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# South Dakota EMS News

## Cardiac Ready Communities

In the United States, seven in 10 people feel powerless during a cardiac emergency, resulting in less than half of those in need receiving CPR before professional help arrives. The South Dakota Cardiovascular Collaborative addressed this issue in 2018 with the introduction of the Cardiac Ready Communities (CRC) Program. The CRC Program educates, equips, and empowers local communities to confidently assist individuals experiencing a cardiac event before professional help arrives. Designated communities show increased bystander CPR rates, AED use, and survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

This initiative assesses communities' readiness for cardiac events, focusing on emergency response plans, CPR and AED training, and AED location information. The Cardiac Ready Community Designation strengthens the "chain of survival" identified by the American Heart Association. Any South Dakota community can apply, and while the process may take a few months to over a year, the focus is not just on receiving the designation but on ongoing awareness and education efforts.

Communities with the Cardiac Ready designation gain promotional benefits, including highway signage, emphasizing the primary benefit: saving lives through early intervention in cardiac emergencies. Efforts to raise awareness, educate about sudden cardiac arrest, CPR training, and AED locations are integral to the program.

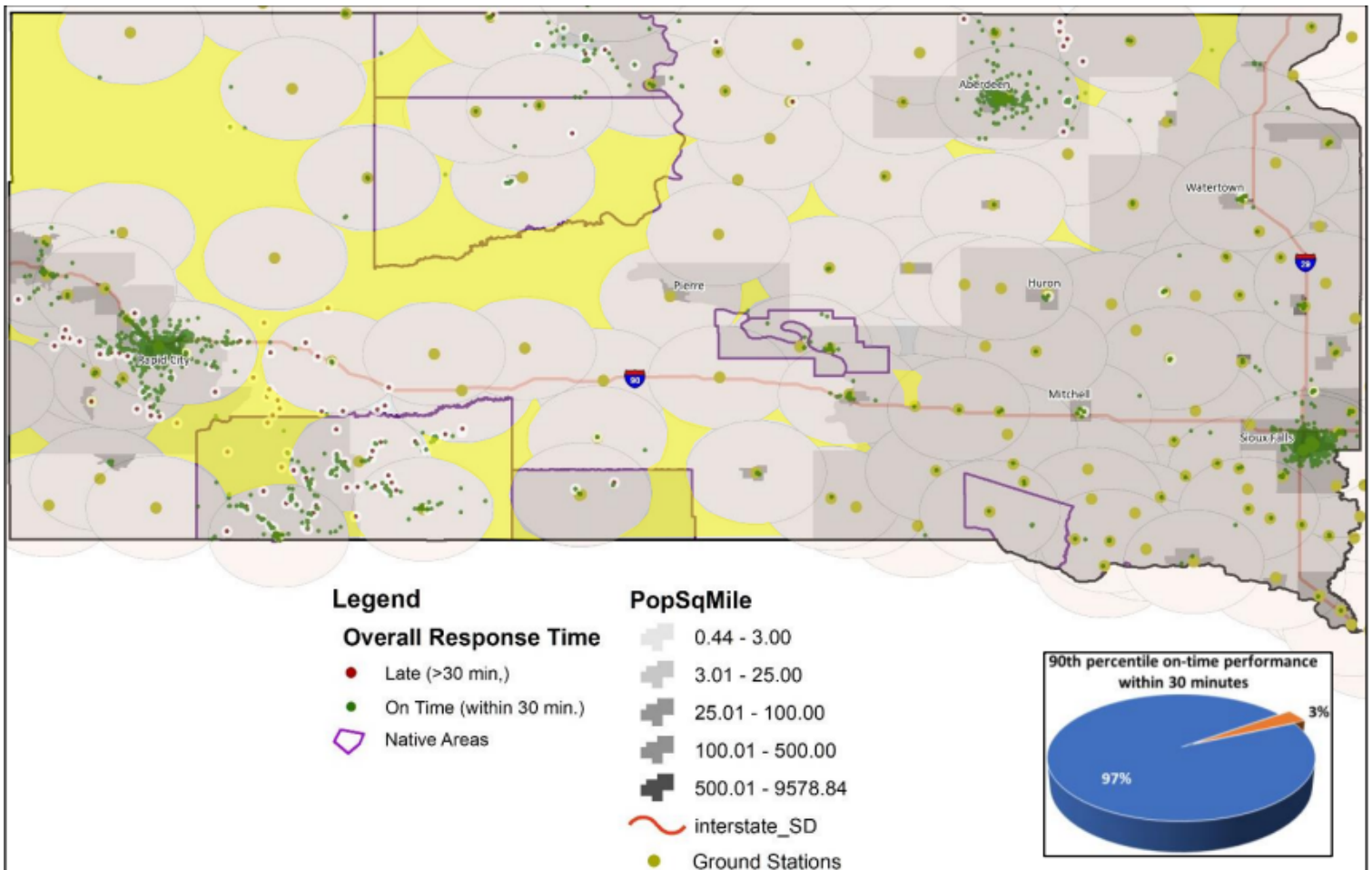
To learn more or apply for the Cardiac Ready Communities program, visit <https://doh.sd.gov/topics/heart-health/cardiac-ready-communities/>. By becoming Cardiac Ready, a community contributes to a network of prepared individuals ready to make a difference in cardiac emergencies - potentially saving the life of someone you love.





