

hello february

## CMH Pre-Hospital Newsletter 2020

### February Fun Facts!!

February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means “to cleanse.” The month was named after the Roman *Februalia*, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement.

February is the only month with less than 30 days

Adding an extra day every 4 years keeps our calendar aligned correctly with the astronomical seasons, since a year according to the Gregorian calendar and a year according to the Earth’s orbit around the sun are not the same exact length of time. Without this extra day, our calendar and the seasons would gradually fall out of sync. Because of the extra day, a leap year has 366 days instead of 365. Additionally, a leap year does not end and begin on the same day of the week, as a non-leap year does.

The next Leap year will be Thursday, Feb 29, 2024

Feb 2nd is Ground Hog Day

Feb 12 is Lincoln’s Birthday

Feb 14 is Valentine’s Day

Feb 15 is Susan B Anthony’s Birthday

Feb 17 is President’s Day (aka Washington’s Birthday, which is ACTUALLY Feb 22)

Competencies begin March 9th

This will be a training on ESO!! BE  
sure to attend!!!

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## Neal's Thoughts

The Paramedic class is reading Thom Dick's book *People Care* and they have an email thread for discussion. I am impressed by what I read. *People Care* in my opinion is the non-clinic text book for EMS. When we take care of patients, we see them at their worst. We are called because they need help. Our goal should be to provide each one of our patients exceptional, compassionate care in the situation and environment they are in. Thom's book dives into this part of EMS. He also talks about how FTOs affect new staff and students. It talks about compassion and should be a gut check for any EMT or Paramedic. Why do you do EMS?

We recently revied the results of an audit by Page, Woldberg and Wirth, PWW that was completed on some of our PHS Patient Care Records. They looked at our PCR for compliance. Areas we scored highly deficient in are:

- Valid patient signature and valid reason the patient could not sign.

- Documentation must provide information to support medical necessity.

You can help by getting the patient's signature for permission to treat and transport and the privacy statement signed. If the patient cannot sign or has difficulty signing there is a drop down box you need to use to document why they cannot sign. You should now be using the DRATT narrative format. Help sheets are in each station

You need to include in your narrative:

- What do you observe on scene and about the patient?

- Where did you find the patient what position is the patient in

- What is going on with the patient?

- What does the patient look like



## Neal's Thoughts (continued)

Document your full assessment

What treatment was done during transport?

Changes after transport treatments.

How was the patient upon arrival at the facility?

Who was report given to

Valuables: what was done with them if any.

Your narrative must tell the story and have, details, details and more details.

Remember on any transfers:

What is the Diagnosis? Not what the nurse told you but what is on the transfer papers.

Why was the patient in the hospital? Why did the patient come to the ER?

What, if any, treatment was done at the sending facility?

Steve Keller has begun to review our PCR for compliance and the use of the DRATT format.

You will be getting emails or notices from Steve on the corrections you need to make on your PCR.

Our goal is to improve our documentation to have a high quality record of our patient care. If we produce high quality documentation the by product is a PCR that is easier to code for billing and a PCR that looks good and is professional if subpoenaed or requested by an attorney.

The go live date for ESO EHR is April 1. We will have training in March, please stay tuned for training dates and times. Changing PCR is a big deal but the change to ESO will be worth it.

Thanks for all you do,

Be Safe,

Neal T.

# Polk County Chatter

I would like to start off by saying, we've had some pretty big compliments coming from the public!!

Brice and Zane had a code save where the wife was so impressed by the efforts that she brought that she brought chili and desserts to the station for all.

AJ and Amanda also worked a code, that unfortunately was not a save, but they were complimented on their hard work by the family. The family especially made comment on how sweet and caring AJ was towards the family. They were touched by everyone on scenes professionalism.

Thank you guys for the exceptionally compassionate care you give. Your hard work is not unnoticed.

I recently became a Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist. I would like to address a few things with all of you in hopes to facilitate us in becoming better documenters. First, I would like to say the better your documentation is, the more we are reimbursed and our patients are billed more accurately. To become a more accurate documenter, your documentation needs to be accurate, needs to be subjective, NOT objective...meaning, facts need to be in the report and NEVER your opinion. Now, when I say the document needs to be accurate, I am talking about specifics. For example, do not just write "hip fx". Which hip was fractured? The left? The right?

