

RESPONSE

Time



"Your Voice for EMS in North Dakota"
Volume 41 □ Issue 2 □ Spring 2019

INSIDE: 2019 STATE CONFERENCE WRAP-UP





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Derek Van Dyke
 Account Executive,
 Blue Cross Blue Shield
 of North Dakota

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RESPONSE TIME Submission Policy

The ND EMS Association is pleased to accept submissions for Response Time. Submissions should be reasonable in length due to space considerations. In order to ensure the quality of our publication, editing of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and content may occur. Articles, photos, and advertising should be submitted in electronic form.

To submit, please email NDEMSEA at:
 ndemsa.office@ndemsa.org

The deadline for the fall issue is
August 1st, 2019

www.facebook.com/ndemsa





44TH ANNUAL EMS RENDEZVOUS AND TRADESHOW WRAP-UP

By Kelly Dollinger, President, North Dakota EMS Association

Thank you to everyone who attended the 44th Annual EMS Rendezvous and Tradeshow. The North Dakota EMS Association is very proud of the conference and the educational opportunities offered. We appreciate the ideas and feedback received from attendees. If there is a comment you were not able to share on your final evaluation, I would ask that you contact a board member from your region or anyone on the executive board. Your suggestions really do play a role in planning next year's conference. The goal is always to offer an outstanding educational experience.

Congratulations to the NDEMSA award winners! We appreciate the opportunity to recognize many tremendous individuals and agencies. It is vitally important that we share our story and what is special about our group. Our thanks to each of you for your time, talents, and dedication each of you bring to your community.

The North Dakota EMS Association will be sponsoring a number of events over the next couple of months. NDEMSA is excited to provide numerous education opportunities on behavioral

emergencies, an on line EMR class, and our annual regional conferences. We hope to see you there!

Our thanks to outgoing NDEMSA directors, Aden Clark, Darrell West and Emily Hughes for their tireless efforts. A tremendous gratitude is owed to these individuals for their work on behalf of the EMS Association. We also want to welcome Kelli Just, DeeAnn Werre and Corey Johnson to the Board. Your work will be equally challenging and much appreciated.

Finally, I am hoping everyone will have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Remember... train hard.... train as you do and as always.... STAY SAFE!!!

*Sincerely,
Kelly Dollinger*



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HELLO AND WELCOME SUMMER!!

By Patrick Tracy, ND EMS Foundation President



Thank you to everyone who stopped by the NDEMS Foundation booth for a visit at the 44th Annual EMS Rendezvous Conference and Tradeshow. Congratulations to the winners of the golf, fishing, and Yeti cooler package prizes. Our booth was an amazing success bringing much needed awareness to the Foundation and our upcoming events.

Congratulations Dustin Bertsch as the 2019 recipient of the Dale Severson Award and also, congratulations Kelly Dollinger on receiving your immediate past president recognition. We thank you both for your time, talent, and effort.

The first Giving Hearts Day Annual Fundraiser has been completed. Being it was our first year we weren't sure what to expect. The fundraiser did far better than we anticipated for 2019 and we look for each year in succession to improve. Thank you, Corrie Geurts and team, for all your efforts in making Giving Hearts Day the fantastic success that it was.

Welcome Summer.... I hope you had a chance to tee off in Cooperstown at the Country Club, 305 Fairway Drive, Cooperstown, ND at the Dale Severson Memorial 18-Holes Golf Scramble. This is an EMS Foundation fundraiser and a fun event for all. Get all the golf tournament details: <https://ndemsa.org/2019-Golf-Tournament>. Thank you, Mark Haugen and team, for your efforts in planning and organizing this event.

Welcome summer... Drop a line in the water at the Tom Nehring 2nd Annual ND EMS Foundation Fishing Tournament on August 16-17 at Van Hook, New Town, ND. Put your team together and come out and fish. The Rules Meeting will be on 8/16/2019 at 6:30pm with dinner and meeting to follow. The fishing tournament will start on 8/17/2019 at 7:00am first boat out and weigh in at 3:00pm. For all the fishing tournament details go to: <https://ndemsa.org/2019-Fishing-Tournament>. Thank you, Dustin Bertsch, Jeri Warrenberg, and team for all your efforts from start to finish.

Look for more details soon regarding the Perpetual Support Project. This will be a state-wide campaign to raise investment funds creating perpetual annual income for support of North Dakota EMS. Thank you, Tammy Roehrlich and team, for your efforts in helping develop and implement this worthwhile campaign.

Enjoy the summer months while they are here...maybe golf some... maybe fish some... and STAY TUNED for Foundation excitement!!

*Sincerely,
Patrick Tracy*



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Table of Honor

The Table of Honor was set for those who were unable to be with us for the Saturday Evening Awards Banquet. Each year we honor fellow emergency personnel who are no longer with us. The NDEMSA is proud to recognize the 2019 Table of Honorees.

Todd Lasky - Bismarck Air Medical

Jack Redmond - Tioga Ambulance

Robin Shipley - Kidder County Ambulance

Bonnie Cook - CHI St. Alexius Health/Bismarck Air Medical

Chris Iverson - Bismarck Air Medical



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PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

Kelli Just -
Community Volunteer EMS of LaMoure

Kelli Just serves as President of her service along with providing education for two services. She conducts an EMR course once a year and keeps the ambulance squad members for both services current with their training requirements. Kelli has been instrumental in recruiting drivers and EMTs and has helped build the squad to 40 members.

