



March 26, 2011

Greece Volunteer Ambulance, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 3

Training:

- **RSI Pharmacology**
March 31
1900-2100
- **Teaching New CPR**
April 4
1830-2030
- **Cadaver Lab**
April 5
0900-1200
1800-2100
- **CPR**
April 6
1830-2130
- **ACLS**
April 9
0900-1700

Upcoming Events:

- **Board Meeting**
April 4
1800-2100
- **GVA Awards Banquet**
(Lakeshore Country Club)
April 9
1800-2300
- **MLREMS/REMAC**
(Hamptons Corners)
April 18
1600-1900



Medicine Moves Fast....Can You Keep Up With The Little Stuff?

It's well known around the department that I like our ambulances, our equipment and EMS in general. I do, and I've always been proud to be a part of Greece Ambulance. I think that the level of dedication and professionalism in our department is second to none and that our program is certainly one of the best in the region and in the state.

With that said, in EMS there is never a time to slow down and rest on our laurels. The science that drives our brand of medicine is constantly evolving and the only constant is change. In my EMS career, I've seen "The Right Thing to Do" for my patients change more times than I thought possible. Continuing education, reinforcing the basics, and studying the latest research is key in keeping oneself in step with how best to care for our patients. As with any community based Emergency Medical Services provider, our citizens are our families, neighbors, and friends. We have the responsibility of being the first line of defense against the very worst times in peoples' lives and it is our duty to be at our best when we are called to make a difference. The people we care about most are depending on us.

In EMS, the little things make the biggest difference. It really is the Basic Life Support care that makes everything else work and our calls run the smoothest. Patients do not necessarily perceive the skillful application of Advanced Techniques or medications given to them, but they certainly appreciate the attention given to treatment of their ABCs, their comfort on the cot, pain relief and stabilization through proper splinting techniques, the compassion of the care providers, and the cleanliness of our ambulances and equipment. It has been said that "Perception is Reality", meaning that the way someone perceives you or our organization affects their own reality. In EMS, good perception actually has been shown to provide for better patient outcomes. Really, if you have more confidence in the skill or effectiveness of your medical provider or a technique, you're statistically more likely to have a better outcome.

It is so important for us as healthcare providers to focus on providing the best care possible for our current patients, but also to keep an eye out for future patients. Start now by making sure that the ambulance is thoroughly cleaned at the start of every day and after every call. Make sure that your equipment is ready to go and that you're an expert in its use. Read something educational every day to keep yourself in the right mindset and to keep your skills sharp. Pull things out and practice with them. Come up with questions to ask the more experienced providers and don't be afraid to ask them. It is every EMTs duty to become an expert in pre-hospital care and you are the only one who can expand your knowledge enough to become one. Study every day.

Calling Off: When you have a need to "Call off" for one of your shifts you have a responsibility to give as much notice that you will be unable to work as possible. Once the schedule is posted you are responsible for being on-time for your shifts, or finding someone to work those shifts for you. If you know that you will be unable to work a shift well in advance of the shift (i.e.: college test was changed from Monday to Wednesday and you need to work Wednesday) let an Operations officer know and we will work with you to find someone to cover your shift. If you are calling "Sick" for a shift you need to give a minimum of four (4) hours notice by calling the on-duty Operations officer, it is not acceptable to just inform an on-duty employee. If you are unable to contact an on-duty Operations officer you can contact me directly. If an employee calls in with less than four (4) hours notice they will be subject to the Company's disciplinary process.