

Village Ambulance Service Summer 2011 Newsletter



Area Medical Director Resigns

Dr. Robert Sills will leave his post from the North Adams Regional Hospital EMS Medical Director position at the end of June 2011.

A board certified emergency physician, Sills has worked for North Adams Regional Hospital since 2006. He is responsible for spearheading a broader unification between pre-hospital and emergency department personnel, and has been very supportive and caring with regards to EMS education and training development.

During Dr. Sills' tenure, Northern Berkshire EMS continued to remain state-of-the-art in pre-hospital emergency medical care. Some of the continuous improvements made with his support include approving and supporting the use of CPAP, helping to implement a paperless electronic patient care reporting system, enhancing advanced life support (ALS) delivery capabilities for paramedics and maximizing our state and regional protocols.

Dr. Sills plans to continue practicing as an ED Physician at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Northampton; coincidentally, the same city where he once worked as a Paramedic.

Good luck Dr. Sills from your Northern Berkshire EMS family. We wish you well and you will be missed!

Let the sun shine!

Welcome to the Summer 2011 edition of the Village Ambulance Service EMS & Community Awareness Newsletter. This publication is aimed at keeping you updated on the progress of Emergency Medical Services in Berkshire County.

Employee Spotlight



Robert "RJ" Pensivy EMT-Paramedic

RJ began employment with Village Ambulance Service as a part-time EMT-Paramedic in 2002.

Following completion of his EMT-Basic training in 1996, RJ took his training to the next level. He went to work for a private ambulance company and signed on as a volunteer firefighter with the Lenox Fire Rescue Department.

After attaining his Paramedic certification in 2000, RJ was hired as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic by the Agawam Fire Department in 2002.

RJ has always shown his dedication to the company. He is always the first to jump in and initiate any new program that the company



implements. He consistently stays on top of new changes and suggests new ideas to better serve our patients. He always rises to the occasion whether it be volunteering for overtime or simply picking up a broom to keep the quarters tidy.

In RJ's spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Linda, and their two children.

Thank you, RJ, for being a part of Village Ambulance Service's team!

First Aid Ready

If a summer filled with fun activities is your goal – packing a first-aid kit to address the inevitable bumps, bites, abrasions and blisters – will keep you on track.

Village Ambulance Service recommends keeping first-aid essentials within arm's reach

Use a small, water-proof bag that's easy to stash in the glove compartment, suitcase, backpack or golf bag. And what should you put on the essential list?

- Hand cleaner
- 2 pairs of exam gloves
- Several sizes of adhesive bandages
- Medical tape
- Gauze wrap
- Several 4-inch gauze squares
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Small flashlight, with batteries
- Instant cold packs



Be sure to store your kit in a place that is out of children's reach but easily accessible for adults. In addition, put a note on your calendar to check the kit regularly to make sure it's fully stocked and batteries still work.

Lastly, if you're flying be sure to pack the first-aid kit in your checked luggage. Many of the items won't be permitted in your carry-on bags.

Barbecue Safety

Barbecue season is upon us. This means many people will be enjoying cooking and eating food that was prepared in this manner. It also means people will be injured and thousands of dollars of property damage will result because of carelessness. Even people who use combustible products safely at the worksite will make mistakes and ignore safety practices once they are at home. Many fire fighters and paramedics have responded to barbecue fires and related injuries that could have been prevented. The following are a few tips we should keep in mind to help us have a safe barbecue season:

1. After purchasing a barbecue, make sure you follow the manufacturer's directions for assembly and use.
2. Don't use your barbecue indoors. Fire and carbon monoxide poisoning are a real threat. Keep the barbecue a safe distance (over 3 meters, or 10 feet) from your house. If there is a fire, you don't want it to spread to your house.
3. Keep your barbecue's propane tank in an upright position. If it's not in an upright position, the tanks relief valve may not work properly. Also make sure the burner ports are clear of rust and dirt.
4. Check for leaks by putting a soapy solution on the connection of the tank and hoses. Where you see bubbles, tighten the connection. If you can't stop the bubbles, don't use the barbecue - it's leaking propane. Never use a match to check for leaks.
5. When lighting a gas barbecue, keep the lid open to avoid gas buildup and light the barbecue as soon as you turn on the gas. Keep your face away from the grill. Make sure the flame is visible from the burner ports.
6. A barbecue lighter with a long handle is safer to use than matches. It provides the extra reach that reduces the chance of singed hair or a burn to your body.
7. Make sure coals are cool before you dispose of them.
8. Avoid wearing baggy sleeves when cooking over a barbecue. They could catch fire.
9. Remember, the entire barbecue assembly is hot. Keep children away.

