

Minutes – 9 June 2004

Riverside Tappahannock Hospital, Tappahannock, Virginia

The NNPHC met in regular session this date.

Officers Present

- None

Members Present

- Frances Bowen, Northumberland County Rescue Squad
- James Brooks, Westmoreland County Volunteer Rescue Squad
- LaTanya Campbell, Westmoreland County Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Harold Conley, Richmond County Rescue Squad
- Cindi deCapiteau, Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Granville E. Fisher, Jr., Westmoreland County Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Cookie Haynie, Northumberland County Rescue Squad
- Scott Hudson, Lancaster County Emergency Services
- Jesse C. Holmes, King & Queen Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Darrell Johnson, Montross Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Curtis Mason, Sr., Mattaponi Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Margaret Newton, Mattaponi Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Judy Ramirez, Mattaponi Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Nancy Wagner, Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Pam Walker, Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Carl Walker, Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Jerry Whitlock, King & Queen Volunteer Rescue Squad

Member Agencies Absent

- Callao Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Tappahannock Rescue Squad
- Eastern Hanover Rescue Squad

PEMS Representatives Present

- Dane Davis

Medical Advisors Present

- None

Guests

- None

Minutes

DeCapiteau read the minutes from the October 2003 meeting.

Old Business

Drug Boxes:

Davis reported that the pharmacy board will meet next Thursday to iron out inconsistencies in drug box stocking. Davis will distribute the minutes of that meeting.

Several hospitals on the Northern Neck do not have 24-hour pharmacies, which requires EMS personnel to complete drug box exchanges in an environment and with hospital staff who work outside the pharmacies. Security and accountability are potential issues at these hospitals. PEMS' goal is to obtain after-hours pharmacy access for hospital nursing supervisors in order to create greater accountability over drug box exchanges.

Patient Care Protocols:

The revised protocols are complete. They are undergoing formatting now in preparation for printing. Rollout will begin in July and will be conducted in multi-agency sessions on each peninsula. PEMS expects to conduct at least 4 major rollout sessions on the Northern Neck between July and August. These will be scheduled shortly and will be held on nights and weekends. Makeup sessions will be scheduled as needed. A session will be videotaped and videoconference sessions are also planned.

Variance for Pediatric Protocols

The state regulation that requires pediatric shock pads to be stocked on all ambulances was addressed by the PEMS board. The board approved a request for a regional variance to the regulation, which has been sent to OEMS. OEMS will likely not act on the request until the newly hired compliance manager begins work.

Activated Charcoal:

The Medical Advisors Board has requested an exemption to the regulation to carry activated charcoal.

Grant Review:

The FARC was to meet in Richmond the day after the NNPHC meeting; a PEMS representative was to be present at the meeting. Committee members were encouraged to speak up now so if an agency wanted a representative to speak in favor of its grant request.

Governor's Awards/Regional Awards:

Johnson reported on the PEMS regional awards ceremony. He noted that no Northern Neck agencies were nominated for any award. Johnson commented that PEMS has streamlined the nomination process, but Northern Neck agencies failed to take advantage of the ease with which nominations can now be submitted. All the nominations presented were from the lower peninsulas. West Point was the closest to us that had a nominee. Johnson says he apologized on behalf of the Northern Neck agencies for not taking advantage of the opportunity. He admonished that the Northern Neck will not be well represented to the state as a result of this failure. PEMS did its job, he commented. We let ourselves down this time and we need to be sure to follow through in the future.

Davis also expressed disappointment at the lack of representation for the Northern Neck. The process is not only more streamlined, but it is also fairer; the panel of judges is comprised of the winners of the previous year's awards.

Northern Neck Emergency Response System:

Hudson reported on a recent formational meeting for a group to coordinate multi-jurisdictional emergency response for the Northern Neck. Six 6 people showed up, representing PEMS, Mid-County, and Upper Lancaster. Another meeting has been tentatively scheduled for July 22, Thursday 7:00 p.m.. Jim Masten (PEMS) is seeking a meeting site and planning for food. The process of launching such a system seems to require several formational meetings, but the system grows as more and more people get involved. A location for July 22 meeting will be announced.

Bowen asked what kind of contact had been made with other emergency agencies. Hudson reported that Masten will find a way to get out the word. Bowen recommended sending a formal letter to the agencies. Hudson mentioned that there's lots of work to such an approach, but Masten is considering it. Haynie said the individual counties have set up their emergency management teams and this potential group represents another layer of management. Bowen suggested approaching the county emergency management groups to get involvement.