We are recommending the DRATT concept when writing a narrative. Please refer to the cheat sheets that we have available as to what information goes under which heading. Remember, the better the documentation, the better the reimbursement or the less likely the patient will be overcharged.

I really do appreciate everyone that has picked up extra shifts. We rarely have been forced to shut down a truck. As well, we have the U shift up and running more often then it is shut down!! Strong work guys!!

Stay safe!

Aaron Weaver, Paramedic

Operations Manager—Polk County



# Life and Times from the Beautiful Lake Stockton

As another month has come and gone,

We are still trying to remember to write 2020 not 2019 Ha!

We are thinking: "What does 2020 have in store for me and you?" "What type of calls can we expect during 2020?" We are already seeing the Flu in schools, nursing homes, friends & family and maybe ourselves (Oh, lucky us!) Just remember to WASH, WASH, WASH your hands, and keep those gloves on! This bug can hang around on people's skin, bedding, clothing, just to name a few, and it spreads like wild fire. The other types of calls we are seeing an increase in Cedar County are respiratory (Asthma) calls, and now the Coronavirus Outbreak moving in folks you better keep up on all these and protect yourself.

Don't forget Tax time and just around the corner "oh, boy" hope all goes well for one and all. Also watch out for those pesky little deer, it seems to me there are more now than prior to Deer Season.

**Personnel** additions welcome Travis Neher to CMH Cedar County Eldorado Springs, Travis comes to us from Mercy lifeline out of Joplin, he used to work in Cedar County for several years prior to CMH moving in, so he knows the areas, people and CCMH ways, so this will make Cedar County fully staff now, he will be starting Feb 02 fulltime this will help control OT for CMH which in turn will help one and all on the bottom line.

**From the Board**, The Board has voted to go ahead and purchase 3 cattle (deer) Guards for the first 3 newest trucks in Cedar County like what Medic 6 has, these have been ordered and we will be scheduling them to be taken to Columbia shortly to be installed. They have also approved the new Vent €700 from O\_two this will be a nice asset to Cedar County fleet.

Well there goes those tones again were off on another call, guess I will stop here what a month. Everyone please be safe and watch your partners back, and listen to them and keep your eyes open, see something say something the world is quickly changing folks.

Tom Ryan

Operations Manager

CMH Cedar County



Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" in French, which is the last opportunity to eat rich foods and drink alcohol before the fast of Lent begins. In other countries it is called "Carnival" meaning farewell to meats for carnivores before the abstinence of Lent.

Fat Tuesday is Feb 25

Ash Wednesday is Feb 26



# Hickory County Happenings

I first want to start off by wishing Tim Bradley and Cindy Bailey a belated Happy Birthday. I believe there was an oversight last month and both Tim and Cindy were left off the Birthday list. Happy Birthday to you both. (Dawn misread her paper and put them as anniversaries, instead of birthdays!! Sorry!! ~D)

We should have 708 back by the time this newsletter comes out, after the fatal deer strike back in December. I believe if we are holding records Peter seems to be the main attractant for deer in Hickory. I know there have been plenty of near misses as the deer population seems to be as bad as ever. Be vigilant to the deer along the roadway or in the medium at night. I don't know why they like the forage there but they do.

We have been struggling the past month or so with back orders on supplies. We may have to use something different for a while until they get in exactly what we are needing. Iv extensions have been one of the items.

Golden Valley Er has changed how they are wanting us to bring out patients into the ER. They ask we park outside the garage bay or inside if there is a spot and bring our patients in that way. (back to the way we originally were doing it)

There have been some great discussions at shift change going on. It is great to see the support among ourselves and working on improving our patient care or documentation. It sounds like we all have learned something new in some of these discussions at some point.

Just a reminder that we have gone back to station staff meetings. I have sent out a calendar reminder to all of you. Staff meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. Please plan on being a part of these as there will always be some information that will be important to our job and/or station operations.

AS ALWAYS, I want to thank each of you for everything that you do!

Alice Roberts Paramedic

Hickory County Ops. Manager

# Health & Safety Tips from Brice

Hello all.

February is here! The past year has flown by; my youngest daughter turns 1 on the 15th!!

I just want to pass on some updates regarding 706. Everyone in Polk County has worked out of 706, the newest remount truck with a forward facing attendant seat on the curbside. I think it is working out very well since we have started using 91 octane fuel. We did have one issue with the initial design, where the second trauma patient should be transported.

