

Editor's Note:

My apologies! The Winter 2013 newsletter that was mailed has the incorrect numbers for the Quarterly Provider Licenses under the Idaho Vitals section. This online version reflects this quarter's actual numbers.

~ Thaddeus

# *From the Chief*

Welcome back to “In the KNOW”! It has only been a short time since our last newsletter, but it has been a busy few months!

I would like to start off with a quick introduction to Community Health EMS or CHEMS. CHEMS is known as Community Paramedicine in some areas of the US, but we prefer to not limit our thinking strictly to Advanced Life Support. In order to provide a venue for brainstorming and sharing best practices about CHEMS, we have established a CHEMS subcommittee in the EMS Advisory Committee. We have already seen CHEMS programs emerge in Bonner and Ada Counties. There are discussions about how similar programs might fit into other communities. It is still very early in the conversation so details are still rather foggy, but we will do our best to keep you informed as CHEMS develops.

The spring thaw is rapidly approaching and with it comes the EMS conference season. I plan to get out to as many local conferences as I can and hope to see you at one. I am really pleased at the growth of educational conferences that we have experienced over the past year. We held conferences in Coeur d’Alene, Grangeville, Boise, Sun Valley, Twin Falls and Idaho Falls. 2013 looks to be another great year in that we expect to have all of the same conferences back again and one or two new ones! Please check our website often for news about conference locations and dates.

We published our report on the Volunteer EMS Town Hall Meetings that we held last summer. The report serves as a blueprint of sorts for us as we plan our present and future work. We have provided copies of the report to the legislature and made it available on our website. I encourage you to read it if you have not had a chance to do so.

Speaking of the legislature—I am happy to report that we have had some very positive interactions with the 2013 Idaho Legislature. There is a bill making its way through the legislative process that will establish a special license plate for volunteer EMS providers. If the bill passes, we will be responsible for developing the plate design. We plan to follow a process similar to what we used to develop the new shoulder patch. We will ask the EMS community for their help in developing and selecting the artwork for the plate.

Rule writing is back on the agenda. We got back to work on the Agency Licensure and Education Rules that we started a few years ago. We have met once with the workgroups for each of the rules and have made some very good headway. We hope to have both sets of rules ready to take on the road to review with you before next winter.

There is so much happening; I am sure I have missed a few things. I will apologize in advance for missing the items that I didn’t have room to include. Please stay tuned! I hope to see you soon. Stay safe and thanks for all you do!

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. With that, 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 [idahoems@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:idahoems@dhw.idaho.gov). For an online version of the newsletter, visit [www.IdahoEMS.org](http://www.IdahoEMS.org).



Boise Firefighters Pipes & Drums, along with other Idaho firefighters, marched in the Inauguration Day Parade in Washington, D.C. (Jan. '13)

## Physician Commission Highlights the Optional Modules

The Idaho EMS Physician Commission (EMSPC) met in early February. While they discussed many things, the Commission outlined their expectations for optional module (OM) skills verification and credentialing with regard to the 2011 Scopes of Practice:

- Medical Directors are required to verify competency of all OM skills used by their agency
- Records of continuing education (CE) and skills verification for OMs shall be kept by agencies and are subject to random audits at the time of agency license renewal site visits by the Bureau of EMS & Preparedness. Agencies will be notified 30 days prior to the scheduled site visit to provide OM credentialing records.
- Training hours used to maintain OM skills *may not* be used toward CE hours for personnel license renewal. These skills are optional and are considered above the floor scopes of practice.
- Agencies must maintain the minimum equipment required for their authorized OMs.

*Meeting notes and highlights may be viewed online (see Resources & Websites below).*

## IDAHO VITALS

### QUARTERLY PROVIDER LICENSES:

	Initial	Renewed	Transitioned	State Total
EMR	7	46	12	342
EMT	97	210	108	2519
AEMT	29	230	0	977
PARA	15	73	33	710

### QUARTERLY AGENCY LICENSES:

#### Newly Licensed Agencies:

Treasure Valley EMS System; Canyon County  
ALS 1 - Ambulance & ALS 1 - Nontransport

#### Agency Licenses Vacated:

Caldwell Fire & Rescue; Canyon County  
Canyon County Ambulance District; Canyon County  
Melba QRU; Canyon County  
Middleton Rural Fire District; Canyon County  
Nampa Fire Department; Canyon County  
Wilder QRU; Canyon County

### QUARTERLY WRITTEN EXAM NUMBERS:

Tested: 226  
First-Time Pass: 157

### QUARTERLY INVESTIGATIONS TOTALS:

	Agency	Provider	Education
New	4	13	0
Open	14	21	5
Closed	0	8	1

The new *Basic Life Support Psychomotor Exam User's Guide – January 2013* is now available (see Resources & Websites below)!

