

# MARQUETTE COUNTY EMS MEDICAL CONTROL AUTHORITY

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## NEWSLETTER – WINTER '03-'04

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### New Protocols

The latest updates to the Marquette County EMS Medical Control Plan are listed below. All agencies have received these updates and they are in your controlled copy of the Medical Control Plan. Also, as we have been doing, all protocols are on the MCA website at [www.mgh.org/mca](http://www.mgh.org/mca).

CVA (BLS/LALS)  
CVA (ALS)  
Communications  
Pediatrics  
Public Access AED



### AED Grant Update

Last year the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) allowed us the opportunity to participate in the AED Grant through the State of Michigan Office of Rural Health Initiatives. We were able to secure ten additional AED's, and with the help of MedTronics, provided LifePak 500's to those EMS agencies who requested additional AED's in their service areas.

We are awaiting word on the 2004 AED grant. If you have a need for additional AED's in your service area, please let the Medical Control office know at 225-7410.

### Thanks Scott!

The MCA regrets that our 2003 President – Scott Hoiem, retired and relocated near the end of this past year. Scott has provided many years of support and knowledgeable guidance to Marquette County's EMS efforts, and he will be greatly missed! Scott has also served as the Tilden Mine First Responders Representative, and previously worked as the Sands Township EMS Representative. He was also on many subcommittees, including being Chairperson of the Protocols Committee. Thank you Scott for everything!!!

### Wells Township EMS Director

Thank you for your many years of service, and farewell to Vince Rushlow! Vince has been the director of Wells Township First Responders for many years, and he will be greatly missed! We welcome Starr Poquette as she takes over for Wells Township!

### Central Dispatch and Communications Policy Update

You will see a number of changes when you review the new Communications Policy in the Medical Control Plan. Pay close attention to the new radio frequency requirements on page 2 of the policy.

The previous On-scene Tactical channel has been changed to 155.355, which all agencies should have programmed in to their radios ASAP.

We found during last year's disaster drill that many agencies no longer had the required old frequency in their radios. This caused chaos when certain agencies followed the protocols for MCI's and disasters, and other agencies did not know the protocol, or did not have the frequencies available on their radios.

The Incident Commander did not have direct on-scene contact with the scene's Medical Officer through this frequency, which prohibited him from keeping the hospital advised of activity and patient numbers.

Remember that in an MCI, the Medical Officer will have communication with the Incident Commander, and the Transport and Triage Officers will advise you of where you are to bring the patients assigned to your ambulance. Radio traffic is kept to a minimum, as the Medical Officer reports patient conditions and numbers directly to the hospital(s) rather than each ambulance.

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The new On-Scene Tactical frequency will be used at future MCI's. Please review the MCI and ICS programs in the Medical Control Plan. Looking up and reviewing these programs before will help you function properly in the system at the time of a drill or a real incident. If your agency needs training on the MCI or ICS system protocols, PLEASE call the office at 225-7410. We have many ICS, emergency preparedness, and MCI trainings available through the Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Grant funds.



### Upcoming Radio Channels

We will be changing our current EMS paging system (155.160), as well as our talk channel system **later** this year. You will be advised when the hardware and system changes officially go into effect.

EMS and Fire Departments will be sharing one paging frequency (154.400), and one repeated talk channel (155.775). This channel was formerly used by law enforcement, however, with their recent change to 800 MHz, it was made available to us. After you receive your initial alerting page, you will be required to move to the talk channel for additional communications. Ultimately, fire/EMS users will have access to two (2) repeated VHF channel resources whereas the County has historically had two (2) non-repeated resources for fire/EMS.

Unnecessary radio traffic will have to be curbed, as many

agencies will be trying to use a single channel on scenes where EMS and Fire are both present. Also, remember that all EMS and Fire activity County-wide will be sharing this same channel via the repeaters. If your agency currently uses the Central Dispatch paging channel for the majority of their on-scene communications, start thinking now at minimizing radio traffic where possible, as multiple agencies will be trying to use these frequencies.

If you need to communicate with an agency using 800 MHz, simply let Central Dispatch know and they will patch you in with the 800 MHz user.

### Paramedic Class Progress

The MGHS School of Emergency Medical Technology Paramedic Course is over half completed. The students are out in the field working on their clinical hours, where they practice the skills that they've learned in the classroom. Good Luck to those students who are working on completing this course!

