



The Monitor

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

March 2016

COMMAND: Dr. Haake and the staff of the EMS Office wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and a Happy Easter! Everyone have a safe and enjoyable March 2016!

FINANCE: The 2017 EMS Assistance Grant application period is open. The grant program is limited and will not consider applications for new vehicles, vehicle re-chassis, building projects, or grant requests over \$5000. You can get more information on the EMS Assistance Grant by visiting dph.illinois.gov/funding-opportunities.

LOGISTICS: Non Transport Departments: The annual inspections are due March 31, 2016. First Responder non transport agencies need to send a current roster and copies of current CPR cards for their staff along with the inspection forms. Please contact the EMS Office to schedule inspections, get inspection forms, or with any questions.

Don't forget that IDPH no longer recognizes the old First Responder licenses that do not have an expiration date, (FR). Any First Responder that wants to continue to be licensed, must upgrade their FR license to a FRD license by taking a FRD class. Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

IFSI is providing a Logistics Section Chief Class at Carbondale FD on March 28 – April 1, 2016. The information and registration forms are on the EMS Calendar at sirems.com.

The Shawnee Preparedness and Response Coalition is a regional community based coalition with a mission to develop and maintain an integrated, diverse network of organizations in Southern Illinois in order to increase planning, mitigation, response, recovery, and overall resiliency in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. The coalition is a great opportunity for networking, information sharing, and to apply for regional grant funding. To find out more, go to shawneepreparednesscoalition.com.

IDPH is becoming very strict on late fee waivers, so it is very important to contact the EMS Office earlier rather than later for EMS license renewals. Don't forget, the renewal process has two parts. One part is having your continuing education reviewed and approved by the EMS Office and the second part is answering the required felony and child support questions with paying the renewal fee to IDPH. Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

OPERATIONS: There have been recent questions about our spinal immobilization protocol, so we wanted to take this opportunity to review the basics of it. First, there are 5 criteria that must be met to transport a patient with a cervical collar and without a longboard.

1. GCS of 15
2. No spine tenderness or anatomic abnormality of the spine
3. No abnormal neurologic findings or complaints
4. No distracting injury that could prevent accurate assessment
5. No intoxication from any substance

Remember, we can also transport a patient with a cervical collar and no longboard when there is an extended transport time or when we find the patient ambulatory on the scene. Just be sure to fully document the circumstances around backboard exclusion.

Remember the importance of quality chest compressions and limiting interruptions during CPR. Studies have shown that compression quality decreases after 5 cycles or 2 minutes. It is very important for the patient's chances of ROSC to rotate compressors during a code. Consider requesting additional help early in the process.

If you draw blood at your ambulance service, remember to properly label the samples. The samples must be labeled at the time of draw with two patient identifiers, like name and DOB. They must also be labeled with the date and time of the draw. And finally, the samples should be labeled with the initials of the medic that obtained the sample as well.

PLANNING: Don't forget about our EMS Calendar at www.sirems.com

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| March 10: | IDPH EMS Advisory Council, video conf. at IDPH Marion |
| March 13: | SIREMS Triage Tag Day and Daylight Savings Time Change |
| March 17: | St. Patrick's Day |
| March 27: | Easter |
| March 28: | IFSI Logistics Section Chief Class Mar 28-Apr 01, Carbondale FD |

TIP OF THE MONTH: Though it's cold and rainy now, sunny weather is very near. Don't forget about the need for proper attire and sunscreen in the near future. Most of us have had limited exposure to the sun during the winter months. Be mindful of that during work, training, or recreation activities later this month.

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at Brad.Robinson@sih.net or SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com (03-05-16).