

Fall EMT Class – Applications due by August 18th



COURSE DESCRIPTION: This 210+ hour course designed to prepare participants in all phases of pre-hospital emergency care. Participants will be educated and prepared for the National Registry EMT examination (NREMT) upon successful completion of the course and eligible for Washington State EMT certification once affiliated. Content includes lecture and hands-on practice in emergency care, bleeding and shock, soft tissue injuries, environmental emergencies, lifting and moving patients, emergency childbirth, and other topics.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals are encouraged to apply early, as the course often fills before the admission deadline. For more info contact Michelle Brisson at mlbrisson@co.skagit.wa.us or (360) 416-1830.

Falls Leading Cause of Unintentional Injury and Death in Persons Aged ≥ 65 Years

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), during 2012–2013, among persons aged ≥65 years, men had higher age-adjusted death rates than women from all unintentional injuries, (128.3 versus 84.1 deaths per 100,000 population, respectively), and from the five leading causes of unintentional injury death. Death rates due to falls were the highest for both men and women, with the rates for men 1.4 times higher than the rates for women (66.7 versus 48.8). Compared to the age-adjusted death rates for women, the rates for men were 2.1 times higher for motor vehicle traffic crashes (21.0 versus 9.9).



Many Skagit County Fire & EMS agencies are now partnering with Northwest Regional Council (NWRC) to use a simple one-page form to refer individuals who may have already fallen, may be at risk for falling, or have other non-EMS related needs. The goal of the Community Response and Referral Program is to reduce the frequency of 9-1-1 calls for social and other low-acuity needs,

and help to ensure that citizens are not falling through the cracks, but rather have a strong understanding of what resources are available and know how to access them. Responders on 9-1-1 calls simply identify potential needs on a standardized form (sample list below), receive patient consent, and send the referral form to NWRC. If your department has not yet signed up for the patient referral program with NWRC and would like more information contact Earl Klinefelter at earlk@co.skagit.wa.us or (360)416-1832.

Reason for Referral:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate social support | <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse or neglect | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation not available |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Food insecurity | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Hazards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health management problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Durable Medical Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> In Home Care Options |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Level Fall | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Peer Recognition

In EMS we have an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives every day. Our goal is to take someone's bad day and make it a little better. Our customers range from very sick sometimes in critical condition to not so sick, possibly not even requiring transport.

Healthcare is "people helping people." Dedicated individuals work within the structure of systems, processes, policies, provider agencies and healthcare facilities just to name a few of the components of our EMS System. The system is designed to facilitate getting dedicated professionals to those people who are in need of assistance.

In EMS there is a level of expectation and a standard of care that must be met every time. Certain circumstances may create the opportunity for service providers to deliver at a higher level. Limited resources, patient and/or family emotional response to the situation, special needs and unique scene dynamics are some examples.

We often hear talk about a crew who responded to a request for service and did a phenomenal job. It is important to follow up and recognize those individuals who delivered service at the highest level. These stories are inspirational and worthy of system wide recognition.

These are not always limited resources treating the critical patient or the dramatic rescue. Sometimes it is the volunteer basic life support provider who goes above and beyond to calm and reassure a sick patient while ALS is responding from a significant distance. Incorporating acts of kindness and taking care of not only the medical needs, but also the human needs. Don't rule out the interaction and service provided to the patient who is not transported. All of these are worthy of recognition. It is understood that we are in the compassion business and there are a lot of things that are part of what we do for everyone we serve. Then there are those performances that are clearly above the normal delivery of service.

"You are not your resume, you are your work."

- Seth Godin

The EMS Department would like to hear about these service situations that raise the bar. Formal recognition of excellence is important. As you hear of these calls please contact the Training and Quality Assurance Manager Kevin R. Chao at (360) 416-1835 or kchao@co.skagit.wa.us. We would like to share your exceptional service stories with everyone. Thank you to all of our providers for making a difference in people's lives every day.



After a hiatus, the Skagit County Litter Crew is working again, with Dennis Collins from Public Works at the helm. A new email address has been set up, so that you can notify Dennis of dump sites and litter deposited along county right of ways. If you come across these sites, please send a message to litter@co.skagit.wa.us listing the exact site and a guess as to the nature of the deposit.



***Have a great weekend and don't forget the County Fair is next week!
Wednesday, August 12th – Saturday, August 15th***

Department of Emergency Medical Services

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