

# EMT Thoughts



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**Save the Date for the  
SDEMSEA Conference!**

**October 27 - 29, 2023**

**Rapid City, South Dakota**



# South Dakota EMS News



## Wall Ambulance Service

### KotaTerritory ABC

"Around 15% of the U.S. population lives in rural areas (43% of South Dakota), and these people often encounter barriers when accessing emergency services.

Now the Wall Ambulance Service is in danger of closing. "First of all, they need community support, they need government support, our state needs to recognize the importance of having emergency services in rural communities," said Wall Ambulance Service board director Lilly Stone.

"A lot of people don't realize if Wall does end up closing, that affects every one of us that travels East River. If something happens, there is no ambulance service to respond. It would take them probably an hour to get there by the time dispatch was notified, they notified the ambulance, and they went en route," said Fischer. "

## Merle M. Gulbranson

Skrochfc.com

"On May 5, 2023 Merle Gulbranson passed away peaceful after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Merle became a critical member of both the local and state communities by providing over 42 years of service in many facets of the community such as being a long-time member of the Colman Fire & Rescue, a lifesaving EMT, serving many years on the city council and on the debriefing team for the state. He was also a former SDEMSEA president. "



# Department of Health Office of EMS and Trauma Update

Many of you may recall in Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), Governor Noem requested and the South Dakota Legislature approved \$20 million for three EMS initiatives. Over the past several months, the Office of EMS and Trauma has worked extensively with our partners to roll out Telemedicine in Motion, LIFEPAK monitor replacement, and Regional Service Designation Projects. In this publication, we would like to provide an update to the EMS community on these three impactful initiatives.

**Telemedicine in Motion**—is a new program designed to provide telemedicine services to EMS agencies throughout the State of South Dakota.

Telemedicine in Motion connects EMS professionals in the field with Board Certified ER Physicians, registered nurses, and Paramedics within the Avel eHub through audio/video communications. EMS professionals never need to be alone in the back of an ambulance again thanks to this pioneering initiative—which is the first in the country. To date, sixty ambulance services have had the audio/video equipment installed in the back of their ambulance and well over 350 patient care encounters have already taken place during Phase 1. During Phase 2, which started June 1st, 2023, will continue the great work with the aim of installing the remaining service desiring to be part of this initiative.

**LIFEPAK 15 Replacement**—is an initiative aimed to replace 345 monitor/defibrillators provided as part of a 2010 grant through the Helmsley Charitable Trust and the AHA. To date, over 170 devices have been distributed in four regional locations including Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Watertown, and Yankton. The DOH and Stryker are working to schedule remaining sites in central SD in late June or mid-July. Stryker's data teams have been working with healthcare facilities to ensure LIFENET is installed in each of our receiving facilities. LIFENET allows for EKG transmissions to be sent from the LIFEPAK monitor to the receiving facility—allowing them ample time to prepare should a patient be experiencing a STEMI. Avel eCare has also implemented LIFNET allowing services to transmit directly to them to assist in EKG interpretation, furthering the System of Care.

**Regional Service Designation**—in an initiative with two primary phases. Phase 1, which is being conducted now by Healthcare Strategists—an EMS consulting firm out of CA—is a statewide assessment of the state of EMS in SD present day and how best to plan for long-term sustainability into the future. This initial phase is scheduled to take up to one year. During Phase 2 of this initiative, the DOH will be providing up to 15 \$500,000 planning grants. Each of the seven EMS districts will be eligible for two grants with an additional grant available for our larger districts.

EMS Professionals in SD are some of the best in the country and we are so pleased by the support of Governor Noem, the SD Legislature, and countless stakeholders who our supporting our everyday heroes.

Thank you for all you do in service to the citizens of SD.

Marty Link, EMS Director





## **SD DoH and Scheels EMS Appreciation**

For National EMS Week, the South Dakota Department of Health and Scheels teamed up to celebrate EMS providers! South Dakota EMS Workers were invited to either the Sioux Falls or Rapid City Scheels for a thank you reception where everyone received a Yeti mug from the Rescue Red collection.

The Rescue Red collection was inspired by EMT workers who risk their lives to save others, and Scheels was inspired to honor local heroes here in South Dakota.

## **SDEMSA License Plate Decals**

To purchase, visit [sdemsa.org/online-store](https://sdemsa.org/online-store)

As a member of the SDEMSA, you have the option to purchase license plate decals for South Dakota issued specialty plates. Each order will receive two (2) license plate stickers. Orders will be fulfilled as inventory is available.