TRAINING

2011 Continuing Education Programs

All classes held at the Spruces Recreational Center, Rte 2, Williamstown, unless otherwise indicated.

Saturday, September 24

8am to 5pm

Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC)

Instructor: Shawn Godfrey, EMT-P, I/C

8 credits pending (B/I/P)

Classroom at the Spruces Recreational Center/Practical at Steiner Film

Wednesday, October 5

6pm to 9pm

Assisted Albuterol Program

Instructor: Shawn P. Godfrey, EMT-P, I/C

3 credits pending (B/I only)

Wednesday, October 19

6pm to 9pm

End Tidal CO2 Review

Instructor: Christine Isca, NREMT-P, I/C

3 credits pending (P only)

Tuesday, November 15

6pm to 9pm

Operations/Disinfecting the Ambulance

Instructor: Rick Richer, NREMT-P

3 credits pending (B/I/P)

Tuesday, November 29

6pm to 9pm

Behavioral Emergencies/Handling the Violent Patient

Instructor: John Candiloro, Former NARH Staff

3 credits pending (B/I/P)

Wednesday, December 14

6pm to 9pm

Orthopaedic Injuries

Instructor: TBA

3 credits pending (B/I/P)

Wednesday, December 28

6pm to 9pm

Cardiovascular Emergencies

Instructor: TBA

3 credits pending (B/I/P)

For more information on these classes or to inquire about other programs, please contact our office at 413-458-4889

VAS Keeps Gold Standard with Critical Care Transport Training

Village Ambulance Service, already a Massachusetts Interfacility Transport (IFT) provider, raised the bar of education by putting six of its paramedics through the Critical Care Transport Program offered in Bennington, Vermont. This intense and very difficult accredited course was taught through Vermont's District 12 in conjunction with Southwestern Vermont Medical Center.



Critical Care Paramedics are the highest level of certification available at the ground ambulance level in many states across the country. Although not recognized in Massachusetts, the CCT curriculum has been approved to double as the IFT training because of its exceedingly advanced scopes and concepts.

The advanced training includes areas such as cardiology, neurology, pediatrics, obstetrics and trauma care, critical to allowing the paramedics to provide expanded services that focus on intensive care practices.

Village Ambulance Service



Fall 2011

EMT-BASIC PROGRAM

At the
Lanesborough Fire Department

Monday & Thursday Nights
6:00pm – 9:30pm
(Occasional Saturday classes TBA)
Classes begin August 29 and run until
December 10

Program Cost: \$750.00

(\$250.00 non-refundable deposit with application)
Cash, Money Order, Bank Check or Agency Check Accepted

To obtain an application packet, please visit our website
www.villageambulance.com, click on *Training then EMT-Basic*.

Village Ambulance Service is a Mass OEMS Accredited Training Institution

EMS EXPLORER POST 911



Village Ambulance Explorer Post Cited for Excellence

Village Ambulance EMS Explorer Post 911 was presented with the National Exploring Excellence Award from the Western Massachusetts Boy Scouts of America Council.

The award, presented to the post by Boy Scouts District Executive Hunter McCormick and district Commissioner Eric Hansen, is given to posts that have achieved at least nine of 12 objectives that represent an ideal post.

Explorer Post 911 has met the criteria, which includes requirements such as providing leadership opportunities, performing service and community outreach projects and maintaining a high level of participation from many of its members. The award hasn't been given to a Berkshire County Exploring Post in a few years, and the year old Post was the sole recipient this year.

"I'm extremely proud of our group and only see great things in our future," said ambulance service manager and Post Chairman, Shawn Godfrey. "You guys and gals are amazing!"



The World's Largest Circus under the Big Top was in Lanesborough, Massachusetts on Thursday June 16 and Friday June 17! Performances were at 4:30 PM and 7:30 PM both days.

The Cole Bros Circus of the Stars appeared at the Berkshire Mall to benefit the Village Ambulance Service Explorer Post 911 and the Lanesborough Fire Dept. The Explorer Post held "box office" hours from June 3 through June 15 from 10 AM to 6 PM in the Berkshire Mall Food Court.

Between advanced and door ticket sales, and a generous donation from the Berkshire Mall, the Explorer Post netted approximately \$3100.

