

EMS
Governor's Advisory Council

August 7, 2008
Hot Springs Convention Center
Minutes

Member's Present

Dr. Timothy Calicott
Garry Odom
Norbert Gunderman, Jr.
Todd Freeman
Rod Barrett
Doug Duerr
Tony Hickerson
David Stoppel
Dr. Monte Gagliardi
Kenneth Starnes
Jamin Snarr

Member's Absent

Billy Artis
Cathee Terrell
Dr. Schmidt
Jeff Priebe
Richard Taft
CC McAllister
Deloris Sykes

ADH Staff

David Taylor
Sonya Sampson
Norajean Miles Harrell
Addie Grigsby-Roshell
Larry New
Brian Nation
Detrich Smith
Kenny Tutor

Visitors

Pam Rollins
Kathy Boyle
Denis Carson
DJ Satterfield
Jerry Cohen
Anne Roberts

William Tate, MD
Stephen R Sims
Jim Basse
Keith Wesley, MD
Zachary Starnes
Robert Chastain

David Myers
Myra Looney Wood
Robby Hines
Mike Hines
Danny Bercher

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Timothy Calicott called the EMS Advisory Council to order on August 7, 2008 at the EMS Conference, Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs, AR at 1:10 pm.

II. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Members and guests introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The floor was opened for approval of the May 15, 2008 Minutes. A motion was made by David Stoppel and seconded by Jamin Snarr. The motion passed and minutes were approved by the Council.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Director's Update – David Taylor gave the Director's update. He handed out for review and discussed the following:

Process over Rules and Regulations:

Rules and Regulations revisions are complete regarding Out-of-State Ambulance Contracts for Disaster Assistance. All services have been notified and the new rule is posted on the Section of Emergency Medical Services' website www.healthyarkansas.com/ems.

Colleague Update:

Mr. James Johnson transferred to the Department of Health's Emergency Communication Center (ECC). Mr. Johnson started his career in the ECC and the Section wishes him luck and success in his new career.

Mr. Taylor introduced the Section's newest colleague Kenny Tutor. Kenny is an EMT-Paramedic and has been in the pre-hospital emergency medical career field for over 22 years. The Section welcomes Mr. Tutor and wishes him luck in his new position.

The Section currently has one EMS Specialist vacancy and expects to fill the vacancy as quickly as possible. Mr. Taylor stated he would keep the Council informed of progress.

Effective November 24, 2008, Federal Highway Code 23-CFR-634 will go into effect regarding Worker Visibility - High-visibility Safety Apparel Mandate. Mr. Taylor distributed Section memo 835 that was mailed to all Arkansas licensed services (see attachment A) regarding the mandate. Ambulance services must provide protective equipment and Mr. Taylor recommended the vest be placed on the mandatory equipment list during the next update.

Mr. Taylor reviewed with the Council a new electronic paperless system that the Section has purchased to store certification and ambulance service files. The program is currently installed and the staff is testing the system prior to going live. The Section expects to have all EMT certification and ambulance service files scanned into the new system within two years.

A-1 Certification Update – Norajean Miles gave the following certification report:

September 30, 2008 recertification (ongoing)

Recertification packets mailed on July 7, 2008 - 1568

Classes Approved by the Section of EMS and Trauma Systems for 2008:

Basic classes 13 ongoing or complete during August, 08
Basic refresher classes: 105 completed between Jan and July 2008
4 classes scheduled to begin Sept-Dec.
Advanced classes: 21 ongoing classes will complete in 08 /09 (2 testing in August)
5 complete in July – in the testing process
1 Intermediate complete in July 08
4 beginning again in August/September
Advanced Refresher classes: 48 scheduled since 1/1/08.
(39 completed by Aug 1)

New Certification

Certified in 2007 (includes reciprocity) 549
Newly Certified in 2008 (includes reciprocity) 364 (+122 since May)

Reciprocity

Advance Reciprocity candidates:
Certified via Reciprocity in 2007 62
Certified since January 1, 2008 32
Active files waiting on required documents 3
Basic Reciprocity candidates:
Certified via reciprocity in 2007 52
Certified since January 1, 2008 34
Active files waiting on required documents 32

Continuing Education

CEU total approved in 2006 3224
CEU total approved in 2007 2667
CEU approved to date in 2008 2116
(700 approved since May)

Statewide totals: Current (8/4/08) **6143** (5/07/08) **5986** (-167)
EMT-Ambulance 4061 3955

EMT- Basic	294	294
EMT- Intermediate	160	159
EMT- Paramedic	1627	1577

Data for this report reflects information current through August 3, 2008.

