

Participating Squads:

Elizabethtown-Lewis EMS
Essex Fire Department & Rescue
Keene Valley Fire Department Ambulance
Keene Volunteer Fire Department
Moriah Ambulance Squad
Schroon Lake Volunteer Fire Department
Westport Fire District Emergency Squad
Willsboro Fire Department

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ECH Golf Tournament

Tues., August 15, 2006
Westport Country Club
To benefit the ER

Visit www.ech.org or call
873-3003 for more info



Message from the EMS Medical Director

Thank you all for your interest in continuing education. It has been a great experience so far. I feel that I now have pretty good insight into our capabilities and the types of cases that are commonly dealt with by EMS in the area. Hopefully, future presentations will be even more specific and useful for our members. Again, I encourage you to contact me with any questions or queries, clinical or non-clinical, and I will try to answer them.

Thank You.
Bharat Magu, M.D.

Hospital Happenings

Radiology Using PACS & CR

By July 2006, ECH will have fully implemented both Fuji's Computed Radiography (CR) solution and Fuji's Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS). CR will enable our radiology technologists to take digital x-rays of our patients. PACS will make it possible for ECH to store, retrieve, and transmit the digital images generated by CR, CT, and digital ultrasound. Through a secure web portal, Radiologists will be able to use ECH's PACS solution to read images and diagnose our patients from virtually anywhere. This project is a necessary step toward the national goal of a complete electronic health record.

CT Scans Starting at ECH

The Radiology Department at ECH will begin scheduling appointments for non-contrast computed tomography scans starting June 20.

New Water Line Being Dug

The Town of Elizabethtown will be installing a new water line at the end of June from Park Street to the new mechanical room located behind the ER. The line will be dug through the driveway of the back parking lot. This will not affect traffic through the main entrance and the ER.

Spotlight on EMS Member

Charlie Martin **Elizabethtown-Lewis EMS** **EMT & Driver**

What inspired you to join EMS?

"I have been a member of EMS for close to 12 years, but before that I was fire chief in Lewis for years and would often be first on the scene of an accident. I wanted to be more knowledgeable to give aid and do all that I possible could do to help someone. That's when I decided to become an EMT."

What do you like most about being part of EMS?

"It is a very vital service to the communities we serve, which goes beyond Elizabethtown and Lewis. I find it very rewarding knowing that we make a difference."

What is your occupation?

"I worked at NYSEG for over 38 years and am now retired. I do little odd jobs, which makes me more available for EMS calls."

Updates and Reminders from Julie Tromblee, R.N.

Patient Confidentiality

When attending a Hospital QA/QI you will be asked to sign a Confidentiality Statement. If you have signed one in the past, you do not have to sign a new one. These will be kept on file with the hospital for legal/confidentiality issues. Please remember that what is discussed at the QA/QI stays at the QA/QI!!

Controlled Substances

The initial paperwork for the hospital to be an Institutional Dispenser for controlled substances has been completed. If you are interested in carrying controlled substances, please contact Patty Bashaw or myself for questions. Patty Bashaw has all the paperwork you will need to submit to New York State. The Hospital will have to sign the memorandum of agreement with each agency prior to submission of paperwork to New York State. Dr. Magu would like the agencies he is Medical Director for to carry narcotics. Once your agency is carrying controlled substances, if administered to a patient, a copy of the PCR will need to come to me for review.

QA/QI

Please remember that all PCR's for review need to come to me by the 15th of the month after each quarter has ended. I am looking for all codes, traumas, c-spines cleared in the field, controlled substances used, and ALS runs with medication documentation. The PCR's that are transferred to ECH are automatically sent to my attention. If you transport to another facility, or have non-transport and refusals, please send them to my attention.

Pandemic Planning

Each agency should consider putting together a pandemic plan to identify areas of need which may include staffing, antivirals, infection control measures, communications with other agencies, or your own health. Keep in mind that you will still have the calls you have now plus calls from those infected with influenza. Your agency may be at an all time high with calls because you will still have the patient having a heart attack and those car accidents with one or multiple patients.

Education Calendar

Teleconference schedule of Albany Medical Center CME program. All are broadcast in the ECH boardroom at 7p.m. and any interested EMS personnel are welcome to attend. Please call Julie Tromblee at 873-3013 if you plan to attend.

June

13th TBA

21st CHF and Pulmonary Edema

Education at ECH

June

22nd Pandemic Planning - What to get ready for! CME - 7 p.m.
Julie Tromblee, R.N.

July

20th Hospital QA/QI, CME - 7 p.m.
Julie Tromblee, R.N.

August

24th Stroke Management, CME - 7 p.m.
Bharat Magu, M.D.

September

28th CME Topic TBA - 7 p.m.

October

25th Hospital QA/QI, CME - 7 p.m.
Julie Tromblee, R.N.

Grant Opportunity

There is a national grant program to fund the purchase of equipment for fire departments. First Responder Institute, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide assistance to emergency personnel to help them make their communities safer, is accepting grant applications from fire departments across the United States for the purchase of life-saving equipment.

U.S. fire departments are eligible to apply for matching grants of up to \$2,500. The primary focus of the program is on rural (small) fire departments that do not have a tax base for support. See the First Responder Institute web site for further information.

<http://www.firstresponder.org/>

Lab Instructor Course

Have you ever thought about being a Certified Lab Instructor? Clinton County is offering a course. The pre-screen will be June 19th at 7pm at Clinton County Emergency Services. If you cannot make that day it would not necessarily disqualify you for the CLI course; we would try to work something out. Then the course will run July 14, 15 & 16 again at Emergency Services in Plattsburgh. If interested please get a hold of Patty Bashaw ASAP either by email or at 873-3699(w) or 873-7379 (h).

Tax Credit Available

The New York State Legislature has included a \$200 state income tax credit in the 2006-2007 State Budget for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. Beginning in 2007, a resident taxpayer who serves as an active volunteer firefighter or active volunteer ambulance worker will be allowed the credit.

Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, May/June 2006

Five Quad

Five Quad Volunteer Ambulance Service, Inc. is a student-run Basic Life Support transport agency that has been serving the University at Albany community since 1973. The students are dispatched by the University Police Dept Communications Center. Five Quad also provides coverage for the Western Turnpike Rescue Squad & Guilderland EMS, which covers the towns of Guilderland and North Bethlehem. The volunteers deliver EMS coverage for large events held on campus, such as commencements, concerts, and New York Giants Training Camp as well. Learn more at their website at <http://www.fivequad.org/>.

Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, May/June 2006

Squads on the Web

If your squad still is not on the www.ech.org website, contact Kerry Haley to complete a simple form and make your information available on the web. Remember, if your squad is already listed, please notify Kerry of any changes in information.

Caught in the Media—Part 2

EMS personnel are the first responders to a scene. This can put you in the media spotlight. In the event that you are being questioned by the media, here are some tips when being interviewed:

- Know your squad policy, if you have one. Some squads only allow a certain individual to speak with the media.
- Be prepared. Write down your notes and review them before the interview.
- Be concise. Speak in sound bites—phrases that can be easily used in broadcasting after they have edited what you say.
- State the name of your agency as much as possible without overdoing it.
- Be honest. If you don't know, say so.
- Remember that everything you say is "on the record".
- Do NOT speak negatively of another agency.
- Be courteous and helpful to the media.
- Be aware of trick questions from a reporter.
- Avoid long pauses.
- Do not show favoritism towards one television or newspaper outlet.
- Remember the who, what, when, where, why, and how of an incident.

ECH Contacts

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