



OFFICE OF PREHOSPITAL CARE
NEWSLETTER

So you think you are safe in your rig???

[Editorial Note: At the last SEMAC meeting in Albany, Dr. Nadine Levick gave a very convincing and concerning presentation on vehicle safety in EMS. She has provided the following excerpt for us to print. Her message is important: we need to pay more attention to the safety of our providers, starting with always wearing seatbelts in the front and back of the rig. –Terry Fairbanks]

Saving lives is the goal of EMS – yet somehow it is this very industry has been left out of the mainstream safety world. Sure we all are diligent about gloves and providing the best and state of the art medical and emergency care treatments – but this is a system that has a large transportation element. And it is this transportation component that has some serious risks – for the public, the provider and the patient.

The numbers are of concern – in excess of 5,000 ambulance crashes per year, one medic killed per month, and a fatality as the result of an ambulance crash about every week, the injuries are in the thousands each

year. More than two thirds of the fatalities involved the general public unrelated to the emergency transport! And there are now many medics who have been charged and convicted with vehicular manslaughter as a result largely of intersection crashes.

Yet despite these data few services have policies to protect their medics from these now well described risks. Our vehicles are exempt from the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) once we are seated more than 60 cm behind the driver, and even though we know that cautious driving practice is key to safe transport – it appears to be common to see ambulances run red lights, medics to be unrestrained and equipment to be unsecured.

What this means to you is that there are a few things that you can do right away to improve the safety of your EMS Transport:

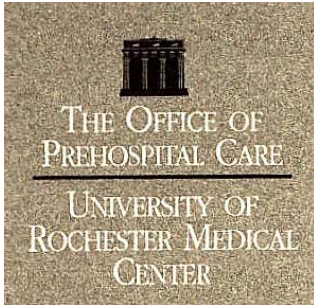
- Drive cautiously and carefully
- Stop at intersections, only proceeding when all is clear
- Complete an EVOC course

- Ensure that all equipment is firmly secured
- Always wear your seat belts, even in the back of the rig. Restrain all passengers in seat belts and secure the patient on the gurney with over the shoulder belts as well as the routine chest and thigh belts

So arrive alive! For more EMS Safety information, check out www.objectivesafety.net



By Nadine Levick, MD
Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY
objectivesafety.net
(Reprinted with permission)



Office of Prehospital Care
601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 655
Rochester, NY 14642

Phone: 585-273-3961
Fax: 585-275-2092
PCRNet fax: (585) 276-2008

Email:
opc@urmc.rochester.edu

Manish N. Shah, MD, FACEP
Monroe-Livingston EMS
Medical Director

Rollin (Terry) Fairbanks, MD,
MS, NREMT-P
Associate Regional EMS Medical Director

Associated Physicians

Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS
Colleen Davis, MD, MPH
Eric A. Davis, MD, FACEP
Charles L. Maddow, MD, FACEP
Erik Rueckmann, MD
James I. Syrett, MD, EMT-P

Office Staff:

Sharon Chiumento BSN,
EMT-P
Office Manager
Monroe-Livingston QA/QI
Coordinator

Amy Ettaro, EMT - Secretary
Jennifer Williams - Secretary

BJ Wells - Data Clerk
Irish Tice, EMT-P,
QA Reviewer

PCR Distribution Centers

If your Department/Agency need PCRs there are a two ways to get them.

- Contact OPC and come and pick them up at 273-3961.
- Contact the distribution agency in your area.

Those agencies are:

- ~ East Side - Penfield Vol. Emerg. Ambulance · 1585 Jackson Road · 872-6060
- ~ West Side- Greece Vol. Ambulance · 867 Long Pond Road · 227-2073
- ~ Henrietta Vol. Ambulance · 280 Calkins Road · 334-4190
- ~ Irondequoit Vol. Ambulance · 2330 Norton Street · 544-5112

If these sites run low they will need to contact the Office of Prehospital Care to replenish their supplies.

Website & New E-mail Address

The **www.mlrems.org** is up and running. A large amount of information has been placed on the website including the 2005-2006 Monroe-Livingston Regional Protocols (under "Forms & Downloads") as well as any training that will be offered through the OPC. More information will be added in the future. The monthly

mailing will be posted in the near future. Please take a look at the website and forward any and all comments along with suggestions for the site to the general OPC e-mail address **opc@urmc.rochester.edu**. Work will continue on the website.

PCRNet Documentation Suggestion Box

A few challenges have been found by the data clerks and QA reviewers who process and review the PCRs being sent in. Please review the information below and feel free to contact the OPC with any questions or concerns.

If any agency would like to have a representative from the

OPC come to your agency and do a brief documentation session, please contact the OPC at 273-3961.

1. Fill in mechanism of injury box(es) if pertinent
2. Put items in correct columns/boxes
3. Fill in crew certification information
4. Fill-in "By Crew Number" box
5. Please do not make

up your own codes

6. Do not stamp over data boxes
7. Do not repeat vital signs unless redone
8. Please make sure that the PCR is sent to the OPC

REMEMBER!!!

YOUR documentation is the key to unlocking much of the event for the hospital staff.