By now I am sure that everyone has heard all of the rumors, conspiracy theories and controversies over the upcoming FY 10 Budget. Well after you have had time to digest all of the speculation appetizers I think it is time for a main course or reality. The FY 10 Budget has been passed and published. Having said that no one in our Department will be getting laid off, furloughed or “riffed”. Our mission stands strong and true and EVERY-ONE will continue to be a part of it. However with this blessing comes a price and it is a small price that we will all have to contribute to paying.

There are two main sacrifices that we as a Department need to comprehend and address to keep our good fortune. For starters once again we have sacrificed half of our uniform and PPE budget to keep operational staffing consistent. This is not an unfamiliar occurrence and one we have been accustomed to. So what does that mean to you? Well I can assure you that we will never sacrifice safety for Spartan splendor. We will still replace worn and unsafe PPE as needed. We will still issue new uniform items but only as absolutely necessary. Please do not feel bashful about asking for replacement items if warranted. After all your uniform has been researched and designed to be part of our safety program. Needed items will absolutely be replaced, we however must be mindful of it. However with this blessing comes a price and it is a small price that we will all have to contribute to paying.

Secondly the County Commissioners have elected to begin the practice of billing for BLS service that career personnel deliver. Currently career personnel deliver 30% of all BLS services in the County. Regardless of your feelings on this subject WE as a Department need to embrace this new practice and make it successful. This new revenue source is fueling our mission and enabling us to keep minimum staffing levels consistent. So what does this mean for you? Well the only extra labor involved in this new practice is now we have to submit copies of all ALS transports as well as BLS transports. Submission of any and all ALS and BLS transports guarantees us operational staffing readiness and stability. Diligent, cautious, precise and careful paperwork completion guarantees us full service coverage throughout the County. The success of this program is dependent upon all of us and vice versa WE are dependent upon the success of this program.

We have all been through hard times in the past and this year is just slightly more challenging then the last. The bright side of the story is that we at least hold a portion of our destiny and future in our own hands if we all work as a team to make it happen. Together we can all make it through these difficult times and later tell long fabled tales to the “new guys”. As always my door is open to everyone should you have any questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact your immediate Supervisor or “the office” if you wish to opine or just vent. In these trying and challenging times we all have to work as a team. God Bless.

"Be not the slave of your own past. Plunge into the sublime seas, dive deep and swim far, so you shall come back with self-respect, with new power, with an advanced experience that shall explain and overlook the old.” Ralph Waldo Emerson
Well we as an ES family dodged a bullet on Sunday. One of our career EMS crews was involved in a MVC. Everyone is fine and no one was injured. Guess what prevented the injuries??? SEATBELTS!!! This is a good time to bring the topic up.

Remember that the Charles County Personnel Manual states that seatbelts will be worn at all times while a vehicle is in motion. This is for YOUR protection. Now, I hear some of you saying that it is impossible to wear my seatbelt because of patient care. Well you’re wrong! Think about it...the majority of our calls are routine transports...just sit and watch the patient. Are you wearing your seatbelt then??? The only reason you should be unbelted in a moving ambulance is to perform a LIFESAVING measure, ie. CPR. Even then, most procedures can be preformed in a seated and belted position.

Anything can happen at any time. The crew on Sunday was returning from a call. I am sure that they never thought that they were going to be in a collision that day! The odds are against us that this will happen again.

Remember also to secure ALL gear in the pt. compartment. Run a seatbelt through the monitor handle. Put away anything not in use ie: Portable O2 bag, STATPAK. If you need to have a bag out...run a seatbelt through the handle. My point is secure everything including yourself. Reduce the chances of something in the pt. compartment becoming a projectile during a collision.

Utilize the all the seatbelts on the stretcher to include the shoulder straps if equipped. Your pt. safety is your responsibility! Your pt. could also become a projectile and kill you in a severe collision.

If anyone needs additional convincing, let me know. I have numerous videos and pictures of the result of not wearing seatbelts and would be happy to share them .

As always, STAY SAFE!!!

EMT–P Lenharr and EMT Maddox stay safe on the job
Charles County EMS brought EMS for Children Day to Charles County on Wednesday, May 20, 2009. We were at the Regency Furniture Stadium before and during the Blue Crabs game for a special safety day. We hosted our second annual “Teddy Bear Clinic”, where we had personnel help children “patch up” their worn or injured teddies. EMT’s and Paramedics showed children their ambulances, talked about safety and the 911 system and brought goodies (stickers, coloring pages, fire hats, pencils).

We were joined by Emergency Service’s own Tactical Response Team who brought hazmat vehicles and reminded children about the dangers of chemicals. Waldorf VFD, EMS 3 brought an ambulance and a crew, Bel Alton VFD came with an ambulance and a tanker and lots of fire prevention goodies! The College of Southern Maryland was there with their EMS program, as was Southern Maryland Hospital Center and Patriot ambulance with an ambulance and a wheelchair van. Rounding out the presenters was the ever popular Charles County Sheriff’s Office Command unit, CCSO explorers with fingerprinting and DNA kits and Sheriff’s deputies with a display about bike safety and bike helmets to give away! Chief Filer was down on the field speaking to the crowd about this special day. We hope that CCEMS can continue to sponsor this event annually, and we hope that every year it grows and reminds children to stay safe during their summer vacations.

