

# *From the Chief*

Greetings,

Springtime is upon us which means that our Field Coordinators are back out doing site visits and exams. You will notice a change in the site visits in that I have asked the EMS Section to explore ways to add value to you during their annual site visits. I think they have come up with a great plan! Dean and his team have developed a short list of topics that they will cover with you during your annual site visit. We will freshen up the list with current topics of interest on a recurring basis so you can expect a fresh list of topics each year.

We had a busy and successful legislative session. We started off the session with our new EMS Agency Rules. The new rules were approved and will go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The biggest change that you will see is that the new licensure model is more descriptive than the current model. The new model also allows us to issue a single license to an organization that has to carry two or more licenses today. I think the new model is a positive change for all of us. You can count on your Field Coordinator to go over the new model with you during your next site visit.

The other big news from the 2014 legislative session was the passage of Senate Bill 1329 (SB1329). SB1329 is the enabling legislation for Idaho's Time Sensitive Emergency System of Care. Idaho was one of only a few states without a statewide trauma system. We are now the first state to implement a system for trauma, stroke and heart attacks at the same time. The administrative home for the TSE system will be in our bureau so you will be hearing much more about it over the next year or so. Please stay tuned!

We had a very successful tour of the state last fall during our first round of "Chat with the Chief". I am looking forward to doing it again. I would like to get out earlier this year so I am looking at some time in mid to late summer. If I have not been to your agency in the past few years and you'd like to host, please let me know so we can start planning.

That's all of the news from my desk. I would like to close by thanking each of you for all you do. Idaho is a better place to live and play because of you. Stay safe and I hope to see you soon.

Wayne

Keeping you in the know is important to the Bureau of EMS & Preparedness! That is why this newsletter has been developed. The Bureau wants to keep you, the EMS providers of Idaho, up-to-date with some of the goings-on at the Bureau and with overall EMS in the state. We invite you to offer suggestions, contributions, stories, photos, recognitions, newspaper articles, or general comments about our newsletter or anything else you would like to see in it.

Send us an email at [idaheems@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:idaheems@dhw.idaho.gov)

For an online version of the newsletter, visit us at [www.idahoems.org](http://www.idahoems.org)

# In The kNOW

SPRING 2014

Idaho's EMS Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 5

## Do's and Don'ts When You Transition

Licensed EMS providers with an expiration date of March 31, 2014, were the first renewal applicants who were required to complete their transition training in order to renew their license. This requirement is now in place for all renewal applicants who have not transitioned. We found some common errors associated with applications submitted and would like agencies and providers to consider the following Do's and Don'ts when submitting applications for transitioning with license renewal.

### Do

- Enroll in and complete a Bureau approved transition course. All transition course coordinators must submit a completion roster listing the personnel who have completed the course.
- Ask your course coordinator for the course number.
- Submit a transition application with your renewal application and include your transition course number.
- Complete your renewal application appropriately. If your transition course length is greater than 75% of your CE requirements, you are exempt from the Venues, but not the Categories.

### Don't

- Practice new scope of practice skills until you have applied for and received your license from the Bureau and are credentialed by your Medical Director
- Think the online lessons on CentreLearn or FISDAP are a transition course. They are just lessons and must be adopted by the course you enroll in. Taking these lessons without enrolling in a transition course will only get you CE's.

## IDAHO VITALS

### QUARTERLY PROVIDER LICENSES (Jan-Mar, 2014)

	Initial	Renewal	Transition	State Total
EMR	2	1	6	319
EMT	74	84	100	2,526
AEMT	12	77	3	874
PARAMEDIC	20	73	89	738

### QUARTERLY AGENCY LICENSES

**New:** Portneuf Medical Center, Bannock Co., ALS NT  
Shoshone County EMS, Shoshone Co., ALS-3 Ambulance  
PACT EMS, Latah Co., ALS Event Stand By Ambulance

### Agency Modifications:

Lifeflight Network—Added ground ambulance services  
Air St. Luke's—Added ground ambulance services  
Ada Boi—Added Air Medical services  
Injury Care EMS—Added critical transfer

