

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## **EMTS Section Activity Report D. Randy Kuykendall, Chief July 10, 2008**

This report is submitted as a record of key activities by the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services section for the period April through June 2008.

**Organizational Effectiveness** – During this quarter, there have been no personnel changes and all staff continues to effectively meet the demands of the organization and its stakeholders.

**Standardized (Regional) Needs Assessment Project (SNAP)** – The SNAP project continues to move forward with completion of the Request for Proposal (RFP) and its imminent posting on the state bid system. This process will take approximately 4 – 6 weeks with the selection of an appropriate vendor to perform the assessments of each RETAC being selected to begin the assessment process. The SNAP task force has been effective in its work to ensure that this project is underway as soon as possible. Questions or information regarding this project are available by contacting either Randy Kuykendall at [Randy.Kuykendall@state.co.us](mailto:Randy.Kuykendall@state.co.us) or Celeste White at [Celeste.White@state.co.us](mailto:Celeste.White@state.co.us).

### **EMTS Operations Program**

Michelle Reese, Deputy Section Chief/ Operations Program Manager  
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**EMT Certification** – The Operations Program recently revised the Colorado EMT Certification Application and Instructions/Guide to reflect the changes in continuing education requirements, effective July 1, 2008, and to make some formatting and clarifying changes. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the updated application; however, former versions of applications will continue to be accepted. Applicants are still encouraged to begin the background check process as early as possible when anticipating EMT certification. Also, remember an EMT's certification status can be checked via the section's website at [www.coems.info](http://www.coems.info) and clicking on EMT certification. For more information concerning EMT certification, contact Maria Crespin at [Maria.Crespin@state.co.us](mailto:Maria.Crespin@state.co.us).

**EMT Practice Subcommittee** - The EMTS Operations Program continues to provide staff support to the EMT Practice Subcommittee of the SEMTAC in developing recommendations to CDPHE for the state to meet the new national EMS education guidelines and scope of practice. The EMT Practice Subcommittee has met several times

and is close to concluding its assignment. A list of the Subcommittee's recommendations will be presented to the EMS Personnel Committee at the SEMTAC's July meeting. For further information concerning this project, contact Michelle Reese at [Michelle.Reese@state.co.us](mailto:Michelle.Reese@state.co.us).

**CPR Directive Task Force** – The EMTS Section is updating the CPR Directive rules and corresponding policies to address some of the difficulties the public has experienced in attempting to obtain and execute a CPR Directive, as well as some of the issues experienced by EMS personnel when responding to calls involving a CPR Directive. The CPR Directive Task Force consists of EMS providers, members of the Colorado Advanced Directive Consortium, SEMTAC and RETAC members, and representatives from the Department of Public Health and Environment. The specific goal of the CPR Directive Task Force is to develop draft amendments to the existing CPR Directive rules that will then be reviewed by various stakeholders and ultimately considered for promulgation by the Colorado Board of Health. The task force has met three times, with meetings scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Michelle Reese, Deputy EMTS Section Chief, with support from Marilyn Bourn, EMTS State Training Coordinator, will facilitate this effort. Although meetings will be facilitated at CDPHE in Denver, all meetings are public and will be available via teleconference with an Internet based meeting tool that allows substantial participation by all members. If you have questions about this task force, please contact Michelle Reese at (303) 692-2982 or [michelle.reese@state.co.us](mailto:michelle.reese@state.co.us).

**Investigations** – The EMTS Section initiated two revocation proceedings during the past quarter. Prior proceedings resulted in five EMT certifications being revoked, one was suspended, five EMTs were placed on probation, and one certification was relinquished. During this quarter, the EMTS Section has reviewed and investigated 173 complaints and criminal history background reports. For additional information on EMS investigations, contact Maria Crespín at [Maria.Crespin@state.co.us](mailto:Maria.Crespin@state.co.us).

**EMT Education and Training** - Effective July 1, 2008, the new continuing education requirements became effective. The categories and number of hours are similar to the National Registry standards and will simplify the certification renewal process for those individuals who maintain both a state and National Registry certification. The number of CEU hours required in a three-year certification period remains the same for the Basic level (36 hours), but increases for the Intermediate (from 36 to 50 hours) and the Paramedic (from 45 to 50 hours) levels. Training centers and groups have been provided more detailed information regarding this change to assist them as they work with individuals who are renewing their certification.

The EMTS Section and members of the EMSAC state conference committee are continuing to plan for the 2008 conference in Keystone on November 6th through the 9th. Several hundred proposals from both in-state and out-of-state presenters were received and the committee has designed an exciting and educational conference. The program will include half and full day pre-conference workshops as well as ALS, BLS and specialty lectures through the conference.

