## Director’s Welcome

By Marty Link—EMS Director

Welcome to PULSED SD!

As I noted in the last PULSED SD article, our continuing goal is to ensure long-term sustainable, reliable, and viable ambulance service in South Dakota. We believe this can be accomplished in time, but it will take a coordinated effort at a state, regional, and local level. For this vision to come to fruition, it is important that we all focus on one vision, one common goal, and one result.

I want to say this with the sincerest heart; the work being done around EMS in South Dakota is truly remarkable. From the full-time paid services to the volunteers that serve our citizens daily, you should be very proud of the legacy you are leaving.

Please also remember that the kindest of words or the sincerity of holding someone’s hand can make a significant difference in someone’s life. Don’t ever underestimate your ability to care for others far beyond your medical knowledge or skill.

We too, within the EMS Program are working diligently with a group of invested stakeholders to develop a vision for EMS well into the future. This is no small task as it requires us to imagine; and, sometimes imagining the future can be a scary proposition because of the unknown. I would ask each of you reading this article to take some time to simply let your mind run. Imagine the ideal EMS system, imagine equipment in the back of an ambulance to detect internal bleeding, imagine drones flying out to the scene of an accident and reporting back the number of patients, entrapments, criticality, etc.

You might just have the idea that transforms pre-hospital healthcare across the nation.

Be Blessed!

Marty
EMS Strategic Planning
By Marty Link—EMS Director

Strategic Planning is an essential part of any business model. Strategic planning, when effectively performed, produces a living, breathing document used by a company or organization to ensure values, goals, and objectives are effectively achieved. This roadmap ensures suitable resources are committed to high priority objectives. Within the realm of EMS, these priorities include workforce, sustainability, infrastructure, and quality.

In December, the EMS Program hosted the second of several strategic planning sessions with a small stakeholder group. This group has representation from medical directors, hospital administrators, ED directors, the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners, and ambulance service directors from various sized ambulance services. This workgroup will be facilitated by a national leader in Rural EMS, John Becknell who many of you have met during EMS Leadership coursework. The goal of this workgroup is to develop a strategic plan for the future of EMS.

Community Survey and Regional Sessions
By Marty Link—EMS Director

As noted in my opening remarks, the EMS Program in conjunction with SafeTech Solutions LLC is in the process of surveying community leaders outside of the EMS industry. The target audience for this survey includes hospital administrators, city and county officials, business owners, and medical directors.

The goal of this survey is to gather information on how community leaders currently see EMS and how we can all work together to ensure a long-term sustainable, reliable, and viable EMS system across South Dakota.

The survey is now complete in addition to eight regional listening and learning sessions with community leaders. The EMS Program, along with SafeTech, conducted community leader sessions in Sturgis, Rapid City, Murdo, Chamberlain, Brookings, Redfield, Armour, and Viborg.

The results of the survey along with information gathered during these sessions will be summarized and posted on the EMS website in the coming months.
New BLS Patient Care Guidelines
By Lance Iversen—EMS Data Manager / Ed. & Prof. Standards Coordinator

On November 20, 2018, the South Dakota EMS Program released the new SD BLS Patient Care Guidelines (PCG).

It is important that all certified BLS providers in South Dakota study and know the new PCG’s. An electronic copy was emailed to all ambulance service Directors/Managers and/or primary contacts to have available to you in your ambulances/vehicles, either in electronic form or printed form.

The BLS Patient Care Guidelines can be found on our website, https://EMS.sd.gov. I recommend you have a copy of the Scope of Practice documents with the PCG’s for quick and easy reference.

Please replace all former versions of the BLS Patient Care Guidelines and Scope of Practice documents with the newest versions.

Updated Scope of Practice
By Lance Iversen—EMS Data Manager / Ed. & Prof. Standards Coordinator

On June 14, 2018, the South Dakota EMS Program and the SD Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners released South Dakota’s defined Scope of Practice for all certified and licensed EMS professional levels.

On November 20, 2018, we added to the Scope of Practice documents. “Pulse Oximetry” was added to the EMR Scope, “Capnography-End Tidal CO2 Monitoring” was added to the EMT and I-85 Scopes of Practice, “Hemorrhage Control Products” was added to all levels, and the wording “or alternative” was added to Mark I Kit for all levels.

