



EMMCO West, Inc.

Northwestern PA EMS Council

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2009—2010



What's Inside

- Review of EMMCO West's projects and accomplishments
- EMSOF allocations to EMS providers and agencies
- EMMCO West resources and staff

About EMMCO West, Inc.

EMMCO West, Inc. oversees the prehospital care systems in Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties. EMMCO West receives its funding through a grant provided by the PA Department of Health.

EMMCO West, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (C) 3 corporation. EMMCO West is governed by a board of directors comprised of members from hospitals, county government, disaster organization, EMS agencies, and at large members from the customer base served by EMMCO West.

The EMMCO West Board of Directors meet on a quarterly basis. Specialized committees assist the board of directors in meeting its mission. Committees include:

- Quality Improvement
- Communications
- Medical Advisory
- Transportation
- Executive

Carrying out day to day operations are nine staff. Current staff include, Bill McClincy, Chris Heile, Kim Pero, Michelle Eaton, Melissa Thompson, George Klinzing, Jane Hamza, Trisha Skelton, and Sue Julius.

To help assist EMMCO West staff to conduct their work plan activities, EMMCO West utilizes two company vehicles. The one vehicle is a Toyota Camry and the other is a Chevy Pickup truck. Added this past year is a vehicle for moving the emergency preparedness assets. The vehicle is a used utility truck that was recently refurbished.

This past year, EMMCO West staff logged 28,772 miles between July 2009 and the end of May 2010.

This is EMMCO West's 27th year of incorporation, serving EMS Providers in Northwest Pennsylvania.

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Symposium 2010 Moves To Erie

Ambassador Rolls Out The Red Carpet For EMS Providers

The Ambassador Conference Center Erie, PA was this year's location for Symposium 2010. The Ambassador rolled out the red carpet for our region's EMS providers. The new venue enabled the most vendors ever at the annual conference.



The new conference location enabled EMMCO West to offer several special events. Included were discounted passes to Splash Lagoon, a night at Presque Isle Downs & Casino, and a visit from the mascot of the Erie SeaWolves! Plus there was Friday Night Vendor Night and Party 2010 on Saturday evening. UPMC Prehospital Care sponsored coned on Sunday and featured an Extreme E3 Experience that included a cadaver lab.



Texas A & M University kicked off Symposium 2010 with the medical response to Terrorism Bombing course. Evening coned sessions featured the EW staff and Dr. Risavi reenacting protocol issues and a review of street drugs from an undercover police officer. The EMS Leaders of Tomorrow program and recognition dinner wrapped up Thursday's programs.

Friday and Saturday sessions featured international, national, state, and regional guest speakers. Bill Davies from Oshawa, Canada reviewed potential hazards from fuel cell vehicles during a vehicle rescue. Formerly of Northwest PA, Dr. Bill Fales, MD, EMS Medical Director of Kalamazoo, Michigan reviewed CPR

Symposium 2010 continued...

techniques and discussed how the revised CPR practices are improving pre-hospital cardiac arrest outcomes. Dr. Paul Paris, MD and State EMS Medical Director Dr. Douglas Kupas, MD reviewed past, present, and future EMS practices.

Dr. Kupas, Janette Swade from PEHSC, and Heather Sharar of the AAP, conducted a rollout of Act 37's proposed Rules & Regulations, chapters 1—5. This was one of the first statewide rollout sessions discussing the draft rules and regulations to the new EMS Act. The regulations are to be in effect in 2012. The townhall meeting enabled EMS providers to comment on the proposed rules and regulations.



Symposium 2010 wrapped up with the annual EMMCO West EMS dinner and Party 2010 sponsored by UPMC Preshospital Care, STATMedEVAC, LifeStar. EMMCO West's Vice President Albert Boland served as the keynote speaker at EMMCO West's dinner. Shown above, Al started his presentation with a contest to see who could remember the theme songs from '70 & 80's EMS, fire, and police TV shows. Al's presentation focused on the role of professionalism within all aspects of the EMS system.

