



EMS DIGEST

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM

August 2012

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Dean Cole
EMS / Trauma
Program Administrator

Statewide EMS Education Coordinator is Hired

By Sharon Steele

Brian M. Monaghan has been hired as the Statewide Education Coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Trauma Program. Brian joins the EMS/Trauma Program as a Critical Care Paramedic with a Masters in Public Administration. Brian completed his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training at Southeast Community College, in Lincoln. After receiving his EMT certification, Brian began teaching CPR in 1992, became an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Instructor, and was a student at Creighton University taking Paramedic courses. After moving to Iowa in 1999, Brian attended Western Iowa Technical Community College as a student, receiving an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Applied Science there. At the University of Iowa, he completed the Critical Care Paramedic Program. Brian's Bachelor of Science in Adult Education and his Master of Public Administration degree were both received from Bellevue University in Nebraska.

Brian also has several years of experience in Emergency Medical Services. He began as a volunteer in 1990 at a Nebraska City service. Upon completion of his EMT class, he became licensed and began working at Eastern Ambulance in Omaha. While working at Eastern Ambulance, Brian served as their training officer and was going to Paramedic school at Creighton University. After obtaining his Paramedic certification, he went to work for a hospital based 911 service in Denison, Iowa, he stayed there for 10 years. While in Iowa Brian began teaching EMS courses on a regular basis for Western Iowa Technical College out of Sioux City. Throughout his teaching career, he has taught First Responder through Critical Care Paramedic courses. In 2004, Brian was hired by Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa, to create a college credit/degree Paramedic Program. Brian designed the curriculum, taught, and administered the program. Then in 2007, he was promoted and tasked with merging the non-credit EMS Program with the college credit degree program. In 2009, he returned to full-time field work as a Paramedic at Rural/Metro in Omaha, and took on the role as Field Training Officer and Logistics Officer. Brian was soon promoted to Field Supervisor at Rural/Metro.

Brian fully believes that regardless of whether or not you take home a paycheck for your duties as an EMS Provider, you are a professional. Brian began working with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human services on June 21, 2012. He is quite pleased to be working with the EMS/Trauma Program in Nebraska!



Brian Monaghan



Nebraska Pre-Hospital Statistics by Doug Fuller



Doug Fuller
 Southeast Region
 EMS Specialist

As of the writing of this article there are 426 emergency services licensed by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The electronic Nebraska Ambulance Rescue Service Information System (E-NARSIS) is tracking 430 services. The difference between the 426 licensed services and the 430 tracked services is accounted for by Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) personnel. EMR personnel are not required to operate under an ambulance service license in Nebraska when performing the skills that are initially learned in the EMR training and awaiting additional EMS response. (Please contact the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for additional EMR information.)

The following table indicates the number of services in each EMS and Trauma Region and at what level they operate. Recall that the State of Nebraska only licenses services at the Basic or Advanced Life Support level. Additionally, not all services that are licensed transport their own patients. Those services that do not transport are required to have a written agreement with a Nebraska Licensed Ambulance Service that does transport patients. The following denotes the abbreviations that are used in the below table:

- BT = Basic Transport (BLS Transporting Ambulance Service)
- BN = Basic Non-transporting (BLS Non-transporting Ambulance Service)
- AT = Advanced Transport (ALS Transporting Ambulance Service)
- AN = Advanced Non-transporting (ALS Non-transporting Ambulance Service)

Services by EMS					
Region	BT	BN	AT	AN	
Metro	10	5	18	0	33
North Central	46	8	8	0	62
Northeast	66	6	21	0	93
Panhandle	19	3	9	1	32
South Central	63	15	9	0	87
Southeast	49	16	14	0	79
Western	27	0	7	0	34
Out of State	0	0	10	0	10
	280	53	96	1	430
Services by Trauma					
Region	BT	BN	AT	AN	
Region 1	94	11	41	0	146
Region 2	83	27	21	0	131
Region 3	76	12	11	0	99
Region 4	27	3	13	1	44
Out of State	0	0	10	0	10
	280	53	96	1	430

During the past seven and one-half years, the providers who have been trained in and are using e-NARSIS has increased. The following table indicates the number of services trained and entered information into e-NARSIS. The current monthly usage of e-NARSIS is around 300 services.

