

From the Chief

Welcome to our third edition of "In the kNOW"! We weren't sure how the newsletter would be received when we published the first edition last fall, but from everything I am hearing, I think it has legs!

"Closing the loop" on a few items that I mentioned in the last newsletter is a logical place to start off this edition. I wrote about a bill that was circulating through the legislative process that would have created a volunteer EMS license plate. The bill looked like it would be successful early on, but ran into opposition during the process and ultimately was not passed. I also mentioned that we had rule writing back on the agenda. We have the Agency Licensure Rule in a near final draft condition that Chris Stoker has been sharing throughout the state during a month long townhall meeting tour. Chris has picked up several great observations along the way that we will get to work on incorporating into the final Rule once Chris gets his bag unpacked!

If you haven't heard, we have been working on a couple of projects that we are pretty excited about. I'd like to take an inch or so of white space here to share some of the highlights with you.

On-Line CE Tracker: We are working toward allowing you to use the web to manage many of the processes that previously relied on moving paper around. We are in the early stages of developing and fielding the external facing components of our licensure database. The first piece of the process is the CE Tracker that allows you to track your continuing education with an automated tool that not only records your CE, but also does the math for you and lets you know which categories and venues you need to meet your CE for license renewal. Our goal is to fully automate the licensure process so you will be able to track your renewal requirements on-line and then submit with the push of a button! We also hope to be able to provide tools to agency training officers and administrators that will allow them to track the training condition their entire agency on a single screen. Much more to come on this topic!

On Line Rural Training Initiative (ORTI): ORTI is not a very glamorous name, but it is looking like a project with real promise. The vision for ORTI is to have a process where volunteers can get their initial EMS education delivered to them when and where is most convenient for them. We have identified several agencies that are going to pilot the new program for us before the end of this year. Stay tuned for more on ORTI as it continues to evolve!

I have only scratched the surface on "what's new", but hopefully covered a few of the items that we are working on to help you keep doing great work. I hope to be in your neighborhood soon and get a chance to talk to you in person. 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 the launch of this newsletter, 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 idaheoms@dhw.idaho.gov. For an online version of the newsletter, visit www.IdahoEMS.org.



Your EMS License is YOUR responsibility.

The Bureau sends out a reminder when you are approaching your expiration date but it is ultimately your responsibility to maintain and renew your license each cycle. Idaho EMS licenses expire either March 31st or September 30th each year. EMR and EMT license terms are typically 3 years; AEMT and Paramedic license terms are typically 2 years. Be sure to check the expiration date on your license to make sure you know when it expires. Also, you don't have to wait until the last minute either, providers are allowed to submit renewal applications up to 6 months prior to the expiration date.

In The kNOW

Spring 2013

Idaho's EMS Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 3

Townhall Meetings:

During April and May the Bureau hosted 13 townhall meetings throughout the state to introduce the proposed rule chapters "EMS Agency Licensing Requirements" and "EMS Rule Definitions." EMS personnel that attended these meetings were able to review the rule chapters, ask questions and provide feedback and recommendations. The rules will next be presented to the Board of Health and Welfare and go through another public comment period in preparation for their presentation to the 2014 Legislative Session. You can find a draft copy of the rule chapters at www.IdahoEMS.org on the right hand side of the page under "What's New". If you would like to make comments on the rule, please email them to IdahoEMS@dhw.idaho.gov.



IDAHO VITALS

QUARTERLY PROVIDER LICENCES:

	Initial	Renewal	Transition	State Total
EMR	16	13	6	337
EMT	82	122	98	2,578
AEMT	10	66	2	960
PARAMEDIC	17	8	41	720

QUARTERLY AGENCY LICENSES:

No New Agency Licenses Were Issued This Quarter

Non-Transport to Transport License:

Inkom QRU, Bannock County - BLS Ambulance

Agency Licenses Vacated:

St. Luke's Magic Valley, Twin Falls County

QUARTERLY WRITTEN EXAM NUMBERS:

	Tested	First-Time Pass
EMR	17	15
EMT	157	117
AEMT	19	12
PARAMEDIC	6	4

INVESTIGATION TOTALS:

	Agency	Provider	Education	Total Closed: 16
New:	1	2	0	
Open:	7	5	5	

DID YOU KNOW?

Theoretically, it takes about 3500 calories to equal one pound of body weight. That means you would have to burn 3500 calories more than you take in, or eat 3500 calories less than normal over a period of time to lose one pound!



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN ...

Mosquito Repellent



And Sunscreen



Will help keep YOU protected!



COMING SOON TO A STATION NEAR YOU!