A-2 – Regulatory Report- Larry New- The Section has completed the 100 series ambulance inspections since the last Council meeting. The inspection series consisted of 33 ambulance services and 111 vehicles. There were no services expiring in the month of July. The Section’s next inspection series is the 300’s that is due to expire on August 31, 2008. To date, approximately one half of the 300 Series have been inspected.

There are currently 203 ambulance services and 642 ambulances in the State of Arkansas.

Optional Skills Update:

RSI	12
(10 services have protocol approval but have not had site visits)	
CPAP	19
CVAP	1
Cardiac Thrombolitics	8
Adult Tibial	33
Huber needle	20

A-3 Trauma Systems Report – Brian Nation, Trauma Systems Administrator reported that a press conference was held in the Governor’s boardroom on July 10, 2008 to announce funding for the trauma system. Governor Mike Beebe awarded the Arkansas Department of Health \$200,000 from his emergency fund to enhance efforts to form a statewide trauma system. The Section will utilize this funding over the next few months in preparation for a full funding request package during the 87th General Assembly of the Legislature.

Members of the Trauma Advisory Council are continuing to work on the proposed revisions to the Rules and Regulations for Trauma Systems. During the public hearing process some additional revisions were requested and the administrative procedures process started over. The additional revisions were approved by the Board of Health on July 24, 2008 and the public hearing will take place on September 4, 2008. The Section of EMS and Trauma Systems will continue following the administrative process to get the proposed Rules and Regulations for Trauma approved. If everything goes well during the hearing, enactment is anticipated during December 2008.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B-1 EMSC – Addie Grigsby gave the following report: The EMSC Program Advisory Committee met on Tuesday August 5, 2008 with over 80% of members attending or sending representatives. We are proud to announce that all required positions have been

filled on our Advisory Committee, which exceeds the national guidelines of 90% by 2011.

The EMSC program is looking into various avenues in order to present training to pre-hospital and emergency medical staff around the state. Currently, the program is offering a Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Professionals (PEPP) course this month at our Little Rock location. This is a two-day course and all meals and materials are covered with no charge to the students. Information regarding the PEPP course is located at the EMS display table in the conference exhibit hall.

Congratulations to Mrs. Judy Taylor who received an EMSC Award during our national conference in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Taylor serves as the family representative and she received the award for her many years of dedicated service

B-2 Training Committee – The Training Committee met on May 19th and August 7, 2008. The committee discussed the Educational Standards and how they will impact instructors in the state. The Training Committee is waiting for the final draft to be published. The Committee also reviewed the Paramedic Survey conducted by the Section and anticipates the development of a position statement regarding the results of the survey. The Committee and Mr. Taylor sent a letter to the National Registry of EMTs regarding airway testing devices and intraosseous drills for advanced level testing. The Committee is waiting on a response from the National Registry to see if they will permit the utilization of these new devices during the certification testing process. The Committee also reviewed Computer Based Testing results provided by the Section regarding Arkansas' pass/fail ratio for pre-hospital professionals. The Committee is keeping a close watch of the results and will continue to monitor the states progress.

B-3 EMS Rules & Regulations Committee – David Taylor provided an update. Work groups are currently working on clinical standards, licensure and administration sections. The Air Ambulance working group has completed their section. All revisions should be completed within 3 – 4 months; once the draft document is complete, Mr. Taylor will meet with all workgroup leaders to review revisions and then the draft will be presented to the Council for review and recommendation. The update should be done by the end of the next legislative session.

B-4 Air Ambulance Regulations Sub-Committee – There are currently 26 air ambulance services including out-of-state services. Some air services will be using weatherservice.com for flight turn down. The committee is in support of the recommended revisions to the rules and regulations and recommends that everyone get involved in the revision process.

B-5 EMS Data Committee – Gary Odom provided an update. The Data Collection Dictionary has been completed and posted on the Section of EMS and Trauma's website. The committee will start working on goals for the future and will meet soon.

