

Village Ambulance Service

2009 Summer Newsletter



Photo by
Art Sachs

Legal News

Massachusetts' Slow Down, Move Over Law In Effect

In February, a state trooper responding to a motor vehicle accident was seriously injured by a car that spun out of control and hit him. State police have experienced several instances where troopers sustained injuries due to a motor vehicle moving at excessive speeds.

They are hoping that a new law, "Slow Down, Move Over," which went into effect in March will reduce the number of fatalities and injuries in among emergency medical personnel, highway workers, police officers, and other responding to an a car accident, traffic violation, or emergency.

State legislature passed the "Slow Down, Move Over" law on December 22, and the new legislation requires drivers to slow down as they pass an emergency situation and to leave the lane closet to the auto accident if possible. There is no specified speed limit, but drivers up to a \$100 fine for failing to comply.

Rhode Island already enacted similar legislation last July and 42 other states have a "Move over Law" in place.

Welcome Back!

Welcome to the second 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



Kaitlyn Kline

EMT-Intermediate

In some EMS companies there's a department known as field operations or staff support; in others, it might be called a division. At Village Ambulance Service we call her Kaitlyn. And she's a major force behind the success of our rockin' EMS team.

Kaitlyn started her career in EMS as an EMT-Basic in 2006 before ultimately attaining her EMT-Intermediate certification from Springfield College in April 2009, where she is also majoring in the college's EMS Management Program.

Although employed by both Village and North Adams Ambulance



Service, Kaitlyn has found time to complete the EMT-Paramedic Program at Springfield College and is set to begin testing in May 2009.

She looks forward to working in Search & Rescue and Disaster Management when finished with her studies.

Kaitlyn enjoys horseback riding, hanging out with her friends, and participates in many community-related EMS functions.

Training Section

Village Ambulance Service Community Education and Training Programs

*"Skills when you need them; peace
of mind when you don't."*



For additional training program
information, training suggestions,
course schedules, and upcoming
sessions, please contact us at:

education@villageambulance.com

EMS and Child Abuse

Case 1: Dispatch advises a two-month-old "stopped breathing." The baby's father meets you at the door, holding the baby. As you begin your assessment protocol, your partner notes the surroundings: the TV is on, and empty beer bottles are strewn on the table. The father informs you that the mother is at work. His breath smells like alcohol and he has a staggering gait. The baby is in full arrest, and Dad states, "He's been so fussy all day."

Because EMS providers are often called to homes with children, they can have an important role in identifying and documenting vital information that could provide evidence of child abuse. In the above case, the EMS crew is driven by the severity of the scenario—the child is in full arrest. The medics astutely picked up on important "at-the-scene" details that would aid in the differential diagnosis and timetable of events. During every emergency call, prehospital providers must attune their senses to identify their surroundings and accurately describe the environment to which they respond.

As prehospital providers, you must remember the impact you have on abused and neglected children. Working with the hospital, as well as child protective services and centers, intervention and help for the patient and families will be pursued, preventing further harm to the child.

2009 Continuing Education

Note: All classes will be held at the Spruces Recreational Center, Rte 2, Williamstown unless otherwise specified.