The BLS Scope of Practice document can be found on our website, https://EMS.sd.gov (www.sdbmoex.gov for the ALS Scope of Practice).

It is important that all certified or licensed providers in South Dakota study and know what they are allowed to do and not do at their level, which is laid out in the BLS and ALS Scope of Practice documents. It is also important that your service’s Medical Director has this information to ensure that no one is practicing outside their scope.

The service’s Medical Director may limit the scope of practice/skills for any level of BLS and ALS provider, however, the Medical Director cannot expand the scope. All changes to any BLS scope of practice must be approved in advance by the EMS Program (SD Dept. of Health). All changes to any of the ALS scopes of practice must be approved in advance by the SD Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners.

https://EMS.sd.gov
The South Dakota Department of Health Trauma System held its annual conference in Mitchell, South Dakota on October 2-3, 2018 in partnership with the ATLS Task Force and the three major health systems in South Dakota; Avera Health, Regional Health, and Sanford Health. The conference was well attended with 140 guests and exhibitors from across the state.

The two-day conference provided opportunities for education and collaboration aimed at reducing overall morbidity and mortality of severely injured patients in South Dakota. It was designed to also increase attendees working knowledge of South Dakota’s trauma system and their role within the system.

Marty Link, DOH/ORH Director of EMS and Trauma, opened the first conference day with an update on South Dakota EMS. Further education provided during following sessions focused on improving local trauma programs, performance improvement, and the trauma registry. The afternoon was spent in a hands-on skills workshop in which conference participants were able to practice time-sensitive, life-saving skills with experts from across the state.

Day two combined clinical and system education for trauma coordinators and registrars as well as physicians and midlevel practitioners. Presentation topics included pediatric imaging, trauma team communication, rapid sequence intubation, and concussion management. Sam Hill, DOH Mass Fatality Manager, spent time educating on state mass fatality resources available and Lynn DeYoung, Minnehaha County Emergency Manager, gave an update on the statewide “Stop the Bleed” campaign efforts.

Two full hours were dedicated to a case review panel. The panel included trauma surgeons Dr. Gary Timmerman, Dr. Michael Person, Dr. Robert Miller, Dr. Paul Bjordahl, Dr. Jon Ryckman, and Dr. Dustin Smoot. This review was interactive with time allotted for extensive Q & A. Also, worth noting, the above-mentioned trauma surgeons in partnership with the SD Trauma System, dedicate time each month to provide this invaluable case review and council at the regional level.

Partnering to facilitate the event were Dr. Gary Timmerman, State Trauma Medical Director; Dr. Michael Person, SD ACS COT Chair; Andy Klitzke, Office of Rural Health Administrator; Marty Link, Director EMS and Trauma; and Rebecca Baird, South Dakota Trauma Program Manager. Also helping to ensure conference success were Julie Smithson and Lance Iversen from the Office of Rural Health/EMS and Marla Anderson.

The Trauma System was established in 2008 in response to evidence that care of the injured patient, when organized systemically, improves outcomes. The South Dakota Trauma Systems main work is in the designation of 49 Level II-V South Dakota trauma hospitals, regional performance improvement case review, bringing trauma education to local trauma teams, management of the state trauma registry, and coordinating the statewide trauma conference.
2018 South Dakota Statewide Trauma Conference....continued
By Rebecca Baird, RN SD Trauma System Manager/Eastern EMS Specialist

https://EMS.sd.gov
EMT Renewal
By Bob Hardwick—EMS Program

Beginning January 2, the South Dakota EMS Program will be accepting EMT recertification applications for those expiring in March of 2019. EMTs can renew two ways. Online at https://EMS.sd.gov or by mailing in the paperwork to: SD DOH, ORH/EMS, 600 East Capitol Ave, Pierre SD 57501.

Please ensure all training meets the new NCCP standards.

Recertification Requirements:
- Applicant Information
- Mandatory Hours or National Registry card
- Record of Additional Continuing Education Hours or National Registry card
- CPR/AED Verification

Please note: Renewing your National Registry does not auto-renew your State EMT Certification. You must still recertify your State EMT.

