



Inside this issue:

- Featured Agency: EMCAA
- New Employees
- Is the Scene Safe?
- Fall Safety Tips
- Safe Scene Operations: Aeromedical Resources

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Featured Agency: Eastern McLean County Area Ambulance

Written by: Jim Kern

The residents of Colfax and the surrounding areas had the foresight to see a need for emergency care and transportation of their families and friends. They filled that need with Eastern McLean County Ambulance Association (EMCAA) in 1975 with 3N18 in Colfax.

For many years, EMCAA was supported by donations and fund raisers and staffed entirely by local volunteers. EMCAA found the need to better cover the Saybrook/Arrowsmith communities, so in 1989 EMCAA purchased another ambulance (3N44) and placed 3N18 at the Saybrook fire station and manned it with local volunteers.

Over the past 36 years, the EMCAA Board has kept up with the rapidly changing face of EMS in Illinois. EMCAA went from BLS to ILS care while still maintaining a complete volunteer staff.

In 2007, Lifeline Mobile Medics, the only ALS provider for the county, closed its doors leaving many small communities holding the bag for ALS

care. The EMCAA Board saw this coming and started working with our local Fire Boards to contract for services so we could continue to provide the best care possible to our communities. EMCAA had to make some major decisions for this to be possible. EMCAA had to look at where Medics were to be hired and how to staff ambulances. The biggest question was cost and where the money would come from. Well, we went to the tax payers for support and they overwhelmingly said yes, so we started working on the new look of EMCAA.

We had to close the unit in Saybrook due to the cost factors, but we helped the Saybrook/Arrowsmith Fire Protection District start a First Responder non-transport service which, in May of this year, moved up to BLS non-transport. EMCAA contracted with Gibson Area Ambulance for our paramedics and we moved to Provena Regional EMS System so the medics could stay in one system.

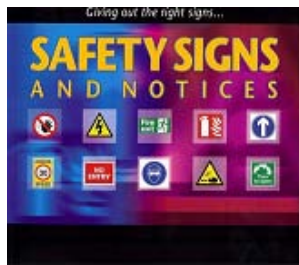
EMCAA has had ALS service for over four years

now and we just returned to the McLean County Area EMS System. We just purchased a LP-15 and are looking into an ALS Simulator to help us maintain the highest level of care for the communities we serve. EMCAA has always and still has a very dedicated staff of EMS providers and Board members. We continually look at the future of EMS and what we need to do. EMCAA is in the process of changing the way we look at patient care. We will be working to fill a niche in pre-hospital care that is not being filled currently. So look for big changes soon.

I am proud to say I am a part of EMCAA and McLean County Area EMS. I know many of you can say the same about your local services.

My hat is off to all of you (volunteer and paid) that answer the pager in the McLean County Area EMS.

Meet the Newest MCAEMS Employees



Jim Davis, EMT-P, LI, is the EMS Educator. Jim has worked in EMS for 17 years. He began his career with a volunteer department in the Decatur area. He is currently employed as a firefighter/paramedic for the City of Bloomington. He has worked for the City of Bloomington since 1999. Jim started at the EMS office in 2005 as a registry instructor and was

hired as the part-time EMS Educator in 2011.

April Baker is the newest addition to the EMS Office. She recently relocated from the Pacific Northwest where she was an Administrative Coordinator for the State of Oregon. April has a Bachelor's degree in Secondary English Education from the University of Kentucky.

She lives in Normal with her husband, Justin, and their Golden Retriever, Ada.

"You must begin thinking about safety from the initial alarm through actually leaving the scene."

Is the Scene Safe?

Written by: Greg Scott

This phrase is etched into each EMS responder's brain from initial training through retirement. Why is it so important and what does it actually mean? It is such an easy phrase to say but if you don't actually think about it the moment the tones sound then it doesn't mean anything. You must begin thinking about safety from the initial alarm through actually leaving the scene. Remember to try to gain additional information from the dispatch center enroute, think about the area that you are responding into, be observant during your approach to the scene for possible hazards, and then continually scan the environment during your time on-scene for changes that may jeopardize your safety.

Almost 10% of all EMT's

and Paramedics in the country at any given time are missing work because of a job-related injury or illness according to the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* (December 2007). This study also reported EMS providers working for busier agencies (more than 40 calls per week) had injury/illness rates of almost 19%. To show a comparison, this study reveals that the general public has a 1.3% rate of workers missing days on the job for work-related injuries/illness. Emergency responders working in urban areas (population of more than 25,000) are three times likely to get on-the-job injuries/illness.

