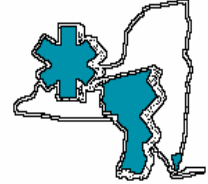




Fall 2003
Volume 1, Issue 4

Westchester Regional EMS

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS



As we come to the end of the year 2003, let me begin by thanking all the volunteer members and the staff (Katherine O'Connor and Phyllis Smalley) of the Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Services Council (WREMSCO) for all their time and effort as active participants for the EMS system of this county. I realize the sacrifices they all make and how difficult it can be on their families and their other community commitments. On behalf of the end user, the patients who live and work in Westchester, I say thank you.

Those of you who were able to join us for our annual EMS recognition ceremony at Playland were treated to one of the most beautiful days of this rainy and snowy year. EMS providers participated from throughout Westchester County with their families to receive much deserved certificates of appreciation and public acknowledgement for a job well done. This year's raffle was also quite a success thanks to Chris Kalish and his committee. The Council hopes to make next year's event even better.

The closing of 2003 will also signal the moving on of two EMS professionals who have had an impact on how we all do our jobs in the streets. The first is Commissioner Patrick Kelly of the Department of Emergency Services. Commissioner Kelly came to Westchester via Baltimore County and immediately made a name, not for just himself, but all emergency service providers throughout Westchester. He opened up lines of communication and brought essential emergency services together. Pat gave us a formidable voice to our county leaders and did so eloquently. At a time when we needed leadership most, during the events of 9/11, he and his department provided that leadership. The coordinated Westchester response on that day and the days that followed are a testament to Commissioner Kelly and the framework he put in place in the restructuring and focus of the Department of Emergency Services. The EMS community wishes to thank Pat for his contributions and wish him and his wife the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

Looking forward, I am very pleased and supportive of the actions taken by County Executive Andy Spano, in his quick and decisive naming of Anthony Sutton as Commissioner of Emergency Services. Tony, during his time as Deputy Commissioner, has handled his responsibilities expertly and with an eye on what is best for the residents of this county and the providers who serve them. His involvement in all aspects of the Department of Emergency Services makes him uniquely qualified to take on the task at hand. I know I speak for all EMS providers when I wish Mr. Sutton the best of luck.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank Mr. Edward Stolzenberg for all he has done for the EMS providers of not only Westchester County, but the entire Hudson Valley Region. Mr. Stolzenberg is an individual who will leave an everlasting impression on how we respond to EMS calls in this county. I can only imagine how many lives have been positively impacted because EMS providers in the street were able to say at the scene of an accident, "We need to get this patient to the Trauma Center". Think of the times you've uttered that phrase. Or the times you've needed the Burn Center. Ed's vision and steadfastness to bringing these services to our backyard cannot go unrecognized by EMS. Ed not only did these things but many more subtle, yet just as important things. He always thought about the pre hospital providers during the process and implementation of these wonderful, life saving services. Trust me, there are very few, if any, hospital CEO's in this country who have taken the time to sit in on EMT classes so as to better understand the EMS world and the people who serve in it. There are very few CEO's who will stop and talk to an ambulance crew in the ER, on the street or at a stand-by event and truly want to make this difficult job just a little bit easier. Mr. Stolzenberg, on behalf of thousands of EMS providers from throughout this county and the rest of the Hudson Valley, thank you for all you have done for us. We truly wish you and your family the best of luck as you catch your second wind.

**NYS DOH PILOT EMS
RE-CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
THROUGH CONTINUING
EDUCATION**

New York State continues to offer the Pilot Recertification Program, which allows active providers to renew their certification through continuing education. Agencies interested in participating in the Recertification Program are required to file an "Agency Participation Form" with the NYS DOH.

At least 72 hours of appropriate continuing education must be completed in order to renew. Different learning activities such as call audits, videos, magazine articles and lectures can be used. A complete explanation of the criteria can be found in the Renewal of Certification through Continuing Education program guide.

Those who are in the process of using this procedure to renew are reminded that all their information must be submitted to the State at least 45 days prior to their certification expiration.

For more information on this program, visit our website at <http://www.wremSCO.org>, on the Training Subpage.

EMS APPRECIATION DAY

On Sunday, September 21, 2003 emergency service providers were honored for their efforts to preserve life at the annual EMS Appreciation Day with an awards ceremony and a barbeque. The event was held on a beautiful autumn day at Playland Park in Rye and was a big success. A number of prizes from local establishments were raffled off, including dinners at many fine restaurants, movie tickets and dinner and a show at the Westchester Broadway Dinner Theatre.

Awards Presented:

- 135 Life Saving
- 75 EMS/EMD Citations
- 26 Meritorious Service

**Congratulations all of this year's
award recipients!**

**30th ANNUAL
EMS AWARDS DINNER**

The Westchester Regional EMS Council hosted the Annual Awards Dinner at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown on June 26, 2003. Over 200 guests attended the event and everyone agreed that a good time was had by all!

The following were honored:

EMT of the Year:

Peggy Mulleady, EMT-B
Brian Plunkett, EMT-B

Paramedic of the Year:

Robert Visconti, EMT-P

EMS Agency of the Year:

Harrison VAC

EMS Leadership Award:

John Filangeri, EMT-P

EMS Educator of Excellence:

Scott Harding, EMT-P/CIC

**EMS Communications Specialist
of the Year:**

Melissa Cecere, EMT-B

**Registered Professional Nurse
of Excellence:**

Frances Davis, RN

Physician of Excellence:

Melissa Weintraub, MD

EMS Volunteer of the Year:

Joan Lederman, EMT-I

Civilian Award:

Karen Montemarano, UPS

MAC CARD REMINDER!