# Report Highlights Challenges for Rural Ambulance Services in South Dakota

A recent report from the South Dakota Department of Health reveals critical challenges facing emergency medical services (EMS) in the state, particularly in the western region. The study, part of a \$20 million funding initiative, emphasizes concerns such as prolonged response times, aging volunteer responders, and financial strains on ambulance services.



The study reveals that some South Dakotans in the western region may wait over half an hour for an ambulance to arrive during emergencies due to insufficient coverage. The problem is exacerbated by the aging volunteer emergency responders, a declining number of volunteers, and ongoing funding challenges faced by ambulance services.

To address these concerns, the report suggests exploring alternatives to the 30-minute response standard for remote areas, proposing satellite sites or recruiting new community ambulance services. The study acknowledges the impact of longer response times on trauma cases, emphasizing the need to reach victims within 60 minutes for better outcomes.

# Report Highlights Challenges for Rural Ambulance Services in South Dakota Cont.

Workforce challenges are a significant issue, as rural EMS in South Dakota relies heavily on volunteers who are expected to decline in numbers. Funding issues arise from low transport numbers and inadequate revenue to support EMS personnel. The report recommends expanding the "Telemedicine in Motion" program to treat patients on-site, potentially reducing unnecessary hospital transports for less severe cases.

Additionally, proposals to address workforce problems include mutual response with fire departments for life-threatening calls, grants for auto-loading gurneys to extend volunteers' tenure, and legislation incorporating CPR and life-saving training in schools. The report also highlights the lack of a central committee for communication among ambulance services, recommending the establishment of quality control metrics and on-site visits to enhance interaction and communication.



In response to the findings, the South Dakota Department of Health plans to award planning grants by July to address the outlined issues. The report underscores the urgent need for action to ensure the sustainability of ambulance services, improve response times, and enhance overall patient care in South Dakota.



# SDEMSA State News cont.

## Legislative Update for 2024 ([link](#))

I hope this message finds you well. I am reaching out to inform you about the upcoming legislation ([2024 Legislation.docx](#)).

### [SB 64 \(Senate Bill 64.pdf & South Dakota-2024-SB63-Introduced.pdf\)](#)

We believe that your insights and feedback will be crucial in shaping our stance on this bill. Please take the time to review the contents of SB 64 and share your thoughts, concerns, or suggestions. Your input will play a significant role in guiding our collective response. Your feedback is essential to our advocacy efforts, and we encourage you to share your thoughts on SB 64 and other relevant bills.

In addition to SB 64, there are several other bills that demand our attention. These include bills addressing cancer presumption for all firefighters (both paid and volunteer), a license plate bill allowing retired firefighters to retain their plates, a bill related to changing emergency managers, and information about a potential bill from Avera concerning hospitals having their own ambulances for transfers.

Please save the date for EMS Day on the Hill on January 29, 2024 in Pierre, SD. This event provides an opportunity for EMS professionals to engage with legislators, discuss key issues, and highlight the importance of their work in the community. For any inquiries or additional information about EMS Day on the Hill, interested parties are encouraged to reach out to me for more information.

