

1. The 2011 New York State EMS Memorial Service will be held May 18 at 11:00 am on the Empire State Plaza. Three EMS providers who made the ultimate sacrifice will be remembered and added to the Tree of Life: Paul A. Bazinet (Glens Falls), Karen A. Hand (Lisle), and LeRoy A. Kemp (Barton). Please contact Donna Johnson (email: dag04@health.state.ny.us or phone 518-402-0996, ext. 3) if you wish to display an agency vehicle on the Plaza during the Memorial Service. All are encouraged to attend. A flyer for posting is at www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/pdf/memorial_flyer_2011.pdf.
2. Vital Signs will return to Syracuse this October 13 – 16; www.vitalsignsconference.com has the scoop. Nominations for 2011 EMS Awards presented at Vital Signs are due June 1st; consider nominating one of your peers for their EMS contributions! Criteria and nomination forms are at www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/emsawards.htm. Note that submissions require approval by your Regional Council before being sent to DOH.
3. Prior to Vital Signs, the NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association will hold their annual Pulse Check conference September 23-25 in Albany. Details at under the Pulse Check tab at www.nysvara.org.
4. Head in the sand on narrow banding? The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has a 911 center for you at www.fcc.gov/narrowbanding. 10-4k?
5. Push hard, but not so fast: CPR changes from Guidelines 2010 won't appear until the May or June 2011 EMS written exams as they just received SEMAC and SEMSCO approval.
6. Medical Standards approved several sets of protocol changes, and allowed CPAP as an advanced airway procedure for EMT-Intermediates.
7. SEMAC, at the behest of members wishing to use educational and operational materials from the CDC rather than develop a NY special edition of the CDC Trauma Triage Criteria, voted to adopt the CDC guidelines. Sweet! Now you can actually use the FREE materials from the CDC (see: <http://www.cdc.gov/fieldtriage>) plus get CUE's.
8. SEMAC also resurrected their Interfacility Transport group. Dr. Deb Funk will resume chairwomanship of the gang.
9. NYS EMS remains at last year's \$19.7 million allocation in the proposed NYS budget. Nonetheless, cuts surround us and vouchers payments are crawling (heck, \$16,370 in course monies are more than 13 months overdue to Saratoga County alone). Funding for future SEMAC and SEMSCO meetings is approved only through May. The psychic hotline has no word on the future (although they knew we would call).
10. A December 2010 blizzard in NYC required MA from agencies across the state. Things went, uh, less than smoothly according to reports from County EMS Coordinators. Acting EMS Bureau Director Lee Burns met with FDNY and efforts are underway to facilitate better interfaces between home agencies and incoming Statewide MA units at future incidents. If you want the whole low down, buy your County EMS Coordinator a beer.
11. The Mutual Aid TAG gave a preliminary report that failed to go out electronically prior to the meetings. They've completed draft documents including a policy statement on MA reaffirming the roles of the agency, 911 Center, County EMS Coordinator and Regional Council. They also have drafts of a white paper on MA and a toolkit for use in developing MA plans. Look for it this summer. Maybe.
12. Since stocks of official certification card paper went bye bye, students passing their written exams since January 2011 have been issued temporary certification notices valid for one year. A notice explaining the temporary cards is posted at www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/pdf/temp_emt_card_guidance_letter.pdf and as soon

as the real paper arrives, actual cards will be mailed out. Curiously, the temporary stock uses the same phosphorescent pink as MOLST forms. As an aside, DOH is out of Birth Certificates as well – perhaps they'll give stork pins instead.

13. In the category of strange and stranger, the Education Committee proposed eliminating the practical skills prescreening exam for CLI (Certified Lab Instructor) courses. Why? Because candidates can't pass it. Yowsa! Apparently, monies will be rolled into teaching the skills during the class, testing students at the end rather than before they start. This is apparently effective immediately.
14. The Education Committee also proposed (and SEMSCO approved) adopting the National EMS Educational Standards for all applicable levels in NY.
15. You must be on the edge of your chair waiting for a report on the NFPA 1917 Standard for Automotive Ambulance Committee. Wait no longer, I'll leak some details right here. Due December 2010, exactly 1785 comments were received on the draft standard. The Committee met in February and decided to accept, reject, or make changes based on the principle of the comment; voting is now in progress. Some key outcomes are likely (but not certain) to include: elimination of VDR (vehicle data recorders), increase maximum speed to 77 MPH, keep the requirement for visual indicators of tire pressure, and eliminate seat belt warning systems in the patient compartment, among others. On February 24, 2012, the final Report on Comments (ROC) will be issued by NFPA and, absent any major objections; the Standard will become final on May 29, 2012 effective for ambulances manufactured after January 1, 2013. Representing New York State on the NFPA Committee is Mike McEvoy and his alternate Ken Beers, Chief of Canandaigua EMS. If you want a more detailed peek at the items in process with the 1917 Committee, scope out my Fire Engineering blog post on the subject at:
<http://community.fireengineering.com/profiles/blog/show?id=1219672%3ABlogPost%3A277877>.
16. New policy statements are up on the Bureau website, free for the taking at www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/policy.htm. Policy Statement #11-01 on blood draws for law enforcement is a must read as it contradicts many regional "recommendations" on the topic. Policy #11-02 brings you up to date on DNR and MOLST revisions, also an important read. Policy #11-03 revises Medical Direction requirements.
17. On the #11-01 subject, discussions between law enforcement and DOH are on-going (stay tuned). One clarification from the legal eagles: an agency can write a policy prohibiting their members from drawing blood for police while on duty. What an AEMT does while off duty is outside the scope of medical oversight and their employer. A multi-jurisdictional law enforcement group will work with DOH to clarify consent issues in #11-01 and develop an educational program (they have \$\$ - giddyap).
18. If you're curious what Policy #11-02 changes from #10-05 (the prior MOLST policy), here's the skinny (thanks to Keith Collins from Clifton Park-Halfmoon Ambulance for the analysis): OPWDD and OMH have approved use of MOLST for developmentally disabled and mentally ill patients (they were previously not included in the MOLST program); there's no medical alert type bracelet associated with MOLST – if someone has a DNR bracelet, it refers to the older Prehospital DNR form (hence pertains to CPR only and would not be valid for DNI); the MOLST needs a physician signature to be valid (initiate resuscitation and contact medical control if unsigned); and like the Prehospital