C. PROJECT UPDATES

C-1 RSI Update – Ten new services added to the RSI program. Eleven air and one ground ambulance service. A site visit must be completed for the 10 new services; once site visit is completed they will start the program. Data from other services will be shared and Dr. Calicott will work with Medical Directors to help implement more ground services.

C-2 Stroke/Protocol Development – Dr. Calicott provided the update. The project is in process and will continue to obtain information.

C-3 Special Purpose Survey – David Taylor distributed the Special Purpose survey results. (Attachment B) The survey was conducted by Section's staff via telephone. Special Purpose ambulance services were asked five questions related to equipment and staffing. Eleven services completed the survey and three services did not respond to the Section's phone calls. Denise Carson with the Arkansas Ambulance Association stated their association recommends no mandate of equipment or personnel and no action to be taken. However, the Association felt it would be reasonable to check ambulances during the regular inspection process for vehicle safety. Kenneth Starnes stated the inspection process should be added into rule during the revision process. No further action to be taken from Council.

V. NEW BUSINESS

TAC Nomination – Dr. Gruenwald declined the nomination to be on the Trauma Advisory Council. Dr. Flamick's name was presented for the position by Dr. Calicott. He accepted. Dr. Flamick expressed willingness to serve on the Trauma Advisor Council if chosen by the Governor. Mr. Taylor will inform the group of the Governor's decision.

Expired EMTs – The Council discussed the need to recognize EMTs for their service to the state. See Attachment C regarding a request for the Council to review recognition of EMTs. Rod Barrett from the Arkansas EMT Association volunteered to review standards and work with the Section to see if a program could be developed for EMTs. The group will look at standards related to retirement, inactive and years of service. Mr. Barrett will lead the project and report back to the Council.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATES

The next Governor's EMS Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m. at the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems.

VIII. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm

Approved November 12, 2008

Attachment A
Section Memo 835

To: All Arkansas Licensed Ambulance Services

From: David Taylor, Section Chief
Section of EMS & Trauma Systems

Date: July 24, 3008

Re: Worker Visibility - High-visibility Safety Apparel Mandate

Effective November 24, 2008, Federal Highway Code 23-CFR-634 requires all workers within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for purpose of travel) or to construction equipment within the work area to wear high-visibility safety apparel. Workers means people on foot whose duties place them within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway, such as highway construction and maintenance forces, survey crews, utility crews, **responders to incidents within the highway right-of-way (this includes ambulance personnel)**, and law enforcement personnel when directing traffic, investigating crashes, and handling lane closures, obstructed roadways, and disasters within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway. High-visibility safety apparel means personal protective safety clothing that is intended to provide conspicuity during both daytime and nighttime usage and that meets the Performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the American National Standards. You may view the new requirement at the National Achieves and Records Administration-Code of Federal Regulations at:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_07/23cfr634_07.html.

The purpose of the regulation is to decrease the likelihood of worker fatalities or injuries caused by motor vehicles, construction vehicles, and equipment while working within the right-of-way on Federal-aid-highways. The following website has more information related to this requirement including useful videos which may be downloaded and used freely: www.respondersafety.com

For your convenience I have attached a copy of 23-CFR-634 for your review. If you have any questions or need assistance you may contact me at 501-661-2262.

Approved November 12, 2008

[Code of Federal Regulations]
[Title 23, Volume 1]
[Revised as of January 1, 2007]
From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access
[CITE: 23CFR634.1]

[Page 177]

TITLE 23--HIGHWAYS

CHAPTER I--FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PART 634_WORKER VISIBILITY--Table of Contents

Sec. 634.1 Purpose.

The purpose of the regulations in this part is to decrease the likelihood of worker fatalities or injuries caused by motor vehicles and construction vehicles and equipment while working within the right-of-way on Federal-aid highways.

Sec. 634.2 Definitions.

Close proximity means within the highway right-of-way on Federal-aid highways.