In July, the EMS for Children Program will begin reassessing all Idaho EMS agencies for their capacity to care for ill and injured children. This assessment will help the EMS for Children Program Specialist understand where agencies are in terms of pediatric preparedness and what can be done to assist agencies. Stay tuned! Agency administrators will begin receiving information from us soon regarding this effort.

"Please help me help you help little ones!" ~Erin Shumard
EMS for Children Program Specialist



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

SENATE BILL NO. 1116

AN ACT RELATING TO ORGAN DONOR NOTIFICATION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013

Senate Bill 1116 amends Section 39-3413, Idaho Code. Emergency responders (law enforcement, firefighter, EMS provider, coroner or other emergency responder) will make a reasonable search of an individual who is dead or near death for documentation of organ donor status. If organ donor identification is found, the emergency responder will (as soon as reasonably possible) notify StateComm of the location where the deceased will be transported to and the deceased individual's name and date of birth (if known).

What does this mean to you? If you encounter a patient who is deceased or near death; inform StateComm as soon as reasonably possible.

The full document can be found at:
www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2013/S1116



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)

Would We Be READYidaho?



Figure 1: IDHWOC Staff from the Division of Public Health, Idaho State Lab, Public Information, and Insight Global Consulting.

As Idahoans anticipate their entrance into yet another drought-ridden, wild-fire burdened summer, your Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team and many others sought to test plans to respond to events that are less predictable or cyclical in Idaho's calendar...the threat of Bioterrorism. After nearly two years of arduous

planning, evaluating, recruiting, and promoting, Idaho Public Health kicked off its 2013 State-wide Medical Countermeasure Full-Scale Exercise on April 29th. The simulated anthrax attack scenario exposed nearly all of Idaho's residents precipitating the activation of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Operations Center (IDWHOC) for three days. Spearheaded by the Preparedness Team, supported by the Federal Government, numerous Bureau Chiefs, the Division of Public Health Administrator, all seven Public Health Districts (PHDs), as well as many community partners and key stakeholders, the full-scale exercise tested Public Health's ability to receive life-saving medication from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during a public health emergency. Utilizing the CDC's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), the IDHWOC relied upon a near flawlessly functioning Receive, Stage, and Store (RSS) warehouse unit for the receipt of medication



Figure 2: Medications being readied for shipment to the PHDs at the Idaho RSS Warehouse.

from the SNS. After receipt, medications were apportioned based on population and distributed to all seven PHDs. Once the medications were shipped under tight security to their appropriate PHD destinations, inventory was taken, public information was disseminated, and Points of Dispensing (PODs) were set-up for the next day. Hundreds of volunteers from each district assumed the role of "exposed" residents and each one reported to their local POD for receipt of their initial medication regimen. Operating under strict CDC guidelines for providing prophylaxis to the entire exposed population, IDHW and the seven PHDs successfully responded to the simulated anthrax attack by dispensing medication to all within the 48-hour deadline. Learning from and correcting any deficiencies that were noted during the exercise were some of the primary objectives of the exercise. Exercises like this one help the Preparedness Team and all those supporting the mission to prepare for any contingencies that may arise during a public health emergency. The Preparedness Team would like to thank everyone involved in making this exercise a success and for continuing to prepare for, respond to, and recover from any event that threatens the health of Idahoans during a public health emergency.

For more information on Idaho's preparedness efforts, visit READYidaho.org

Article by: Scott Hutton, Barb Blakesley and Cate Lavey

COMING SOON: Letters to the Editor

Beginning with the next edition (4th edition), In The kNOW will feature a regular, "Letters to the Editor" section. The purpose of this column will be to provide a forum where folks can bring forth issues and concerns in a positive and productive manner, share information, find answers to questions or just share an inspirational story! Submissions can be sent via fax, regular mail or by email to IdahoEMS@dhw.idaho.gov



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE



Track your continuing education electronically!

Your access to the Bureau's database, IWISE, has finally become a reality! You can change your address, phone number or email address, view your license information, and best of all, track your continuing education electronically. The CE tracker in IWISE was built to allow you to enter CE as it happens, and to help take some of the confusion out of the venue and category requirements. Over 500 providers have set up accounts in IWISE! You can set up your account by going to www.idahowise.org. There is a recorded webinar available on the Bureau website that can walk you step by step through the set up process, all the way to entering CE. The Bureau website also has resources to define and give examples of specific categories and venues. Using the CE tracker is just the first step the Bureau is taking to make the renewal process electronic. Over the coming years there will be more and more enhancements to IWISE that will allow providers and agency administrators more electronic tools. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Tara Knight at knightt@dhw.idaho.gov.

Resources & Websites

Bureau of EMS and Preparedness www.IdahoEMS.org
Public Health Emergency Preparedness www.READYidaho.org
Electronic CE Tracker - IWISE www.idahowise.org
EMS for Children www.idaho.org; click on EMS for Children