<p>1. Wednesday, May 20, 2009 6pm to 9pm Documentation & Reporting Mandatory for Village Ambulance Service Employees 3 Credits approved for Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic Speaker: Page, Wolfberg & Wirth Training Tools</p>	<p>6. Thursday, September 24, 2009 6pm to 9pm Basic Skills Lab for all EMT Levels (KED, Traction Splinting, Board Splinting, Musculoskeletal Injuries) 3 Credits approved for Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic Speaker: Village Ambulance Service Staff</p>
<p>2. Wednesday, May 27, 2009 6pm to 9pm Documentation & Reporting Mandatory for Village Ambulance Service Employees 3 Credits approved for Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic Speaker: Page, Wolfberg & Wirth Training Tools</p>	<p>7. Wednesday, October 7, 2009 6pm to 9pm Communications/Review Berkshire County Simulcast System 3 Credits approved for Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic Speaker: Thomas Grady, Major, Berkshire County Sheriff's Uniformed Division</p>
<p>3. Wednesday, August 5, 2009 6pm to 9pm Cardiovascular Emergencies 3 Credits approved for Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic Speaker: Shawn Godfrey, EMT-P, I/C</p>	<p>8. Wednesday, October 22, 2009 6pm to 9pm MCI/CISD Training 3 Credits approved for Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic Speaker: Brian Andrews, EMT-P, WMEMS CISD Team</p>
<p>4. Thursday, August 13, 2009 6pm to 9pm Respiratory Emergencies 3 Credits approved for Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic Speaker: Shawn Godfrey, EMT-P, I/C</p>	<p>9. Thursday, November 12, 2009 6pm to 9pm Introduction to Hazardous Materials 3 Credits approved for Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic Speaker: Robert Czerwinski, Pittsfield Deputy Fire Chief, EMT-B</p>
<p>5. Saturday, September 19, 2009 (NARH Clark Conference Rooms 1 & 2) 9pm to 3pm 12 Lead Refresher Program 6 Credits approved for Paramedic Only Speaker: Deb Clapp, EMT-P</p>	<p>10. Wednesday, December 2, 2009 6pm to 9pm Substance Abuse/Drug Recognition Program 3 Credits approved for Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic Speaker: John LeClaire, Berkshire County Drug Task Force</p>

Community



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2009 Blood Drive

The 2009 Village Ambulance Service Blood Drive, sponsored in conjunction with the American Red Cross, garnered 72 productive donors.

The drive, which ran on Tuesday, April 28th from Noon to 5pm, not only generated aid for the American Red Cross, but offered a true sense of enlightenment to those who contributed to this important endeavor.

According to Jon Schafer, the American Red Cross Recruitment Representative, "the drive use to run 2 days and produce the same results."

Schafer added, "We had 93 people register to donate. 72 of them were productive donors. The goal for the drive was 60. We really topped that."

Village Ambulance Service wishes to thank all who donated.



**American
Red Cross**

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Community Safety Tips Boating

The sun, water, and wind can make for a great day to go cruising along a river, lake, or majestic bay in a boat. For many individuals and families this is a favorite summer pastime. It can be safe, as well as fun, if the fundamental rules of boating are understood and observed.

- Don't drink and boat. Boating while intoxicated is just as dangerous as drinking and driving. The "designated driver" system doesn't work in boating. Everyone is at risk because the boat's motion, coupled with alcohol, increases the chances of losing balance and falling overboard.
- Everyone on the boat should wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) or life jacket. A PFD is the best protection against drowning. Check the weather and water conditions before leaving the shore. If it looks like storms are brewing or the water is very choppy, wait for another day to go boating.
- Limit the number of passengers in a small boat. Don't exceed the limit allowed by the boat's capacity plate. Keep in mind the size and weight of each person. Equal distribution of weight will limit the possibility of capsizing.
- Have visual distress devices approved by the Coast Guard on board. Pyrotechnic red flares, orange smoke, orange distress flags, and electric distress lights must be in good working order and easily accessible.
- Use the "one-third rule" in fuel management. Use one-third of the fuel to go, one-third to get back, and keep one-third in reserve.
- Always tell someone where you will be boating, when you will be back, what your boat looks like, and other identifying information.
- Recreational boating is second only to highway transportation in the number of fatalities that occur each year. Alcohol is involved in most of these accidents. Always remember: boating and booze don't mix!

EMS Week 2009

May 17-23, 2009



Emergency Medical Services (EMS) week is a week of celebration dedicated to the achievements of the men and women on the front lines within the EMS community. These men and women are first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and emergency medical dispatchers delivering life saving skills to the sick and injured every day.

With advances in modern technology, exciting new medical procedures, and dedication to countless hours of skilled training, the emergency medical system is capable of providing essential life saving skills and treatment.

Village Ambulance Service will be providing many educational and entertaining events within the community during EMS Week.

We encourage everyone, both young and old to come out and participate throughout the week.

To thank you for all of your hard work, you are cordially invited to
Village Ambulance Service's
Partners in EMS Appreciation Barbeque



Where: Village Ambulance Service
30 Water Street
Williamstown, MA

When: Saturday, May 23rd, 2009

Time: 11am to 3pm

Cost: Free

Fun for the whole family!