High-visibility safety apparel means personal protective safety clothing that is intended to provide conspicuity during both daytime and nighttime usage, and that meets the Performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 publication entitled ``American National Standard for High-Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear.'' This publication is incorporated by reference in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51 and is on file at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call (202) 741-6030, or go to <http://www.archives.gov/federal--register/code--of--federal--regulations/ibr--locations.html>. It is available for inspection and copying at the Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 4232, Washington, DC, 20590, as provided in 49 CFR Part 7. This publication is available for purchase from the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) at 1901 N. Moore Street, Suite 808, Arlington, VA 22209, <http://www.safetyequipment.org>.

Workers means people on foot whose duties place them within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway, such as highway construction and maintenance forces, survey crews, utility crews, responders to incidents within the highway right-of-way, and law enforcement personnel when directing traffic, investigating crashes, and handling lane closures, obstructed roadways, and disasters within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway.

Sec. 634.3 Rule.

All workers within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for purposes of travel) or to construction equipment within the work area shall wear high-visibility safety apparel.

Sec. 634.4 Compliance date.

Approved November 12, 2008

States and other agencies shall comply with the provisions of this Part no later than November 24, 2008.

Attachment B
Special Purpose Ambulance Service Phone Survey
State of Arkansas

July 2008

Number of services surveyed.....	11
Number of services that responding to survey.....	8
• Non-transport response team.....	1
• Specialty (Patient specific, burns, flight crew, subsidizing).....	5
• Industrial, on-site.....	2
Number of services not surveyed, unable to contact.....	3
• Seasonal.....	1
• Industrial site ambulances, no return of phone calls.....	2

Each contact was asked the following series of questions with the explanation that there was no right or wrong answers. This survey was conducted to determine the general opinions of those providing Special Purpose services to the citizens of Arkansas.

1. Should Special Purpose licensed ambulance services be required to have specific crew configurations during transport?

Yes.... 4 No.... 4

If yes, explain why and what type of crew configurations:

- 1 minimum of EMT-Ambulance with additional personnel based on patient needs. (Non-transport service)
- 1 RN, Respiratory Therapist and Physician as needed
- 1 RN, Respiratory Therapist and Driver
- 1 dependent on requirements of Special Purpose license

If yes, should they have a specific training requirement/certification/licensure level?

- 1 minimum EMT-A
- 1 specific training in pediatric and burn care
- 1 “as demonstrated by needs of license.”
- 1 RN, Respiratory Therapist with NICU training and a driver with Emergency Vehicle Operations training

If no, explain (regarding specific crew configurations):

- 1 minimal call volume (Industrial- staffed with EMTs on-site)
- 1 “staffed with RN, Respiratory Therapist, and Physician, all with specialty care- Perinatal and Neonatal, no other personnel needed.”
- 1 current staff issues and availability of on-shift personnel

2. Should a minimum of an EMT be required during a transport of a patient?

Yes.... 4 No.... 4

If yes, do they need to be in the patient compartment or driver compartment?

- 1 “Dependent on patient needs”
- 3 patient compartment

3. Do you feel that it should be mandatory for Special Purpose ambulance services to carry mandated supplies or equipment?

Yes.... 4 No.... 4

If yes, explain what type of equipment:

- 1 Dependent on type of response/transport
- 3 Dependent on level of patient care/treatment

If yes, should the ambulances be inspected on yearly basis?

Yes.... 3 out of 4

If no, explain (regarding supply/equipment mandates):

- Minimal use of vehicle
- Determined by license holder (service subsidizing vehicle to license holder)
- “Specialized, self-contained unit, requires means of transport only”
- Specialized equipment and supplies

4. If personnel requirements were put into place, would there be a financial impact upon your service?

Yes.... 6 No.... 1 Undecided.... 1

Concerns expressed regarding financial impact:

- State agency, “limited budget”
- No EMTs above EMT-A on staff. “We cannot use EMTs in the back, they are not part of our specialized Critical Care Team.”
- Staffing requirements may prevent full crew complement at times
- Training, certification
- “Have to pay for personnel we do not need”

5. If equipment requirements were put into place, would there be a financial impact upon your service?

Yes.... 4 No.... 2 Undecided.... 2

Responses regarding financial impact (Yes and No):

- 1 Yes-State agency, “budget limitations”
- 1 No-“Already have everything most likely needed and can get what will be needed.”
- 1 Undecided-“Dependent on equipment requirements”
- 3 Yes-“Have to pay for unnecessary equipment”