#### Event Schedule:

7:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Committee Meetings

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM: Seeking a Picture with the Governor

2:00 PM: House and Senate Sessions Begin

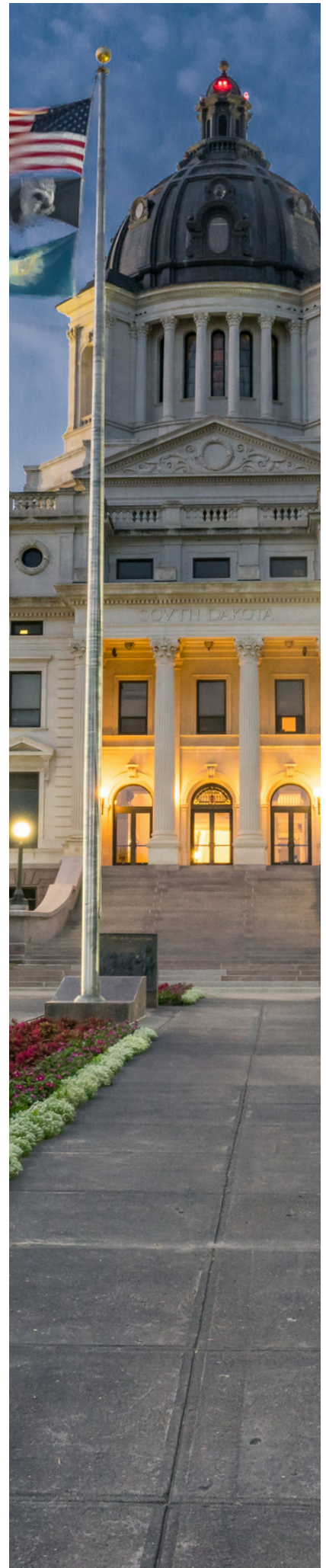
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM: Social at Ramkota Lake Sharpe Room

#### Sponsors:

South Dakota Medical Services Association, South Dakota Ambulance Association,  
& SDEMSA Instructor Coordinators Society

Thank you for your commitment to the SDEMSA community. Your active participation in this process will help us better represent the interests of our members.

Best regards,  
Manard Konechne, Political Advocacy Chair  
[mjkemtkc@hotmail.com](mailto:mjkemtkc@hotmail.com) | 605.730.0462



# SDEMSA District News

Custer Ambulance Service




## 2024 REFRESHER

REGISTRATION FEE :


### BLS/ALS 30-HOUR REFRESHER

Registration  
Deadline  
Feb. 21, 2024

## \$150

 Feb 24-25, 2024

 Mar 2-3, 2024

 **Crazy Horse Memorial**  
12151 Avenue of the Chiefs  
Custer, SD 57730

**8am - 5pm**

- 30 NCCP Refresher
- BLS and ALS content
- NCCP 2016 and 2025 models
- **BLS CPR - Feb 24th at 5pm**
- **ACLS - March 2nd at 1pm**
- **PALS - March 3rd at 8am**

SCAN TO  
REGISTER



**Custer Ambulance Service**  
1105 Montgomery St  
Custer, SD 57730

 (605) 951-8102  
 custerambulance@gmail.com

## District 4 Refresher

February 16 - 18, 2024  
Aberdeen, SD  
(with live virtual option)

More information:

<https://wp.me/Pc1Rdv-2B0>

Contact:

Jackie Rau, Treasurer  
[jackierau@hotmail.com](mailto:jackierau@hotmail.com)



## District 3 - Platte Training (above right)

District 3 in Platte had an excellent training session with a group of skilled instructors.

Mark Johnston from Regions Hospital Burn Center provided a comprehensive 2-hour session on burns. Eric VanDusen covered 1.5 hours on cardiac topics and half an hour on Capnography. A representative from Zoll Life Vest shared insights for an hour.

The training concluded with Connie Putnam from Dakota Lions Sight & Health, who discussed the services provided by the Lions bank to help those in need. The organizers expressed gratitude to Platte for hosting the successful training day and extended thanks to all the dedicated instructors.





## Parker Volunteer Fire/Rescue Pancake Feed

Parker Volunteer Fire and Rescue hosted their annual pancake feed on Sunday, January 7th. Eggs, pancakes, and sausage were served at the Community Building. Thanks to everyone who attended!