She is a BLS, First Aid, NREMT instructor and has participated in management and leadership training opportunities offered from the NDEMSA and the ND Division of EMS.

Community Volunteer EMS of LaMoure helped

coordinate a Hands Only CPR halftime entertainment with two ambulance squads when the neighboring basketball teams played each other. She has been instrumental in training the public with the Stop the Bleed campaign providing opportunities at the Emergency Response Center to learn how to quickly stop blood loss.

Kelli feels that it important to keep the ambulance squad members and the fire department on their toes with training opportunities including real time learning experiences. She is a great role model and a great leader to anyone that is around her.

Congratulations to the 2019 NDEMSA Provider of the Year Kelli Just of Community Volunteer EMS of LaMoure.



SERVICE OF THE YEAR - SOUTHEAST

Community Volunteer EMS of LaMoure

One of the many reasons of what makes this squad so special is the dedication they show not only to the community by providing top-notch medical care, but also how creative they are in finding unique ways to make it as safe as possible. Their list is growing each year with the many educational opportunities they assist with providing...CPR, First Aid, Babysitter Safety, Car Seat Safety, Stop the Bleed, ATV Safety, Impact Teen Drivers, and Bicycle Safety. Their roster has grown tremendously these past few years.

Ten of the local firemen are currently taking the EMR course, many plan to assist Community Volunteer EMS of LaMoure as well as the fire department. Knowing young people are the future, they pride themselves in offering three spots yearly to high school students. The students are exposed to all aspects of LaMoure's agency, from billing, rig maintenance, to medical care and after an extensive training can assist on calls as a helper. Continually growing makes this a wonderful service for the community.



**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT;
KELLI JUST, PROVIDER OF THE YEAR,
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EMS OF LAMOURE MEMBERS**

Congratulations to the Southeast Service of the Year Community Volunteer EMS of LaMoure.

GRACE KNAPP AWARD

Lynn Hartman

Lynn Hartman has been an invaluable part of the Association for many years. He has served as a Regional Director, Regional President, and currently as a Regional Advisor. He is often seen at meetings throughout the state representing the Association. His demeanor and professionalism when leading these meetings, even when they are contentious, has always reflected positively on the Association. He can always be counted on to be a voice of reason.

Lynn poses a wealth of knowledge on North Dakota EMS and applies this knowledge to help develop sustainable solutions to the challenges we face. Recently, he has been instrumental in implementing an assessment program for rural ambulance services. This program has allowed the Association to evaluate services and offer suggestions to improve their sustainability, as well as promote sharing of ideas amongst

ambulance services.

He has always enforced the mission of the Association by ensuring that all services are represented fairly and equally. A significant amount of Lynn's time is spent visiting with service managers and other members getting feedback and keeping them apprised of discussions happening within the industry.

He has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the Association and has contributed significantly to our success over the years.

Congratulations to this year's Grace Knapp award winner Lynn Hartman.



OUTGOING DIRECTOR AWARD

Emily Hughes - Northwest Region

Aden Clark - Northwest Region

Darrell West - Southeast Region



2019 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Felicia Sampson - Wishek Ambulance Service, 25 years

Felicia Sampson has been active in EMS for 25 years. She has been a squad leader since August 2018 and served as Training officer for 15 years prior.

Felicia takes a large amount of call, she is a grant writer, handles scheduling, and does a tremendous amount of training for many services and for her community as a CPR and First Aid instructor.

Thank you, Felicia Sampson for your 25 years of service to the Wishek Ambulance.

Karl Broeren - Northwood Ambulance, 28 years

Over Karl Broeren's career he has been training officer, squad leader, maintenance officer, and a CPR instructor. He is also a very busy farmer and family man. He has been a mentor to many of our current members and continues to be a very valuable resource for his vast knowledge and expertise.

Karl is very active in our community. He is a veteran of the Air Force and the National Guard and has been very involved in The American Legion and VFW.

Thank you, Karl Broeren, for your 28 years of service to the Northwood Ambulance.

Laurie Grandalen - West Traill Ambulance, 29 years

Laurie Grandalen is currently certified as an AEMT. She is a nurse at the Sanford Mayville hospital where she is an advocate and resource for EMS related questions. She has served in multiple leadership capacities including crew chief and president.

Countless EMS providers have started their careers learning from Laurie's experience and leadership. Laurie's long and continued service has been of immeasurable benefit to her community.

Thank you, Laurie Grandalen, for you 29 years of service to the West Traill Ambulance.

Randy Moen - Hunter Ambulance, 35 years

Randy Moen has always been the "go-to guy" or the "squad leader." Randy has always served on the Hunter Ambulance board, most recently as the Treasure of board. Randy represented Hunter Ambulance on the Rural Cass County Ambulance Association and represented the Rural Cass County Ambulance Association on the 911 EMS/Fire advisory committee.

On July 23rd, 2018, Randy Moen was diagnosed with a blood clot in his brain and would need immediate surgery. He became temporarily paralyzed on his right side and is now at a rehabilitation center in Fargo.

Thank you, Randy Moen, for your 35 years of service to the Hunter Ambulance.

Jerry Reinisch - Ellendale Ambulance, 40 years

Jerry Reinisch has been active as an EMS provider for 40 years, 27 of them at Ellendale Ambulance. In the past he has served as a clinical coordinator for several EMS programs, an EMS board member for 6 years and a member of state test team. Jerry was one of the first Auto Extrication instructors in the state and a past member of the dive team.