Hudson commented that the purpose of the group is to coordinate emergency response across county lines, not to administer emergency operations within individual counties.

Johnson asked if it would be useful for him to get out the word by reporting at fire association meetings. Hudson said yes.

Cross-PHC Meetings:

A Cross-Prehospital Committee (PHC) meeting has been scheduled for October 12, 7:00 p.m with all 3 PHCs at the PEMS office in Gloucester.

ALS Certification Education:

Davis has approached Rappahannock Community College (RCC) about conducting ALS certification training. RCC is not amenable to it right now.

Conley asked why it costs so much. Davis responded that the training must be conducted at an accredited agency and that costs money. Conley also asked why EMT instructors have the power to deny a student's right to test. Davis commented that instructors need to be able to make the judgment about a student's suitability to test. He advised that if an individual is denied the right to test, agencies should contact PEMS for intervention with OEMS. However, just because an individual sits through a class for six months doesn't mean he or she is capable of making it on the streets.

EMT-I Bridge Course:

Craig Rice's EMT-I bridge class has begun. Classes are held on Tuesday's and Sundays at RGH.

EMT-E Class:

EMT-E class begins August 9 at Kilmarnock Rescue Squad building. Class will be taught by Ellen Vest and Scott Hudson.

EMT-B Class:

Suzanne Tolson has an EMT-B class beginning in Montross on Thursday June 24, 7:00 p.m. She will conduct CPR training for those who need it. Class will end on November 11.

EMT-B Instructor Pretest:

The EMT-B instructor pretest promised by PEMS occurred and 25 or so people participated.

New Business

Training Opportunities:

Brooks asked PEMS to post information about training opportunities on its web site. Davis responded that PEMS makes every attempt to do so, but can only list the classes they know about. Davis solicited suggestions for improvements to the web site, which resulted in the following:

1. When something new goes up on the site, highlight it with "New" bells and whistles.

2. Send an email to the email list to announce new material.

The Word from Wilson:

Davis conveyed a few messages from Don Wilson, the PEMS Executive Director. Wilson expresses his disappointment that Northern Neck wasn't represented in the awards nomination.

Wilson also remarks that more support is needed at test sites from the Northern Neck. DeCapiteau mentioned that a shift in administrative responsibility for CTS coordination might have caused a breakdown in the system Ellen set up.

Other News:

Hampton received a grant to purchase 12 LifePak 12 defibrillators through a fire grant and has requested \$ funding for 10 laptop computers.

Newport News had problems with climate control on ALS-equipped fire apparatus.

Mar-Mac has newly certified ALS providers. If you see them in the ER, welcome them...

Riverside has just opened up a new emergency department at Regional. It's an impressive facility.

Capnography:

Dr. Krauss gave a presentation in Yorktown on capnography that made Davis a believer. Davis distributed an article about it. Please read the article and then help school the medical directors; capnography is a tool that we should all have in our boxes.

Landing Zone Class:

Davis commented that there seems to be little interest in LZ classes; Davis scheduled one and only 3 people showed up. The group advised that Davis needs to target fire agencies, which are responsible for setting up landing zones.

EMS Officer Certification:

The Office of EMS is working on a program to certify EMS officers. Rollout will occur within the coming year. Bowen asked if it applied mostly to line officers; Davis responded yes, but there would be a combination of both administrative and line officers. Details about implementation are being discussed; whether this is mandatory or not is has not been determined. The certification class is likely to be targeted at people who are already doing the job. Bowen noted that the class needs to be held in a location readily accessible from the Northern Neck.

Hurricane Isabel Expenses:

Conley asked if any squads had incurred expenses during Hurricane Isabel for which they have not been reimbursed. Brooks noted that Westmoreland did. Conley recommended contacting Joann Davis's office about this.

Davis noted that PEMS conducted a survey of that nature soon after the event; PEMS therefore has numbers if people need them. Conley complained he didn't get a copy, but other squads reported not only receiving it, but also filling it out and returning it.

Conley noted that rescue squads are not eligible for funding/reimbursement from first responder money, but there is no clear definition of the meaning of first responder. Davis says his perception is that the law enforcement and fire communities do well, but EMS is a red-headed stepchild. We need to get on the stick if we want access to that money.

EMS suffers from a lack of organization within its own ranks. The system doesn't lean in our favor, so we need to find a way to influence it.

Next Meeting

October 12, 2004 at PEMS Office.