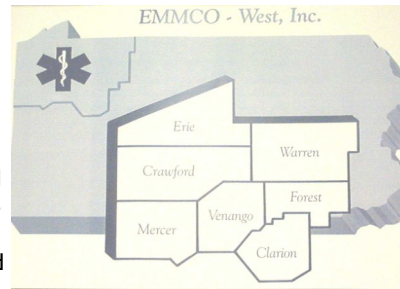
Plans are already underway for Symposium 2011. It will again be held at the Ambassador Conference Center, Erie, PA. Tentative dates for Symposium 2011 are April 7—10, 2011!

Prehospital Provider Equipment

EMSOF For EMS Providers

Annually, the PA Department of Health publishes, via the PA Bulletin, a listing of eligible projects and pre-hospital equipment that EMS providers can acquire through their regional EMS council. EMMCO West's Transportation Committee reviews the list of eligible equipment and projects and establishes a priority listing for EMS

agencies in the EMMCO West region. Funding allocations for the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund (EMSOF) are determined for each regional council. EMMCO West uses a group purchasing program that enables EMS agencies to identify special projects or equipment resources. Based on an EMS agency's compliance with regional QI initiatives, the EMS agencies requests are reviewed and prioritized. Using a population formula for the EMSOF program, either a rural designation 60% EMSOF 40% local match, or urban designation 50% EMSOF & local match is determined. Equipment is bid and is purchased for regional EMS agencies using the lowest bid matching the bid specs..



The following is the breakdown for Prehospital Equipment and Projects for EMS Agencies EMSOF for FY 09—10:

	EMSOF	Projects
Clarion:	0	0
Crawford:	\$ 3,701.55	0
Erie:	\$33,300.26	\$ 7,930.00
Forest:	0	0
Mercer:	\$ 1,236.00	0
Venango:	\$ 6,246.80	\$ 7,200.00
Warren:	\$ 1,137.50	0
Total:	<u>\$ 60,752.11</u>	EMSOF & EMS Provider Projects
Total Acquisitions:	<u>\$109,436.82</u>	(EMSOF & Matching Funds)

EMSOF Continued...

Special Prehospital System Projects:

Based on the regional development plan, a series of special regional projects were conducted. Projects included:

QRS Data Collection Programming	\$ 2,400
Providing an online access point for completion of QRS patient care reports	
Suction Unit Replacement Project	\$ 28,207.25
QI committee determined suction units > 10 years in age were prone to failure. Special 80% EMSOF 20% local match program replaced old suction units.	
2nd Fire Extinguisher for EMS Units	\$ 1,050.00
Revised standards require 2nd fire extinguisher on board licensed ambulances	
PCR Data Management Program	\$ 2,475.00
Phase II of 12 Lead Transmission project	\$23,800.00
CISM Programming	\$ 7,300.00
Line of Duty Death Course & Individual Crisis Intervention—Peer Support	
EMS Leaders of Tomorrow Program	\$ 1,500.00
Recruitment & Retention Programming	\$14,500.00
Advertisements, on TV, radio, newspapers targeting the recruitment of EMS personnel.	
EMS Week Activities & Breakfast	\$ 5,000
Annual EMS Provider & Elected Officials Breakfast and EMS Week activities	
Emlenton Radio Project	\$ 5,480.84
Improve EMS communication with Clarion OES and Emlenton EMS	
CO Detector Project	\$22,940.00
Provide EMS & QRS agencies with CO Detector for placement on first in bag	
Total Special System Projects EMSOF:	<u>\$ 114,653.09</u>

EMMCO West, Inc.

Act 37 is signed into law

PA's New EMS Law

On August 18, 2009, Governor Edward Rendell signed Pennsylvania's new EMS Act into law, Act 37. The signing occurred inside the capital with numerous EMS officials and legislators present to witness the signing.



Significance To EMS Providers

The new EMS Act replaces Act 45, which was originally signed in 1985. A bipartisan agreement was reached between members of the PA legislature to create Pennsylvania's new EMS Act. Despite the passing of the Act in the legislature and it being signed into law, not all parts of the new Act are in effect yet. In fact, most of the new EMS Act requires rules and regulations to be written before the new sections of the Act can be implemented.

Townhall Meetings With EMS Providers

To inform EMMCO West EMS providers, EMMCO West staff conducted a series of townhall meetings at locations throughout the region. EMS Act components that went into effect immediately and those that went into effect in February 2010 were identified and discussed.