TRANSPORTING AND NON TRANSPORTING	BN, BT, AN, & AT Services	BN, BT, AN, & AT Untrained	BN, BT, AN, & AT Trained	BN, BT, AN, & AT Trained & Using	BN, BT, AN, & AT Trained & NOT Using
Trauma Region 1	146	15	131	122	9
Trauma Region 2	131	10	121	112	9
Trauma Region 3	99	12	87	81	6
Trauma Region 4	44	3	41	39	2
Out of State	10	8	2	2	0
	430	48	382	356	26

Services interested in initial or ongoing training of e-NARSIS should contact the EMS Coordinator responsible for e-NARSIS in their region. Below is a listing of the various EMS Regions in Nebraska and the coordinators who are responsible for e-NARSIS training in the regions:

- Metro and Southeast EMS Regions
 Doug Fuller – doug.fuller@nebraska.gov, 800-422-3460 ext. 25, 402-471-3578
- Northeast EMS Region
 Carrie Crawford – caroline.crawford@nebraska.gov, 877-227-3609, 402-664-2346
- North Central EMS Region
 Carol Jorgensen – carol.jorgensen@nebraska.gov, 800-642-4095, 308-856-4697
- South Central EMS Region
 Julie Smithson – julie.smithson@nebraska.gov, 888-466-0669, 308-946-3409
- Western and Panhandle EMS Regions
 Sharon Steele – sharon.steele@nebraska.gov, 800-572-7239, 308-535-8095

Rehabilitation and Community Services Section Administrator by Sharon Steele



Rene Tiedt
 Rehabilitation &
 Community Services
 Section Administrator

Rene Tiedt began employment as the Section Administrator for Rehabilitation and Community Services for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in November 2011. Rene has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor's degree in Human Services and Human Behavior. Prior to becoming the Section Administrator, Rene had been employed by DHHS – Children's Services Licensing for 19 years, beginning in 1992 as an inspector of child care facilities and then as the Lincoln region supervisor for the past seven years, overseeing child care inspectors. Duties of the Section Administrator, Rene's current position, include overseeing scope of practice questions, writing regulations, serving as the administrator of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board, and supervising DHHS staff members.

In 1981 Rene was licensed as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in Missouri and held that license until 1984. She then married, and since her spouse was in the military, the family moved to several locations in U.S. and Germany. In 1988 they settled in Nebraska and Rene was later hired by Central Community College in Grand Island as its Child Care Center Coordinator. In 1992, when the opportunity for government service presented itself, Rene chose to pursue a career in licensing. To this date Rene has been happy with that decision. She is presently excited about working with EMS and looking forward to the future of Emergency Medical Services in Nebraska.



Sharon Steele
Western Region
EMS Specialist



9-11 Artifact in Omaha by Sharon Steele

(A special thank you goes out to Nolan Paulsen and Tom Townsend for supplying information to create this article.)

In late 2009 the Port Authority of New York / New Jersey granted the release of some of the steel from the World Trade Center buildings. The steel had been recovered from the World Trade Center (WTC) buildings and had been stored at JFK Airport through the September 11th Families' Association – Tribute WTC Visitors Center. The September 11th Families' Association started sending formal letters out in mid to late 2010 to communities and local governments to start the process of distribution throughout the United States. Later, the September 11th Families' Association released through other publications, notification to various types of law enforcement and fire agencies to try to get all of the artifacts that were selected for release out to the communities that wanted to receive them to create memorials of 9/11.

The Irvington Volunteer Fire Department in Omaha wrote its first letter in November 2010 requesting an artifact from the Families' Association. Then, since there had not been any response to the original request in the suggested time frame, a follow-up letter was sent in spring 2011. In June 2011, notice was received stating that Irvington would not be receiving an artifact; the requests for artifacts were greater than the amount of artifacts that were available. Over 2,000 requests were received.

Then, in August 2011, a letter was received from the Port Authority of New York / New Jersey that said that Irvington's request had been granted. Thus, the paperwork to receive the artifact was started. Delivery of the artifact occurred on October 5th, 2011 at JFK Airport. Four members of the Irvington Volunteer Fire Department made the trip to JFK with a newly purchased trailer to obtain the artifact. At JFK the artifact was loaded on the trailer, lighted and draped with the American Flag for the trip back to Nebraska.

