

BLS Integration Planning Session – POSTPONED

The Board of County Commissioners open work session to review the current timelines and plans for BLS integration within Skagit County originally scheduled for **Tuesday, February 3rd** has been postponed until further notice. A new date and time will be announced no later than next Tuesday's Weekly Update.

LAST CHANCE

2014 BLS OTEP

FINAL 2014 EMT OTEP MAKE UP

This is the absolute, final opportunity for all BLS Providers to make up any missed education sessions from 2014.

The Final 2014 OTEP/Code Review makeup will be held at the Sedro Woolley Fire Dept, 325 Metcalf St. on Saturday February 28th at 8am. Please make sure that all 2014 EMS Online Modules have been completed PRIOR to attendance. No RSVP/Signups required, just show up.

2015 EMT Ongoing Training and Education Program Reminders

Guidelines were recently sent out to all departments and providers outlining the BLS OTEP requirements. Below is a copy of the 2015 BLS OTEP guidance document. This is a checklist for all Skagit County BLS providers to use in order to spell out your annual requirements and to provide you with a checklist to keep track of your education. The topics for 2015 have been chosen and are on the attached checklist. Please remember that you are required to have finished the EMS Online modules prior to attending the OTEP Skills Session.

***NOTE: a few of the modules for OTEP 1 and 2 will not be released by King County until the middle of this month so the list online may look incomplete.**

Advanced OTEP:

Starting this year we will be offering an Advanced BLS OTEP! This will be held twice a year and will cover the same topics as the King County EMS Online subjects but taught by local Paramedics and at a greater depth. This session will include lecture, skills testing as well as ALS Interface training. These Advanced OTEP classes will count in place of your assigned EMS Online modules for that OTEP as well as the skills.

Advanced OTEP #1 was held on January 17th and was well received by all participants.

Advanced OTEP #2 will be announced later this year.

Additional Advanced OTEP Training Opportunities*:

We will also be issuing Advanced OTEP credit for other classes that Skagit EMS Offers such as; ACLS for EMT's and Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support. See the **BLS OTEP Guidance** below for more class listings.

Protocol Changes:

As most of you know, after over 10 years of service Dr. Don Slack has stepped down as our Medical Program Director. Dr. Matthew Russell is your new Medical Director. With this change we will also be making some changes to our BLS Protocols. Most notably will be the addition of Blood Glucose check to your scope of practice. This will be rolled out with OTEP #1 and Advanced OTEP #1. Once the majority of your department is trained up, Glucometers will then be provided along with test strips and calibration solution.

EMT Classes:

We will continue to run 2 classes per year. One class in the Fall (Sept-December) which consist of every Tuesday, Thursday and every other Saturday. Our Winter class (January-March) is a little bit different, consisting of classes every Tuesday, Thursday and every Saturday. This more condensed class cuts several weeks off of the training cycle and has proven to be VERY successful (100% first time NREMT pass rate).

Recertification:

It is very important moving forward into 2015 that all OTEP that is assigned **gets completed in the calendar year in which it was assigned.** We will be offering quarterly make-ups at the EMS Office just in case you missed your departments training and couldn't make any other class. We will post those dates on our website as they become available.

If you miss an entire year **or** do not complete your OTEP training within the calendar year it was assigned, per the Washington State Administrative Code 246-967-171 you will end up having to recertify using the States "Traditional Method". This includes making up all of the hours required PLUS taking the NREMT exam at your own expense. You may also have to take a 24-hour refresher at your own expense – so please make sure you are staying current with your OTEP requirements.

BLS OTEP GUIDANCE:

The Skagit County EMS Department has developed a countywide OTEP program for BLS providers. This process has been completed, reviewed, and approved by Dr. Russell.

Items in RED are required annually and must be completed within the assigned calendar year.

1. EMS Online OTEP Course Modules

- ✓ Annual topics will be set by King County EMS Online. These topics will then be split into OTEP #1 and OTEP #2 by the county Training Manager
- ✓ Each module must be viewed and quiz must be completed prior to attendance at OTEP Skill Sessions or provider may be denied attendance.