Act 37 Rules & Regulation Draft

Chapters 1—5 of the proposed rules and regulations for Act 37 were released in late March 2010. The remaining portion of the draft regulations will be released later in 2010.

Statewide Act 37 rules and regulation meetings are being held by the PA Department of Health, Bureau of EMS. One of three initial townhall meetings was held at EMMCO West Symposium 2010. Additional meetings are being planned for the Summer of 2010. In 2011, formal hearings of the proposed regulations will be held, with the final rules and regulations going into effect by February 2012.

Instructor Enrichment Programs

Module II & III Courses Held

Fall 2009 into Winter 2010, EMMCO West conducted a series of EMS Instructor Enrichment modules. PA DOH EMS Instructors attended sessions held at locations throughout the EMMCO West region and at Butler County Community College. Instructors received Continuing Education credits and instructor credits for attending the sessions.

Module I of the enrichment program is available on the Learning Management System (LMS). Instructors were to complete Modules I, II, and III by January 2010.

Module IV Enrichment Modules Initiated

Module IV is the final module in the instructor enrichment program. It consists of an evaluation of an instructor during an actual coned or EMS class. Certified instructors are monitored by an EMMCO West staff member. Instructors are provided feedback and the training institute is provided a copy of the assessment that is performed.

EMS Instructors schedule the date and time that is convenient for them to be evaluated. Within the instructor's certification period a Module IV assessment is to be conducted.

EMS Instructor Course Held In January 2010



EMMCO West held a regional EMS Instructor course in January 2010. Twenty EMS providers attended the instructor methods course. An internship immediately followed the course. During the internship, instructor candidates are provided an opportunity to observe, assist, co-instruct, and assume primary instructor roles. Following successful completion of their internship, the instructor candidate is eligible for instructor certification as a PA DOH EMS Instructor.

CO Detector Program

Patient Care & Crew Safety Affected

EMMCO West, Inc. purchased and distributed 104 carbon monoxide detectors to regional EMS providers. The CO detectors are placed onto the outside panel of the "first-in" bag or O2 duffel bag. The intention of the CO project is to warn

EMS personnel of hazardous environments, created by carbon monoxide (CO). Carbon monoxide is a poisonous, colorless, and odorless gas. Early detection is critical in order to prevent being overcome by the gas. The CO detector provides a visual and audio warning when elevated CO levels are detected.



The impact of the detectors have far surpassed the project's intended purpose. The CO detectors have impacted how prehospital personnel treated patients. Since the CO detectors have been distributed to regional EMS providers a year ago, there have been seven confirmed events of CO detector activations in the EMMCO West region. The regional CO detector activations have been documented by pre-hospital personnel and are being included in a multi-regional EMS council report.

Example

An EMS crew is dispatched to an elderly persons' home in early winter. Initial dispatch information is for a patient that is confused, disoriented, and exhibiting stroke-like symptoms. The EMS crew finds a elderly female patient displaying signs & symptoms similar to those described in the initial dispatch. Not long into the patient assessment, the first in bag's CO detector activates. The EMS crew immediately packages the patient and evacuates the residence. High flow O2 is applied to the patient. Upon arrival at the hospital, the patient's condition has greatly improved and is oriented and conversing. A blood sample reveals the patient has an elevated level of CO. The local fire department and Natural Gas Company confirms that there is a problem with

CO Detector Program continued...

the furnace within the residence. The activation of the CO detector has affected the patient treatment that was rendered. Without the CO detector activation, the EMS crew would have continued to treat the patient for a suspected stroke and remained within a hazardous environment.

The PA Department of Health, Bureau of EMS will be placing CO detectors onto the new eligibility list of EMSOF provider equipment that is published in the PA Bulletin.

EMMCO West, Inc. is implementing Phase II of the CO Detector project. By the end of June 2010, remaining recognized EMS agencies in the EMMCO West region will be receiving a CO detector for each licensed or recognized vehicle.

The CO detectors are providing EMS crews with a heightened awareness of hazardous environments and are influencing both prehospital and hospital treatment of patients. Not since the introduction of AED's has there been a product/device that has had such a significant impact on patient care.