Further details of the artifact:

The artifact is an inner structural support column from a sub level of the North Tower (Tower 1) and it was on sub level 5 main floor connection, the top connection makes up sub level 4 floor framing with weld plate connections for sub level 4 main column. By the markings on the column concrete it was located in parking section J 5 and row 9. It is a 3 ½' thick steel "H" column that is incased in concrete as all of the sub level columns were since they were in the parking structure and mechanical levels. The 4th floor framing is 8" "C" channel steel with cast in place concrete around it. It is 14'-3" long and at the floor section it is a 36" x 36" section of "C" channel. It weighs a total of 10,830 lbs.



Debbie Kuhn
Metro Region
EMS Specialist /CISM /
EMSC

Until a final memorial location can be constructed, the artifact will be placed on a trailer to be displayed at parades, memorials, and community events.

This artifact is a reminder of the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001 and is in memory of the 2,973 people that lost their lives on that day at the World Trade Center, included in that 2,973 people were 343 firefighters, 23 New York Police Department officers, and 37 Port Authority Police officers. The artifact is also a reminder of the 125 civilian and military employees of the Pentagon, who lost their lives on September 11th, as well as the passengers and crew of American Flight 11, United Flight 175, American Flight 77, and United Flight 93.

EMS Week - “EMS: More Than a Job. A Calling”

By Debbie Kuhn

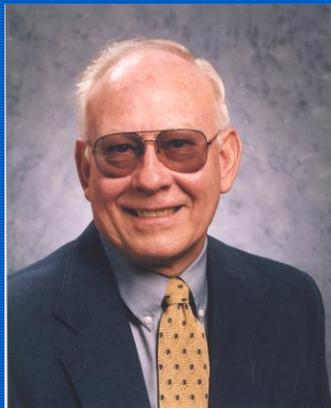
This year, Nebraska EMS Programs updated promotional materials for the celebration of EMS Week held May 20-26, 2012. These items were sent out to each EMS Service in the state and also made available on our website at: http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/ems_Promote%20EMS.aspx

These are suggested activities that your service could participate in for EMS Week or anytime you would like to promote EMS. Our intent is to furnish your service with a guide and resources that might best promote EMS in your community. Be proud of what you do and use this as an opportunity to educate the public about their Emergency Medical Services.

Click on the EMS Promotional Ideas icon. If you would like to utilize the EMS video, it is also available on the website. The video is called, “Who Ya Gonna Call? EMS – That’s Who!” If you choose to use the EMS placemat, you will be able to access a PDF on this website. It will have a blank text box in the middle of the placement that you can use to personalize and promote your own ambulance service.

Nebraska EMSC Program was able to make available wrist bracelets and pencils to help promote EMS at local schools. Please send your stories and photos to your EMS Coordinator of how your service promoted EMS in your community. We would like to use these in the promotional materials for next year’s EMS Week. Nebraska EMS Programs appreciate all the hard work and professionalism that our Out-of-Hospital Providers give every day.





Garry Steele

Garry Steele has Retired

By Sharon Steele

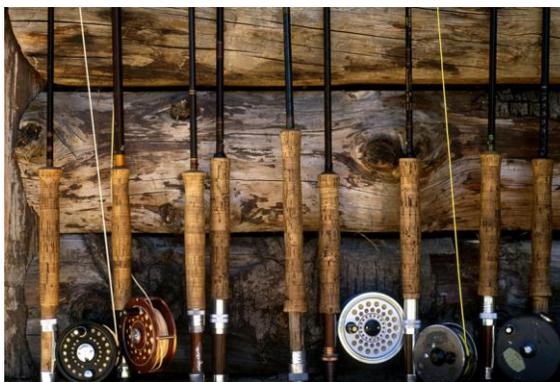
Garry Steele's retirement date from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), EMS/Trauma Program was May 4, 2012. Garry began his employment with DHHS on November 30, 1998. On that date Garry began working as the South Central EMS Specialist for the NE Emergency Medical Services Program. While serving as the South Central EMS Specialist, Garry worked with emergency service personnel in various counties in the South Central Region of Nebraska.

