Prevention Campaign in Florida. From 1995-2005, he designed, implemented and evaluated the largest bicycle and pedestrian safety project in the state. This project provided over 60,000 helmets to kids in need and the bicycle-related non-fatal injuries declined by 68% by the end of

the program. Mr. McCloskey is currently with Duval County Health Department's Tobacco Prevention Program.

Congratulations to Mr. McCloskey, on behalf of the Florida Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Operations!

## Reducing Influenza Transmission in Prehospital Environments

by Patrick J. Gardner, RN, MPH, EMT, Florida Department of Health

EMS agencies and crews can utilize a list of control measures, in priority order, to reduce or eliminate the risk of influenza transmission in the prehospital setting. The four groupings of controls are: elimination of potential exposures (source control), engineering controls, administrative controls and personal protective equipment (PPE). Elimination of the potential exposure ranks highest on the list of controls and an example of this control would

be keeping staff at home when they are ill in order to reduce the spread of infection. Examples of engineering controls are the use of ventilation systems in ambulances or utilizing closed suction systems for airway suctioning of intubated patients. Vaccinating healthcare workers, adhering to infection control precautions, and establishing protocols for cleaning of frequently touched surfaces are all examples of administrative controls. PPE's involve wear-

ing appropriate gloves, face-masks, respirators, eye protection, etc. EMS crews should be provided with appropriate PPE and should initially assess a patient for influenza-like illness in addition to the specific nature of the call.

Careful attention to and implementation of these controls can have a dramatic impact on reducing the risk of influenza transmission during EMS response operations.



## EMS Service Provider Inspections

The Bureau of EMS utilizes experienced Florida paramedics to perform all EMS service provider inspections. This staffing provides accurate recording of deficiencies, along with an ability to provide technical assistance to EMS providers during the inspection. Each EMS service provider will experience a state inspection approximately every two years. At this time, 110 EMS service providers were inspected. Of those, 56 were

announced and 54 were unannounced. Forty-eight percent of the services had no deficiencies. Twelve percent had deficiencies concerning their medical directors; all were corrected at the time of inspection. Twenty percent had deficiencies concerning personnel records; all but one percent of those were corrected at the time of inspection. Twenty percent had deficiencies

concerning supply and/or equipment; seventeen percent of those deficiencies were pediatric equipment; all were corrected at the time of inspection.

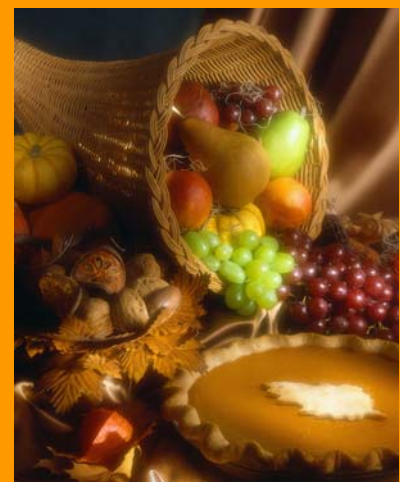
For further information about inspections, please visit the "Inspections" page on the bureau's website at: <http://www.fl-ems.com>

## EMT and Paramedic Violations & Disciplinary Actions: June 2009-August 2009

In the months of June 2009 to August 2009, there was one violation of rules found in 64J-1, Florida Administrative Code. The violation was an attempted unlawful sexual activity with a minor by an EMT which resulted in the disciplinary action of revocation of their license.

To file a complaint regarding EMS personnel or an EMS service, please visit the "Investigations" page on the Bureau of EMS website at: <http://www.fl-ems.com>

The complaint is confidential until 10 days after probable cause or if the subject (in writing) waves confidentiality.