### Retired:

St. Patrick's Life Flight, Missoula, Montana, ALS-1  
Worley Ambulance Service, Kootenai Co., ILS  
Richfield QRU, Lincoln Co., BLS  
Playing Buffalo EMS, Statewide, ALS-2

### QUARTERLY WRITTEN EXAM NUMBERS

	Tested	First-Time Pass
EMR	1	1
EMT	187	106
AEMT	44	21
PARAMEDIC	18	16

### INVESTIGATION TOTALS

	Agency	Provider	Education
Open Cases:	13	30	6
Cases Closed:	0	0	0
New Cases:	2	4	1

### We've Moved

The new office location for the Bureau is 2224 E. Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, ID 83712-8249

### Bureau Staff Update

Lori Biss—Technical Records Specialist  
Bruce Cheeseman—EMS Section Program Manager  
Brian Esslinger—Program Specialist  
Janna Nicholson & Mindi Anderson—Field Coordinators  
Rae Thomas—Records Lead

Barbara Freeman Retired	Vacant—	Preparedness Planner
Cate Lavey Retired		Preparedness Education Specialist
Chris Stoker Resigned		

Keep Kids  
Safe in  
Hot Weather.

NEVER  
Leave Them  
in the Car.

The weather is warming up, and we'll soon be celebrating summer. Did you know that the temperature inside a car can rise almost 20 degrees in the first ten minutes?<sup>1</sup> And, on average, every ten days a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle.<sup>2</sup>

Now is a great time to remind your communities of the dangers of leaving children in closed cars, even for a few minutes.

For more information and resources, see the "Heat Injuries" links on the EMS for Children website.

1. nhtsa.gov/safety/hyperthermia
2. safekids.org/heatstroke



For more  
information  
contact Erin Shumard at  
[shumarde@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:shumarde@dhw.idaho.gov)

## Become an Everyday HERO!

In an emergency, the immediate deployment of emergency medical personnel is critical. However, such events can quickly overwhelm hospitals and health systems with individuals urgently in need of care. In addition, it is often difficult in the midst of a disaster to locate qualified volunteers and coordinate large volunteer efforts. The **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** was created to engage volunteers to strengthen public health preparedness, emergency response, and community resilience. In Idaho, volunteers with varying degrees of skills and abilities are essential during an emergency. Idaho's MRC units are managed through an online portal called **Volunteer Idaho**. There are seven (7) MRC units distributed across the state.

After registering as a public health volunteer through **Volunteer Idaho**, and in the event of a disaster, you will receive an alert requesting volunteers. You will then have the chance to accept or decline the volunteer request. There is no obligation to participate in an activation. Training is free and no medical background is necessary.

Emergencies give rise to thousands of everyday heroes. You can be one of them. Register now to join the Medical Reserve Corps through **Volunteer Idaho**. For more information on the MRC unit in your area, visit [www.volunteeridaho.org](http://www.volunteeridaho.org)!

*In Idaho, Public Health Emergency Preparedness refers to the ability of Public Health Agencies, healthcare systems, communities, and individuals to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies like natural disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, acts of bioterrorism, or any other event that affects the lives of Idahoans. The Preparedness Team at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare works collaboratively with the seven Public Health Districts to ensure Idahoans are ready to respond and recover when faced with a public health disaster. For more information on Idaho's Public Health Preparedness Program visit [www.readyidaho.org](http://www.readyidaho.org)!*



## Resources & Websites

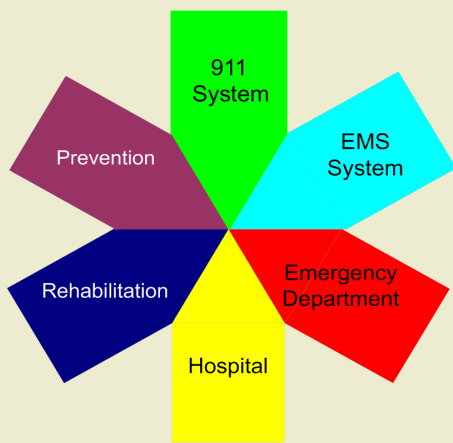
Bureau of EMS and Preparedness	<a href="http://www.idahoems.org">www.idahoems.org</a>
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	<a href="http://www.READYidaho.org">www.READYidaho.org</a>
TRAIN Idaho—Learning Management System	<a href="https://id.train.org">https://id.train.org</a>
EMS for Children	<a href="http://www.idahoems.org">www.idahoems.org</a> (click on EMS for Children)



