



EMS briefs

Hospitals revamp protocols – Euclid, Hillcrest, Huron, and South Pointe hospitals recently held a fire chiefs conference in order to exchange information about how the hospitals are updating protocols for squads under their medical control.

Trauma cases top 1,000 at Huron – In 2005, Huron Hospital's emergency department treated more than 1,000 trauma cases. This is the greatest amount in the hospital's history and represents 300 more cases than 2004.

Hillcrest trauma center reverified – Hillcrest Hospital has been reverified as a Level II trauma center. The hospital sees more than 900 trauma patients annually.

Hail to the chief – Kenneth R. Adams is the new fire chief for the City of East Cleveland. ■

Hillcrest kicks up stroke care a notch

In an effort to further improve patient care, Hillcrest Hospital has assembled a multi-disciplinary team to improve the care of the stroke patient. This team includes such disciplines as emergency department physicians, EMS professionals, radiologists, neurologists, clinical and advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, laboratorians, physical therapists, and educators.

"Our goal is to meet or exceed benchmarks established by the American Stroke Association," says Sandy Larsen, RN, CEN, EMS and trauma program manager. "We're undergoing an extensive educational process so that everyone in the hospital – from the housekeeping staff to the CAO – knows how to identify a stroke." ■

Hospital EMS pros offer hybrid car symposium

On March 8, the EMS departments of Euclid, Hillcrest, Huron and South Pointe hospitals will hold a symposium titled "Hybrid Emergency Response Guide for Fire and EMS Personnel" in Huron Hospital's second-floor auditorium from 1 to 4 p.m. The event, which is being held in cooperation with The MotorCars Group in Cleveland Heights, will include classroom and hands-on training with the vehicles. To register for this free class, call Tom Beers, EMT-P, EMS manager at 216-761-6900. ■

After Katrina... Macedonia FD Adopts Mississippi Firehouse



Getting primed for their mission trip to Mississippi are firefighters/paramedics (from left) Stephanie Balochko, Ed Yost, Chief Tim Black, and Dave Chesnik. All are with the Macedonia Fire Department, except for Yost, who is a member of the Valley Fire District.

Less than eight months ago, Hancock County in Mississippi boasted a thriving fire department, where 24 members used multiple vehicles and a station that was fully loaded with equipment. That was before Hurricane Katrina hit. Now the devastated department consists of five exhausted firefighters who work out of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer.

But help is on the way in the form of the Macedonia Fire Department, which has "adopted" East Hancock Fire Rescue, located about 30 miles west of Gulfport, Miss. A team from Macedonia headed down to the area at the end of February to assist the five dedicated men who have been working seven-day weeks since Katrina leveled the station at the end of August 2005.

"We were looking for something we could do to help, and we didn't want to just send money without knowing how it'd be used," says Macedonia Chief Tim Black. "So we looked at the Firehouse.com website and read about their Adopt-a-Firehouse program. The program assigned us to East Hancock, which was harder hit than New Orleans. We don't know what we're getting into. Pictures of the community show that it's extremely devastated. The infrastructure is completely destroyed."

The Adopt-a-Firehouse program is being coordinated by Cygnus Business Media, which publishes *Firehouse Magazine* and maintains the Firehouse.com website. Program organizers have solicited help from fire, rescue and EMS

personnel across the country and have received offers of help from hundreds of fire organizations and departments.

In addition to Black, Macedonia members traveling to Mississippi include Lt. Chip Davis, firefighters/paramedics Dave Chesnik and Stephanie Balochko, and Chris Mong, firefighter/EMT. Joining them are Valley Fire District members Ed Yost and Geoff Kuzas, both firefighters/paramedics, and Leann Laspisa, firefighter/EMT. One or two members from Northfield Center, including Jeff Forfolia, may accompany the group.

Another addition to the team is Black's father, Bill Black, who will haul down his 30-foot house trailer that he's

"The big thing is to help people in need. Hopefully, if a disaster would happen here, people would do the same for us."

— Ed Yost, firefighter/paramedic

stocking with his own large tent, grill, food, and fuel. At the team's camp, Bill Black will serve as cook, making breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day. Yost, a certified emergency vehicle technician, will try to get the damaged trucks back in service.

"We can't be any kind of burden to these people," says Tim Black. "They have very little, and it'd be extremely difficult for them to try to house or feed us. In the town, all they have up and running is a gas station, a portion of a Wal-Mart, and one restaurant that's open limited hours. So we want to be completely self sufficient. We also want

to be very precise in taking the right sizes of clothing, hoses, and so forth."

