



Help Guns-N-Hoses Blood Donation Campaign to Fight Against Summer Blood Shortages

It is that time of year again for baseball games, fishing trips, summer vacations and fireworks. This time of year also marks the beginning of trauma season here in Ohio - the time of year when motor vehicle crashes and traumatic injuries increase and the need for blood often exceeds the supply.



In addition, with all of the summer activities coming up, the amount of people who have time to donate blood decreases. That is why it is so important for first responders to join the American Red Cross for the 16th Annual Guns-N-Hoses blood donor campaign which runs June 30 through July 31.

First responders see every day what the gift of donating blood can do for those injured in traffic crashes, fires and other emergency situations. Just one donation can save up to three lives and impact countless others.

Guns-N-Hoses began in 1996 as a friendly competition between police officers and fire fighters to see who could bring in the most blood donations. Those who donate during the campaign can make their donation a vote for either fire fighters or police officers. In the end, the patients who benefit from the available blood products are the real winners.

How to Donate Blood

To schedule an appointment to donate please call 1-800-RED-CROSS visit www.redcrossblood.org, or contact your local Red Cross Chapter.

EMS Providers Recognized for their Dedication and Service

The Division of EMS and the Ohio College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) showed their gratitude along with a host of family and friends toward 16 awardees at the 2nd Annual Ohio EMS Awards and the 13th Annual Ohio ACEP EMS Star of Life Awards held on May 18, in the ODOT Auditorium.



An up close view of award recipient EMT- Paramedic Stephanie Bittner's award plaque.

The first segment of the award ceremony was dedicated to the Ohio EMS Awards, which recognize outstanding career achievements and honor those in Ohio's EMS system whose accomplishments rise above the day-to-day excellence of the system.

The second segment of the program included the Ohio ACEP's EMS Star of Life Awards, which honored Ohio's exceptional EMS personnel and reunited the EMS provider with the patient treated.



Ohio ACEP EMS Star of Life Award recipient with a patient that was treated.

Ecoli Alert by the CDC: Considerations for Ohio EMS Providers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring a large outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) infections that are currently ongoing in Germany. This is a highly aggressive and virulent strain of Escherichia coli (E. coli), the bacteria that is a common cause of gastrointestinal illness and diarrhea in the United States.

This rare strain of E. coli has been associated with patients with hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), nine of whom, as of May 31, 2011, have died. HUS is a constellation of acute renal failure, an infrequently seen form of hemolytic anemia, and thrombocytopenia (low platelet count).

Although the CDC is not aware of any cases of STEC infections in the United States, there have been three cases of HUS in the United States as of May 31, 2011 in persons who have recently traveled to Hamburg, Germany. The CDC has recommended that any person who has recently traveled to Germany and has signs or symptoms of STEC infection, or HUS, should seek medical care immediately and let the medical provider know about the outbreak of STEC infections in Germany and the importance of being tested for STEC infection.

EMS professionals can facilitate the identification of patients who may be at risk for STEC infections by obtaining the travel history, particularly to Germany, in patients exhibiting signs and symptoms of STEC infection or HUS. The symptoms of a STEC infection include severe stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhea (which may be bloody), and possibly a low-grade fever. The majority of patients with STEC will make a full recovery within 5-7 days; however, a percentage of these patients will subsequently develop HUS.

The signs and symptoms of HUS that can be noted in the prehospital setting by EMS professionals include profuse watery bloody diarrhea, pallor (secondary to the anemia and blood loss), purpura (subcutaneous bleeding secondary to low platelets), and weakness or lethargy (secondary to the uremia of renal failure).

The treatment of the patient with symptoms of STEC infection or HUS should be completed according to the prehospital protocols provided by the EMS medical director, and the patient should be transported to the appropriate facility. As in all patient encounters, regardless of the chief complaint, signs, or symptoms, the assessment of vital signs and the donning of the appropriate level of personal protective equipment (PPE) are essential.

FEMA Posts ICS Forms Booklet

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) Forms Booklet (FEMA 502-2) is designed to assist emergency response personnel in the use of ICS and corresponding documentation during incident operations.

The booklet is a companion document to the NIMS ICS Field Operating Guide (FOG), FEMA 502-1, which provides general guidance to emergency responders on implementing ICS.

It is also meant to complement existing incident management programs and does not replace relevant emergency operations plans, laws, and ordinances.

Forms are designed for use within the Incident Command System, and are not targeted for use in Area Command or in MultiAgency Coordination Systems. The updated version of the ICS Forms Booklet incorporates best practices, lessons learned, and input from emergency response stakeholders.

The ICS Forms Booklet (FEMA 5022) is available at <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/JobAids.shtm>.