



# Emergency Medical Services



## 27th Annual



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**March 7 & 8, 2009**

at the

**NYS Fire Academy • Montour Falls**

600 College Avenue • Montour Falls, NY 14865 • (607) 535-7136

# Seminar

presented by the

**EMS Committee of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York**

# Emergency Medical Services Seminar

# SATURDAY

## Sessions will Include:

### *"20 Commandments" to Better Patient Assessment*

**Presented by Paul A. Werfel**

Most assessment presentations today are all day affairs with endless lists of things to remember. It is not surprising that the material is hard, if not impossible, to remember. If only someone had decided on several rules or commandments that would make the job easier. That day has come! Please join *JEMS* Magazine "Case of the Month" author Paul A. Werfel in this new and insightful look into patient assessment. We will present you with "20 (easy to remember) commandments" to better assess your most troublesome patients.

Among the topics discussed are:

- General patient assessment
- Geriatric patient assessment
- Adult medical assessment
- Adult trauma assessment
- Pediatric patient assessment

At the end of this program, students will be able to discuss the major presentations of:

- Pediatric emergencies
- Adult medical emergencies
- Adult major trauma
- Geriatric emergencies

### *Head and Facial Trauma for the Street Medic*

**Presented by Paul A. Werfel**

The prehospital practitioner's handling of the patient with head and facial trauma can be one of the most difficult scenarios to successfully manage. With airway issues to deal with, C-spine injuries, and profuse bleeding all factoring into the equation, it's easy to see how daunting a task this can be. In this discussion we will cover the methods of assessing and managing these injuries that affect nearly two million people in the US and result in approximately 50% to 55% of all prehospital deaths.

In this graphic, interactive session we will explore the assessment, pathophysiology, signs, symptoms and treatment of:

- Cerebral concussions
- Cerebral contusions
- Basilar skull fractures
- Intercranial bleeds
- Penetrating head trauma
- Maxillofacial injuries

**Paul A. Werfel**

NREMT-P

Paul A. Werfel is the director of the Paramedic Program at the School of Health Technology and Management/ Department of Emergency Medicine University Medical Center, State University of New York at Stony Brook. He has also worked at Bellevue Hospital in New York in the Emergency Care Institute and as an emergency care program coordinator and working paramedic in Jamaica Hospital in New York City. Paul is a contributing editor for *JEMS* Magazine and is the author of the "Case of the Month" column. He is an experienced lecturer, having spoken on numerous EMS subjects throughout the United States. Paul has been a New York State EMT since 1975 and continues in the field on a daily basis.

#### **Objectives:**

At the completion of this session the student will be able to discuss, compare and contrast the presentation, assessment, signs, symptoms and treatment of:

- Mild, moderate and severe head trauma
- Elevated intracranial pressure
- Concussion
- Basilar skull fractures
- Epidural and subdural hematomas
- Penetrating head trauma
- Jaw and mandibular fractures
- LeFort fractures

### *The State of Emergency Medical Service in New York State*

**Presented by Edward Wronski and NYSEMS Council Chair**

**Edward Wronski**

Director, Bureau of EMS, NYS Department of Health

**Andrew W. Stern**

NREMT-P, MPA, MA

Andrew W. Stern, NREMT-P, MPA, MA, has been working in EMS for more than 30 years as a provider, educator and administrator. He has authored more than 30 articles, book chapters and instructor manuals. He holds instructor certifications in BCLS, ACLS, PALS (AHA), as well as for PHTLS and PEPP. Andrew is currently affiliated with the Town of Colonie Emergency Medical Services in New York State as a senior paramedic and flight medic, and also serves as their CME coordinator. His involvement in emergency medical services extends to being prehospital care coordinator for the NY-2 Disaster Medical Assistance Team and a medical specialist for New York TF-2, an urban technical search and rescue team. He is an associate of the Prehospital Care Research Forum, and holds memberships in the National Association of EMS Educators, National Association of EMTs, and Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

