



# SPRING 2007

Also Available On-line:

[WWW.WREMSCO.ORG](http://WWW.WREMSCO.ORG)

Volume 3 Issue 1

Spring 2007 / Apr-May

## Mark Your Calendars!

- May 20th—26th  
**NATIONAL EMS WEEK**
- May 23rd  
**NYS EMS MEMORIAL CEREMONY**
- May 25th  
**ANNUAL REGIONAL EMS AWARDS DINNER**
- August (Date TBA)  
**EMS APPRECIATION DAY AT RYE PLAYLAND**

## Inside this issue:

EMT-B Administration of Aspirin	1
County Trunk Radio Update	2
2nd Annual EMS Week CME Day	2
Fraud & EMS	2
2007 AFG Program	3
NIMS & Plain English Communications	3
Empire State Games	3

## Aspirin - Not Just for Headaches Anymore

AHA GUIDELINES APPROVED FOR EMS BY NYS INCLUDE EMT ADMINISTRATION OF ASPIRIN

Last spring, the November 2005 Emergency Cardiac Care (ECC) guidelines issued by the American Heart Association (AHA) were accepted by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the State EMS Council (SEMSCO). In July 2006, all EMS agencies were directed by the NYSDOH to have their providers in-serviced to the new CPR protocols and AED equipment reprogrammed to the new ECC algorithms by December 31, 2006. The new material began appearing on state certification exams in August 2006.

Along with the approval of the changes to CPR and AED use, NYSDOH and SEMSCO also approved Emergency Medical Technician – Basics (EMT-B) to administer aspirin under certain circumstances to those patients with problems that were classified as

“cardiac related.” However, the new protocols and curricula to modify the scope of practice was not rolled out



by the NYSDOH until January 2007. The NYSDOH BLS Protocols, in particular the “**Adult Cardiac Related Problem**” protocol, **M-5**, were distributed to all EMS agencies and are available on the NYSDOH Bureau of EMS (BEMS) website, [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/emslprotocolsnew.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/emslprotocolsnew.htm), and the Westchester Regional EMS website, [www.wremSCO.org](http://www.wremSCO.org).

The new M-5 protocol went into effect **IMMEDIATELY**

after the notification from the NYSDOH was distributed – but an EMS agency must complete the training as prescribed by the NYSDOH before putting aspirin on their vehicles. This includes the presentation of updated **4-3** module, “**Cardiac Emergencies**,” of the EMT-B Original Curriculum in its entirety (reviewing unchanged objectives / content and thorough instruction of the new objectives / content related to the administration of aspirin), a written exam and practical demonstration. **ALL** staff, at **ALL** EMT levels, must be in-serviced. The in-servicing must be completed and aspirin placed on all ambulances by **July 1, 2007**

Since this most recent protocol update adds a medication to the basic scope of practice, documentation requirements for the training are strict. One local NYSDOH Course Sponsor stated that he hadn’t seen this level of gravity for a BLS protocol rollout in over 20 years of teaching.

*Continued on Page 4*

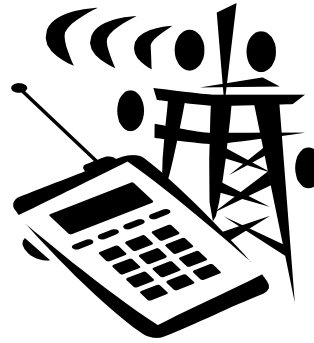
## Coming to an Ambulance Near You.....

PROGRESS FOR THE UHF TRUNK RADIO SYSTEM—MOBILE UNITS BEING INSTALLED IN COUNTY APPARATUS

The UHF trunk radio system tower sites are being completed and system optimization and testing will be conducted soon.

The Motorola vendors (ESS and Metrocom) continue to install the mobile and portable radio equipment in identified first line fire and EMS apparatus. The County is working

with Motorola to expedite the delivery of the remote heads and cabling kits for the dual head capable radios. As a reminder, it is the agencies' responsibility to purchase and have the second head installed



in the previously identified apparatus.

