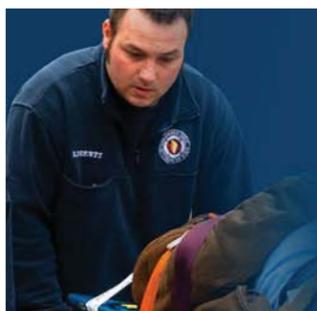


the SIREN UPDATE



CHEMPACK Training Sessions Available

A training program has been developed to provide valuable information regarding the recognition of nerve agent and organophosphate exposure, and the people and processes involved in the activation and deployment of a CHEMPACK cache.

Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dispatchers, law enforcement, emergency management, fire and emergency medical services personnel are encouraged to attend this training.

For additional information and to register for a training session go to: www.ems.ohio.gov.

Training Dates and Locations:

May 5 – 2:00 PM Miami Valley Career Tech Center – Clayton - West Bldg Room 179

May 12 – 6:00 PM Belmont Technical College – St. Clairsville – Horizon Hall Room 224

May 14 – 9:30 AM Bethesda North Hospital – Cincinnati – Golder Room

May 21 – 9:30 AM Lakeland Community College – Kirtland – Bldg H Room 1095

May 26 – 6:00 PM Holzer Medical Center – Jackson – Community Education Center

May 28 – 9:30 AM Stark State College of Technology – Canton – Silk Auditorium Room 125

Corrective Action for ZOLL AED Plus

ZOLL® is recommending that all AEDPlus® users whose units have serial numbers with the last six digits below 200000 replace the 123A Lithium batteries in their unit every three years to prevent potential battery failures in attempted rescues.

In addition, ZOLL recommends that a label be applied to all such units indicating when batteries need to be replaced.

According to the manufacturer, this Web site provides everything ZOLL AEDPlus® users need to take corrective action. You can find additional information at www.zollaedplusbatteryhelp.com.



Staffing of Ambulances

In the April issue of the Siren it was reported that S.B. 129 went into effect on December 30, 2008. The legislation reduced the staffing requirements for EMS agencies that substantially utilize volunteers.

The EMS Board approved a position statement regarding the staffing of ambulances during patient transport.

While the Board recognizes the issues with recruitment and retention of volunteers, the Board strongly recommends that whenever possible, the ambulance be staffed by at least two EMTs-B, EMTs-I, or Paramedics during the transport of a patient.

The complete position paper can be viewed on the EMS web page at www.ems.ohio.gov under the heading *Position Papers*.



EMS Training Opportunities Now Offered Online

The Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services has launched an online training center that provides first responders of all levels free online training opportunities for career development through continuing education (CE) requirements, which are needed for renewal of EMS and Fire certifications in Ohio.

This online learning resource provides training materials that are available 24-hours a day and users can enroll and take training in several categories. They can track personal training history, obtain transcripts of their participation, and obtain copies of the certificate of completion at any time.

The initial online training program, EMS CHEMPACK, has been posted and is available to be taken by logging on www.ohioemstraining.com and signing up as a member.

The Division is preparing additional classes for the online training site to assist first responders in accruing their CE hours for EMS and fire service certification and renewal. New fire rules requiring the CE credits were filed in January 2008.

The Division plans to offer an Ohio Trauma Triage course, a hospital CHEMPACK course and firefighting courses in the future.



Application Period To Open: Fiscal Year 2009 Assistance To Firefighter Grants

The Department of Homeland Security has posted the FY2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program Guidance on the AFG Web site. Applications for these grants must be received by Wed., May 20, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Nationally, the AFG awards, which will be distributed in phases, will ultimately provide approximately \$510 million to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations throughout the country.

AFG awards aim to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public with respect to fire and other hazards.

The grants enable local fire departments and emergency medical services organizations to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and buy equipment and response vehicles.

An applicant tutorial is available through the www.firegrantsupport.com Web site. The tutorial provides you with valuable grant information and will walk you through the preparation and submittal of competitive applications. In addition, the applicant tutorial will provide an overview of the funding priorities and evaluation criteria.

Applicants who have questions regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grants opportunity should contact the help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov. During the application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (EDT), but is prepared to revise hours of operation based on volume and demand.

The AFG Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration.

For access to the FY09 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Guidance or FAQs – visit www.firegrantsupport.com/afg/.