A series of BME Rule 500 stakeholder meetings are being held to seek input on possible changes/updates to BME Rule 500. Appendix A (Skills) and Appendix B (Formulary) will be the focus of these open meetings. Following the stakeholder meetings, the

Medical Direction Committee (MDC) will review the requests and proposed changes and forward them on to the Board of Medical Examiners for discussion and possible adoption by the BME at its November meeting. For more information, contact Marilyn Bourn at [Marilyn.Bourn@state.co.us](mailto:Marilyn.Bourn@state.co.us).

### **Trauma Program**

Grace Sandeno, Trauma Program Manager  
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In the last quarter of FY 2007/08, the trauma program completed six trauma center reviews, and the Department has issued ten designations/re-designations. Seven reviews are scheduled for the first quarter of 2008/09. The department reluctantly accepted a request from Prowers Medical Center, in Lamar, to withdraw its application to be a Level IV trauma center. This is the first time since the inception of state trauma designation that a facility has withdrawn from the state trauma system. However, our office continues to be in close contact with the administration of Prowers Medical Center in providing technical assistance to hopefully assist them in re-obtaining their Level IV designation at some point in the future.

The Level I and II rules revision task force has completed its work after 26 months of effort. The draft regulations have been finalized in terms of the task force's recommendations and are now available for public review and comment. The draft regulations have received preliminary approval from the SEMTACs Facilities Committee and will be presented to the full SEMTAC for final recommendation at the July 2008 meeting. The Attorney General's office has reviewed these regulations and they have been found to be in compliance with statutory requirements. At this point, a request for rule-making will be presented to the Board of Health at its July meeting, and we anticipate the formal rule promulgation process to be conducted in October 2008. This effort has been one of the most significant projects to affect the development of Colorado's trauma system since the initial development of designation standards. Comments on these proposed regulations should be forwarded to Grace Sandeno at [Grace.Sandeno@state.co.us](mailto:Grace.Sandeno@state.co.us).

The department has been in contact with the Caring for Colorado grant process as a follow-up to our application for funds to support a statewide ACS trauma system review. As of this time, no final word has been received regarding any possible funding. As more information becomes available, stakeholders will be informed.

### **Communications Program**

Ron Lutz, Communications Program Coordinator  
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The EMTS Section continues to support the implementation of the Statewide Digital Trunked Radio (DTR) system. Since the statewide communications plan has been finalized, the communications program staff continues to educate and inform EMS system users in "best practices" on how to integrate DTR into their regular operations. Staff has also continued its work to identify the various mechanisms being used to maintain hospital-to-field communication throughout the state, although this has proven to be a significant effort. Several agencies have come on board with the DTR system over the past months, and the build-out of the state "backbone" system continues on schedule.

The Department of Homeland Security/Public Safety Interoperable Communications grant program has awarded grant monies dedicated for increasing interoperable communications between first responder and public safety agencies. Investment justifications include DTR

infrastructure to increase system coverage, the development of mobile, disaster recovery trailers that would provide patching capabilities between 800 MHz mutual aid channels and other frequency bands, and the purchase of user radios.

### **Grants Program**

Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse, Program Manager

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The grant awards notice for FY 2009 was released in June 2008. \$2.2 million state dollars were requested and \$1.7 million dollars were awarded. The final awards are:

Number of grants received:	91
Grants failing waiver review:	2
Grants reviewed by RETAC and SEMTAC:	89
Number funded either partially or in full:	79

A complete listing by agency name is available for review at [www.coems.info](http://www.coems.info). We thank all of the RETAC and SEMTAC members who participated in the grant review process this year, and work is already underway to update the grant application forms and submission process for the FY 2010 grant cycle.. For questions regarding this year's grant awards or comments for next year's process should be sent to [Jeanne.bakehouse@state.co.us](mailto:Jeanne.bakehouse@state.co.us).

The year-end close out process for the FY 2008 grant cycle is nearing completion. At this time, only a few grants have not been officially closed out and although grant recipients have worked hard this year to use their allocated funds, some reversions have occurred due to lower costs than estimations or the inability of grant recipients to expend their full allocation. For FY 08, a total of \$1,714,661 was awarded. Of this amount, approximately \$61,429 will be reverted to the EMS account. During the past year, the EMTS section awarded \$42,150 in emergency grant requests and of this amount approximately \$3,456 was reverted. Again, we thank everyone for their efforts and cooperation throughout the year.

### **EMS for Children/EMS Data Collection**

Holly Hedegaard, MD, MSPH, Program Manager

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Representatives from the national EMS for Children program will be coming to Colorado for a site visit on July 17 and 18, 2008. In addition to touring The Children's Hospital and visiting a rural prehospital agency, the site visit will also provide an opportunity for the national program staff to meet with Colorado EMS for Children participants to discuss progress on implementing the national performance measures. A purchase order has been established with The Children's Hospital to conduct two PEPP (Pediatric Education for Prehospital Providers) by March 2009. The trainings will be held in the Southeast and San Luis Valley RETACs.

With regard to EMS data collection, currently there are more than 450,000 records in the Colorado MATRIX with additional submissions occurring weekly.