Photos courtesy Lt. Campbell
I'm currently training to participate in the Philadelphia Olympic Distance Triathlon as a member of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Team In Training. As members of Team In Training, my teammates and I are raising funds to help stop leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin lymphoma and myeloma from taking more lives. In exchange for our hard work and fundraising, we get great coaching and a chance to help others. Our team will travel together to our event on Sunday, June 28.

I am training and fundraising in honor of Adam Lumpkins. That is Adam in the photo. He is two years old and was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia on Christmas Eve in 2008. He went from being a healthy and active two year old to very sick very fast. Chemo was started quickly, only a few days later on December 28. Unfortunately, Adam's port had to be removed recently because of an infection. That means that chemo is on hold until he gets a new port, which will hopefully be soon.

Adam's parents have been proactive in telling others Adam's story and educating people on childhood leukemia. I am honored that they have shared his story and their me, so that I can pass them along to my and others that read this webpage. leukemia helps to motivate me and keep even more determined to work hard to harder and not quit when I'm tired dur- I will share Adam's journey with my him in their thoughts as they train and cancer patients and research. Because the course of this journey will be as through while fighting cancer... or what year-old are going through every day. will help to motivate and inspire others in the fight against leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Who knows, maybe one of you will be the next to sign up to do an event with Team in Training!

I hope you'll make a donation to support my participation in Team In Training and help advance LLS's mission. Donations are tax deductible and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society uses a very large percentage of all donations for direct patient services and to support research. For more details, see:

http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/all_page?item_id=12358

Thank you so much for your support! Together, we can make a big difference in the lives of people who face the hardships of cancer every day of their lives.

Kristin

p.s. Online donations are secure and you will automatically get a printable "receipt" for your records. If you are more comfortable writing a check, you can make it out to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (or just LLS) and mail it to:

Kristin Friedline
2020 Princess Anne Ave.
Richmond VA 23223"

I will send you a receipt for your records if you send me a check.

***When the system is busy, it may take up to a day for donations to show up on my web page. Do not worry if you make a donation and it does not show up immediately. Some seem to show up pretty fast and others take almost a day.***
THE PULSE

Gallery

Photos courtesy Lt. P. Wild

QUIZ OF THE MONTH:
Why is the Combitube being replaced as of July 1, 2009?
NEW POLARIS RANGER

The Charles County Department of Emergency Services recently took possession of a new 2009 Polaris Ranger. This vehicle will lend support to Emergency Medical Services and to the Tactical Response Team. It will be used for special events and for wilderness rescue.

The Ranger is capable of carrying 4 personnel plus one EMS attendant with EMS gear and a patient on the attached slide-on stokes litter.

Congratulations to Tactical Response Team Specialist Eric Raybon for his successful completion and certification as a Maryland State EMT!

Capt. Cherry

TRAINING NOTES

Maryland Medical Protocols For EMS Providers - Update 2009
"Meet the Protocols"

EMT-B's must complete only:
BLS Protocol Update 2009

CRT-99's and EMT-P's must complete:
ALS Protocol Update 2009 (Part 1)
ALS Protocol Update 2009 (Part 2)

OR

Instructors may obtain a copy of both programs from their MIEMSS Regional Office
THE PULSE

CAUGHT IN THE ACT!

….of doing the right thing

* Don Giampetroni and Aldo Zambrana: Positive editorial from a patient’s mother: May 13, 2009, Maryland Independent

* Monica Reeher and Ray Richards: Positive feedback from a patient’s family via “blue cards”: June 4, 2009

* Tracey Fillman, Jamie Lumpkins, Margie Powers: “Save” a patient in cardiac arrest: May 28, 2009

* Michelle Mycka, Cheryl Rasmussen
**THE PULSE**

**Mark Your Calendars....**

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*June 2009*

*July 2009*
Mission Statement

The mission of Charles County Government is to provide our citizens the highest quality service possible in a timely, efficient, and courteous manner. To achieve this goal, our government must be operated in an open and accessible atmosphere, be based on comprehensive long- and short-term planning, and have an appropriate managerial organization tempered by fiscal responsibility.

Vision Statement

Charles County is a place where all people thrive and businesses grow and prosper; where the preservation of our heritage and environment is paramount; where government services to its citizens are provided at the highest level of excellence; and where the quality of life is the best in the nation.

Commissioners of Charles County:
Wayne Cooper, President
Dr. Edith J. Patterson, Vice President
Samuel N. Graves Jr.
Reuben B. Collins II
Gary V. Hodge

Mission Statement CCEMS

It is the mission of the Charles County Department of Emergency Services, EMS Division to provide superior quality emergency medical support to the citizens of Charles County, Maryland and requesting jurisdictions.

Vision Statement CCEMS

With well-trained, capable and professional personnel; The Charles County Department of Emergency Services, EMS Division will provide the best premium quality of preventative and emergency care in the fastest, most efficient and cost effective manner possible to the citizens of Charles County, Maryland and requesting jurisdictions. It is the goal of the Charles County Emergency Services, EMS Division to be at the vanguard of pre-hospital emergency care.

ANSWER TO QUIZ:
The Combitube contained Latex and is being replaced with dual lumen tubes that are latex free.