### Monthly Allowance

The Idaho EMS for Children (EMSC) Program will be accepting grant applications soon! There will be many exciting items available to help agencies be better prepared to take care of their smallest patients. Some of the items available will be:

- BLS Jump Kits
- EZ-IO Drill Sets
- Lower Extremity Traction Devices

Stay tuned—the application will be available sometime mid-March.

Questions? Contact Erin Shumard at 334-2124 or at [shumarde@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:shumarde@dhw.idaho.gov).

### Caught in the Act

On a recent air medical rendezvous with Air St. Luke's, Carter Duke, EMS Director for Boise County's Horseshoe Bend Ambulance, spotted a loose belt hanging from the side of the helicopter. Fortunately, Mr. Duke was able to cancel the takeoff so the problem could be corrected. Mr. Duke's actions embodied the focus and the importance of the Landing Zone Officer training. Mr. Duke was recognized for his outstanding actions by members of Air St. Luke's staff. "Without your diligence, we can't operate safely," said Joe Levitch, Air St. Luke's Paramedic and Landing Zone Officer instructor.



The new Idaho EMSC logo!

### Getting the Gold Star

The Bureau would also like to extend a big "Congratulations!" to the City of Chubbuck Fire Department. They are the first agency to have all of their providers transitioned and licensed to the new EMT 2011 Scope of Practice! Thank you for being in the forefront and leading the way – well done!

## Resources & Websites

EMSPC meeting draft minutes and highlights:

<http://www.idahoems.org>; click on the Physician Commission tab, then scroll to the bottom of the page

BLS Psychomotor Exam User's Guide:

<http://www.idahoems.org>; click on the Education tab, then look under Resources

EMS for Children:

<http://www.idahoems.org>; click on the EMS for Children

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# StateComm-on Denominator



Dynamic Message Signs display messages to motorists, warning of hazards & providing information.

*The Dynamic Message Signs (DMSs) operated by StateComm for ITD are available to emergency responders 24/7/365 to help alert the motoring public to situations taking place on the highway ahead of them. If you are responding to an incident on the state highway system that has any of these signs in the nearby vicinity, you (or your dispatch) can contact StateComm directly and request the sign(s) be activated. Location of the situation and impact to the highway (how many lanes are blocked, for example) is key to posting effective messages on the DMSs. If StateComm believes the incident may last longer than an hour, they will also post an event in the 511 Travel Information system. Depending on the severity of the situation, notification is also made to the local ITD Maintenance Foreman Areas.*

What do the Department of Health & Welfare (DHW) and the Idaho Department of Transportation (ITD) have in common? StateComm!

## Getting Started

The Idaho State EMS Communications Center (StateComm), a component of the Idaho Bureau of EMS & Preparedness, is a 24/7/365 statewide dispatch and emergency resource coordination center. In the fall of 1997, StateComm became the after-hour, weekend, and holiday dispatching service for ITD. The role of StateComm was to dispatch snow plows, sanding trucks, and emergency maintenance crews on the state highway system, as well as to gather and disseminate road condition information to the public through the 888-IDA-ROAD road report phone system. After the first year, ITD realized the value of having StateComm provide these services and soon renegotiated the contract to include 24/7/365 dispatching services.

EMS agencies are now being included in the pre-construction planning meetings with ITD and contractors along with law enforcement and fire departments. If your agency is not receiving these invitations, contact your local ITD District Office to speak with someone regarding Pre-Construction Planning Meetings:

- Coeur d'Alene – (208)772-1200
- Boise – (208) 334-8300
- Pocatello – (208) 239-3300
- Lewiston – (208) 799-5090
- Shoshone – (208) 886-7800
- Rigby – (208) 745-7781

These meetings allow for emergency responders to have input into the construction zone planning and have direct points of contact for those work zones.

## Crunching Numbers

Over the past 15 years, the services provided to ITD have grown to include the operations of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) like the 511 Travel Information system (see below), 57 dynamic message signs (DMS), closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, and upcoming Highway Advisory Radio (HAR). StateComm also provides dispatch, coordination, and information relay for traffic signal issues on the state highway system, downed traffic signs, and highway construction emergencies. In 2012 alone, StateComm logged over 5,000 highway-related emergencies and activated over 7,000 messages on DMSs around the state. This unique relationship with ITD has afforded DHW the opportunity to put in place an agreement allowing DHW to utilize the DMSs during a public health emergency, the first agreement of its kind in the country.

## Speedy Delivery

When every second counts, having first-hand communications with ITD snowplows and construction sites gives StateComm the ability to more easily coordinate the movements of EMS units through tough areas. StateComm is able to simultaneously provide Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) and pre-arrival instructions as well as send out the appropriate EMS units as soon as the radio call comes in from ITD.

FOR MORE ON THE 5-1-1 TRAVELER INFORMATION SYSTEMS,  
DIAL 5-1-1 OR VISIT [WWW.511.IDAHO.GOV](http://WWW.511.IDAHO.GOV).

*Credit for this article goes to Michele Carreras, Communications Manager for the Idaho State EMS Communications Center.*



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH & WELFARE**