Thank you, Jerry Reinisch, of Ellendale Ambulance for your 40 years of service.



**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT;
JERRY REINISCH - 40 YRS, FELICIA SAMPSON - 25 YRS,
KARL BROEREN - 28 YRS**



**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT;
LAURIE GRANDALEN - 29 YRS,
LINDEY ABERLE (RISING STAR)
NOT PICTURED: RANDY MOEN**

MEDICAL DIRECTOR AWARD WINNER

Heidi Lako-Adamson

Heidi Lako- Adamson began her emergency medicine career in 1998 with Hunter, ND as a volunteer EMT. She continued her education at F-M Ambulance, working as a paramedic at FMA throughout her schooling until her residency. She joined F-M Ambulance again in 2002 as a medical director. She is the medical director for F-M Ambulance, Harwood, Horace and Mapleton as well as numerous rescue squads in Minnesota. Dr. Lako-Adamson is extremely involved with her rescue squads - she routinely checks in with the squads to see if there is anything that they need from her. She is extremely involved in the development of new protocols for her squads. Heidi is always working hard to make sure that her squads - and all of North Dakota - is always up-to-date on the most cutting-edge technology in emergency.

Dr. Lako-Adamson is a huge advocate for rural EMS at the many national conferences she attends. Although not officially recognized for these efforts, they do not go unnoticed by the services that she works tirelessly for.

She serves as medical director for the following entities:

- F-M Ambulance
- Horace Rescue
- Harwood Rescue
- Mapleton Rescue
- Sanford Health EMS Education
- Clay County Detox
- Juvenile Detention Center

Thank you for your dedication, service and support of North Dakota EMS. The North Dakota EMS Association is proud to present Dr. Heidi Lako-Adamson with the Medical Director of the Year Award.



SIREN AWARD

Rick Farrow - Tioga Ambulance - NW Region

Rick Farrow is a CPR driver and firefighter. He maintains a positive attitude and is always quick to respond when needed. He has integrity and is an asset to the service.

Jay Skaarvold - SW Region

This person works as the Safety officer and a full time EMR for the ambulance. They maintain the ambulance oil changes and taking the ambulances to and from the service shops.

This person has been a very reliable EMR, who will go above and beyond the scheduled work shifts and picks up extra with backup and driving for transfers.

Devin Torgerson - Kindred Ambulance - SE Region

Devin took the First Responder course at the ambulance garage when he was in high school. He continued to help throughout college. Now you can find him helping with the building and truck maintenance. On calls, Devin is always calm and knows what equipment we will be needing. He has excellent radio communications and is familiar with our entire coverage area.



**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT;
JAY SKAARVOLD, DEVIN TORGERSON, RICK FARROW**

RISING STAR

Russell Wold - NW Region

Russell started coming with his Mom, Marie, to ambulance meetings. He first took a CPR class and followed up by taking an EMR class.

Russell is always willing to put his name on the call schedule. He often responds from home to the scene arriving before the ambulance does. He has a passion for helping teach "Stop the Bleed." He went with members of our squad to Kenmare for Farm Safety Day and helped train 125 kids in First Aid and "Stop the Bleed." He helped teach "Stop the Bleed" to 220 kids at Mountrail County Farm Safety Days. He has volunteered to provide standby at football games, Halloween Trunk or Treat, Burke County Fair racing events and our Cardiac Ready Community events. Russ is always looking for educational classes to gain knowledge and improve his skills.

Brandon Weber - SW Region

Brandon joined the squad as a volunteer driver in 2017. He worked on his own and applied himself to complete national testing to regain his EMT certification that had lapsed. He applies that same diligence and dedication to his job as an EMT. He is willing to step up and help at any time without being asked. He is eager to share what he knows with students and new members of the squad and volunteered to do study sessions with EMT students and mentor EMR students through practical skills. He brings a positive attitude to the service. He willingly accepts responsibility for patient care and is willing to cover open shifts at short notice including working almost every holiday. He is completing training as an American Heart Instructor and plans to enter Paramedic training this spring.

Lindsey Aberle - SE Region

Lindsey lives in Finley, ND which has a substation of West Truill Ambulance Service. Hearing the need for more EMTs, she joined an EMT class and began taking call as an EMT in 2017. Enthusiastic about EMS from the beginning, she traveled to Mayville to complete training. She now takes call every other weekend in Mayville and responds to ambulance calls in Finley whenever able. She has actively pursued continuing her education and is now in an AEMT course on the way to obtaining her paramedic certification. In addition to advancing her own education, Lindsey volunteers to help with EMR and EMT classes on a regular basis. Lindsey provides exceptional patient care and works hard to improve personally with each call.



**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT;
COREY JOHNSON • NW DIRECTOR, RUSSELL WOLD**



**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT;
DEEANN WERRE • SW DIRECTOR, BRANDON WEBER**



**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT;
LORETTA HAAS • SE DIRECTOR, LINDSEY ABERLE**

2019 DALE SEVERSON AWARD

Dustin Bertsch - Foundation board member

Dustin Bertsch is a Foundation board member who gives new meaning to the term "I'm all in." He is an active member who has devoted an incredible amount of time to the betterment of the Foundation. He has taken charge of the first ever Foundation fishing tournament and through his efforts created not only a very profitable event, but a highly successful event both for the Foundation and for the anglers who participated in the event. He is a ready-to-go guy who will do whatever needs to be done to aid in improving the Foundation, or just a helping hand for another Foundation member. Congratulations Dustin Bertsch!