DNR, MOLST also requires periodic review. In the absence of evidence that the MOLST (or Prehospital DNR) has been revoked, it should be honored (even if review signatures are missing). As noted previously, www.compassionandsupport.org has an excellent tutorial on MOLST specific to EMS.

19. Systems heard an appeal from Cooperstown Medical Transport (CMT) of a decision by the Susquehanna Regional Council to approve a Certificate of Need (CON) for New Berlin. Systems voted, and SEMSCO approved, to accept the recommendations of the reviewing ALJ and remand the matter back to the Susquehanna REMSCO.
20. A bloody mess seems to have vanished into thin air. Proposed regulations to allow EMT administration of blood and blood products forwarded by the Blood and Tissue Council to the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform was...never heard of again. Well, you guessed it – the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform was eliminated. Where the proposed regs went is anyone's guess. We may need to get a bloodhound on the case...
21. The Evaluation Committee reports continued progress by Image Trend, the Statewide PCR data consolidator (www.imagetrend.com). Fields have been mapped and preparations are underway to marry the database with EMS Charts followed by Scan Health and then Zoll Data Systems. More to come. The Eval folks are also collecting QI plans from each Region to identify best practices and perhaps promote some statewide standardization.
22. The DOH unusual incident database continues to collect reports. A significant increase in stretcher tip overs during the past few months has been observed. The Eval Committee will use these data to identify patterns and trends and provide us with feedback.
23. Here's a little ditty you can throw your weight behind next time you see a legislator: S2714 and A4093 (<http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/S2714-2011>). This is one law that would help us all, regardless of your EMS "persuasion". Known as the direct payment law, it would require NY insurers to pay ambulance services directly rather than sending payments to patients. Not that a patient would ever use their ambulance payment to buy a nice flat screen TV, but who are we kidding? This needs fixin'.
24. Kudos to Hofstra University School of Medicine, opening this fall in Long Island. Every first year student will complete an EMT course with required ambulance riding time.
25. A few tidbits from STAC (the State Trauma Advisory Council). They are preparing to undertake surveys of pedi trauma centers and burn centers. The American College of Surgeons will be assuming management of STAC Trauma Center surveys. For good or bad (no one knows), 20 years of contracting with the School of Public Health to administer the State Trauma Registry have come to an end. No word on the heir apparent.
26. An interesting spat between the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and Zimek (makers of a fogging type machine used to disinfect ambulances) has raised serious questions about just what chemicals and what government agency should have oversight over aerosolized disinfectants. I won't bore you with the blow by blow tit for tat. A consortium of infectious disease organizations did write an interesting query to the EPA asking for clarifications: www.shea-online.org/Portals/0/SHEA-APIC-AHE_EPA_fogging_letter_FINAL_%28012811%29.pdf. No answer from the EPA yet.
27. SEMAC and SEMSCO will again meet only three times in 2011, unless they're included in the Governor's promised smack down on excessive State Health Dept. Councils and Advisory Committees, that is. Beyond these March 29-30 meetings, dates are May 24-25 and September 13-14, 2011. A psychic also predicts a January 24-25, 2012 meeting. All

to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick Street in Troy, NY 12180. Bring a sandwich or your lunch money: NYS no longer allows meals at their meetings. You'll need coffee too; these meetings can be loooong.

These notes respectfully prepared by Mike McEvoy who previously represented the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs on SEMSCO before (finally) being replaced by Mike Murphy. Contact Mike at McEvoyMike@aol.com or visit www.mikemcevoy.com. If you want a personal copy of these “unofficial” SEMSCO minutes delivered directly to your email account, surf to the Saratoga County EMS Council at www.saratogaems.org and click on the “NYS EMS News” tab (at the top of the page – or you can simply click here to be taken directly to the source: www.saratogaems.org/NYS_EMS_Council.htm). There, you’ll find a list server dedicated exclusively to circulating these notes. Past copies of NYS EMS News are parked there as well.