If you have any questions regarding the Paramedic course, please call the School of EMT at 225-7590.

### Bioterrorism Grant Update

A number of ongoing programs are being sponsored by the HRSA Bioterrorism Grant, which is operating through the Medical Control Authority. This grant is to provide enhanced emergency preparedness systems to hospital and pre-hospital healthcare providers. We are encouraging EMS providers to participate in

the grant program. The next Advisory Committee Meeting has been scheduled for the evening hours on March 25, 2004 to make it easier for EMS providers to attend. Dinner is provided. Please call 225-7410 or 225-7745 to RSVP.

A number of training courses are scheduled in our local area that may be of interest.

-ICS Training 2/26/04  
-HazMat for Healthcare  
(April 2004)

The FEMA-sponsored program(s) at the Noble Training Center in Alabama are free to interested EMS providers, *including* airfare and lodging. Call the MCA office for more information or to register for these courses.

Pre-hospital education is planned UP- wide as soon as the details of these programs are worked out. It is hoped that this program can expose 1,400 EMS providers in the UP with a consistent WMD Awareness training program. Those who complete the program and are interested will be welcomed to advance to an Operations level program.

We have prehospital SARS information available. Also, bioterrorism related state model protocols are coming from MDCIS soon. Information is available regarding what is expected from you and your EMS agency when the Homeland Security Advisory Level increases, as it did over the Holidays, going to Orange.

If you'd like to participate in these programs, please call at 225-7410 or 225-7745.

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### EMS Week 2004

EMS Week is coming up again in May. Please call the office if you'd like to participate in recording Public Service Announcements (PSA's) on local radio and TV stations. Also, get your agency together to take your EMS group photo for The Mining Journal insert. Start getting those Golf Outing teams together, and check with your local schools and EMS agency to decide if you will participate in the EMS Week Poster Contest.

If you need community-service ideas in your area, call the office and we can provide you with a list of projects that you can implement in your city/township. This provides positive exposure of your EMS



agency, and is a great way to let your residents meet your EMT's before a medical emergency.

Who will your agency nominate for the Earlene Kinnunen Meritorious Service Award? Do you have any residents that deserve the Star of Life Award?

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

This is not intended to be a complete list of available CE programs, but does provide information on those programs available to you that we are aware of.

If you need a CPR course, Bloodborne Pathogen course, AED refresher, Epi-Pen refresher, or Albuterol refresher, please call the MCA office at 225-7410.

*MGHS School of EMT*, call 225-7590 to register for any courses listed on this CE Schedule.

Feb 2/ Pharmacology and Behavioral Emergencies

Feb 9/ OB-GYN

Feb 16/ OB-GYN

Feb 23/ Pediatrics

Feb 25/ Pediatrics

March 01/ Pediatrics and Pharmacology

March 6/ Pt. Assessment, Handling and Triage

March 24/ Pt. Assessment, Triage, Pt. Handling, Pharmacology, and Musculoskeletal Injuries

Tentatively scheduled for March 2004 – *NREMT Paramedic Refresher Course*. Contact Dennis Karuzas at 225-3146.

*John Mullen, EMT-P IC* offers an interesting list of continuing education courses that you are welcome to attend.

*Sands Township EMS* does a variety of protocol updates and training at their monthly meeting. You are welcome to attend these for CEU's also.

The MGHS School of EMT is also sponsoring a *Spring Conference* on April 16 and 17. Information should be coming out shortly, or you can call the school for details.

The Marquette County YMCA at Sawyer has a great facility available for ongoing education, including the pool for water safety courses. Contact the YMCA for more information.

If you are interested in attending at Sands Township or with JT Mullen, or providing or hosting a continuing education session at your EMS agency, please call the Medical Control Authority office at 225-7410.

### Welcome to New Agencies and New Members

Starr Poquette – Wells Township

Negaunee Township Fire Department Medical First Responders

Dennis Boyle – Marquette Township Fire/Rescue

Chad Hewitt – MGHS Nursing

Lynda Ussher – Cliffs Michigan Mining Company

### Emergency Departments

Please remember:

Turn off EMS vehicles when in the ED entrances.

Keep noise to a minimum.

You can leave both MCA and/or AED report information in the AED area at MGHS, or Alyson's mailbox at Bell.

Bell Memorial – 485-2200 (ED direct line)

MGHS – 228-3338 (recorded on-line Med Control only)

Leave all completed run reports in the ED.