**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT;
DUSTIN BERTSCH, PATRICK TRACY • FOUNDATION PRESIDENT**

REGIONAL SERVICES OF THE YEAR

Powers Lake Ambulance Service - NW Region

Powers Lake Ambulance was a ground breaker in North Dakota becoming the pilot project for Cardiac Ready Communities in 2015.

They have had numerous CPR classes, Stop the Bleed classes, and blood pressure screenings all over the community. Members of the ambulance squad have gone to Farm Safety Days in two separate communities to teach Stop the Bleed. They have also taught "Stop the Bleed" to over 220 students. They have taught CPR to well over 400 people in their communities, which is outstanding.

Each cardiac arrest call is reviewed at the squad meetings and see feedback from the receiving hospital following the call. Powers Lake Ambulance members practice high performance CPR, use LUCAS and have 5 AED's with our rural providers.



McClusky Ambulance - SW Region

McClusky Rural Ambulance District tirelessly serves the residents of Sheridan county and beyond. In recent years, when many services have struggled, they have managed to thrive through many different changes in their region. They have been able to successfully take over a large portion of territory after the Goodrich Ambulance closed, and have been a model service in the search for ways to collaborate with other services in their region. McClusky Ambulance persistently trains, and strives to obtain more knowledge to provide the best care for their patients. They understand their history and where they came from, and they have a clear picture and understanding of what the service needs to do to provide exceptional service to their community for years to come.

Congratulations McClusky Rural Ambulance District for being the Southwest region service of the year.



LEGISLATIVE AWARD

Representative Pat Heinert

This year the EMS Association has awarded the 2019 EMS Legislative Vision Award to Pat Heinert. It is not one bill or specific action on behalf of this legislator, rather several years of support and leadership that has led us to acknowledging him as an EMS legislative champion.

Representative Heinert has been instrumental for EMS this session. He has advocated for EMS and healthcare on numerous occasions and we appreciate all of his efforts.



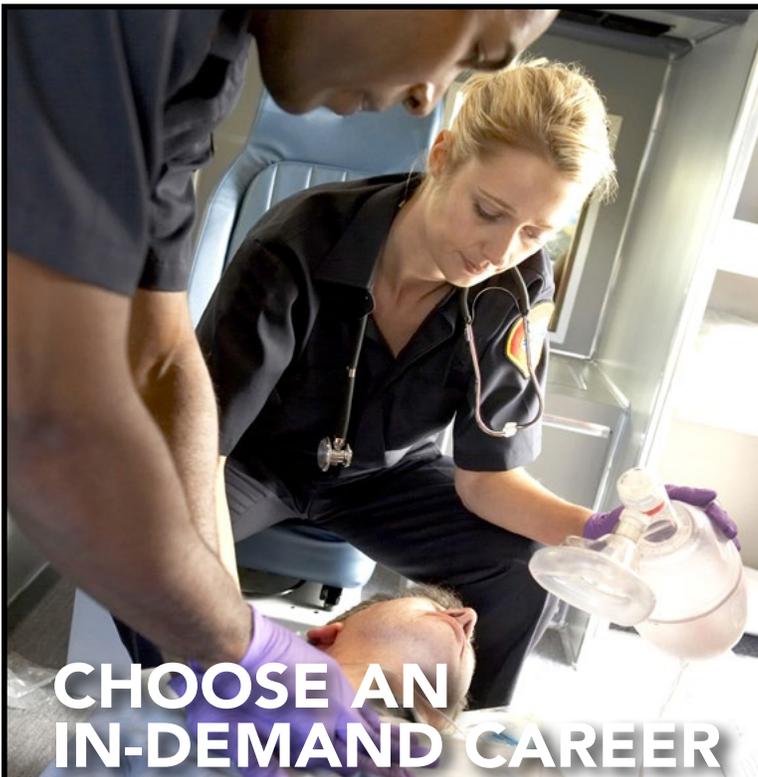
MEDIA AWARD

Napoleon Homestead

The Napoleon Homestead, particularly Terry Schwartzberger and Jessica Wald, always put articles/pictures in the paper regarding the ambulance service. The Napoleon Homestead highlights when new volunteers join, the service gets new equipment, put on local training, put on fundraisers, and EMS week activities.



They are always looking to help support the ambulance service by doing stories on what they are doing in the community. They are a great supporter of the ambulance service and the community in general.



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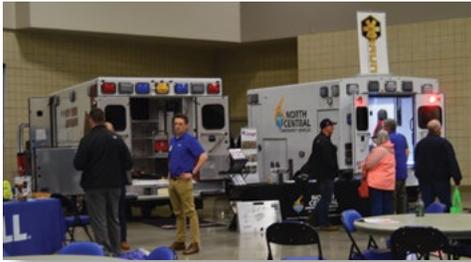
2019 Conference Wrap Up

The 44th Annual North Dakota EMS Association EMS Rendezvous Conference and Tradeshow were held April 11-13,



2019, in Bismarck, North Dakota. The preconference was held Thursday at the Bismarck Ramkota and the conference was held Friday & Saturday at the Bismarck Event Center.

