



MCLEAN COUNTY AREA EMS: MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February - March | 2024

Quality Improvement & System Updates

Message from Coordinator

Reminders to all ALS agencies that monthly Narcotic logs must be sent in around the first of each month, every month. Annual Glucometer Training logs (available on the website under agency forms) are due once a year. Please send in 2024 if you have not done so. The glucometer tracking logs are to be kept by your agency and quality controls are to be run per the device manufacturer's recommendation. You do not need to turn these in, but they must be updated and available if requested.

ETCO₂ monitoring is essential for ongoing monitoring of critical patients. It is the gold standard for cardiac and respiratory monitoring. If you are placing a patient on oxygen, they should be on capnography. It is essential in all cardiac arrest, DAI, sedated, altered, and respiratory distress patients. If you feel your agency needs additional ETCO₂ training, let me know.

A new Behavioral Health Emergency webinar featuring Dr. Garrett-Hauser is available on Classmarker (1 CE Hour).

IDPH Renewal Criteria

IDPH has updated their license renewal criteria to reflect the continuing education requirements of NREMT certification renewal. The hours have not changed, but the breakdown of required topics is slightly more defined. For more information, please see our website for the new license renewal criteria.

(<https://www.mcleancountyems.org/license-renewal>)

NREMT Certification Renewal

If you are due to renew your NREMT Certification, the National Registry offers a [Recertification Guide](#), outlining the steps to complete the recertification process. Individuals recertifying by examination will be required to take the new cognitive exam beginning July 2024.



This year (2024), we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Emergency Medical Services Week!! President Gerald Ford signed the declaration, establishing EMS week, back in 1974. We have begun preparations to ensure this celebration is one to remember. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring these events. Please contact Sandy Alsman at (309)-827-4348 or salsman@mcleancountyems.org

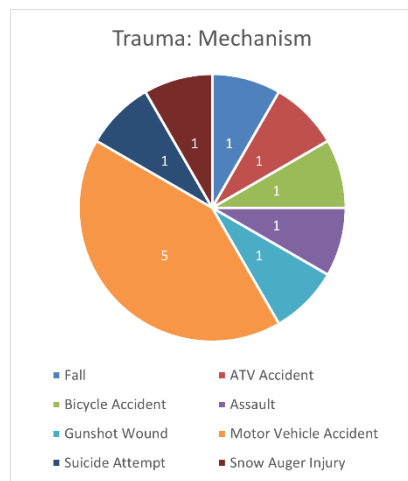


Licensing Tip: For applicants submitting for initial licensure, there is an online portal to check on your licensure status. Follow this link: (<https://emslic.dph.illinois.gov/GLSuiteWeb/clients/ildohems/Public/Verification/Search.aspx>).



Jan/Feb Trends: Trauma

MCAEMS transported 12 categorized trauma patients meeting one of the following ED dispositions: admission, death, or transfer.



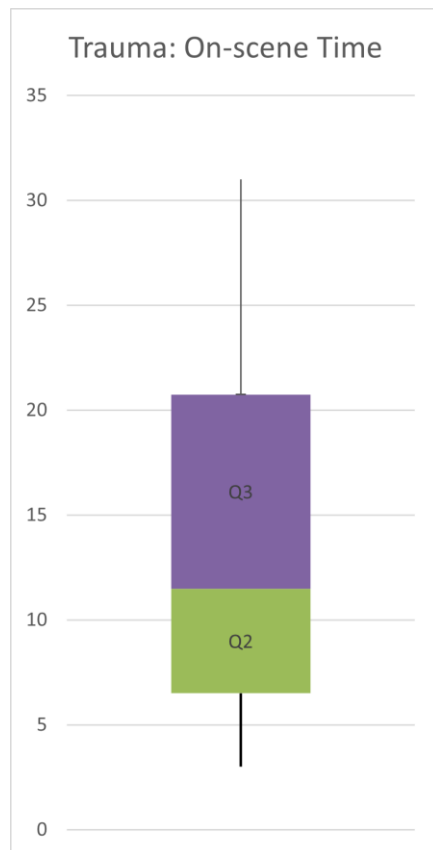
- GCS was noted by EMS in 11 of 12 trauma cases; Pain was noted by EMS in 9 of 12 trauma cases
- 7 of 7 field categorized traumas included an early notification to the receiving hospital

Quality Council Meetings 2024

Wednesday April 24, 2024 from 0930-1030

Wednesday July 31, 2024 from 0930-1030

Wednesday October 30, 2024 from 0930-1030



- While the average on-scene time for trauma patients was approximately \approx 13 minutes, several cases including (1) outlier (femur fracture) required a longer on-scene time.
- Spinal mobile restrictions were appropriately applied to trauma patients in 6 of 8 patient encounters. Be considerate of factors including mechanism, age, mental status, assessment. In doubt, apply a c-collar.