Meeting dire needs

"After the hurricane, the fire department members in East Hancock had no place to live or work," says Black. "They estimate they lost \$300,000 worth of equipment that was on their trucks, and that doesn't include the cost of the trucks themselves. They had one fire truck on order. Fortunately, it was two weeks late being delivered; so it missed being damaged in the hurricane.

"The insurance company handed them \$25,000 and said, 'You're done,'" he notes. "So obviously, the department is in major need. For this reason, we

reached out to several nearby communities asking for help. Valley Fire District donated \$1,000, and we're waiting for a response from a mailing that we sent to local businesses and organizations soliciting donations."

South Pointe Hospital is donating first-responder kits that include such supplies as C-collars, back boards, straps, blood pressure kits, oxygen kits, bandages, and gloves. According to Jeff Wilson, the hospital's EMS manager, "The Macedonia members are fulfilling a very important and admirable mission, and we want to support them and their efforts as best as we can."

Macedonia's efforts are being coordinated by Rob Lewis, firefighter/paramedic. He says, "We asked the chief down there to give us a wish list, starting with his top priority, and our efforts have revolved around that. They basi-

Meet Dr. Kirkland

New medical director relishes return to trauma setting

“It’s exciting to once again be associated with a trauma center,” says Brian Kirkland, DO, the new medical director of Hillcrest Hospital’s emergency department (ED). “We receive many patients from well skilled fire departments and ambulance services, and it’s nice to be able to participate in that continuum of care.”

“There are some excellent paramedics and medics in this area, and the quality of trauma care they provide is outstanding and being improved all the time,” he adds. “I think a lot of work has gone into updating the standard of care for pre-hospital providers. People have

put in a lot of energy into making changes and implementing them.”

Since Dr. Kirkland became Hillcrest’s medical director at the end of 2005, he and his staff have been working on implementing changes in the way the ED utilizes and assigns staff. The goal of this effort is to decrease waiting times and length of stay for ED patients.

“We’re constantly looking for ways to improve patient throughput and ultimately patient satisfaction,” Dr. Kirkland explains. “We’re also developing new strategies for dealing more rapidly with heart attack victims brought into the ED.”

Dr. Kirkland comes to Hillcrest from Community Health Partners, for which he served as an attending physician. From 2000 to 2003, he practiced at Lutheran Hospital, where he served as chair, division of emergency services. His 23 years of emergency medicine experience includes positions at Euclid, Huron, and St. Vincent Charity hospitals in the Cleveland area and St. Joseph Hospital in Lorain.

From 1994 to 1997, he served as medical director for the University Heights Fire Department, clinical instructor in emergency medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and director of clinical operations and attending physician at University Hospitals. He is board certified in emergency medicine.

A native of Erie, Pa., Dr. Kirkland first developed an interest in medicine from his father, a family practitioner.

While attending college, the younger Dr. Kirkland worked as a hospital orderly and nursing aide during his summer vacations. These jobs increased his desire to pursue medicine.

After graduating with a bachelor of science degree from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, Dr. Kirkland received his doctor of osteopathy degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1978. He then served a rotating internship at Zieger-Botsford Hospitals in a Detroit suburb and a residency in internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic.

“The Cleveland Clinic was one of the first major hospitals to welcome DOs into their teaching program,” he says. “I fell in love with the whole system, the whole feel of the place. As a resident, I was undecided whether to go into general medicine or a subspecialty. Then I was offered a job in emergency medicine, and once I got involved in that, I knew it was what I wanted to do.”

An accomplished pianist, Dr. Kirkland enjoys playing light classical music or jazz in his free time. He also travels extensively and serves as ship’s physician for a few weeks each year on the world’s largest sail yacht. Additional interests include acting, swimming, water polo, football, and other sports.

“I enjoy the people within the Hillcrest family,” says Dr. Kirkland. “They’ve been very welcoming and helpful to me, and we’re all aiming for many good things in the future.” ■



Brian Kirkland, DO, strolls through the elevated walkway at Hillcrest Hospital, where he serves as the new medical director of the emergency department.

‘Macedonia FD’
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cally need any equipment that can go on a fire truck. They really need hose, nozzles, chain saws, and a generator.”

Besides providing equipment and operational support, the Macedonia team wants to offer emotional and family support. “We want to go down and meet and personally help these guys,” says Black. “Our kids are gathering together gifts for their kids. They probably didn’t have a real great Christmas this year, and there’s a lot they need – like clothing and personal items – to rebuild their lives.”