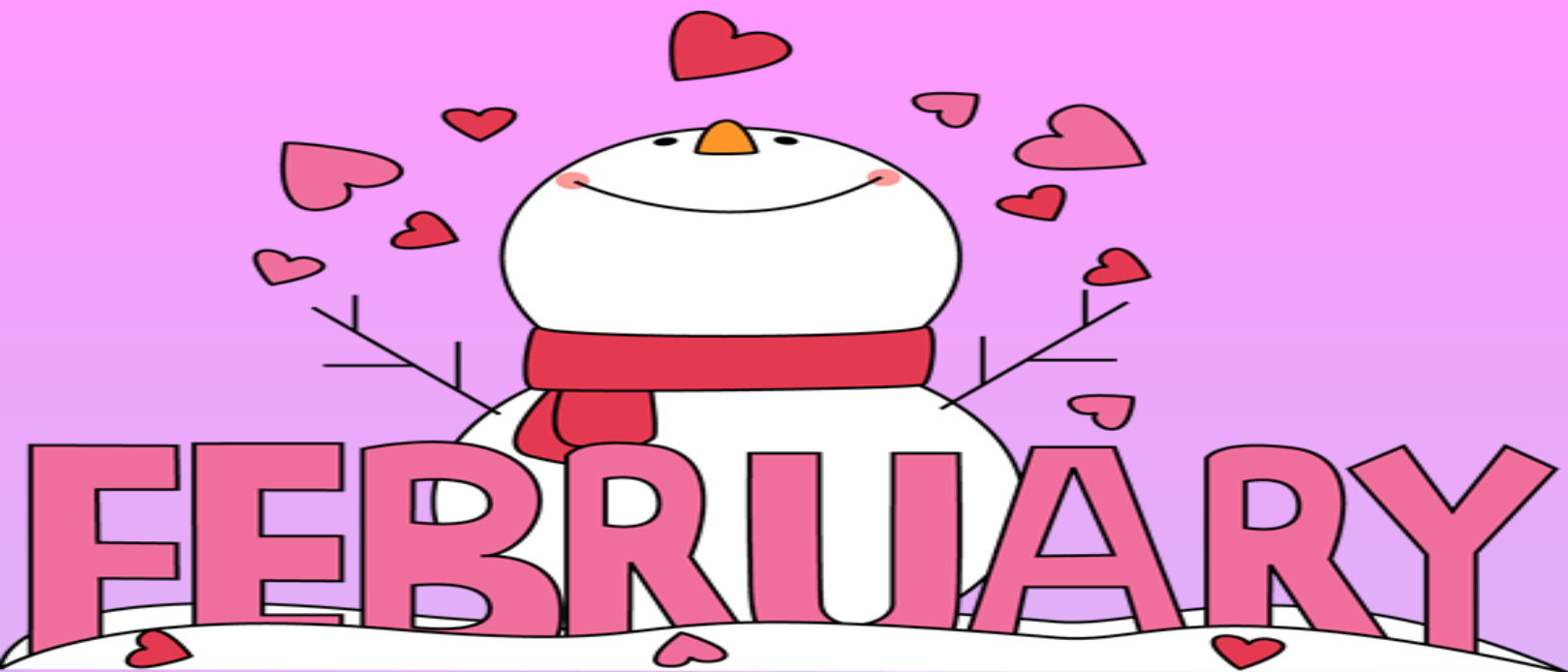
The remount company moved a mount higher up on the wall to make securing the backboard more simpler. The issue was then, how do we attach the backboard so that it will not move during transport. With the insight of Lucky and Comorgan, the issue has been addressed, and I think resolved.

See the attached picture and how the straps are crossed from the wall, through the backboard, and down to the floor mounts. This board placement is very secure, and I recommend a similar approach when using a backboard on a bench seat.

Thank you for your time, and as always, make the safest choice you can for you, your partner and your patients.

Brice Flynn, Paramedic





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

BRENT WALLEN FEB 12

GREG WOOD FEB 13

TRAVIS HILL FEB 16TH

RYAN CARROL FEB 18TH

PETER HOLM FEB 19TH

DAWN SLOAN FEB 28TH

ANNIVERSARIES!!

CAROLYN REAM

26 YEARS!!!



2008

# Congratulations!



Congratulations Goldie  
and Cheyenne on getting  
your Paramedic License!!