## The Future of EMS Education in Florida *by Danny Griffin*

Florida will soon begin the process of implementing the “EMS Education Agenda for the Future.” The agenda was created in 2000 to establish an education system that is more in line with that of other health care professions in the United States. The agenda consists of five parts:

- **The National EMS Core Content:** a list of skills and knowledge needed to provide prehospital emergency care
- **The National EMS Scope of Practice Model:** defined the four levels of practice and the skills and knowledge minimums for each level
- **The National EMS Standards:** replaces the National Standard Curriculum and specifies the minimum terminal educational objectives for each level of practice
- **National EMS Education Program Accreditation:** to enhance the quality and consistency of EMS education programs
- **National EMS Certification:** a standardized examination for all levels to ensure entry-level competency of EMS providers who have graduated from a Nationally accredited program

The first three parts of the agenda are completed and most states are currently working to implement the last two parts simultaneously. The first step in Florida will be to identify and adopt the Scope of Practice levels that are to be recognized by the State. The levels are: Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) which replaces the term “first responder”, EMT, Advanced EMT (AEMT), and Paramedic. This process will begin with a survey of EMS agencies to identify the scope of practice levels needed in Florida.

The Florida Association of EMS Educators has created a resource page with detailed information regarding the “EMS Agenda for the Future.” To view the resource page, please visit:

<http://www.faemse.org/EMSAgenda/index.html>

*Danny Griffin is currently the President of the Florida EMS Educators and the Education Representative to the Florida EMS Advisory Council.*



## In Memoriam: William Thomas Hartley

William (Bill) Hartley, a Florida paramedic since 1978, passed away on September 26, 2009. Bill served as a paramedic with Escambia County EMS, Tallahassee Community Hospital Critical Transport Team, Sacred Heart Neonatal Transport Team, and the FL-I DMAT. He also worked in the Florida Bureau of EMS and has served on many technical assistance panels for the state, helping to define and enhance the EMS profession in Florida. Bill spent the last years of his

life teaching EMTs and paramedics at Pensacola Junior College.

Bill is survived by his wife, Sandy, also a paramedic; his two sons, Daniel and Thomas; his daughter Melissa, a firefighter/paramedic with Fernandina Beach Fire Rescue; two grandchildren, Bradley and Reagan; a new granddaughter expected next March; and his chocolate lab, Clinton.

All of us here at the Division

of Emergency Medical Operations extend our condolences to Bill's family and friends.

His passing is a true loss, but his legacy will continue through all of us as we continue to enhance EMS in Florida.

Those who wish to do so, may contribute to a scholarship fund in Bill's memory for EMS education at the Pensacola Junior College Foundation, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, FL, 32504.

## In Memoriam: Chief Robby Brown

On October 10, 2009, Chief Robby Brown lost his courageous battle with cancer. After 27 years of service, Chief Brown retired in 2006 as Fire Chief from Jackson County Fire Rescue and immediately began work as Administrative Chief of Nature Coast EMS. Chief Brown was instrumental in Nature Coast EMS' most recent achievement of national ambulance accreditation. Chief Brown has served on the EMS Advisory Council, the Florida Fire Chiefs EMS Committee, the Florida Association of County

EMS, the Florida Association of Rural EMS Providers, and the EMS Providers of Florida. During his tenure in each of these groups, he fought hard to move EMS forward. He had a mission to help those tasked with providing the service and help those EMS are tasked to protect. His passion, devotion and dedication were obvious to all that knew him. His wife Karen, his daughter Laramie, his two sisters, niece, family and friends will remember him as a cheerful and friendly man who balanced his life of ser-

vice with his overwhelming love of family, friends and co-workers. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. The Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Operations, and the Bureau of EMS give their deepest sympathies to Chief Brown's family and friends. We are all truly grateful for all his hard work and dedication to improving the lives of the citizens and visitors to the State.



## EMSC Advisory Council Appointments

Since the establishment of the EMSC Advisory Committee in 1997, the Florida Department of Health has had the benefit of tapping into the expertise of some of Florida's most knowledgeable and experienced individuals in the field of pediatrics. The committee is comprised of caring professionals and child advocates from around the state that come together in the interest of providing sound advice to the department on matters concerning preventative, pre-hospital, hospital, rehabilitative, and other post medical care for children.

The Florida EMSC program is pleased to announce effective October 7, 2009, the Florida State Surgeon General, Ana Viamonte Ros, appointed several new members to two-year appointments and reappointed other members for a second or third year term.