Radio system training will be offered to each fire and EMS agency. Organizations will be invited to send an executive officer and training officer to attend the train-the-trainer rollout sometime in the second quarter of 2007.

Executive EMS Officers should contact DES Communications Chief Michael Volk at [mkv1@westchestergov.com](mailto:mkv1@westchestergov.com) with any questions regarding the project.

### 34th Annual EMS Awards & Dinner

Friday, May 25th

Westchester Marriott Tarrytown, NY

Deadline for Reservations and payment May 11th

For more info go to [www.wremSCO.org](http://www.wremSCO.org)

## National EMS Week—Celebrate & Educate.....

REMSCO/DES SPONSORS 2ND ANNUAL CME DAY

For a second year, the Department of Emergency Services (DES) and the REMSCO are offering a full day of CME with vendor exhibits at the DES Training Center in Valhalla. This year the schedule has been broken out into ALS and BLS tracks with the last session being for a general audience.

The ALS Track will have 2 clinical presentations by Bill Toon, M.Ed., NREMT-P, a 32-year EMS veteran who has worked suburban and urban communities, including New York City. A paramedic educator since 1985, Bill currently serves Johnson County (KS)

EMS/MED- as a Battalion Chief - Training.

BLS Track Session 1 is a different perspective of Ballistic Injuries presented by NYC Police Officer and Westchester Paramedic Joe Bucchignano Session 2 is a presentation by the Hudson Valley Poison Education Center on the causes of common poisonings.



Continued on Page 4

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](http://www.wremSCO.org)

## Fraud & EMS.....

NYSDOH ISSUES STRONG WARNINGS OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION FOR FALSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

The NYS DOH has long relied on an honor code of sorts with agencies and providers when official documents are completed and submitted. Within the past year, however, the DOH has unfortunately had to remind several individuals that it's a crime to falsify documents

submitted to a State agency.

Of specific note, the DOH has reported a rise in fraudulent paperwork coming in through the CME Recertification Program. Also found have been several CICs and CLIs caught claiming to be on the active roster of an EMS agency (a basic requirement for certified instructor status) when in fact they were not riding.

Of course in both these examples, someone on the agency side had to sign the documents, attesting to the veracity of the information contained, which includes the agency in a conspiracy to commit fraud.

Verification forms, CME certificates, and any other official paperwork submitted to DOH needs to be legitimate. All personnel and agencies should

Continued on Page 4

## Gotta Be In It to Win It.....

2006 AFG PROGRAM AGAIN SEES LOCAL EMS AGENCIES RECEIVING FUNDS — 2007 FILING PERIOD ENDS MAY 4th

The 2006 federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program saw an explosion of applications. The number of awards given out almost doubled across the US. New York was the 2nd highest state in terms of both total awarded monies and the number of awardees.

Westchester services, both fire and EMS, once again were well represented among the New

York State awardees. The certified EMS agencies who received funding in 2006 were :

- Dobbs Ferry VAC
- Harrison EMS
- Hastings-on-Hudson FD
- Mamaroneck Amb Dist

To date, 9 Westchester Regional EMS agencies have won AFG awards totaling **\$387,323.00**. These grants were provided for projects ranging from training, to building improvements, to EMS equipment.

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 2007 application period opened the first week in April and will close on May 4th.