Another valuable service that the missionary group will offer the Mississippians is training. “We have people going down who are certified in dive rescue and swift water rescue,” says Black. “We’ll hold classes for these skills and will bring related supplies.”

Ed Yost adds, “The big thing is to try to help people in need. Hopefully, if a disaster would happen here, people would do the same for us.” ■

Hillcrest ad features Mayfield Heights FD



How will you react to cancer treatment?

Hopefully, like Reggie.

Our cancer program is accredited by the American College of Surgeons. Our oncologists work collaboratively with surgical specialists and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation radiation and gynecologic oncologists. We offer the latest diagnostics, access to national trials, a new dedicated inpatient oncology unit and the latest cancer treatments, including Brachytherapy, IMRT (Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy) and Mammosite. And all of this is right here with free valet parking for cancer patients.

Hillcrest quality is defined by excellent outcomes, outstanding physicians and national recognition as a 100 Top Hospital eight times. This is the treatment you want.

Cleveland Clinic Health System Hillcrest Hospital

This is the treatment you want.

FREE Cancer Prevention Kit.

Call (800) 621-0004 or visit www.hillcrestcancer.org for more information.

The Mayfield Heights Fire Department is one featured location in an advertising campaign promoting Hillcrest Hospital. The above ad is running in the *Plain Dealer*, *News-Herald*, Sun newspapers and Gazette newspapers.

EMS pros up close

Mark McCary spreads his skills among three departments



Assistant Chief Mark McCary (left) and Chief Marshall Shorts are ready for action at the North Randall Fire Department. McCary also serves as a full-time firefighter/paramedic for the Warrensville Heights Fire Department and as a part-timer for the Village of Woodmere. Shorts is also a firefighter for Cleveland Fire.

Any fire department would be lucky to have Mark McCary as a member, but three departments enjoy that privilege. He was recently named assistant chief at North Randall and also serves as a full-time firefighter and paramedic for the Warrensville Heights Fire Department and as a part-timer for the Village of Woodmere.

“My favorite part of my job is fighting fires,” McCary says. “Since we do a lot of training, it’s nice to be able to put our skills to the test. When we get a call for a fire, you have to be on top of your game. In North Randall, we only have four or five major fires a year, but in Warrensville Heights, we have many more.”

McCary graduated from the School of EMS—Cleveland Clinic Health System in 2001. “I always wanted to be in the medical field,” he says,

“and when I took an EMT class, I fell in love with firefighting and EMS work.”

A nationally registered paramedic, McCary is a State of Ohio fire safety inspector and incident safety officer. He is also certified in confined space entry, confined space rescue, HAZMAT incident command, PALS, ACLS, BTLS, PEPP, and BLS. Plus, he is a certified hazardous materials technician. He is the 2001 winner of the Chagrin Highlands Rotary Club “Woodmere Firefighter of the Year” award.

“I like working under South Pointe Hospital’s medical control,” he says. “They’re very helpful there. Jeff Wilson is great. Whenever you have an issue, he takes care of you quickly. The med control doctors are also very available and follow up quickly whenever there’s a need.”

According to McCary, his most

memorable call involved an 11-month-old who was not breathing. “We weren’t able to resuscitate him, and it really hit home because my own son was about a year and a half old at the time,” he says. “Yet knowing we did the best job we could do made us feel better.”

A native of Warrensville Heights, McCary still resides there with his fiancée Anita, a childcare worker, and their children Yarnisha, 11, and Mark Jr., 6. In his spare time, McCary likes to play basketball and football with his son.

“I like helping people and working with them,” he says. “In this profession, you can see right away the effects of your work. Saving peoples’ lives is a great thing. Seeing the pride in my son’s eyes is what makes my job most enjoyable. Hopefully, he’ll be a second-generation firefighter.” ■

Letters from readers

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Dear Editor:

I read the article in the *Siren* about response to Hurricane Katrina. As I was reading the article, one point came jumping out at me, and that was that more medics would have liked to have responded but couldn’t due to vacation/money issues. For that reason I am writing to inform you about OH-6 (Northeastern Ohio Disaster Medical Team). We are a division of FEMA/DHS, and we are a team of medical professionals and support personnel who respond when a federal disaster is declared. We are based out of Youngstown, Ohio, and we have monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month.

Once you are a federally ID’d member of DMAT and you are deployed to a disaster, you are paid an hourly wage and also paid for one field training a year. You are protected by USERRA, which in a nutshell states that like a National Guard member, your job is federally protected.