More information at https://EMS.sd.gov

Questions? Call Bob at 605-773-4031 or email at Bob.Hardwick@state.sd.us

Homeland Security—Grant Funding
By June Snyder—Dept. of Public Safety/Homeland Security

The open application period to apply for 2019 State Homeland Security grant funding starts January 1, 2019; completed applications must be received by February 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. central standard time.

Applications will be accepted through the EDGAR (Electronic Database for Grant Application & Reporting) system. All applications must have a Homeland Security nexus and follow grant terms and conditions. The link to EDGAR is: https://sddps.intelligrants.com/.

To review the terms and conditions of Homeland Security grants, please see the following link: https://dps.sd.gov/resource-library/Administrative-Manual-Terms-and-Conditions-November-2018.pdf-1648.

Funding for projects is expected to become available in September 2019.

For more information, please contact the SD Office of Homeland Security at 605-773-3450.
Freshman Choice
By Shawn Fischer—Sturgis Ambulance Director

The Freshman Choice is an educational night for the parents, and the next day is for the students. They start out at a party then the police break up the party, some of the kids run and they end up wrecking. The Sturgis Police Department, SD Highway Patrol, Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department, and Sturgis Ambulance respond and then call Black Hills LifeFlight, as well as the local funeral home for a deceased patient. Ambulances load all patients and takes them into the gym that has been set-up as a hospital.

This year, we had one overdose and one head injury from the wreck. The most critical was loaded on Black Hills LifeFlight and taken to a trauma center. The patient with the head injury dies in the ER. The students then go to the court room and watch a classmate get sentenced for killing the kid in the car wreck and then they go to the funeral for their classmate that was killed.
South Dakota Ambulance Association Conference
By Shawn Fischer - South Dakota Ambulance Association

SOUTH DAKOTA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The conference will be starting on Friday night this year with the incoming president of the American Ambulance Association speaking. We will continue on Saturday & Sunday with presentations on Leadership - Billing - Competencies and Work Groups dealing with EMS in South Dakota.

INTENDED AUDIENCE:
Directors, chiefs, coordinators, managers, supervisors and anyone interested leadership topics

DATES:
February 9 & 10, 2019

LOCATION:
Ramkota Hotel
Pierre, SD

REGISTRATION FEE:

Current SDAA Members
$120 - prior to 02/01/2019
$150 - after 02/01/2019

Non-Members
$150 - prior to 02/01/2019
$175 - after 02/01/2019

FEES INCLUDE:
All classes, breakfast on Sunday, and Lunch & Dinner Saturday.
Extra Dinner Ticket: $20.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Rooms are available at the Ramkota (ask for the SD Ambulance Assn. Group Rate)

Call for Reservations: 605-224-6877

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
https://sites.google.com/site/sdemsleadership/sdaa-state-conference

https://EMS.sd.gov
Winter Driving Safety
By JP Molnar, M.Ed.  (full article in JEMS—Jan. 5, 2011)

In severe weather, schools close and businesses keep employees at home, but EMS providers are required to find a way to respond to incidents, which means driving under some of the most treacherous winter conditions imaginable. Although patience and common sense are two strategies to employ, here are several others to keep in mind.

Don't Be Your Own Victim
The fact of the matter is that EMS vehicles are subject to the same physical constraints as other production vehicles, and that includes the opportunity to get stuck or stranded. So in addition to checking your rig for the usual medical and technical supplies, throw in a cooler full of energy bars, water, and other snacks in case you get stranded. Make sure you have a few space blankets too; keep in mind stranded motorists may seek refuge in your rig as well—and they probably won't have water or food with them.