Another item to remember when thinking about scene safety during response to disaster situations is having a personal and family readiness plan. The month

of September is National Preparedness Month. It is important to remember that when you are called to respond to local/regional disasters that if you are worrying about your family then your safety is going to be in danger. You can find a great deal of family preparedness material at www.ready.illinois.gov and www.ready.gov

Please remember on every response, emergency and non-emergency, there is far more involved in making sure the environment is safe other than asking, "Is the Scene Safe?"

Source: Studnek, J.R., A. Ferketich and J.M. Crawford. "On the Job Illness and Injury Resulting in Lost Work Time Among a National Cohort of Emergency Medical Services Professionals," *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, December 2007. PMID: [17918231](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17918231/)

Fall Safety Tips

Written by: *Becky Altic*

Fall is a beautiful time of year, with its warm days and cool nights. The leaves are turning colors and falling, filling our yards and our gutters. It is also the time of year when we prepare our homes for the impending winter and fire up our furnaces for the first time in months. Here are some ideas to keep in mind as the days grow shorter:

Cleaning Gutters

1. Choose the right ladder for the job.
2. Make sure the

ladder is in good repair before using.

3. The ladder should be properly tilted toward the structure - for every four feet in length, the ladder should be one foot from the wall.
4. NEVER over reach.

Heating your Home

1. Change your furnace filters.
2. Have your chimney cleaned and

inspected.

3. If using space heaters, keep them 3 feet away from flammable materials.
4. Change the batteries in your smoke alarm.
5. Install a carbon monoxide detector.

Wishing you all a beautiful and safe season!

Safe Scene Operations: Aeromedical Resources

Written by: *Michael Crabtree*

Three steps to safe scene operations with aeromedical resources.

1. Assign a landing zone coordinator. The coordinator should be DEDICATED to the landing zone. The coordinator should secure and command the landing zone by:
 - Set up the landing zone.
 - Keep all bystanders and responders away from the landing zone.
 - When requesting aeromedical resources, be sure to tell the dispatcher what frequency will be used.
 - Assist pilot in locating landing

zone. Notify pilot of any potential obstacles.

- Do not shine lights towards the aircraft in an attempt to orientate the pilot.
 - Once helicopter lands, work with pilot to keep personnel away from aircraft.
2. Set up an appropriate landing zone. A landing zone should be:
 - 100' by 100'. This is about 30 large steps.
 - On a level and firm surface.
 - Clear of loose debris and ground wires.
 - Free of power lines, trees, poles, and other overhead obstructions.
 - Outside of any

HAZMAT dangers.

- Easy to spot by aeromedical personnel.
3. Always follow safe procedures around an aircraft. Responders should:
 - Never walk near or around the tail rotor.
 - Be sure to protect your eyes to prevent temporary vision issues.
 - Do not approach an aircraft unless instructed by a crewmember of the helicopter.
 - Secure all loose items on your person when around aircraft.

Harvest Pumpkin Trifle

Courtesy of

Better Homes & Gardens

Ingredients

1 10 3/4-ounce frozen pound cake, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
 2 to 4 tablespoons cream sherry or orange juice
 1 16-ounce can whole cranberry sauce
 1/3 cup orange marmalade
 1 15-ounce can pumpkin
 1 4-serving-size package instant vanilla pudding mix
 1 cup milk
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1 teaspoon ground ginger
 1 cup whipping cream
 2 tablespoons sugar
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
 1/2 cup toasted chopped walnuts, toasted

Directions

Divide cake cubes evenly among eight 10- to 12-ounce, 4-inch-tall glasses. Or, layer all cake cubes in a 2-1/2-quart clear serving bowl or soufflé dish. Sprinkle cake with sherry or orange juice.

In a small bowl, stir together the cranberry sauce and orange marmalade. Spoon mixture over cake cubes. In a large bowl stir together pumpkin, pudding mix, milk, cinnamon, and ginger until well combined. Spoon the mixture over cranberry layer.

In a chilled mixing bowl combine cream, sugar, and vanilla. Beat with chilled beaters of an electric mixer on medium speed until soft peaks form. Gently spread over pumpkin layer. Cover; chill 2 to 5 hours. Sprinkle with walnuts before serving. Makes 8 servings.