## **Stress Management for the Trauma Service Provider**

SDFFA and Dakota Territory Fire Chaplains

The South Dakota Firefighters Association, in conjunction with the Dakota Territory Fire Chaplains, is offering the following class on June 16th and 17th at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, SD: Stress Management Techniques for the Trauma Service Provider.

# Conference & Awards

## Sue Schuurmans' Memorial Award

- This is an annual award that can be used to purchase a piece of equipment for your squad. The amount of the award varies but from 2011 to 2014 it was \$250.

## EMT of the Year Award

*Nominees will be considered based on the following criteria:*

- Provides superior patient care
- Is an effective advocate for patients and their families
- Works with peers to foster a positive work environment
- Demonstrates professionalism in interacting with patients, their families and other medical professionals
- Demonstrates their commitment to continuing professional education
- Any other relevant information provided in support of the nominee.

## Paramedic of the Year Award

- Provides superior patient care
- Is an effective advocate for patients and their families
- Works with peers to foster a positive work environment
- Demonstrates professionalism in interacting with patients, their families and other medical professionals

## Military Medic of the Year

- This award will recognize a military medic (any MOS qualified active, reserve, or National Guard U.S. Army Medic, Navy Corpsman or Air Force Medic) who demonstrates excellence in the performance of military emergency medicine, with their primary role being that of theater patient care.

## Career EMS Service of the Year

- Any prehospital care provider (ambulance service or rescue and first responder units) that is predominately staffed by career staff is eligible for this award.

## Volunteer EMS Service of the Year

- Any prehospital care provider (ambulance service or rescue and first responder units) that is predominately staffed by volunteers is eligible for this award.

## Lifetime Membership

- Members who are, or have been, very active in the association at the state or district level and have been an active member for 15 or more years may be nominated to be awarded a lifetime membership

## EMS Instructor of the Year

- This award will be given to an EMS Instructor who has been active in education and shows dedication and commitment to providing quality education in the State of SD.

## President's Award

- This award is presented annually to a member who, in the opinion of the SDEMSEA president, has been instrumental in furthering the goals and objective of EMS in South Dakota and who is an active member of the SDEMSEA.





# News from the Districts

## Spring EMT Graduates

### Aberdeen Fire and Rescue

Aberdeen Fire and Rescue would like to recognize this spring's EMT graduates. These graduates not only strived to be the best in providing patient care but they excelled in every aspect of learning.

This class is partnered with Northern State University. There are three (3) NSU students who are aspiring to be a cardiovascular surgeon, a PA, and a lab tech. There are two that are volunteers with Frederick Area Ambulance and Fire and are also using this course as professional continuing education. The final two are high school students who are aspiring to become EMTs and eventually paramedics.

I am expecting big things from this group. I, Jon Mitchell of NSU, and AFR wish them the best in their future endeavors.

- Keith Sharisky

### Group Photo:

Dalton Kopecky, Marty Morlock, Jacob Krenz, Jessica Splichal, Eh Poh, Caleb Lazure, and Darrel Yost





## Friends and Family CPR Aberdeen Fire and Rescue

On May 6th, 12 aspiring babysitters wanted to learn how to provide care for their charges. These 12, with encouragement from their parents, attended a Friends and Family CPR orientation/training. They target child and infant CPR, foreign body airway obstruction, and basic bleeding control. They all learned something and had fun learning. Aberdeen Fire and Rescue wants to thank the participants for learning something that will help save a life.



## First Responders Learn About Fire Hazards Central Electric Cooperative

Emergency Responders are usually the first to arrive on the scene of an accident or fire, so they face a greater risk of encountering electrical hazards such as damaged equipment or downed power lines. In an effort to protect and educate first responders, Central Electric Cooperative offered free electrical safety training at their headquarters west of Mitchell on April 13. Attendees included local first responders, fire department personnel, and EMTs. During the training, Central Electric's manager of operations, Brian Bultje showed common examples of electrical meters and provided guidance on protocols for disconnecting power during an emergency. Brian Baldwin, an independent emergency safety education instructor, guided participants through hands-on rescue exercises involving electrical hazards. The group gained insight into how electric cooperatives are dispatched after an emergency call is made.



# Job Postings & Other Opportunities

EMT | Sanford Health,  
**Canton**

- \$16.00 – \$22.50 an hour
- Continuing Education Credits, 401(k), Dental and Health Insurance

EMT | Behavior Management Systems,  
**Rapid City**

- \$29.6 to 37.5k per year
- Competitive Wages, Flexible Work Schedule, Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance

EMT | Bowdle Healthcare Center, **Bowdle**

- \$33.1 to 41.9k per year
- EMT and CPR certification required

Flight Paramedic | Avera,  
**Sioux Falls**

- \$22.00 to \$31.75 an hour
- Full Time
- Health Insurance and PTO

## EMS World Expo

*A collaboration between HMP and SDEMSEA*

EMS World Expo 2023 is September 18 – 22 in New Orleans. Learn about the latest research, procedures, products, and services that help save lives.