## West McPherson and Eureka Training

West McPherson EMS and Eureka Volunteer Fire Department received cardiac arrest training from Sioux Falls Fire and Rescue educator Jeremy Robertson, funded by a South Dakota Department of Health grant. Attendees practiced hands-on skills, including advanced airway placement, CPR, and AED use, and utilized the new Lucas device and Lifepak 15 monitors in scenarios. The participants appreciated the valuable education and expressed gratitude to Jeremy. They emphasized their commitment to continuous training for optimal emergency care.



## Beresford Fire and Ambulance

Beresford Fire and Ambulance responded to a semi rollover on I-29. While at the scene, another semi failed to follow the move-over law, resulting in a last-second attempt to avoid collision. The evasive action caused the second semi to roll, crushing an unoccupied fire vehicle and hitting the ambulance. Despite visibility challenges, everyone involved suffered only minor injuries, and no responders were harmed. **Please remind your communities the importance of slowing down and moving over for Emergency Personnel.**

# Upcoming Education Calendar

## February 2023

| SUNDAY                        | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| 28                            | 29<br><b>EMS Day<br/>on the Hill<br/>- Pierre, SD</b> | 30  | 31   | 1<br>Sanborn<br>County -<br>Cardiac Arrest                    | 2<br>District 2<br>Refresher  | 3<br>District 2<br>Refresher                                 |
| 4<br>District 2<br>Refresher  | 5<br>Iroquois Fire &<br>Rescue -<br>Cardiac Arrest    | 6   | 7<br>Carthage<br>Ambulance -<br>Cardiac Arrest   | 8<br>Piedmont Fire<br>& Rescue -<br>Medical<br>Hx/Vital Signs | 9<br>SD<br>Ambulance<br>Association -<br>SDAA CADS<br>Class and<br>SDAA<br>Leadership<br>Training | 10<br>SD<br>Ambulance<br>Association -<br>SDAA<br>Conference |
| 11                            | 12<br>Platte<br>Ambulance -<br>Cardiac Arrest         | 13  | 14<br>Huron<br>Ambulance -<br>Cardiac Arrest   | 15  | 16<br>District 4<br>Refresher   | 17<br>District 4<br>Refresher                                |
| 18<br>District 4<br>Refresher | 19<br>Miner County<br>Ambulance -<br>Cardiac Arrest   | 20  | 21<br>Douglas<br>County<br>Ambulance -<br>Cardiac Arrest<br><br>Box Elder VFD<br>- Box Elder<br>February<br>Training | 22  | 23  | 24<br>Custer<br>Refresher                                    |
| 25<br>Custer<br>Refresher     | 26<br>White Lake<br>Ambulance -<br>Cardiac Arrest     | 27<br>Parkston<br>Rural<br>Ambulance -<br>Cardiac Arrest<br><br>Tripp<br>Ambulance -<br>Cardiac Arrest<br><br>Onida Monthly<br>Training | 28   | 29  | 1   | 2<br>Custer<br>Refresher                                     |



# Instructor/Coordinator Society

## Join the SDEMSA's I/C Society Today!

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

### SDEMSA I/C Society Officers

**President:**

Katheryn Benton  
bentco@midstate.net

**Vice President:**

Ruth Airheart  
casiems@gwtc.net

**Secretary:**

Hapsie Nutley  
hapsie.nutley@gmail.com

**Treasurer:**

Amy Marsh  
ajmarsh@aol.com

## NAEMSE Instructor Course Schedule

**Level 1 Instructor Course Online :**

- April 12 - 14
- May 7 - 9
- May 17 - 19
- May 31 - June 2
- June 11 - 13
- June 21 - 23
- June 28 - 30
- July 12 - 14
- July 16 - 18

**Level 2 Instructor Course Online :**

- February 3 - 4
- March 2 - 3
- May 18 - 19
- June 29 - 30

**Level 1 Instructor Course In-Person:**

- Chicago, IL - March 22 - 24
- South Portland, ME - May 3 - 5

**Skills Instructor Course Online:**

- February 24 - 25
- June 8 - 9

**NEMSEC Exam**

- February 9
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9

**Lesson Planning Instructor Course Online**

- June 8 - 9

[https://naemse.org/events/event\\_list.asp](https://naemse.org/events/event_list.asp)

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

South Dakota EMS Association's **EMT Thoughts** is a collaboration between SD EMSA and Northeast SD AHEC