MSEC Trailer & Emergency Preparedness

MSEC Damaged By Building Collapse

EMMCO West's MSEC trailer was significantly damaged during a building collapse at the Crawford County Fairgrounds this past Winter. The PA Department of Health has provided a replacement MSEC trailer to EMMCO West.



George Klinzing Assumes

Emergency Preparedness Specialist Position

The PA Department of Health has provided funding to hire six emergency preparedness specialists throughout the Commonwealth. EMMCO West has hired George Klinzing to fulfill the position that covers both the EMMCO East and EMMCO West regions. Klinzing is responsible for emergency preparedness planning, preparation, and oversight of preparedness assets including the EMS Strike Teams, MSEC Trailer, and the Mobile Hospital.

Regional Response To H1N1

Working cooperatively with the District PA Department of Health office, EMA directors, and county health partners, EMMCO West assisted with resources for the H1N1 immunization program. Through a special directive signed by the Secretary of Health, ALS providers received training and credentialing for the administration of the H1N1 immunizations.

During late Fall and early Winter, mass immunization clinics were setup throughout the EMMCO West region. EMS agencies and EMS providers assisted Department of Health personnel administer the H1N1 immunizations.

EMMCO West says **THANKS** to the EMS personnel that assisted with the H1N1 Immunization clinics.

EMS Week Activities

Sheetz & Erie Seawolves Recognition

This year, EMMCO West coordinated with two organizations to help recognize EMS Week for regional EMS providers and agencies.



For the third year, Sheetz recognized the Wednesday of EMS Week as EMS Practitioner Day. Any certified EMS provider was eligible to receive a FREE Medium Coffee or Soft Drink, courtesy of Sheetz. The entire, multi-site chain stores associated with Sheetz participated in the recognition day. EMMCO West thanks Sheetz for their recognition of EMS providers.



A new EMS Week Sponsor is the Erie SeaWolves Double AA Baseball team. The Erie SeaWolf visited attendees of the 2010 Symposium and distributed flyers for a FREE night at the ballpark for Saturday, May 22, 2010. The night was also a fireworks night.

EMS Provider & Elected Officials Breakfast

Cross Creek Resort, Titusville hosted the annual EMS Provider and Elected Officials Breakfast. New to the breakfast this year was the regional recognition awards. The EMS Volunteer of the Year and the EMS Achievement Awards were presented to regional EMS providers.

The EMS Volunteer of the Year was David Johns and the EMS Achievement of the Year went to Robert Schleicher. Congratulations to both EMS Providers!

EMSI Executive Director Thomas McElree, Esq, NREMTP was the keynote speakers at the EMS Breakfast. He reviewed the intent behind the new EMS Act, Act 37. He identified the immediate and long term benefits that will likely occur as a result of the new EMS Act's passage.

Staff Changes At EMMCO West

Retirement of John Button

Our dear friend and treasured colleague, John Button retired earlier this year. John is originally from the Panama New York area. He began his EMS career in Conneaut Lake where he is one of the founding members of the Conneaut Lake Area Ambulance Service. Later he worked in Mercer County as the EMS coordinator before moving here to the EMMCO West office to serve as EMS Licensure Coordinator for over 22 years.



John and his wife Bonnie currently reside in Conneaut Lake where he is enjoying his retirement playing with his grandchildren and doing a little fishing. Congratulations John and happy retirement. Your years of dedication to the EMS profession are greatly appreciated.

Staff Reassignments & New Staff

With the departure of John Button, staff positions at EMMCO West have been modified. Assuming John's primary job tasks related to Ambulance Licensure & Recognitions is Jane Hamza. Michelle Eaton is now responsible for initial education programming and state testing. Trisha Skelton is coordinating the EMSOF program.

New staff members include George Klinzing, as the region's Emergency Preparedness Specialist. Sue Julius is the Office Operations Specialist. She is the new voice heard when calling EMMCO West. She assists staff coordinate project and programs related to continuing education and prehospital care reports.

We welcome our newest staff members to the EMMCO West family!

