



Pens and Needles



May and June 2007

Keeping in Touch

At the April Training Council meeting we talked a lot about ways to improve communication and the flow of information within our District. We decided as a group on some very important changes that you should be aware of.

In addition to receiving email from Tim Finney with the meeting minutes attached each month, a newsletter will be sent out with pertinent information included.

This format will be used to distribute information, notify you of upcoming training opportunities and to discuss any current events or issues within the district.

To submit information:

smii@phin.org or 447-5029

Your Board Officers:

Chair: Randy Terk

East Dover Fire Department
terk@sover.net

Vice Chair: Frank Mugavin

Southwestern VT Regional Ambulance
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Secretary: Timothy Finney

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New District 12 EMS Website!

Bobby Maynard of Deerfield Valley Rescue has been hard at work on many projects this past winter. He has created a computer based run form for DVR, he has designed and updated the yearly calendar along with Jill Mattison, and he has been chosen to take over the management of the District 12 web-

site from Chris Phelps. Bobby and Chris have been exploring options for website hosting and have tentatively settled on the same format as the Medical Reserve Corps site.

This new site, www.vtemsd12.com will have the same information and features as before, but will also have an interactive calendar that will allow the person viewing the

upcoming education opportunities to click on a course title to open the registration form!

This change will have a hugely positive impact for anyone interested in our continuing education courses!

A BIG thanks to Bobby for his tremendous work this year!

May 2007

	1	2	3	4	5
	Paramedic Training		D12 Board Mtg 7pm EMT-I Class 6p		
6	7 EMT-I Class 6p	8	9 EMT-I Class 6p	10 EMT-I Class 6p	11 EMT-B Refresher 6p-10p at SVMC
13	14 EMT-I Class 6p	15 MCI Committee 1900	16 Practical Evaluators Workshop 1830	17 EMT-I Class 6p	18 EMS Appreciation Banquet
20 EMT-B Refresher 8a-6p at SVMC	21 EMT-I Class 6p	22	23 D12 Training Council 7pm	24 EMT-I Class 6p	25
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31 EMT-I Class 6p	
					19 EMT-B Refresher 6p-10p at SVMC
					26

June 2007

							1	2
3 EMT-B Recert EMT-I Initial Testing 9am at SVMC	4	5 Paramedic Training 1900	6	7 D12 Board Mtg 7pm	8	9 PEPP- Ludlow		
10 PEPP- Ludlow	11	12	13	14 EMT- I Skills Fair 7p-10p SVMC	15	16		
17	18	19 MCI Committee 1900	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27 D12 Training Council 7pm	28	29	30		

Vermont EMS District 12

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For additions to the yearly calendar
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**We proudly dedicate the
first issue of our news
letter to our fallen friend
and colleague,
John Hannan.**



State Protocol Review- Abdominal Pain

Each month we will review a specific State Protocol, including differential diagnosis and treatment priorities. Please refer to your protocol manual for the exact wording.

Abdominal Pain

General considerations- The organs of the abdomen are encompassed in the abdominal cavity that stretches from the pelvis to about 1/3 of the way up the rib cage. Therefore the causes of abdominal pain can be varied from cardiac to pulmonary as well as abdominal and present similarly. Patients with abdominal pain should not be given anything by mouth.

History- Questions should be open ended and try to differentiate between the most likely problems, however, since there are so many potentially life threatening causes of abdominal pain, anyone who is complaining of a sudden onset of pain, especially if it is tearing or radiating should be treated for the worst case scenario. Obtain your

standard SAMPLE and OPQRST histories and consider pregnancy in all females of childbearing age.

EMT-B

- *ABCs
- *High-concentration O₂ (NRB, not NC)
- *Place in position of comfort unless you need to treat for shock.

EMT-I

- *Secure IV access. Use a saline lock if vital signs are normal, and fluid if the patient appears to be compensating or in shock.
- *Administer up to 250 cc of fluid, then call for additional orders.
- *Perform a glucose check. Abdominal pain is a sign of hyperglycemia.
- *Screen carefully for cardiac complaints and report any significant findings to the ED.

Paramedic

- *Assess and monitor the cardiac rhythm
- *Manage Arrhythmias per protocols.
- *Evaluate the need for pain management.
- *Standing order for up to 1000 ml of fluid.
- *On-line medical control for pain medication and additional fluid boluses.

DIFFERENTIAL DIGNOSIS:

RUQ- Pneumonia, Pulmonary Embolism, Hepatitis, Heart Failure, Peptic ulcers, Gallbladder, Heart attack, Pancreatitis, Kidney stone.

RLQ- Aneurysm, aortic dissection, appendicitis, bladder infection, prostatitis, ovarian cyst, ectopic pregnancy.

LUQ- Pancreatitis, Spleen, Gastritis, ulcers.

LLQ- Diverticulitis, bowel obstruction,

Diffuse: Diabetes, Gastroenteritis, Sickle Cell Crisis