

Combined ALS / BLS Protocol Project

Dr. Russell announced at the EMS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting last Thursday that he is beginning the process of gathering input on existing protocols, suggestions for possible revisions, and the development at the end of the process of a combined ALS / BLS set of protocols – which will help to ensure that as future revisions are made to a particular protocol, guidelines for ALS and BLS personnel are not conflicting. Dr. Russell is inviting any and all providers to be part of the process, and so far the following dates, times and locations are set up:

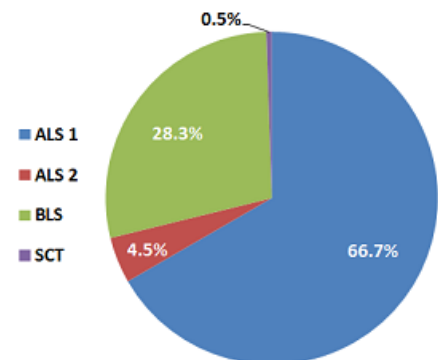
- Meeting #1:** 2/26 10am - 12pm - Ron Richeson Training Center @ EMS Office
- Meeting #2:** 3/12 2pm- 4pm- Burlington Fire Meeting Room
- Meeting #3:** 3/24 - 10:30AM - noon - Anacortes Fire Department
- Meeting #4:** 4/9 - 2pm - 4pm - Burlington Fire Meeting Room
- Meeting #5:** 4/30 10am -12 noon - Ron Richeson Training Center @ EMS Office
- Meeting #6:** 5/7 10am - Ron Richeson Training Center @ EMS Office
- Meeting #7:** 5/30 10a-12 noon - Ron Richeson Training Center @ EMS Office

Dr. Russell explained that in the first part of the process (the above meetings) he is looking for as many thoughts and ideas as people have. Then in the next phase a smaller work group of ALS and BLS providers will refine the protocols and develop a draft document, which both he and Dr. Curran will then review together. If you are interested in being part of this process, please join us at as many of the above meetings as possible. In the meantime, if you have questions, you can email Dr. Russell at skagitmpd@icloud.com.

BLS Integration Planning Session

The *EMS System Evaluation* completed in March, 2013 by Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) noted one of the critical issues related to the Skagit County EMS system was finding opportunities to engage first responders in the system through BLS integration. ESCI correctly observed that “there are agencies that have the wherewithal and willingness to both respond and transport patients as needed.” Burlington Fire Department and Central Skagit Medic One are currently working together to beginning piloting the transport of BLS patients by Burlington Fire Department EMTs within the Burlington City limits. The most current data shows that roughly 30% of all patients transported in Skagit County are BLS level transports.

The Board of County Commissioners will be holding an open work session with all interested stakeholders to review the current timelines and plans for BLS integration within Skagit County. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 3rd** from **1:30 – 3:00pm** in the County Commissioners Hearing Room at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon. For more information, email Mark at markr@co.skagit.wa.us.

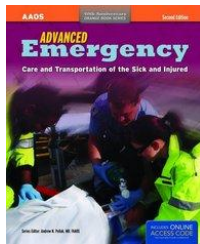


Skagit County EMS Transports by Service Level

SECOND NOTICE – TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Human Trafficking Awareness Training for First Responders

As the recent story from just to the south of us illustrates, human trafficking is not just something that happens other places. It happens all too often here in Washington State, and without knowing the signs to look for, it's possible first responders could encounter victims without even knowing it. That is why, in partnership with Washington Engage, the Anacortes Police Department and Skagit County Coalition Against Trafficking will be hosting **Not In Our Backyard; Human Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Providers, Fire & EMS personnel** on Wednesday, **January 28, 2015**, from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge, 28885 Casino Drive in Anacortes. RSVP Required; email skcat@waengage.com.



Advanced EMT OTEP

Saturday, January 17th marked the first Advanced EMT OTEP taught by the Skagit County EMS department. Fifteen EMTs from Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, FD#17, FD#8, FD#15, FD#3, FD#16 and Skagit County Search & Rescue attended the first class. Feedback from the students was unanimously positive. Additional opportunities to take the Advanced EMT OTEP will be announced in the near future.

TAG Standing Equipment Work Group

The EMS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is looking for both EMTs and paramedics who would like to be members of a standing Equipment Work Group that will help research, evaluate and make recommendations on system-wide equipment changes and implementations. Two of the first items the group will be looking at are ventilators and video laryngoscopes. Additionally the group may be doing some research on the Lucas Device, as well as other similar automatic chest compression devices to evaluate the practicality of such a device within our system in the future. If you are interested in joining this work group, contact Joel at joelp@co.skagit.wa.us.



Ideas, Thoughts, Stories?

Is there a question you have about our EMS system? Have a great story you'd like to share about a fellow responder or your agency? If so, let us know by emailing mlbrisson@co.skagit.wa.us.

Until next week, stay safe!

Skagit County Department of Emergency Medical Services

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