Then, late in 2003, the EMS Training Coordinator position within the EMS/Trauma Program became vacant. Garry applied for the position and in February of 2004, Garry was hired and began working as the EMS Training Coordinator for the NE EMS/Trauma Program. The EMS Training Coordinator is responsible for statewide duties throughout the state. Thus, Garry went from working with emergency service personnel in the counties of South Central Nebraska to having statewide responsibilities. As the EMS Training Coordinator, Garry worked with EMS Training Agencies throughout the state, worked with EMS Instructors, was responsible for EMS Continuing Education budgeting, assisted in developing curriculums for special continuing education classes, and also assisted EMS Training Agencies and EMS instructors as was needed. While working as the EMS Training Coordinator, Garry felt that one of his most rewarding experiences was observing the effective growth of the Nebraska EMS Training Agencies. Through EMS Training Agency meetings as well as individual conversations, Garry felt the EMS Training Agencies have grown to where they are functioning efficiently within the guidelines of the State of Nebraska.

Prior to working for the EMS/Trauma Program, Garry taught social studies at the high school level. He was a teacher for 31 years, and the majority of those years, 28, were spent teaching at Sandy Creek, he taught two years at Maywood, and one year at Oxford.

Garry completed college in August 1974, receiving a Master's in Education. His Bachelors in Education had been received in August 1967. After graduating from the University of Nebraska with his Bachelor's degree, Garry and his wife Mary decided to marry. Thus, he graduated on a Friday, and the wedding was held the following Saturday! Garry and Mary Steele will be celebrating 45 years of marriage in August 2012. They have three children, Tanya, Tara, and Wade. And there are now six grandchildren.

Retirement plans for Garry include traveling and maintaining his membership as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) on the Edgar Volunteer Fire and EMS Service.



Robert (Bob) Dunn Retires from the EMS Board



Bob Dunn

Bob Dunn began his service as a public representative on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) credentialing board in March 1999. From 1974 until 1998, Bob was the official winner's circle photographer at the five Nebraska thoroughbred horse racetracks. The Nebraska horse racing statutes require that EMS personnel be on the track grounds because of the high risk and frequency of serious accidents. He worked alongside the EMTs for years and gradually became aware of their purpose, skills and values. After retiring in 1998 and wanting to do something for community service, Bob welcomed Governor Mike Johanns appointment to the EMS board. Bob believes the board of 17 members has developed very positive professional relationships in guiding the programs of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Additionally, the EMS Board has streamlined operations with fewer meetings and implementation of electronic computer based documentation and communication, but has still been able to maintain the human decision making on the personal level.

Due to potential changes in health insurance coverage looming on the horizon, Bob is hoping there can be less duplication of services and expense by the blending and coordination in distributing of health care through various entities (EMS, Community Paramedicine programs, Rural Health, Visiting Nurse programs, Medical Reserve Corps, WIC and other social services that promote wellness) without territorial domination.

Bob also looks for greater interest by the public for EMS through enhancing a high schools curriculum career-track for health care providers at an early age. He believes this would give more options for employment after graduation.

Bob has a very long list of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services staffers and members of the Board that he has highest admiration for their dedication, professionalism and friendship, especially Helen Meeks, Diane Hansmeyer, Dean Cole, Bill Wisell, Bob Olson, Shawn Baumgartner, Rick Sheehy, Dr. Don Rice, Dr. James Smith, Dr. George Tom Surber, Scott Weibe, Joel Cerny, and Mike Buscher.

Bob is now 83 years old. When interviewed for this article, Bob was busy renting apartments that he owns near the state capitol. He has been married to his wife, Dolores, for 60 years. After a short term in the U.S. Marines, Bob traveled for Eastman Kodak for 17 years, managed Treck Photographic for 6 years, and then operated Winner's Circle Custom Photography Inc. for 23 years. Bob and his wife both graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan, and Bob received a M Ed degree in 1959 from UNL. They have 2 children, a son, Paul, who is the Recycling Coordinator for the City of Omaha and chairman of the Nebraska Environmental Trust board; and a daughter who has a Ph.D., Maryjane Dunn-Whitener, Lufkin, TX, who teaches at Mississippi State, has three adopted children and one grandson, (all living in Lincoln, NE).



L.D. "Wally" Wallace

Larry (Wally) Wallace has Retired

By Sharon Steele

The Panhandle EMS Specialist, Larry Wallace, or who many simply know as Wally, has retired from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, EMS/Trauma Program. Wally began his employment with the EMS/Trauma Program on November 13, 2001, and his last day of employment with the EMS/Trauma Program was May 4, 2012.

In honor of Wally's retirement, co-workers at the Gering office decided to have an open house. A retirement party was held on April 23, 2012 at the local office, 1600 10th Street. Personnel attending the open house included various ambulance service personnel, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) members, Fire Department personnel, classmates, retired State Troopers, friends and family members.