A special thank you from the Bureau of EMS and the EMSC Program goes to Dr. Romig for continuing to serve as the EMSC Advisory Committee Medical Advi-

sor. Congratulations to Julie Bacon for her reappointment as chairperson of the EMSC Advisory Committee for the 2009-2011 term.

For more information about the EMSC Advisory Committee, please visit the "EMS for Children" page on the Bureau of EMS website at:

<http://www.fl-ems.com>



### Newly Appointed Members:

Mark C. Bird, RN, BSN, CCRN, EMT-P– Bayfront Medical Center  
 James Robert Brosnan, RN, EMT-P– Safcare, Inc.  
 John P. Harding, MBA, FACHE– All Children's Hospital  
 Laurie Romig, MD, FACEP– Pinellas County EMS  
 Mark Sartoris, BSBM, CHFM– Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center  
 Vickie Tyszko, RN-P, BSN, MBA– Florida Hospital, Apopka

### Reappointed Members:

Julie Bacon, RN, BA  
 Laleh Bahar-Posey, MD  
 Sara Louise Bowen, RNC, CAN, BC, CMTE, MSN, ARNP

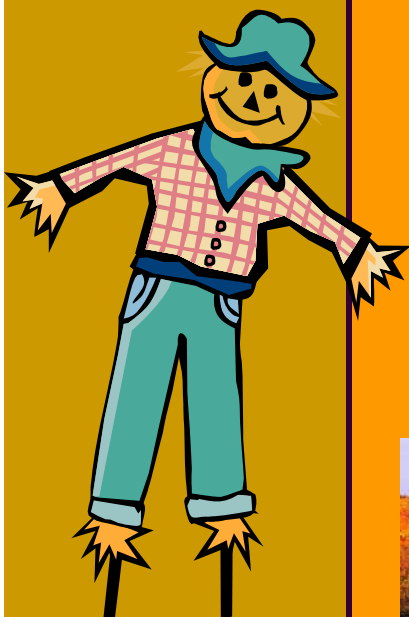
Michael D. Brooks, EMT-P  
 G. Patricia Cantwell, MD  
 Juli F. Daniels, CCRN, PhD  
 Joann R. DeSerio, RNC  
 Cindy Garlesky, RN, ARNP  
 Phyllis L. Hendry, MD, FAAP, FACEP  
 Carl Kaufman, EMT-P  
 Amanda Kraft, MSN  
 Thomas C. Lackey, EMT-P  
 Trenda McPherson  
 Rex Northup, MD, FAAP, FCCP, FCCM  
 Pamela Pieper, MSN, ARNP, BC  
 Beth Ann Ramey, RN  
 Cory S. Richter, EMT-P  
 Lou Romig, MD, FAAP, FACEP  
 Michael Rushing, NREMT-P

Promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida.

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## Revised EMS and Trauma Definitions

On October 1, 2008, the rules contained within 64E-2, F.A.C. were transferred to 64J, F.A.C. This transfer created 64J-1, F.A.C. for EMS rules and 64J-2, F.A.C. for Trauma rules. At that time, the definitions contained in 64E-2.001, F.A.C., which included trauma-related definitions, were transferred to 64J-1.001, F.A.C. The Bureau of EMS and Office of Trauma have promulgated a rule package that deletes the trauma-related definitions from 64J-1.001, F.A.C. and replace them with cross references

into 64J-2.001, F.A.C. This package was filed with the Department of State on October 16, 2009. The anticipated effective date of this adoption is November 5, 2009. After this effective date, the revised definitions may be viewed and downloaded from the Florida Administrative Weekly & Florida Administrative Code website at: <http://www.flrules.org>

## Dates to Remember

November 17, 2009	Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium National Training Center Clermont, FL
January 20-22, 2010	EMS Advisory Council & Constituency Group Meetings Hilton Daytona Beach Resort, Ocean Walk Village Daytona Beach, FL



The H1N1 Swine Flu virus continues to cause illness in Florida and in other areas around the world. The Florida Department of Health has created a website that provides information to prevent illness, recognize the symptoms, guidance for healthcare providers and facilities, and much more. The website is updated on a regular basis. There is also a phone number that you can call. The number is 1-877-352-3581. To view the site, please visit: <http://www.myflusafety.com>