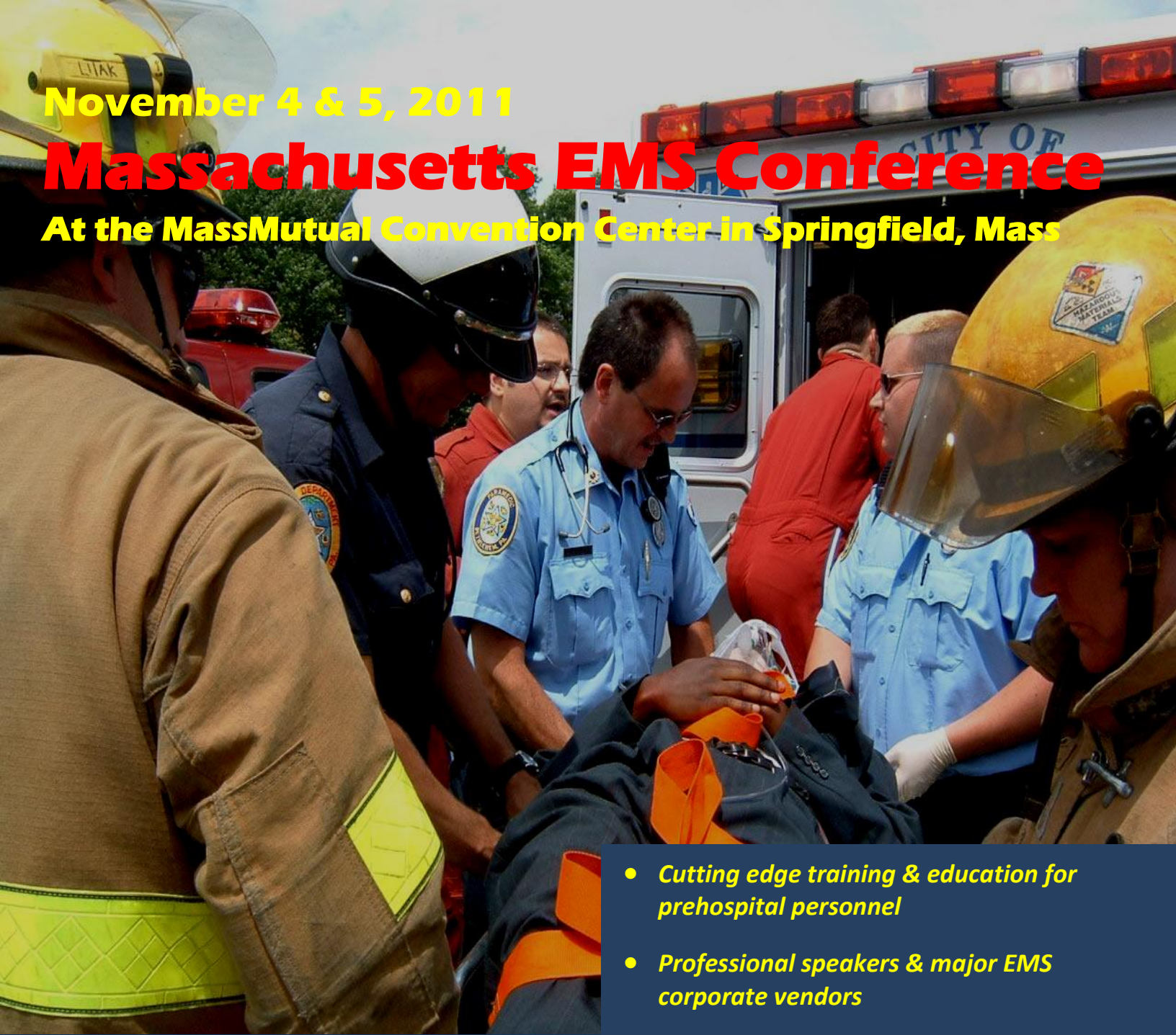
Village Ambulance Service is committed to providing this program free of charge and not denying prospective Explorers because of financial hardship. However, individual Explorers, with as much support from donations and fundraising as possible, are presently responsible for covering the costs of meals, national dues, insurance, uniforms, equipment and travel.

For more information on the Explorer Post, please contact our office at 413-884-5729.

November 4 & 5, 2011

Massachusetts EMS Conference

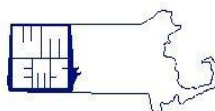
At the MassMutual Convention Center in Springfield, Mass



- *Cutting edge training & education for prehospital personnel*
- *Professional speakers & major EMS corporate vendors*
- *State-of-the-art vehicle and product exhibits*
- *Register early (before October 1) and save \$20!*
- *To register or for more information, please visit:
www.massemsconference.com*



Sponsored by: Western Massachusetts Emergency Medical Services



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