Prior to working for the EMS/Trauma Program, Wally had worked for the State Patrol as a State Trooper and also as a dispatcher. Wally began his career as a State Trooper in 1967 and retired from that position in 1998. After retiring as a State Trooper, Wally went back to work for the State Patrol as a dispatcher and worked as a dispatcher from January 1, 1999 until he began his position as an EMS Specialist in 2001. If one totals all of the various positions that Wally held within state government, he has committed himself to public service for 43 years as a state employee. Other public service positions that Wally has held as a volunteer include holding an EMT license for about 23 years and serving as a volunteer firefighter for 17 years.

During his retirement years, Wally plans to travel, go camping, and to spend time with his family and grandchildren. Wally has been married to his wife Pat for 45 years as of May 7, 2012. Wally and Pat have three children, a daughter and two sons. The two sons have followed in their father's footsteps and are State Troopers. The daughter assists with a family farming and ranching operation near Lisco. All three children are married and there are a total of 8 grandsons. Yes, all of their grandchildren are boys! The grandsons range in age from 8 to 18 and are involved in many activities of which Wally enjoys attending.

Even though Wally is retiring, he has not yet totally given up on service to his community! Wally has joined the Scottsbluff County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT serves as a back-up to regular emergency response services. Types of activities that CERT may be involved with are assisting with traffic control for community events or helping with search and rescue incidents. Thus, one may still see Wally out serving the community even in his retirement years! Wally hopes to stay healthy and enjoy his retirement years to the fullest!



2012 Statewide EMS Summer Conference

By Sharon Steele

The Statewide EMS Conference was held in Kearney, Nebraska July 13, 14, and 15. Several education opportunities occurred for pre-hospital personnel at the conference throughout the three day event. During the event, nominations were taken and awards presented for the EMS Person of the Year and the EMS Provider of the Year.

Travis Lee from Cozad was awarded the EMS Person of the year for 2012. A letter was received from the family of a child who was involved in an accident on Interstate 80. Travis had responded to that accident and was instrumental in saving the life of the child.

The 2012 EMS Provider of the Year award went to Imperial Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Imperial EMS is a progressive ambulance service in southwest Nebraska. Imperial EMS has recently moved to a new ambulance building, sponsors a haunted house annually to raise scholarship dollars for community members, and is consistently looking for ways to better serve its community.

Congratulations to Travis Lee (left) and Imperial EMS (below) for this recognition of service to their communities!



Travis Lee - Cozad



Imperial EMS



Julie Smithson
South Central Region
EMS Specialist



Carol Jorgenson
North Central Region
EMS Specialist



Carrie Crawford
Northeast Region
EMS Specialist

Nebraska EMSC

By Debbie Kuhn

Nebraska EMSC Advisory Committee has been very progressive towards improving pediatric care this year. We know how scary it can be when responding to a child in distress. The committee has recently developed a "Nebraska Pediatric Reference" card. This card includes: Pediatric Normal Vital Signs/Weight chart, Poison Center Phone Number, FACES Pain Scale, Rules of Nines, Pediatric Glasgow Coma Scale, Pediatric Assessment Triangle, and Pediatric Equipment Size Chart. It is our goal to have this important pediatric reference card placed with each service's pediatric equipment for easy access. Watch for it in your mailboxes soon!

The committee continues to offer pediatric education across the state. Recently EMSC partnered with The Center for Preparedness Education, Creighton University and OMMRS to create the 1.5 day CBRNE Conference which was held May 30 & 31 for physicians, nurses as well as Out-of-Hospital personnel. We are in the process of scheduling more PEPP classes as well as some ALS pediatric classes which will involve simulation mannequins that were received through a federal grant.

The "Nebraska Emergency Guidelines for Schools" booklet which is updated with input from the School Nurses Association and Attack On Asthma Nebraska. A letter will be sent to the schools in August informing them that the guidelines can be downloaded from this website:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/NE%20Emergency%20Guidelines%20for%20Schools.pdf>

The committee is currently working on developing Interfacility Transfer Agreements for hospitals that specifically deal with the care and transfer of pediatric patients. We will also be working with Emergency Medical Services for Children and the National Pediatric Readiness Project. This project is a multi-phase ongoing quality improvement initiative to ensure that emergency departments are ready to care for children. The EMSC Program is sponsoring this effort in partnership with several national and professional organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA).



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