### *Errors in EMS - Deal With it!*

**Presented by Andrew W. Stern**

A 2000 report issued by the Institute of Medicine speculated that medical errors in hospitals account for approximately 50,000 to 100,000 deaths annually. While this report was specific to the hospital environment it would be naïve to think that errors do not happen in prehospital care and that some of these errors do not increase morbidity and mortality. While the EMS environment might be considered an excuse for why errors may be unavoidable, this is a weak assumption and potentially makes the task of risk reduction harder. This presentation will provide specific examples of how to reduce errors, such as by encouraging teamwork, acknowledging and dealing with errors, and anticipating high risk behavior. Being proactive rather than reactive is the most effective way to prevent errors. Illustrations will be provided on how engineering controls and a strong quality improvement program can be helpful tools in minimizing future errors. This presentation will give constructive ways to deal with errors including ten specific approaches for reducing them. While these concepts probably won't eliminate errors, they will help to reduce them. Errors do occur in EMS - deal with it.

#### **Objectives:**

- Define errors in EMS and illustrate how they can occur.
- Discuss ten approaches to improve patient safety and reduce errors.
- Identify reasons why EMS providers might be resistant to quality improvement.
- Reinforce the importance of staying current, using engineering controls and practicing risk reduction as methods for reducing errors.
- Understand that mistakes do not always cause harm but need to be examined and dealt with in order to minimize reoccurrence.

# SUNDAY

## Sessions will Include:

March 7 & 8, 2009

•  
NYS Fire Academy  
600 College Avenue  
Montour Falls, NY 14865

•  
Registration  
7:00-8:00 a.m. Saturday

•  
Seminars begin  
at 8:00 a.m.

•  
Saturday Evening  
Networking & Social Hour

### Thad Gaebelein

Thad Gaebelein is a former army officer with a unique background of combat arms experience and education. He began his military career in the US Army serving as an infantry officer in the 3rd infantry division. He served as a rifle platoon leader, anti tank platoon leader and company executive officer. Later he served for many years as an assault helicopter pilot in the 101st air assault division, participating in many worldwide deployments. He then began teaching Military History at West Point, and became the headmaster of The Stony Brook School, an elite private independent boarding school for four years. Returning to uniformed service, Thad was the director of Ethics and Character Development at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY for nine years. He finally finished his uniformed service as commandant at Valley Forge Military Academy and College and currently works with AESIR GROUP International as a consultant and instructor to the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington DC.

### *What Rescues the Rescuer?*

*When the Emergencies Come, Will Your Center Hold?*

#### **Presented by Thad Gaebelein**

EMS personnel are society's safety net, always there on call yet, ironically, generally anonymous and largely overlooked by the greater public they so loyally serve. But what about those overlooked EMS personnel? How do they maintain their motivation and dedication long after the initial thrill of first being on the job passes? What do they do when life's emergencies roll in on them? What holds them together over the long term?

This presentation will be an in-depth discussion on the crucial aspects of character, ethics, motivation, and leadership as they apply to EMS personnel.



### *The Emergency Vehicle Crash and the Lawsuit That Soon Follows*

#### **Presented by: Robert J. Faugh**

Students will view a recent crash involving an EMS response vehicle and find out that, at first glance, it looks fairly good for the EMS vehicle owner and operator. Then, we look at what really happened and how to protect yourself and your squad so it doesn't happen to you.

### **Robert J. Faugh**

Fire Commissioner – Rush Fire Department

Robert J. Faugh is an active firefighter and EMT for the Rush Fire Department. He is also an EMS Coordinator and US DOT EVOC Instructor. Bob is a retired NYS Trooper, EVOC for NYS Fire Academy, Monroe Co., NYS DOH and is also a NYS DMV approved Defensive Driving Course Instructor. He has been an expert witness in over 80 criminal and civil court cases involving vehicle operation.



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