Bureau of EMS and Preparedness  
P.O Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0036  
208.334.4000 (Office)  
877.554.3367 (toll-free)  
208.334.4015 (fax)  
[www.idahoems.org](http://www.idahoems.org)

# In The kNOW

## EMS Providers Given A Say in PCR Data Standards



Healthcare Information

Beginning in 2006 the Idaho EMS system began the process of transitioning from scanned bubble-sheets to computerized prehospital care documentation. From the outset it has been generally received as a positive change whether it be legibility of the record or the fact that the provider gets immediate feedback and does not experience the frustration of getting bubble-sheets sent back to them six weeks later for corrections. This change has provided better quality information to the state and according to many service administrators better quality information to manage the services at the local level.

Currently, 137 licensed EMS agencies input their information directly to the state using Idaho PERCS (Pre-hospital Electronic Records Collection System). Another 17 agencies submit data exports to the state using their own ePCR (electronic Patient Care Report) data system. To date, we have 660,000+ EMS records in PERCS.

Shortly after adopting the National EMS Information System NEMSIS) Data Dictionary Version 2.2.1, and defining the Idaho Specific data requirements, work begin in 2009 at the national level on NEMSIS Version 3. It has been a long and challenging process for the following reasons:

- Incorporation of greater detail in the values (Provider Impressions, Medications, and Procedures).
- Alignment to the HL-7 data standard that is the most common standard used by hospital Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems to allow integration of the ePCR into the hospital record.
- Alignment to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) standard being used in clinical and trauma information systems.
- Addition of additional data points for Cardiac Arrests, STEMI, and Stroke care.

We have begun the process of defining the information EMS providers in Idaho will complete using the NEMSIS V3 Data Dictionary. This work is being performed by a sub-committee/workgroup of the EMS Advisory Committee (EMSAC). The specific goal of developing this standard is so we can implement it in PERCS and share it with software vendors that support Idaho licensed EMS agencies. The plan is to define the Idaho specific elements by the end of 2014 and submit rule changes to the 2016 legislature. We anticipate that while PERCS will be readily able to make the transition we need to allow a year for transition for the private software vendors. This one year transition will conclude June 30, 2017. If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact Brent Jennings, Chairperson, [brent.jennings@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:brent.jennings@itd.idaho.gov) or John Cramer at [cramerj@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:cramerj@dhw.idaho.gov).

## Bureau Partners With Agencies for Grant Stewardship

As of the FY2015 EMS Account III Dedicated Grant cycle, we will have distributed almost \$17,000,000 to purchase patient care equipment and vehicles. Since 2001, 177 Idaho EMS agencies have benefited from these awards. We take great pride in the ability to serve the population of Idaho with this grant program.

We are accountable to Idaho taxpayers to be sure the equipment and vehicles that have been purchased through the grant program are being used for the purpose they were awarded. This includes assuring the equipment and vehicles are being kept in good working order.

Our accountability processes:

- Field Coordinators verify granted items that are within 5 year security agreements during yearly site visits
- Agencies awarded vehicles provide proof of vehicle insurance to Bureau yearly for 5 years
- Agencies that are awarded equipment items valued at \$2000 or more report item serial numbers to the Bureau

When agencies retire their license, they must return all awarded equipment within the 5 year security agreement to the Bureau. If a vehicle is involved, any grant award vehicle is returned to the Bureau regardless of age unless the agency has exercised the right to have the lien released. Lien releases are allowed after 5 years. We redistribute all equipment and vehicles from retired agencies back into the community served by the retired agency whenever possible.

The FY2015 grant application is now available on our website.

EMS Account III FY2015 Dedicated Grant Application is available on line:

[www.idahoems.org](http://www.idahoems.org)