For more information go to: [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com)

## Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Services Council

2006 — 2007

### Officers

**Daniel J. Blum**  
Chairperson

**James O'Connor**  
Vice-Chairperson

**Jeffrey C. Meade**  
Treasurer

**Timothy Haydock, MD**  
Secretary

**Nicholas DeRobertis, MD**  
REMAC Chair/ Medical Director

### Executive Board

**Joseph Barca**  
Transportation

**Brendan Collins**  
Legislative & By-Laws

**Roland Faucher**  
Policies & Procedures

**Chris Kalish**  
Public Information

**Alexina Nechis**  
Training & Education

**Michael Volk**  
Communications

### Next Meetings

**REMAC—9:00 AM**  
May 21st  
June 18th

**REMSCO- 6:00 PM**  
May 24th  
June 28th (Annual Meeting)

## Lost in Translation.....

NIMS MOVING EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMUNICATION TO PLAIN ENGLISH:

In order to follow the model of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services is stressing the importance of communicating using "Plain English". With the proliferation of 10 codes and other acronyms in emer-

gency services community over many decades a common standard must be accepted. To standardize emergency communications with all emergency services partners "Plain English" is required.

During a large scale multi-jurisdictional or catastrophic event, clear and concise communications is critical to effectively, efficiently and safely

respond to, manage and mitigate an event. Having many departments using area or agency specific 10-codes only leads to communication breakdowns. "Although change is not easy or comfortable for many, the use of plain English is a matter of rescuer and public safety. If we use plain English on a day-to-day basis it won't be an issue during the time of crisis," stated Chief Michael Volk.

## Let the Games Begin.....

WESTCHESTER PLAYS HOST TO 2007 EMPIRE STATE GAMES – MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Westchester County will be the location of the 2007 Empire State Games during the last week in July (July 25th—29th). The county has been working with ESG staff for over a year, planning for support for the event. It is anticipated that there will be 7,000

participants, not including visitors. The games will need volunteers at its 23 different venues, in many different capacities. The opening ceremony at Kensico Dam is expected to have 12 – 15,000 participants. Letters are being sent from the county to all EMS agencies

advising them of venues in their districts.

To volunteer, visit the Empire State Games website [www.empirestategameswestchester.com/volunteer.htm](http://www.empirestategameswestchester.com/volunteer.htm).



[www.empirestategameswestchester.com](http://www.empirestategameswestchester.com)



**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](http://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](mailto:wremsco@wremsco.org)**

**Upcoming EMS  
Conferences / Seminars**

**May 11-12  
LifeNet 2007 Conference  
(LifeNet)**

**May 19  
Roadside to Bedside-Trauma  
(Westchester Med Ctr)**

**May 22  
EMS Week CME Day  
(Westchester REMSCO / DES)**

**Aug 24-27  
Pulse Check Conference  
(NYS VARA)**

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

For more info go to  
[www.wremsco.org](http://www.wremsco.org)

*Continued from Page 1:*

**Aspirin — cont'd**

Service Medical Directors are expected to approve of testing materials and the NYSDOH is stressing the importance of the material by requesting that all EMS agencies use NYS certified instructors (CIC, CLI) to in-service their providers. The NYSDOH is requiring that all EMS agencies keep on file records to document their compliance with the update process that has been outlined. These records must be kept at the agency so that they may be made available to the NYSDOH on demand for inspection.

A frequently asked questions (FAQs) paper has been created

to help agencies with this process. Anyone with questions regarding this material should contact the Regional EMS Office at 914-231-1616.

*Continued from Page 2:*

**EMS Week—cont'd**

For the last presentation, the LifeNet Air Medical Service's (AMS) Westchester Medical Center base crew and LNNY Medical Director Dr. David Stuhlmiller (WMC) will provide a session involving a review of AMS operations, calls requesting a helicopter at a scene and a hands-on demo in the training yard.

For more information, or to register, contact the Regional EMS Office at 914-231-1616.

*Continued from Page 2:*

**Fraud & EMS—cont'd**

seek to prevent any deceptions in all of their official duties—and not just because an audit or full service inspection by the DOH will find out otherwise. At the core of all EMS operations is an inherent trust—from patients, the community and other emergency providers— that we will be honest and reliable.

The REMSCO has proposed policies for its members to prevent impropriety at its level by addressing ethics and conflicts of interest. These drafts are posted for review on the website, [www.wremsco.org](http://www.wremsco.org). They will be voted on at the May 24th REMSCO meeting.