



# *The Monitor*

The monthly electronic newsletter for the Southern Illinois Regional EMS System.

October 2016

**COMMAND:** Dr. Haake wants to thank everyone for taking good care of our patients. October is a month with changing seasons and temperatures. Keep in mind the lower evening and overnight temperatures heading our way.

**FINANCE:** The 2017 EMS Assistance Grant application period closed October 4, 2016. Don't forget about the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The eligibility criteria now include EMS. For more information, go to <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>.

**LOGISTICS:** A federal safety bulletin was recently released emphasizing something all of us probably know and many have already experienced. Data shows that, due to similarities between EMS and police uniforms, EMS can be mistaken for law enforcement personnel by the layperson. With today's political environment, be mindful of the possibility of not initially being identified as EMS and what safety concerns that may cause.

EMS Personnel that participate in more than one system and renew their EMS license in another system are still required to submit their continuing education records to the EMS Office to verify compliance with SIREMS policy. Dr. Haake wanted to reinforce that any SIREMS participant that renews through another system and does not send their continuing education records to the EMS Office will be suspended.

There are now con-ed worksheets posted on the system website under SIREMS Forms. The worksheets break down the hours and subjects that must be obtained to comply with the IDPH continuing education changes. These changes will be enforced on all licenses renewed after January 1, 2017. If you have any questions about the process or the forms, call the EMS Office.

Remember, you can simply text a picture of an updated credential to Brad or Nathan at the EMS Office. You will receive a confirmation reply when the credentials are entered into your department's roster.

Don't forget about the Weathering the Storm Disaster Conference on Wednesday October 12, 2016 at the Marion Pavilion. More info at [shawneepreparednesscoalition.com](http://shawneepreparednesscoalition.com)

**OPERATIONS:** For the system Paramedics that have not completed the Fentanyl training: Contact the EMS Office to schedule your Fentanyl training ASAP. All system personnel functioning at the Paramedic level must complete the Fentanyl training by the end of October 2016.

There has been one case reported to the EMS Office of a Carfentanyl "super fentanyl" overdose occurring in our area. Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid 100 times more potent than fentanyl. The ambulance service reported it was reversed with 4mg of Naloxone...they were lucky. Be prepared to find our normal dosing of Naloxone to be ineffective. The DEA's safety alert of Carfentanil is posted on our system website.

When requesting a bypass from Medical Control, it is not necessary to utilize a GPS to give distance or ETA information, unless you are unfamiliar with your location or route. Using your experience and judgment will be sufficient and will save the time of entering and calculating routes on a GPS.

Memos were sent to the ambulance services reminding EMS personnel to leave copies of the PCRs. It also asked that you notify the EMS Office if you encounter barriers to sending, copying, or faxing the PCRs in the future.

**PLANNING:** Don't forget about our EMS Calendar at [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com)

- Oct. 10: Columbus Day
- Oct 12: Weathering the Storm Disaster Conference, Marion Pavilion
- Oct 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day
- Oct. 17-18: PHTLS at Deaconess, Evansville
- Oct. 18: SPARC Coalition Meeting, Marion Pavilion
- Oct. 20: Regional EMS, Trauma, and Stroke Committees, HRMC Marion
- Oct. 31: Halloween

*TIP OF THE MONTH:* A geriatric patient can lose 10% of brain mass over time. With that void space in the skull and many of the geriatric population taking some form of blood thinners, they are at high risk for a brain injury/bleed. Be very suspicious with falls that involve the elderly!

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at [Brad.Robinson@sih.net](mailto:Brad.Robinson@sih.net) or [SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com) (10-07-16).