Thursday evening was the vendor preview and a bonus class of "ROSC to



Survival Post Resuscitation Care" presented by Marcy Dawson. The vendor preview had a great turn out, despite many obstacles with weather. We would like to thank Regions Hospital Burn Center, Scheels, and Valley Med Flight for being our "BIG" door prize sponsors. Some of the "BIG" door prizes given were a Yeti Package, a \$250 gift card, North Dakota State Fair Package and a Samsung tablet. Numerous other door prizes were given away at the exhibitor booths. Thank you to all of our sponsors.

The opening ceremony kicked off once again with the Northern Lights Chorus singing the national anthem. Kelly



Dollinger welcomed 550 participants, 55 exhibitors, and 21 speakers. Friday's opening ceremony paid tribute to Bonnie Cook, Chris Iverson, and Todd Lasky, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty after their plane crashed on November 18, 2018. We also honored Dean Pegors a long time North Dakota Paramedic, and Director of the Standing Rock Ambulance Service. Thank you to Dan Schaefer, who spoke at the tribute.



Local and national presenters shared their EMS expertise each day of the conference. Thank you to these presenters who include: Sim-ND, Dan Batsie, Andrew Beck, Steve Berry, Marcy Dawson, Tyler DeKrey, Jason Haag, Allen Johnson, Ron Lawler, Kevin McFarlane, Brent Meyers, Phil Peterschick, Timothy Redding, Gautam Sachdeva, Felicia Sampson, Robert Seifert, Kayla Shaw, Christopher South, Thomas Taylor Jr, Jeremy Thomasson, and Deb Von Seggern.



The ND EMS Association annual meeting was held on Friday evening. Board members gave committee reports to the members. The Friday night entertainment was bingo and karaoke.

Saturday night's banquet concluded the 44th Annual North Dakota EMS Association EMS Rendezvous Conference and Tradeshow. Individuals who are no



longer with us were honored at the Table of Honor ceremony. Awards were given to selected individuals who have gone above and beyond in North Dakota EMS.

Also a big thank you to the 55 vendors who came from all over the US for the trade show. Thank you to the North Dakota Board of Nursing, the ND POST board, the ND Board of Social Work Examiners, the ND Department of Health Division of Emergency Medical Systems, SIM-ND, the Ramkota staff, and the Bismarck Event Center staff for the time put in to make this event a success.

Most of all, thank you to our members and attendees. We've already gone through your conference evaluations and have begun planning for the 45th EMS Rendezvous Conference & Trade Show, which will be held April 2-4, 2020. We hope to see you then!



Thank You to our 2019 Rendezvous Sponsors!



DOOR PRIZE WINNERS



Every year providers across our great state are working tirelessly to provide service to the people of their response district. It is always a great thing to show them appreciation for their efforts and

this year we had some excellent sponsors with some "BIG" door prizes for those in attendance at the 44th Annual EMS Conference and Tradeshow. There were many items distributed throughout the event and during the annual Bingo night. Please remember these organizations for showing us their support.

The "BIG" door prizes sponsors were NDEMSA, Valley Med Flight, Regions Hospital and Scheels.

The winner of the ND State Fair package was Barb from Devils Lake.



A Samsung tablet went to Lenny of Mercer County.

Nathan of Grand Forks was the winner of custom NDEMSA corn hole boards.



The Scheels \$250 gift card went to Roger of Napoleon.



A Yeti package was won by Marcelle Grosz from Couteau Freedom Mine.

Again, we cannot appreciate enough the many businesses and vendors for their support towards the conference and EMS providers everywhere. Thank you for all that you do and we hope to see you again next year at the 45th annual conference.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR EMS AND FIRE

Course Objectives

Mental Health First Aid USA is an 8-hour course that teaches a five-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources and knowledge to help an individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional, peer and self-help care. Participants learn the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention and, most importantly, teaches individuals how to help someone in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge

What Will be Covered

- ❖ Defusing crises
- ❖ Promoting mental health literacy
- ❖ Combating stigma of mental illness
- ❖ Enabling early intervention through recognition of signs and symptoms
- ❖ Connecting people to care



Dates and Locations of Training

June 20th, 2019- Jamestown Fire Department (209 2nd Ave. NW),
Jamestown, ND

July 9, 2019 Quality Inn & Suites (1030 E. Interstate Ave), Bismarck, ND

July 25th, 2019 NDSU Langdon Research Extension Center (9280 107th Ave
NE) Langdon, ND

NDEMSEA Member \$15.00

NDEMSEA Non-Member \$35.00

(maximum participants 30, minimum 5)

Register at <https://ndemsa.org/MHFA>

EMS Safety Course

Dates and Locations

Bismarck- June 28th, 2019

Fargo- July 12th, 2019

The Curriculum Covers

Crew Resource Management

- Emergency Vehicle Safety
- Responsibilities in Scene Operations
 - Patient Handling
- Patient, Practitioner and Bystander Safety
 - Personal Health

Portions of this course covers NCCR Material

Completion of the EMS Safety course provides 8 hours of
CAPCE credit.

