

2011 EMS Week Mini Notes

Monday: May 16, 2011

Every day and every night, in every corner of our state, pagers emit high frequency tones and Emergency Medical Service personnel respond in an effort to save the lives or reduce the suffering of their neighbors, friends and even family, our medical safety net-our everyday heroes. Our state's average provider is a 40-49 year old male. The 12,267 Iowa EMS providers proudly responded to 306,212 calls in 2010. The Bureau of EMS staff thanks you and honors you during this EMS Week May 16-21, 2011!

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

The Iowa EMS System Standards are a change initiative that provides consistent accountable approach to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans through EMS. The standards describe, in a tempered and realistic manner, the minimum infrastructure (county) and EMS services that all Iowans can reasonably expect from Emergency Medical Services no matter where they live in the state. Utilizing the Iowa EMS System Standards will attain the goal of designing and implementing an integrated, measurable, sustainable state wide EMS System. Please contact the Bureau of EMS for more information on the standards and the implementation education currently being conducted.

Wednesday, May 18 2011

Children are our most precious commodity a state has to offer. They provide joy and for EMS they are a source of stress and anxiety when they are the reason for the 9-1-1 call. In the past couple of years several key national organizations and agencies have produced a variety of guidelines for EMS to utilize. These include but are not limited to the 2009 the A.A.P. put out guidelines for appropriate EMS equipment that ALL EMS services should have; 2010 NHTSA Transporting Children Safely in Ground Ambulances guidelines; and jointly A.A.P. and ACEP Guidelines for care of Children in Emergency Departments. Please take a moment and share those guidelines with your medical director and service director.

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Iowa is moving forward with an educational transition plan for providers to move from the current certification levels to the new levels identified in the National Scope of Practice Model. EMS as an industry has recognized that having 40+ levels of EMS across the United States creates confusion among the public as to who we are and what we do, as well with individuals at the various governmental levels. Iowa's Emergency medical care providers can meet the training levels through previous training, continuing education courses or on-the-job training. Check out the Bureau of EMS website and click on to the transition section of the page for more information concerning transitioning process

Friday, May 20, 2011

Thank you to the 33% who are compensated providers; the 55% who are uncompensated providers; and the 12% that are a combination of both without your efforts this would not be possible. Thank you to the 880 service and medical directors and to the business within our

communities that allow for our EMS providers to respond while on “company time!” In order to succeed in the future, rural EMS agencies must need to galvanize community support, develop strong partnerships and collaboration, and utilize new systems to measure performance and enhance quality. By utilizing the Iowa System Standards and transitioning ourselves for the future through compliance with the National Scope of Practice every Iowan young and old will be able to proudly proclaim we truly have the greatest healthcare safety net in the country-EMS our Everyday Heroes!