2. BLS OTEP Skill Sessions

- ✓ A minimum of 2 OTEP Skill Sessions will be attended annually (Standard or Advanced OTEP)
- ✓ The assigned EMS Online OTEP Course Modules must be completed prior to attendance.

3. Code Review

- ✓ A minimum of 2 Code Review's must be attended annually.

4. Advanced OTEP – *Optional*

- ✓ Advanced OTEP is meant to allow providers wishing to have a higher depth of education in the assigned subjects. These will be taught my Paramedics at an AEMT or Paramedic level and will include additional ALS Interface skills and topics
- ✓ For those electing to participate in an Advanced BLS OTEP they will receive credit to satisfy the didactic (EMS Online) modules and OTEP Skills Session as outlined in the course description.
- ✓ Advanced OTEP will consist of lecture followed by skills and written assessment.
- ✓ Advanced OTEP Skills and Didactic credit is allowed for the following pre-approved classes:
- ✓ Pre-Hospital Life Support (PHTLS)
- ✓ Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) for EMT's
- ✓ Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS)
- ✓ Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC)

5. CPR Certification

- ✓ Each BLS provider will annually complete renewal of their CPR for the Healthcare Provider or CPR Pro certification.

6. EMT- IV THERAPY TECHNICIANS (in addition to the above listed BLS OTEP requirements)-

- ✓ Attend 1 ALS skills update per year.
FOR EMT-IV's IN THEIR FIRST 3 YEAR CERTIFICATION CYCLE:
- ✓ Documentation of 36 documented IV starts per year (108 in 1st 3 year certification cycle)

OTEP FAQ's

There are several important points to remember and understand about OTEP and this program in particular:

1. Only an approved OTEP evaluator under direction of the county Training Manager will check off skills.
2. The State has specified the individual BLS Provider is ultimately responsible for completing and tracking their CME. The Skagit County EMS Department will continue to track all ALS education as a courtesy.
3. OTEP assignments, skill sessions, code reviews, etc. must be completed **within the calendar year it was assigned**. If the provider fails to do so, they will revert to the Traditional Method of recertification set out in WAC 246-976-161, WAC 246-976-162 and WAC 246-976-163.
4. OTEP Skill Sessions and Code Reviews can be does not have to be done at your own agency. These can be done at any published OTEP or Code Review class throughout the county or at the scheduled makeups.

RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

In the interest of ensuring no lapse in certification, we are asking that the following process be followed to recertify;

90 Days prior to expiration date:

- ✓ Ensure that the BLS OTEP Checklist for all years in your certification is completed along with copies of attendance or completion.
- ✓ Turn in completed OTEP Checklist to EMS Department.
- ✓ Follow the instructions at the Washington State Department of Health website at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/emsonline/EMSLogon.aspx>.

Attached to the back of this page is a copy of the 2015 BLS OTEP CHECKLIST for any provider(s) who still need one. The entire EMS Department thanks all of you for your hard work and dedication. EMTs are the backbone of our EMS system and we couldn't do it without you! Until next week, stay safe and **GO SEAHAWKS!**



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2015 BLS OTEP Checklist:

This sheet is meant to be filled out and kept up to date by the provider and is to be presented to the EMS Dept with supporting documentation upon application to recertify.

Name: _____

2015 OTEP #1 Required EMS Online Modules.

- Neurological Emergencies
- Cardiovascular Emergencies
- Endocrine Emergencies
- EMT Ongoing Training- Glucometry

2015 OTEP #2 Required EMS Online Modules.

- Pharmacology
- Shock
- Medical Legal Issues
- EMT Ongoing Training- Pulse Oximetry

Required 2015 OTEP Skill Sessions:

- Session 1
- Session 2

Advanced 2015 OTEP (Optional):

- Session 1
- Session 2

Required 2015 Code Reviews:

- Session 1
- Session 2