



SPRING 2006

Also Available On-line:
WWW.WREMSCO.ORG

Volume 2 Issue 1

Spring 2006/ Mar-Apr

Mark Your Calendars!

- NATIONAL EMS WEEK
May 14th—20th
- NYS EMS MEMORIAL
May 17th
- ANNUAL EMS AWARD DINNER
May 19th
- EMS APPRECIATION DAY
August (Date TBA)

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Not Your Father's CPR.....

BIG CHANGES SUGGESTED BY AHA UPDATES—NYS TO DECIDE WHICH WILL EFFECT EMS

In November 2005, the American Heart Association (AHA) released its newest update to guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and emergency cardiac care (ECC). The report represents the most extensive evidence review of CPR and ECC ever conducted. Begun in 2002, material was presented, discussed and debated in a series of task force meetings, taking place both domestically and internationally, which culminated in the final Consensus Conference held last year.

As a result, this update reflects some significant changes in the care algorithms which have been an integral part of EMS training at all levels of certification. Modifications can be found in almost all interventions— from compression / ventilation rates to medication doses to defibrillator settings. New AHA curricula for CPR, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) are expected to be

phased in later this year.

Although sweeping changes are being recommended by the AHA, it is the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the State EMS Council (SEMSCO) that establishes protocols and curricula for certified pre-hospital providers.



Visit: www.americanheart.org
For more information about the 2005 AHA update.

In a letter dated February 7, 2006, NYSDOH

Bureau of EMS Director Edward Wronski reminded all EMS agencies that
Continued on page 4

Now At A Hospital Near You....

6 OUT OF 11 HOSPITALS ARE DESIGNATED NYS STROKE CENTERS

The NYS protocol for suspected stroke was modified in January 2005 to require transport of a patient with certain signs, symptoms and time to a designated specialty

care hospital. However it wasn't until this past September that the Westchester Region received its first NYS Stroke Center causing the new protocol to go into effect locally.

Since then any initial operational "agita" experienced by

crews and agencies has subsided with the designation of 5 additional hospitals. Westchester currently is second only to NYC, and ties Suffolk County, when it comes to the number of Stroke Centers in one county.

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Suffer the Little Children.....

METH LAB DISCOVERY NOW TRIGGERS CHILD ABUSE REPORTING BY EMS

Last year, legislation was enacted concerning the recognition of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories (a.k.a. Meth Labs). This law requires certain employers to provide information to their employees on recognizing these unlawful and hazardous drug factories. The law also stipulates that if a Mandated Child Abuse and Neglect Reporter comes across one of these operations, a report to the Child Abuse



Additional Info available:
www.health.state.ny.us/nys-doh/ems/bemsupdates.htm

Central Registry must be filed if it is suspected that children may be present at the site. Since NYS EMTs / AEMTs became Mandated Child Abuse and Neglect Reporters in 2002,

this law applies to EMS agencies.

Executive EMS officers are urged once again to review the NYS DOH Policy regarding reporting suspected child abuse and neglect with their members. These documents along with an information piece regarding the "Meth Law" have been posted on the Westchester Regional EMS website, www.wremSCO.org.

The Regional EMS Office will offer training in the near future related to this subject.

33rd Annual EMS Awards & Dinner

Friday, May 19th

Crowne Plaza Hotel
White Plains, NY

Deadline for
Award Nominations
April 1st

For more info go to
www.wremSCO.org

NHTSA Wants You! (To Take This Survey....)

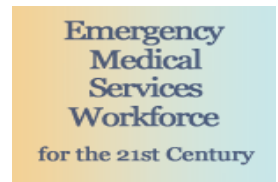
EMS WORKFORCE PROJECT SEEKS GRASSROOTS INPUT

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) have contracted with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Center for the Health Professions to conduct this 2-year national EMS workforce study. The

goal of the project is to provide research and guidance to the national EMS community in making informed policy decisions for the EMS workforce.

The UCSF project team has created a web-log (a.k.a. blog) to enlist the perspectives of the workforce nationwide. New questions are posted every month, the most recent involving issues surrounding

policy and worker satisfaction. All EMS providers are asked to help get the word out and participate in this important federal study.



EMS blog home page:
<http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/emsworkforce/>

Did you know that on the Regional Website you can find.....?

- REMAC Policies, Protocols & Advisories
- EMS Conference /Training Opportunities
- Special Event Information
- State EMS Announcements
- CME / Call Audit Calendar
- Local EMS Job Offerings
- Meeting Schedules
- Updates for On-line Medical Control (OLMC) Physicians
- Links to Local, State & Federal Resources
- And Much, Much More !!

Go to:
www.wremSCO.org

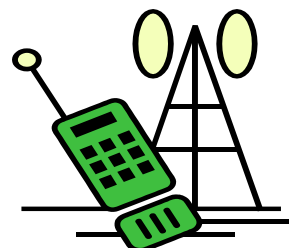
Progress is in the Air.....

TRUNKED RADIO SYSTEM MOVING FORWARD—TOWER SITES BEING INSTALLED

The radio system control equipment has been installed at several site locations. Site work included building construction and the installation of radio control hardware, data connections, upgraded electric requirements, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) and the

assurance of backup generation.