The second annual EMS Data Conference was held in Longmont on May 22-23, 2008. Two tracks were offered – one for agencies that currently collect data and one for agencies who are new to EMS data collection. Representatives from several software companies were available to discuss their products and to answer questions during software-specific user group sessions. One session provided an opportunity for users of Colorado's on-line data entry system to provide

feedback on current problems and new features desired. EMS and Trauma Section staff are in the process of upgrading the on-line data entry system, incorporating the recommendations from the system users. The upgraded system will go on-line in August.

Data from the Colorado Trauma Registry have been used to identify state-specific norms for determining probability of survival using the methodology outlined in the Major Trauma Outcome Study (MTOS) published in 1990. Probability of survival is calculated based on age, trauma type (blunt vs. penetrating), Injury Severity Score (ISS), and Revised Trauma Score (RTS). Results from the analysis for blunt trauma patients showed that since 2000 there has been a significant increase in the number of “lives saved” (the difference between the number of observed vs. “expected” deaths) based on the probability of survival. No change was seen for patients with penetrating trauma. Results of the analysis were presented at the Rocky Mountain Trauma conference in June 2008 and will be presented at SEMTAC in July.

### **RETAC Program**

Celeste White, EMTS RETAC Coordinator

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The Western RETAC hosted the Statewide Quarterly RETAC Forum on June 4 and 5, 2008 in Montrose. This is the first time that five members of SEMTAC were in attendance at a regular forum meeting. EMTS Section Staff and the RETAC Coordinator extend their appreciation to Brandon Chambers, Linda Joseph, Richard Kinser, Larry Reeves, and Bill Rodman for their contributions to a very productive couple of days. In addition to hammering out some final details on the request for proposal and scope of work for the Standardized (Regional) Needs Assessment Project, the group reviewed the financial section of the grant application, reviewed SEMTAC's long range planning process and discussed the impact of the oil and gas industry on EMS preparedness and response in Saguache County and the surrounding region. There was also a presentation on methamphetamines by Lynn Riemer and Kell Hulsey, from the Greeley Police Department. The forum participants also held a session on QuickBooks and a refresher on financial reporting practices. The next statewide quarterly RETAC forum will be hosted by the Southwest RETAC on September 3 and 4.

### **EMS Data Conference**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Colorado EMTS Data Conference was held on May 22 and 23, 2008. Over 70 participants representing many of the EMS agencies providing services in Colorado attended this year's conference. It was clear that this year's program revolves around the continued expansion and development of the prehospital data collection system, “MATRIX”, as well as the trauma registry and the CEMISIS data collection systems. The speakers at this year's gathering focused on developing local capabilities to use the information that is now being collected in ways that will continue to improve patient care throughout our state. It is important to thank Linda Underbrink and the Foothills RETAC for their outstanding efforts in coordinating this conference and making it an outstanding success.

### **EMS Educator Conference**

On May 16, 2008, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual EMS Educator conference was held in Denver. Health One EMS coordinated this conference and once again produced an outstanding event for Colorado's EMS and trauma educators. The conference was well attended and provided workshops on the

development of distance education tools, use of simulations in EMS training, and handling classroom issues in ways that improve adult learning outcomes. EMS teachers from throughout the state were in attendance and we were once again reminded of the cornerstone importance of our technical education system in the care and transportation of patients in Colorado.

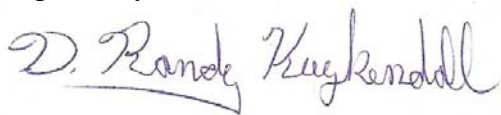
Planning for next year's data conference and EMS educator conference are presently underway and as soon as details become available they will be distributed to our community stakeholders.

### **EMS SAFETY SUMMIT SCHEDULED**

The continued efforts of SEMTAC and the department to create strategies that improve the safety of EMTS personnel and patients has resulted in the development of a one-day "safety summit" meeting. The goal of this gathering will be to bring together EMS service directors, fleet managers, ambulance manufacturers and transportation safety experts to review methods that improve ambulance transportation safety in Colorado. The 2008 legislature approved the department's use of additional grant funds specifically to enhance the safety of ambulance vehicles and equipment to protect both our providers and their patients. In order to do this in an appropriate manner, it is vital that our community take time to review the types of safety equipment presently available and ensure that we invest in those strategies that are most likely to result in safer ambulances, equipment and practices. The EMTS Safety Summit is scheduled for **Friday, October 3, 2008**. The exact location of the event is presently being finalized and announcements with specific information will be forthcoming in the very near future. Funds are available to support the event itself as well as some funding to offset travel expenses. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. For additional information, please contact Maria Crespin at [Maria.Crespin@state.co.us](mailto:Maria.Crespin@state.co.us).

The Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section is pleased to be of service to the EMTS community of Colorado. If there are any questions regarding items discussed in this report, or additional information is needed, please feel free to contact any member of the EMTS staff at any time.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Randy Keykendall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "D. Randy Keykendall".

July 10, 2008