Go to ndemsa.org/EMS-Safety-Course to register



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Upcoming NDEMSA Events

- June 6, 2019 IC Refresher, Jamestown, ND
- June 20, 2019 Mental Health First Aid, Jamestown, ND
- June 28, 2019 EMS Safety, Bismarck, ND
- July 9, 2019 Mental Health First Aid, Bismarck, ND
- July 12, 2019 EMS Safety, Fargo, ND
- July 25, 2019 Mental Health First Aid, Langdon, ND
- August 16-17 2nd Annual Foundation Fishing Tournament
- September 21-22, 2019 SW Conference, Medora, ND
- January 25-26, 2020 NW Conference, Minot, ND
- February 7-8, 2020 SE Conference, Fargo, ND
- February 14-16, 2020 NW Conference, Grand Forks, ND

NDEMSA

In House Training Opportunities

Currently, NDEMSA has three in-service educational opportunities available. The Department of Health is offering two trainings:

1. Sepsis with High Performance CPR
2. Taking Care of our Own: Stress, Resilience, and Self Care training.

JUNE 30TH IS THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF THESE TRAININGS.

The 3rd training is Stroke Education Provided by the American Heart Association.

JULY 10TH IS THE LAST DAY FOR THIS TRAINING CYCLE.

If anyone is interested in participating in these trainings please contact Corrie at ndemsa.office@ndemsa.org to set up a time.

NDEMSA plans to continue offering in-service trainings. If you have any educational ideas or are interested in being an instructor, please e-mail the address above.

REPLICA – RECOGNITION OF EMS PERSONNEL INTERSTATE COMPACT ACT

By Adam Parker

House Bill 1337 was a bill to introduce a licensure compact for EMS personnel, called REPLICA or the Recognition of EMS Personnel Interstate Compact Act. This bill ultimately passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor. The new law will go into effect on August 1st with North Dakota then being eligible to join the Interstate Compact Commission.

There are many occasions when licensed EMS personnel have to render care across state lines; be it long-distance

transfers, mutual aid response, air ambulance operations between states, or perhaps the response area for the ambulance service extends into another state. How state EMS regulatory agencies have handled situations where providers practice care across state lines has been inconsistent. REPLICA provides clear-cut solutions to these challenges while increasing accountability while maintaining or improving public access.

Everyone currently holding an EMS license in North



State of North Dakota
Office of the Governor
Doug Burgum
Governor

Dakota, who is licensed at the level of EMT or above, will be enrolled in the Compact. Below I will discuss some common questions regarding REPLICA and how it will affect you.

1. Is there a cost to joining the Compact?

There will be no immediate cost to the State of North Dakota or the individual providers. Currently the National Registry of EMT's funds REPLICA and this will continue into the foreseeable future. In the event that the NREMT ceases its funding, all Member states will be responsible for contributing funds to offset the costs of administering REPLICA. If this were to occur, we could introduce legislation to remove ourselves from REPLICA.

Additionally, REPLICA requires FBI compliant background checks with biometric data for all initial licensure. No currently licensed individuals will be required to undergo background checks as a result of this legislation as this requirement applies only to initial licensure. Individuals applying for initial licensure will need to pay to have their fingerprints obtained to provide the biometric data required to complete the background check.

2. Does the EMS compact create licensure reciprocity between REPLICA states?

REPLICA provides a privilege to practice in member states; this is not the same as licensure reciprocity. REPLICA more closely resembles the Driver's License compact than the Nursing compact in this regard. That means that just because you hold a license from one-member state you cannot automatically get a license from another member state. However, you can practice in that member state as if you were licensed in that state. This is an important distinction as it allows the individual states to maintain control of licensure within their state and allows a state to suspend an individual's privilege to practice without it necessarily affecting the individual's home-state licensure.

3. What is the "coordinated database" that this legislation creates?

This is an important component to REPLICA. It allows North Dakota to participate in a database that contains the licensure information for all providers in member states. It is used to facilitate the exchange of information between member states regarding EMS personnel licensure, adverse actions, and significant investigatory information. This new database, along with the FBI compliant background checks, creates an unprecedented level of accountability for EMS providers.

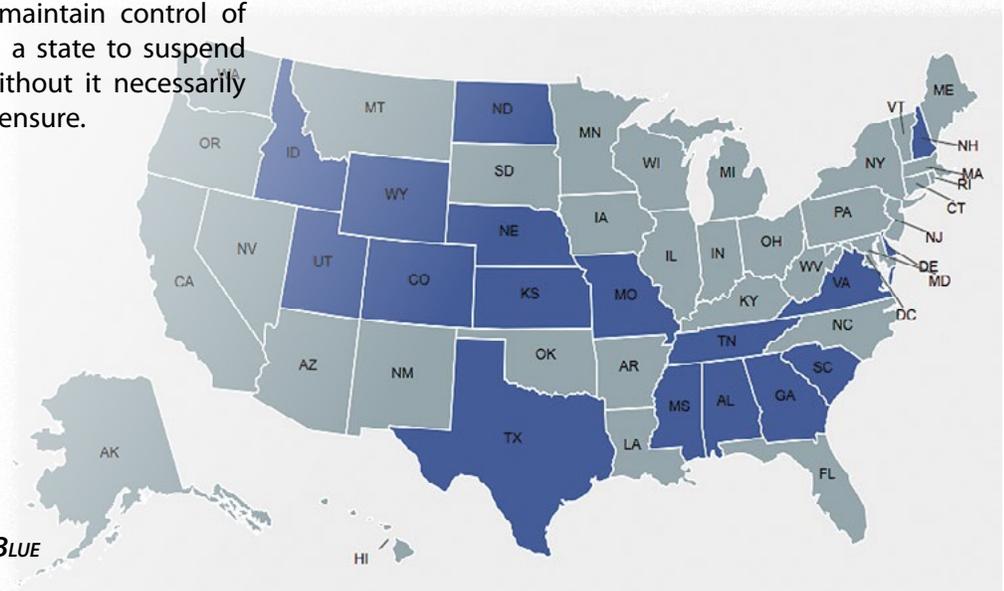
4. What other States are members of the Compact?