Your ALS MAC credentialing will expire concurrent with your NYS DOH EMS Certification. Please allow ample time to apply for Credentialing Renewal. All application, forms, and credentialing procedures are available on the regional website <http://www.wremSCO.org>, on the REMAC subpage.

For further information or questions call (914) 231-1616.

PCRs

The Westchester Regional staff would like to thank all agencies and their providers for their continued efforts and support to fully complete their PCRs. On an average month, this office reviews approximately 9000 PCRs, so we really appreciate the time and consideration that is given to review them. At this time we are now returning less than 200 PCRs a month for corrections, so thank you for all your effort.

Please remember that PCRs serve not only as a legal medical document, but also as a vital tool for quality improvement (QI). Be sure to document your assessment and all findings to the best of your ability.

PCR RETURNS

As directed by the New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS (NYS DOH BEMS), Westchester Regional staff screens every PCR for the following data elements:

- 1) Date of Call
- 2) Presenting Problem
- 3) Agency Code
- 4) Location Code (Geo Code)
- 5) Social Security # (V-5s)
- 6) PAD used (V-5s)

PCRs missing any of the above listed information are returned to the agency for correction and resubmission.

If you have any questions regarding Prehospital Care Reports, please contact Phyllis Smalley (914) 231-1682 or pasb@westchestergov.com.

Please note: the WREMSCO offices will be closed on both Friday, November 28th and Friday, December 26th.



New DOH Policy Statements

NYS DOH has issued 3 new Policy Statements in the past few months:

- 03-08 EMS Provider Certification and Identification - updates and supercedes existing policies regarding the certification period, security and the requirements for the possession and production of NYS EMS certification.
- 03-09 Surrender of EMS Operating Certificates – new policy outlining a process for surrender of operating authority.
- 03-10 Extension of EMS Certification for Military Personnel – new policy for those in the military whose certification expires during active duty. Certification will be extended for the period of the military duty and for 12 months after they have been released from active duty.

To read the Policy Statements in their entirety, visit our website at <http://www.wremSCO.org>, on the Home page under “What’s New”.

VERSION 5 PCRS

The new Version-5 Prehospital Care Reports (PCRs) are in circulation and many Agencies have already received them. Please do not use the new Version-5 PCRS until all the Version-4s have been depleted.

The NYS DOH has issued a new policy providing instructions for the completion of the new Version-5 PCRS, Policy Statement No. 03-03. All providers should receive copies of this policy prior to completing one of the new version 5 PCRS for a patient contact. Changes have been made to the layout of the form and the way information needs to be provided on it. The patient name, address, call location and agency identification fields have spaces for each letter. The patient’s birthdate now must be recorded with eight (8) digits in order to include the century. Instead of checking off boxes on the PCR, circles, similar to standardized test forms, must be completely filled in to indicate the provider’s selection.

There are also two new fields. Boxes now exist for the patient’s social security number (SS#) and to indicate if the patient was defibrillated by a Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Provider. The patients’ SS#’s are being requested on the version 5 PCRS in order to capture pre-hospital data and link it to the Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS), a comprehensive patient data system that is already populated with hospital-based care data. Please make an effort to obtain this information. If a SS# is not available, or does not exist, enter all zeros (0) in this field. If a patient is distressed at the thought of providing his or her SS#, recording the last four digits will suffice for the purposes of SPARCS.

To obtain the NYS DOH policy and more information, visit our website at <http://www.wremSCO.org> and the link can be found under PCRS.

REGIONAL EMS MEETINGS

Council (REMSCO) ***(18:00hrs)***

December 2003 – Thurs. 12/4
January 2004 - TBA

Medical Advisory (REMAC) ***(09:00hrs)***

November 2003 - cancelled
December 2003 – Mon. 12/15
January 2004 – TBA

REMSCO Committees

Disaster TAG	Thurs. 11/20 at 19:00hrs
Training & Ed	Mon. 11/24 at 18:30hrs
Public Info & Ed	Thurs. 12/11 at 17:00hrs

All meetings are held at the
Dept. of Emergency Services Training Center,
4 Dana Rd., Valhalla, NY, unless otherwise noted.
Meetings are open to the public.

If your agency does not receive minutes of either the
REMAC or REMSCO meetings and would like to, please
contact the Regional Office at (914) 231 -1616 or
wremSCO@wremSCO.org

TRAINING **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Over the course of the last 6 months, the
Program Agency (Westchester County DES) has
offered many training opportunities for the EMS
community. Topics such as Hybrid Vehicle
Safety, Lightning Injuries, PCR Writing,
Penetrating Trauma and the NYS BLS Protocol
updates are just a few. Training opportunities
are announced via an email distribution list and
faxed to all agencies. If you would like to have
your email address added to the list, or have a
training announcement you would like
publicized, send us a note at
emsedu@westchestergov.com.



Save the date!

PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CONFERENCE

DATE: January 24, 2004

LOCATION: Holiday Inn, Mount Kisco

TIME: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Breakfast and lunch will be provided

Stay tuned for more information!

Westchester Regional EMS Council
4 Dana Road
Valhalla, New York 10595



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE
WESTCHESTER REGIONAL
EMS COUNCIL