March: Women's History Month

As we begin Women's History Month, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge the rich contributions of female EMS providers within the Mclean County Area EMS system. To capture the impact, we wanted to share the experiences, perspectives, and wisdom of several female EMS leaders, highlighting their influences and local success stories:

Influences & Life Events

"My dad was a volunteer firefighter/First Responder, so I grew up with a pager going off and my dad racing out the door to go on calls. My brother was a career Paramedic and his stories intrigued me. Right around that time I attended my hometown's fire department pancake breakfast and noticed a sign asking for volunteer EMT's. I talked to the fire chief, and he wasted no time in signing me up for an EMT-B class. Once I started running on EMS runs, I knew that was my calling in life and a year later I enrolled in Paramedic school."

(with a background in healthcare and...) "an (unprecedented) knock on my door from (local fire department) members who were looking for volunteers. I didn't bite right away but months later, walked into an open house at the station where (a later mentor) handed me an application and said, "class starts in a month." That was 21 years ago, and the rest is history...."

"I love being involved with my community and was always looking for ways to give back. I volunteered for many different organizations



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throughout high school. When I was a senior in High School, I was approached about taking an EMT class. At first, I said no but then after being asked a few times, I decided why not. Never thought I would make it a career and still be working in the field over twenty years later."

Attributes to Strong EMS Leader

" I think someone who can critically think quickly, makes a strong EMS Leader. Decisions often have to be made quickly. You must have a heart for people and always be willing to do what is right for patients even when it's not convenient for crews or hard to do. You must always be looking for ways to improve and grow in the industry."

"Leading by example. This is something I express to (my team regularly). As a leader, you have to be willing to step in and *take one for the team.* Especially in situations that aren't favorable. *Being empathetic.* In my opinion, a good leader is not just someone who can talk the talk, but also someone who can walk the walk. As a leader, you need to have experienced what your employees are experiencing to have a better understanding of what their struggles might be."

" Adapting and accountability are strong points for me. I'm a little *old school* yet – only because that was instilled in me from my mentors – believing in the traditions of fire/ems and the importance of policies and protocols. I am a stickler for those procedures – they are the foundation, regardless of whether they are old or new.

I strive to be open, approachable and share my ambition. I may not always be likable, but I am always thinking, planning, in a state of readiness and looking at everything from every angle – their safety and the safety of the patient at the forefront. Firm, but fair.

Being a woman (leader) in a male dominated profession can be a slow(er) process. There's just so much more to prove...and its harder. I'm not afraid of many things (except snakes..I don't like snakes) but a fear of being taken seriously is one (fear) to definitely overcome. If I may be candid, I've often led with a whole lot of tenacity and the patience of a frat mom. (don't take offense, guys...they asked for my perspective). It hasn't been easy, but it's been worth it."

Steps to a Successful Career

"Educate yourself. There are leadership classes out there that are geared towards EMS. Seek them out and take them. It took me forever to finally understand the importance of getting a college education. I was 52 years old when I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership. That education not only helped me advance my career in EMS, but it gave me a significant amount of knowledge that is applied daily as a leader in EMS. If you are thinking about getting a college degree, do it. It's never too late!"

"When I was doing clinicals, I was told that I wouldn't be able to be an EMT because of my size. So, of course, my first words of advice are "oh, but you can! (And if anyone knows me....you know if you tell me I can't do it, you know I will show you I can). Prove them wrong and prove to yourself that you are capable!"

"Be genuine, confident and never stop learning. Grow....grow in your skills and turn your weaknesses into strengths. Learn to trust! But more importantly, be trustworthy."

"Remember you will never know it all, but always seek to learn and better yourself and look for ways to grow as a provider. It's a hard yet rewarding career."

Thank you to the contributors of this article and all our EMS female providers in MCAEMS!