There is an application process and background check, and if any medics out there are interested, send an email to Jo Jones at Oh6dmatjo@aol.com or call her at 330-518-0407. She is the administrative officer for the team, will answer any questions, and give you directions to the warehouse where our meetings are held. At this time we are recruiting for all positions including paramedics, nurses, PAs, and doctors, and would be thrilled to meet any new prospective members.

Thank you,
Nancy Alexander RN, CEN
Training Officer OH-6

Hillcrest ED equips squads with CPAPs

Hillcrest Hospital’s emergency department has equipped all squads under its medical control with continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) kits. CPAP is administered to patients with:

- CHF, COPD, or severe hypoxemia that does not respond to standard oxygen therapy
 - no contraindications, including PNTX, known blebs, vomiting, facial injuries, hypotensiveness, inability to tolerate a mask, unresponsiveness, compromised airways, or known hypercarbia
- EMS providers apply CPAP with

oxygen and a pressure setting in the green zone between five to 10 mmHg. After reassessing the patient’s response to CPAP treatment, the squad should transport the patient and replace tubing.

“With the CPAPs that we’ve provided, we’re able to offer a higher level of patient care for the communities we serve,” says Sandy Larsen, RN, CEN, EMS and trauma program manager. “We rolled out the CPAP program with a luncheon that included all area fire chiefs and EMS coordinators. Everyone seemed very pleased to have the new equipment.” ■



Lt. Dennis Anthony (left) of the South Euclid Fire Department and Lt. Pete Rowe of Highland Heights Fire Department appear delighted to receive new continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) kits from Don Spaner, MD, Hillcrest Hospital EMS medical director. The hospital is supplying all squads under its medical control with the highly specialized kits.

4 School of EMS announces upcoming courses

The Cleveland Clinic Health System School of EMS is offering the following courses:

EMT-Basic Class #15: Starts on August 15 and ends December 14, 2006. Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 10 p.m. 150-hour course. Cost: \$550 plus the cost of books and NR exam.

Paramedica Class #25: Starts on August 28, 2006 and ends August 15, 2007. Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 10 p.m. 800 hours. Cost: \$2,800 plus the cost of books and NR exam.

Sign up soon to assure your space. To apply to either or for more information contact Sandy Smith, program registrar, School of EMS, at 216-692-7850 or ssmith@cchseast.org. ■

EMS Calendar

March 8
1-4 p.m.

"Hybrid Emergency Response Guide for Fire and EMS Personnel" presented by the EMS departments of Euclid, Hillcrest, Huron and South Pointe hospitals in cooperation with The MotorCars Group. Second-floor auditorium at Huron Hospital.

April 12
7 p.m.

"Sexual Assault" presentation. Ross Auditorium at Hillcrest Hospital.

Got something to say?

We want to hear from you. As an EMS professional, you're this newsletter's best source of information. Story ideas include interesting squad runs, job tips and unusual hobbies or second jobs.

We're also interested in receiving letters to the editor. This is your chance to make suggestions, compliment coworkers or discuss current EMS issues. Contact Anne Gallagher, at 330-656-3068 or gallcomms@aol.com. ■

Emergency services honor boy for saving dad's life



Wesley Newell, 11, is surrounded by emergency services professionals who honored him at a recent ceremony for saving his father's life. They include Lt. Jon Bokovitz of the Bainbridge Township Police Department (left), Chief Tim Eagon of the Quaker City Fire Department (behind Wesley), Chief Brian Phan of the Bainbridge Fire Department (right), and two members of the Quaker City department. While Wesley's father, Stan Newell, was cutting the lawn, his mower began tipping. When he jumped off, the mower cut off his leg. Wesley helped his father and called 9-1-1. He received awards from the three departments represented in the above photo.

Cleveland EMS seeks new hires

Cleveland EMS will conduct interviews this summer and early fall for open positions and immediate placement in the Spring Cadet Training Academy Class. In addition to the typical requirements of functioning as an EMT-B or paramedic in the City of Cleveland, all successful applicants must complete a 12-week Cadet Academy program and become a resident of the City of Cleveland within six months of their first day of employment. Basic EMTs must become paramedics within

two years of service with the Division of EMS.

Interested applicants should send resumes to Muhammad Samad, Deputy Commissioner of Administration, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Service, 1701 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland Ohio, 44118-1118. All individuals who submit a resume and are State of Ohio certified EMT-Bs and paramedics, and/or those currently enrolled in class, will be scheduled for an interview. ■

Siren is produced by the marketing department in cooperation with its four EMS departments.