Agreements with the County regarding the new radio system have been distributed to all county emergency response



agencies. EMS agencies are reminded that if the agreements are not properly executed and returned to the Department of Emergency Services, radio equipment distribution and installation can not be completed.

Executive EMS Officers should contact DES Communications Chief Michael Volk at mkvl@westchestergov.com with any questions..

Ask and Ye Shall Receive.....

2005 AFG PROGRAM A BOON FOR LOCAL EMS AGENCIES—2006 FILING PERIOD MARCH / APRIL

In 2005, 1,500 grant requests were submitted nationwide from eligible EMS agencies for the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. Over 260 awards have been given out to date. Both New York and New Jersey (FEMA Region II) received numerous awards from the 2005 grant program.

EMS agencies in Region II submitted 140 applications and

received over 50 awards. Six of these awards went to Westchester services, representing over 10% of the grants awarded in FEMA Region II ! The EMS agencies who received funding were :

- Greenburgh PD - EMS
- Katonah Bedford Hills VAC
- Larchmont VAC
- Sleepy Hollow VAC
- Tarrytown VAC
- Valhalla VAC

All eligible EMS agencies are urged to participate in this federal funding opportunity. EMS agencies may NOT be:

- Affiliated with a FD
- Affiliated with a hospital
- For profit

The 2006 application period opened March 6th and will close on April 7th.



For more information go to: www.firegrantsupport.com

Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Services Council

2005 — 2006

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Chairperson

James O'Connor
Vice-Chairperson

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Policies & Procedures

Chris Kalish
Public Information

Alexina Nechis
Training & Education

Michael Volk
Communications

Next Meetings

REMAC—9:00 AM
April 17th
May 15th
June 19th

REMSCO- 6:00 PM
March 23 rd
May 25th
June (Annual Meeting—TBA)

NYS OHS Wants You! (To Take This Survey....)

NYS OHS ASSESSING ONGOING TRAINING NEEDS OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL

The New York State Office of Homeland Security (NYS OHS) has developed an on-line needs assessment tool for emergency services personnel. This tool was created to assist in the evaluation of the specific needs of the "Emergency Response

Community" in NYS related to Homeland Security training.

Training remains a critical part of ensuring proper preparedness to effectively

protect the lives and property we serve. This need is amplified when dealing with issues related to uncommon threats and responses.

All Regional/County EMS agencies are asked to encourage their staff and/or membership to complete this survey:

http://www.ohs.ene.com/training_survey.aspx?IID=6



Brother, Can You Spare An EMT.....?

NYS ASSOC OF TOWNS ISSUES POSITION PAPER ON VOLUNTEER EMS/FIRE MANPOWER CRISIS AND POSSIBLE IMPACT TO LOCAL TAX BURDEN

The Association of Towns of the State of New York sees the recruitment and retention of fire and

emergency medical service volunteers as vital in working against another in a growing number of property tax burdens facing town citizens across the state. The Association has released a paper entitled "Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services - Systems in Crisis," in which it warns of a financial calamity that will result from the erosion of volunteer manpower.

Based on its evaluation, the Association feels that due to this state-wide threat to volunteer emergency medical services, "a dramatic increase in real property taxes, town government's *only* locally-generated revenue, is looming."

For a complete look at the Association's report, go to:

<http://www.nytowns.org/news/news.htm>





Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Services Council

4 Dana Rd.

Valhalla, NY 10595

Phone: 914-231-1616

Fax: 914-813-4161

E-mail:

wremSCO@wremSCO.org

WWW.WREMSCO.ORG

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE EMS LISTSERV!

Get information regarding CMEs / Call Audits , EMS Certification Courses, Special Events, Important Announcements**Send an email to: wremSCO@wremSCO.org**

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AHA Update cont'd

in New York State any "guidelines" set forth by the AHA are always reviewed to determine which will become the standard of care for EMS providers.

Once the state review is finished, and the appropriate changes to state EMS curricula and protocols made, an official NYSDOH BEMS notification will be sent to all agencies, Regional EMS Councils (REMSCO) and EMS Course Sponsors. Until that time, both state and regional protocols will continue to reflect the 2000 AHA Guidelines.

To review the 2005 AHA CPR/

ECC Guidelines in their entirety, visit the AHA website:
www.americanheart.org

NYS Stroke Centers cont'd

Facilities with state designation now include:

- Hudson Valley Hospital
- Mount Vernon Hospital
- Northern Westchester
- Sound Shore Med Ctr
- Westchester Med Ctr
- White Plains Hospital

To view the most recent Westchester REMAC Advisory on Stroke Centers, or get a copy of the NYS Suspected Stroke Protocol, go to the Regional EMS website,
www.wremSCO.org .



Every 45 seconds, someone in America has a stroke. Every 3 minutes, someone dies of one

—Source ASA

For additional information:

- NYS DOH BEMS
www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/stroke/stroke.htm
- American Stroke Association
www.strokeassociation.org

Upcoming EMS Conferences / Seminars

Mar 31
Roadside to Bedside—Cardiac
(Westchester Med Ctr)

Apr 8—9
Inside EMS
(Hudson Valley REMSCO)

Jun 22-23
Roadside to Bedside—Trauma
(Westchester Med Ctr)

Aug 24-27
Pulse Check
(NYS VARA)

Oct 20-22
Vital Signs
(NYS DOH Bureau of EMS)

For more info go to
www.wremSCO.org