Outreach Activities

EMMCO West Staff Outreach

During EMS Week, EMMCO West staff members visited EMS agencies throughout the region. The visitations allowed staff to visit ambulance services and QRS departments throughout the seven counties served by EMMCO West, Inc. Staff members were welcomed by EMS agencies and participated in discussions about the EMS system in the region and across the Commonwealth.

G-20 Summit

During September 2009, the staff visited regional locations to discuss the impact that the G-20 summit may have on the region. The regional EMS Strike Team members and EMMCO West staff conducted special drills with the mobile hospital system, to assure it's readiness for the G-20.

Member of the NWPAERG and EMMCO West communication committees attended briefing sessions for the potential use of the region's mobile communication unit (MCU).

EMS agencies that transport patients to and from the Pittsburgh area were informed of travel restrictions that they may encounter, due to the G-20.

Photo Id's

Because of the G-20 summit in the Pittsburgh area, special Photo Id sessions were held by EMMCO West staff at various locations throughout the region. EMS agencies that would be having transports / traveling to the Greater Pittsburgh area were informed of increased security that included EMS certifications with photo identifications. EMMCO West staff concentrated their efforts on EMS agencies that had a frequency of transports to and from the Pittsburgh area.

Any EMS practitioner can attain a photo id between the hours of 8 AM—4:30 PM Monday—Friday at the EMMCO West office, Meadville, PA . No appointment is required.

EMMCO West Information

Electronic Patient Care Report

Services are required to complete patient care reports in a manner prescribed by the department, transmit the PCR to the receiving facility within 24 hours and transmit required data elements to the regional council monthly. In turn, the regional council validates the data and transmits that data in a form acceptable to the Bureau of EMS for data analysis and research above and beyond that performed by the regional councils.

Currently, about 50% of services in the EMMCO West region have migrated to and are submitting data from a NEMSIS compliant PCR software program. The remaining 50% are delayed primarily as a result of a single vendor failing to complete a NEMSIS complaint program in a timely manner, of which the Bureau of EMS is aware. If these services are not updated by the end of the year, EMMCO West and the Bureau could be faced with some difficult challenges.

As more QRS are coming on board in response to the new EMS Act, EMMCO West has made provisions for these services to complete PCRs electronically for little to no cost for the time being. This has proved quite successful.

The transition to NEMSIS has been difficult. The processing of these files is considerably more time consuming and in many cases requires more technical expertise from regional council staff. It is hoped that the tradeoff will be more accurate data and data comparable to other states for comparative analysis.

Chris Heile continues to serve as the chair of the PEHSC EMS Information Taskforce which has primarily been focusing on transfer of care process and information as well as issues surrounding the transmission of PCRs to receiving facilities.

Narrow Radio Rebanding

FCC Mandate By 2013

The FCC has implemented a plan to require any VHF High Band or UHF radio to be rebanded from 25 MHZ to 12.5 MHZ. NOTE, public safety users of VHF Low Band are NOT affected by this rebanding. The federal government is requiring users of 25 MHZ radios to transition their radios to the narrow band on or before 2013.

County PSAP Implementation Plan



Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), i.e. 911 communication centers in Northwestern PA have plans in place to begin the transition to the narrow band. The transition in some counties may begin taking place in 2011.

The transition to the narrow band is not an easy process; for example like flipping a light switch. Tower site by tower site and radio by radio transitions will need to occur. And, once a tower site has been switched, the public safety radios that use that tower site will need to use the narrow band frequency.

EMMCO West's Communications Committee will keep regional EMS agencies apprised as PSAP centers begin the transition process. It is suggested that EMS agencies program two banks of frequencies into their mobile radios or portables. One bank would be for the 25 MHZ band and the other bank would be for the 12.5 MHZ band. Given the frequency of patient transfers between various counties, EMS agencies will need to be aware when a county has upgraded a tower site to narrow banding.

PSAP centers have indicated that they will keep EMMCO West informed of any radio rebanding occurring within their county. EMMCO West will keep regional EMS agencies informed via emails, constant contact, and by breaking news on the EMMCO West internet site, www.emmco.org.

EMMCO West Programming

Line of Duty Death Program Held:

The EMMCO West CISM team sponsored a Line of Duty Death (LODD) program in April. The 2 day course was conducted by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. The death of a co-worker, especially a public safety colleague, is a tragic event. Handling the range of emotions that are present during a LODD event were identified as part of the course.