North Dakota is the 17th state to adopt REPLICA and several others have legislation introduced in their respective legislatures, or have indicated an intention to introduce legislation in the future. A current list of all participating states can be found at www.emscompact.org

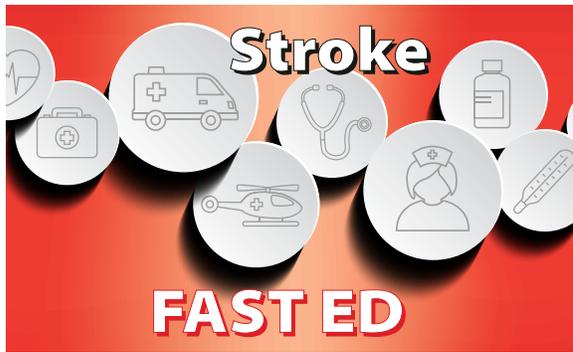
5. Why did the North Dakota EMS Association support the bill?

REPLICA removes barriers to licensure and will, in time, reduce the burden of providers who currently need to maintain multiple state licenses. It provides additional protection for the public we serve through the background check requirement and participation in the database while maintaining or improving access to EMS. All of these benefits ultimately supports the advancement of the EMS profession.

If you have any questions about REPLICA, please contact the NDEMSEA office or email emsadvocacy@ndemsa.org.



MAP AT RIGHT IS FROM WWW.EMSCOMPACT.GOV BLUE STATES ARE CURRENTLY EMS COMPACT STATES



EMS IS VITAL IN STROKE TREATMENT

By: Sam Richter, BSN, SCRN

Q: What is the Field Assessment Stroke Triage for Emergency Destination (FAST ED) tool?

A: The FAST ED tool is utilized by emergency medical services (EMS) in stroke assessment nationwide. It has some equivalence to the National Institute of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) that nurses and physicians use in hospitals and helps in identifying potential stroke patients.

Q: How does the FAST ED tool help in the care of stroke patients?

A: Early identification and treatment is key to patients who are having a stroke. The FAST ED tool not only identifies stroke patients, but also indicates patients who may have a large vessel occlusion that can be treated with mechanical thrombectomy. Mechanical thrombectomy is used to remove a blood clot from the artery. Since implementing the FAST ED tool, Sanford Health has seen an increase in pre-activation of emergency department stroke code activations either:

- Prior to patient arrival
- When the patient is in EMS care

There have been increases reporting stroke signs and symptoms to the emergency department through the FAST ED tool. This pre-activation helps nurses and physicians prepare for the patient's arrival and organize appropriate treatment.

Q: What is the most important treatment for EMS to complete prior to hospital arrival with stroke patients?

A: Assessment and report of the FAST ED tool is key. The last known well time, which is the last time the patient was

completely free of stroke symptoms, is how the hospital bases its plan of care and treatment options. Obtaining this time is imperative to the stroke patient's treatment options. The patient is going to have a CT scan of the head to rule out hemorrhage. Sometimes the patient may need contrast studies as well. It is very beneficial to obtain large bore intravenous (IV) access, through an 18 gauge or larger, before arrival at the hospital. Ideal placement for the IV is in the antecubital vein. In addition, stroke mimics need to be ruled out; hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar, is a common stroke mimic. Obtaining a glucose before hospital arrival is ideal. Many times emergency department staff do not repeat this value when reported by EMS. Other treatment and history items to complete would be vital signs and an EKG, if the patient is on an anticoagulant or has had a recent major surgery.

Q: What are the overall treatment goals for stroke patients?

A: The overall goal is recognition of stroke diagnosis and timely treatment. Always remember, time is brain! One option of treatment is with IV alteplase (tPA)- a thrombolytic medication given intravenously to dissolve the blood clot that is restricting blood flow to a certain part of the brain, causing ischemia. This medication can, in some cases, be given up to four-and-a-half hours after the last known well time. In patients with large vessel occlusion strokes, mechanical thrombectomy can be done to remove the blood clot from the artery. This procedure, in some cases, can be done up to 24 hours from the last known well time. The faster the treatment time, the better the outcome for the patient. Hospital systems are built around providing the fastest possible treatment times for stroke patients, EMS plays a large part in this treatment and successful outcomes.

Sam Richter, BSN, SCRN, is a stroke-certified registered nurse and is the stroke program coordinator at Sanford Health in Bismarck. Sam has been a registered nurse for seven years.