SD EMS Association members have access to:

- Unlimited free exhibit hall passes (Code SDEMSEXPO)
- Unlimited \$100 discount on 3 – day conference passes (Code SDEMSEA)

## NPPGov

Cooperative Purchasing and Current supply Trends

NPPGov is excited to present an educational session on Cooperative Purchasing and Current Supply Chain Trends. Upon completion of the session attendees will have an understanding of

- Current Supply Chain Trends
- Cooperative Purchasing and how it can assist you in obtaining the products and services you need
- NPPGov Public Safety GPO, how it works, and how it can save you time and money on products.

# Getting Involved

## Ways for EMS to get involved in the Community:

### Host a First Aid Kit Class:

Teach your community how to create a first aid kit! Instruct on essentials, the reasoning behind them, and how to use them in case of an emergency.

### Teach Water Safety Classes:

Help make your community safer in and around water by teaching water safety outreach! The Red Cross provides free educational resources that can be used by anyone to teach water safety by registering as an Aquatic leader and completing a simple orientation to the materials.

## Summer Safety Tips

### Have A First Aid Kit Ready:

Be prepared for scrapes, scratches, bites, and more by having a first aid kit on hand. Keep one at home and in your car for unexpected minor medical issues.

**Stay Hydrated:** Staying hydrated is always important, but especially so during the hot and humid summer months. If you plan to spend a lot of time outdoors, keep water with you and drink it often. Consuming foods with high water content can also help you stay hydrated.

### Prepare an Emergency

**Weather Kit:** Heavy area storms can easily knock out power and scatter debris, making it difficult to travel. Ensure you have a full emergency kit with non-perishable food, flashlights, water, a first aid kit, and extra medications to see you through an emergency situation.





# Continuing Ed and Upcoming Events

## Continuing Education

### Trauma Triage, Hemorrhage Control, Asses and Movement

- Platte | 06.12.23
- Huron | 06.14.23
- Howard | 06.19.23
- Armour | 06.21.23
- Corsica | 06.21.23
- White Lake | 06.26.23
- Parkston | 06.27.23

## June Monthly Training

- Avon | 06.12.23
- Tyndall | 06.21.23
- Box Elder | 06.21.23

## Summer Emergencies

### - District 4 & Northeast SD AHEC

- Virtual | 06.29.23

## Cardiac, Medical Assessment

### - District VI

- Sanford Underground Research Facility | 06.01.23 - 06.30.23

## Upcoming Events

### Initial EMT Course

Western Dakota  
Technical Institute  
06.05.23

### Mental Health and Neurological Emergencies

Center for Pre-Hosp Care  
Sanford Health  
06.05.23

### Snake Bites

Carthage Ambulance Service  
06.07.23

### Sims Truck -

### Agricultural Trauma

Moody County Ambulance  
06.09.23

### Dealing with Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault and Responding as an EMT

Plankinton Ambulance Association  
06.13.23

### District V Refresher

District V - Pierre, SD  
06.10.23 - 06.12.23

**For more information and more  
upcoming events, visit  
[www.sdems.org/events](http://www.sdems.org/events)**

# Instructor Coordinator Society

## Join the SDEMSEA IC Society today!

The mission of the South Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association Instructor Coordinator Society (SDEMSEA IC Society) is to practice and promote excellence in EMS education. The SDEMSEA IC Society is committed to and responsible for providing relevant, challenging, evidence-based education.

### For more information or to join, please contact:

Katheryn Benton, President

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## Upcoming Events

### 2023 NAEMSE EMS Educator Symposium & Trade

August 14 - 19 | Reno Peppermill Hotel, St Reno, Nevada

## Teaching Strategies for EMS Instructors

### Know your students

- To be an effective instructor, you need to know your students. Determine what type of learner are they, why are they taking the course, and if they have any learning challenges or struggles. In addition to knowing your students, it's good to know what students want in a teacher.

### Balance lecture with hands-on experience

- While there are many hours of lecture in any EMT course, breaking it up with hands-on experience will keep the attention of your students. Lecture for 15-30 minutes, then break up into small groups for hands-on skills practice.

*If you have any news, events, or photos you would like to see in EMT Thoughts, please visit <https://sdemsa.org/emtthoughts>*