The EMMCO West CISM team welcomed Richard Boland, as he conducted an Individual Crisis & Peer Support training program. The class is one of the primary courses needed to perform CISM interventions.

New CISM Team Clinical Coordinator

This past February, CISM team clinical coordinator Tony Bostaph resigned. Tony accepted a new full time job in Maryland. We greatly appreciated the time and expertise that Tony brought to the CISM team. We wish Tony the best!

Our region's new clinical coordinator Dale Leverknight. Dale also serves as the clinical coordinator for the EMMCO East team. Dale has a diverse background in various aspects of public safety and in mental health training. We thank Dale for taking on the EMMCO West team and look forward to working with him.

Dr. Nadine Levick : Ambulance Crash Awareness Program

In April, Millcreek Paramedics conducted a 1/2 day seminar with Dr. Nadine Levick. Dr. Levick is considered to be one of the leading researchers, internationally, on the safety of personnel during an ambulance crash. Her research has lead to innovative changes in the design of ambulance vehicles. It's been several years since Dr. Levick had presented in our region.

Besides the redesign of the ambulance vehicles, EMS personnel need to consider taking precautions to minimize their injury, should an ambulance be involved in a crash. Seat belt use by all EMS workers throughout the ambulance, keeping all loose items strapped down at all times, and wearing a safety helmet have been demonstrated to reduce serious injury or death during an ambulance crash. And implementing operational practices, such as the limited use of lights and sirens to and from a scene, can help reduce the number of ambulance crashes.

EMMCO West Programming

12 Lead Transmissions : Phase II

The second year of the 12 lead transmission program saw a growth of the system into additional areas of the region. Included in Phase II were additional EMS agencies in Venango County, Titusville and Warren General Hospitals, Emergency-Care in Titusville & Warren, and Hamot Medical Center and St. Vincent Health Center. By the end of June, the 12 Lead receiving components will be installed and EMS agencies equipped to transmit the 12 Lead via 400 MHZ radio system to receiving hospitals.

The 12 Lead transmission systems in Mercer, Crawford, and Venango counties have assisted Medical Command physicians in determining the clinical status of patients suffering a heart attack.

QI Committee Suction Unit Study Recommendations Implemented

Following several years of review, the Regional Quality Improvement Committee recommended that suction units > 10 years of age should be replaced due to the prevalence of suction unit failures during routine testing and/or ambulance inspections. Special project funding was attained from the PA Department of Health to replace EMS agency suction units > 10 years of age.

The QI committee will be conducting follow up research through the review of the monthly suction unit reports submitted by EMS agencies.

EMS Leaders of Tomorrow Course Held

EMMCO West incorporated this year's EMS Leaders of Tomorrow (EMSLOT) into Symposium 2010. Topics included a presentation from an OSHA representative, Attorney John Onarato, Manufacturer's Association on HR issues, Paul Esachina on outside regional perspectives, and a presentation on EMS agency financial survival by Richard Gibbons, Jr.. A dinner was part of this year's event and future EMSLOT courses will be associated with the annual Symposium.

EMMCO West Programming

Make-A-Wish Chinese Auction



Photo of Jane Stork, Western PA Make-A-Wish Executive Director & Jessica McClincy, who coordinated this year's Make-A-Wish program as her senior project. \$2,500 was raised with this year's gift basket Chinese auction program. This year's Chinese auction raised the most funds ever! Thanks to everyone that donated gift baskets and everyone that attended Symposium 2010 and bought tickets for this annual event! **Thanks....**

Sue Julius, EMMCO West's Office Operations Specialist, and Sharon King, Symposium committee member assist with the distribution of gift baskets for the Chinese Auction that benefited Make-A-Wish.



EMMCO West Programming

Ambulance Safety Inspections

EMMCO West staff are conducting ambulance safety inspections. Ambulances are inspected for safety hazards, i.e. unsecured patient care equipment, door seal integrity, lighting inside/outside, and state inspection/registration. Additional items inspected include the testing of on-board and portable suction units and the O2 tank levels are measured. A random inspection of patient care equipment is performed.