Know Your Rig
Modern day EMS rigs have a tremendous amount of technology packed into the chassis and drive systems that are designed to keep you safe on the road. However, you should take time to educate yourself on its capabilities in order to take advantage of this technology. For example, if your rig has traction control, the time to find out how it works is not in the middle of a snowstorm. The same goes for four-wheel drive and all-wheel drive systems. Remember that four-wheel drive does not give you better braking or steering; tires do. Four-wheel drive allows power to be delivered to a drive wheel to provide propulsion if the tires have traction. You should also consider braking. In many vehicles, four-wheel anti-lock braking system (ABS) disengages on part-time four-wheel drive systems and also on full-time four-wheel drive and all-wheel drive systems when the center differential is locked (if equipped) or the transfer case is placed in low range. This is due to the front and rear axles being "forced" to turn at the same speed, which can confuse the ABS sensors. This matters if you're making your way down a deep, icy or snowy road in low gear or with a center-differential locked because you won't have brake modulation and steering control that ABS provides should you have stop quickly. So you must adjust your driving accordingly. Are you relying on all-season tires (which do everything average but nothing spectacular) to handle heavy winter duty or have you switched to softer compound, sipe snow tires that are made to be driven in temperatures under 40°? Every person in your rig needs to get together to ensure they know its capabilities. Think of it this way: You wouldn't intubate a patient without first training yourself on the equipment, processes, and limitations. So why wouldn't you do the same with the very rig you depend on to get to the call and that simultaneously presents the greatest hazard to your personal well-being?

Summary
Driving an EMS rig in winter conditions requires patience and slowing down, but many times operators get in trouble because they simply exceed the operating capabilities of their rig in the given conditions. This can stem from over confidence, but it can also come from lack of training. We'd like to believe otherwise, but we're susceptible to the same perils as the ordinary driver, and having decals on the side of our truck doesn't change that. So take the time to know your rig before heading out into the wintry muck, and make sure you have enough supplies and equipment should you inadvertently find yourself part of the problem rather than the solution. Above all, know your own driving limitations and give yourself the buffer you need. Getting there slowly is better than never getting there at all.

https://EMS.sd.gov
Spotlight EMS
By James Julson of Bridgewater Ambulance

**Bridgewater Ambulance Service is EMS Ambulance Service of the Year**

The Bridgewater Ambulance Service was established in 1972 with a volunteer staff. In 1978, the Bridgewater Area Community Ambulance was established by the County of McCook and the Bridgewater City Council.

In 1997, our staff consisted of four EMTs and three drivers. On June 15, 2004, the ambulance service shut down. The community rallied to find people willing to become EMTs. Thirteen people took the EMT-B Course and on February 3, 2005, the service opened again with nine EMTs and three drivers. We had 51 calls that year.

Currently, we have four EMTs, one nurse, and seven drivers. We average 75 calls per year. With grants and money from county and city, we have been able to update our equipment which includes a stair chair with track system and a power cot. Our city pays for anyone who takes and passes the EMT course because the council realizes the importance of our ambulance service.

We do EMS training every other month. All EMTs and most of the drivers are present for training. One of our EMTs is a BLS CPR Instructor. The CPR instructor not only keeps us certified but also teaches at area daycares and schools. Before every meeting, we get our schedules organized for the next two months. Our EMTs are very cooperative covering for each other even if it is just for a few hours. With only four EMTs, we average 350-450 hours per month on call.

We do several community events a year which include: education to elementary school children on EMS; Trick or Trunk for the kids on Halloween; and standbys at all home ball games.

We have at least three EMTs show up on every call and most of the time, all four are there to help with patient care, lifting, and helping drivers with equipment. The ambulance works closely with other EMS departments, fire department, and law enforcement.

We are honored to received the 2018 EMS Ambulance Service of the Year.
2019 EMS On The Hill Day
By Maynard Konechne - SDEMSA Political Committee

2019 EMS On The Hill Day
Monday, February 11
Pierre, SD

7:30 a.m. - Committee Meetings
10:00 a.m. - Committee Meetings
12:00 p.m. - Democratic Caucus
1:00 p.m. - Democratic Caucus

(Possible Picture with the Governor)

2:00 p.m. - Session Begins
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Reception and Social
at Pierre’s Ramkota Hotel in Lake Sharpe Room

Sponsored by: South Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association; Emergency Medical
Instructor Society; and South Dakota Ambulance Association

All EMS providers are welcome to attend.
Any questions contact: Maynard J. Konechne
Cell (605)-730-0462 or e-mail: mjkemtkc@hotmail.com

https://EMS.sd.gov
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