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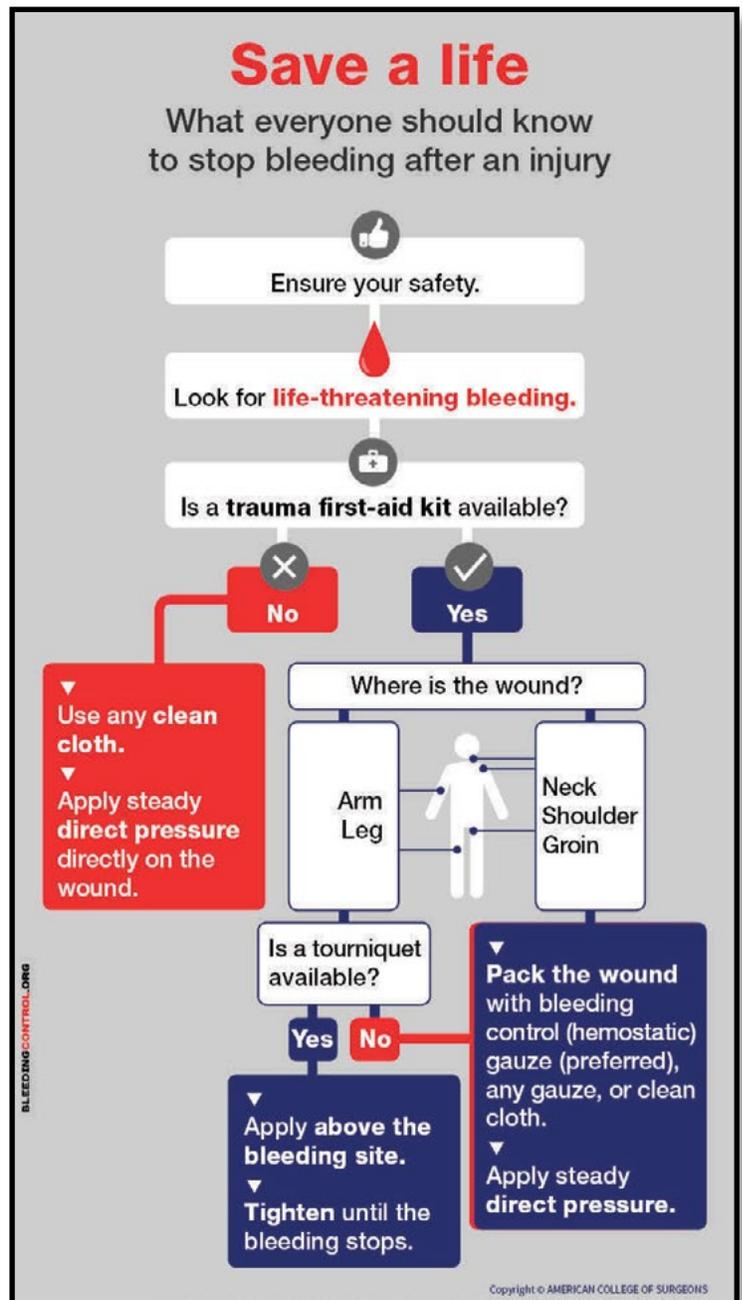
WHAT'S NEXT IN BLEEDING CONTROL

By: Corey A. Johnson, A.A.S., NRP, TP-C | Lieutenant

A long time ago I remember the reintroduction of tourniquets into EMS. It was a long time coming and I remember the excitement of this critical life saving intervention being overwhelmingly welcomed. The state I was working in at the time even went as far as to buy the first round of tourniquets for every licensed ambulance in the state.

A little history behind the use of tourniquets is that someone somewhere thought that they may be harmful if used when not completely necessary and thanks to many studies done by the DoD and many notable universities, we now know this to simply not be true. I recently watched a webinar where one study was looking at how often tourniquets are applied when other means of bleeding control could have been sufficient. The outcome, who cares? The bleeding stopped and a potential disaster in patient management was avoided. The cold hard facts are that people are dying because of uncontrolled hemorrhage and we must do something and tourniquets, when used in the short term (less than 8 hours), do no harm. The puzzling part of this, nearly 10 years later, is that it is still a hot topic. May is National "Stop the Bleed" Month as designed by the "Stop the Bleed" Campaign. We are still seeing deaths attributed to hemorrhage. With this I want to reflect on why this is still such a hot topic.

Traditional tourniquets address one issue, extremity hemorrhage. We embraced the reintroduction of tourniquets, but what many are still unaware of is the advancements that have been made to stop other areas of hemorrhage. I had the pleasure of attending a Tactical Combat Casualty Care course a long time ago in New York state which was taught by a NYC Police-Medic. This is where I was first introduced to junctional tourniquets. It was a medieval looking contraption called a CRoC that was used by the military to stop bleeding in the pelvic region. It came with a price tag of nearly \$1,000. I remember that



my friend and I were amazed by the thing after taking the training, but knew it would be a difficult sell to try and bring something like this home. But since then, new and more user friendly, and cheaper, devices have come to market. I first had the opportunity to work with the JETT tourniquet with the Williams County SWAT Team. During another training exercise with the Medics from Minot SWAT we learned about the SAM junctional tourniquet, which also could be used on the upper body as well. These new easier to use tourniquets come in at about \$300, a much better comparison to the \$1,000 years ago.

Other areas of concern are bleeding in the abdomen and thoracic cavity. If you haven't done so, I would strongly encourage your service to look into carrying a hemostatic agent. These have become less concerning than they once used to be. The concerns of allergic reaction and exothermic heat production have been ironed out and we now have what is on the market today.

For ALS providers, Tranexamic Acid or TXA, has been added to protocols, but still is not widely carried. In rural and remote locations, our options are limited. It is just us out there; surgical centers may be hours away for some of these patients.

The items mentioned are the next level of bleeding control. They come with a price tag and yes, a junctional tourniquet may sit on a truck for years before it is needed. But when it is, it just might save someone's life. TXA may buy someone the time to survive a ground transport when flight is not available. I encourage everyone to look into these and see what is best for your service and response district. Some major medical suppliers may be willing to send out demonstration units for you to see and train with prior to making a decision.

The NDEMISA does not support any one particular product or device.

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