

1. The New York State EMS Council (SEMSCO) and State Emergency Medical Advisory Council (SEMAC) did not meet as planned September 13-14, 2011 due to Hurricane Irene who played a part in flooding the Troy DOH offices where the Bureau is located. Fortunately, no EMS staff or documents were drenched. The next scheduled meeting is January 24-25, 2012 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick Street in Troy, NY 12180. The Bureau meeting web page should post an agenda beforehand at www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/meetings_and_events.htm. These notes, absent meetings, are to catch you up to date on some important happenings.
2. Unaffected by rain, snow, sleet, hail (kinda like the Postal Service), Vital Signs 2011 will happen in Syracuse October 13 – 16 (www.vitalsignsconference.com).
3. In an August 3rd letter to BLS-FR (that's First Response) agencies, the Bureau requested updated copies of transport agency agreements, personnel, medical director verification and other information. The packets are going out by region over a three month period commencing August 1, 2011. The Bureau started with the central section of the State, moved east, then south, and will be finishing with the western regions west of Syracuse/Binghamton in October. Each Regional EMS Program Agency has been asked to post their region's packet with the submission deadline on their website including all templates. Due dates to return completed information and packets back to DOH are specific to each region. Failure to supply the requested info by the due date will deactivate the organization's DOH agency code making the agency members ineligible for EMS training reimbursement funding. Uh oh! If you're a non-transporting BLS-FR agency, you should stay in touch with your Regional Program Agency to make sure you don't miss out. Don't bother looking for information on the Bureau web site – it's not there.
4. The NASEMSO web site continues to add transitional documents for training programs preparing to teach the new EMS curriculum. Keep an eye on <http://nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/Toolkit.asp>. Someday, New York will transition. Christmas is coming, too.
5. The Bureau issued new skill station test sheets for Bleeding and Shock (EMT Station 6D, CFR Station 4D) and Cardiac Arrest/AED (EMT Station 3, CFR Station 2). They also published a revised curriculum for Bleeding Control and Shock management (EMT Lesson 5-1). Exams given after August 18th will reflect the new skills and curriculum which means, if you haven't looked at, you're officially behind the times. Get the new materials at www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/educ.htm.
6. Once again, the legislature has extended the CME recertification program. Governor Cuomo signed a bill extending the 3-year CME recert program through July 1, 2015. The 5-year CME program will expire on July 1, 2013. Don't have a melt-down, though, both "Pilot" programs have been renewed by the legislature so many times that the term "Pilot" is actually laughable. Ha ha.
7. A couple new policy statements are out. Policy # 11-05 on Medical Control and Oversight and # 11-06 on Clarification of Operating Territory are posted at: www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/policy.htm.
8. In a safety victory for EMS, the Governor signed legislation amending V&T Law (effective this past summer) to allow one or more blue lights or combinations of blue, red, and/or white lights on ambulances, County EMS Coordinator vehicles, and EASVs (Emergency Ambulance Service Vehicles). Previously, blue lights, which provide better

nighttime visibility to motorists passing emergency scenes, were only permitted on police and fire vehicles. Woot woot.

9. Following a long hiatus, the Emergency Responder Disease Notification Provisions of the Ryan White Law were restored by Congress in 2009. The Secretary of Health and Human Services was given 180 days to publish a list of reportable diseases that would be covered by the Act. Not sure exactly what calendar HHS was using, but the list is finally out and should take effect shortly. Included will be: HCV (hep C), syphilis, vaccinia virus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, Avian influenza, SARS, Smallpox, Meningitis, Influenza (> 3 severity level), Cutaneous anthrax, and Chickenpox. There you have it; and now you also know where time stands still: HHS.
10. SEMAC and SEMSCO have a couple of problems stemming from cancelation of their September meetings. The State EMS Budget request due to the Commissioner by December 1 cannot be approved by SEMSCO and hence is parked out in cyberspace. Additionally, elections for the 2012 slate of officers were not held. To be continued...

These notes respectfully prepared by Mike McEvoy who previously represented the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs on SEMSCO before (finally) being replaced by Mike Murphy. Contact Mike at McEvoyMike@aol.com or visit www.mikemcevoy.com. If you want a personal copy of these "unofficial" SEMSCO minutes delivered directly to your email account, surf to the Saratoga County EMS Council at www.saratogaems.org and click on the "NYS EMS News" tab (at the top of the page – or you can simply click here to be taken directly to the source: www.saratogaems.org/NYS_EMS_Council.htm). There, you'll find a list server dedicated exclusively to circulating these notes. Past copies of NYS EMS News are parked there as well.