During these inspections, EMS provider's credentials are reviewed. PA DOH EMS Informational Bulletin #71 states that EMS personnel should carry both their PA drivers license and PA DOH EMS certification, preferably with photo id, with them on any EMS response.

EMS Strike Team Participates in Pittsburgh Seismic Drill

Northwestern PA incurs a seismic event that injures thousands of victims. Victims are flowing south towards Pittsburgh. The mobile hospital / triage area is established along I-79 / I279 to receive incoming victims. Regional strike teams from EMSI, EMMCO West, EMMCO East, Seven Mountains, EHSF, and Bradford Susquehanna participated in the April drill. Various hospital personnel and EMA personnel helped coordinate drill. Simulated victims were triaged and managed within the mobile hospital. The overall drill management, coordination and logistical aspects were identified each day and are being identified in an after action report. Poor weather conditions resulted in the drill being modified on the second day.



EMMCO West Programming

Evacuation of a hospital : Mobile Hospital Drill

The regional EMS Strike Team, D-MAT 3, and the PA Special Medical Response Team conducted a drill on June 12, 2010 at the convention center in Erie. The drill is designed to establish a secondary care facility using the region's mobile hospital to receive patients from a hospital that has been evacuated due to a disaster occurring within the hospital. 100 patients were evacuated to regional hospitals, with 50 of the patients being transported to the mobile hospital. Dr. Russell Bieniek, MD. and EMMCO West, Inc. have been helping to coordinate the drill's planning for several months and involve EMS Strike Teams, EMS providers, EMA, hospitals, public health, armature radio, and ServPA resources.



Strike Team Members Inflating Tents

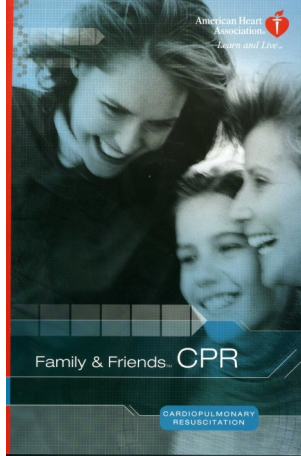


Just before meal time for patients



50 patients housed within mobile hospital

EMMCO West Programming



Regional Outreach Programming:

CPR Anytime Family & Friends CPR Training Program

Research shows that a key to out of hospital cardiac arrest survival relies upon a simple skill, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The American Heart Association has developed an interactive CPR training program that focuses on training individuals, and their immediate family members, on the techniques CPR and choking. This training program replaced traditional certification courses that take hours to complete. In less than 30 minutes, individuals can be trained in live saving skills needed for a cardiac arrest or choking victim.

UPMC Horizon Foundation and the PA Department of Health District office have teamed up to introduce CPR Anytime: Family & Friends course into the high schools in Mercer County. The initial project is centered on training 8th graders with Family & Friends in all Mercer County High Schools. The second part of the project is to have each student go home with the training program and train friends and family members. Ultimately the goal is to train 50,000 people that live in Mercer County with the basic skills needed to perform CPR and choking techniques .

EMMCO West, Inc. is a participant in funding this initiative in both Mercer County and in other areas of the region. EMMCO West too is acquiring CPR Anytime: Family and Friend CPR training kits. Trisha Skelton, EMMCO West Outreach Specialist, is coordinating the regional CPR Anytime Family & Friends CPR training.

EMMCO West, Inc.

EMMCO West Online

EMMCO West, Inc. is available 24 hours a day through its online internet site, www.emmco.org. The internet site is the portal to EMS resources throughout the region, state, and nation. Licensure, continuing education, initial training, specialty training programming, and breaking news items are located at www.emmco.org.

An online newsletter service is used to provide the latest breaking news to regional providers. ConstantContact sends detailed information bulletins to regional EMS providers. EMS providers can register at www.emmco.org to receive these online informational updates.

And EMMCO West is on Facebook. Check out the latest news, photos, and information that is posted by EMMCO West staff. Have a question or need information, send EMMCO West a message on Facebook. Become a member of the EMMCO West group on Facebook!

Lifeline newsletter is published two times a year, once in summer and in the winter. All certified EMS providers are on the mailing list for this publication.



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