

# AS THE AMBULANCE ROLLS

## Grand County EMS



Jan 2018

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### Caught in action

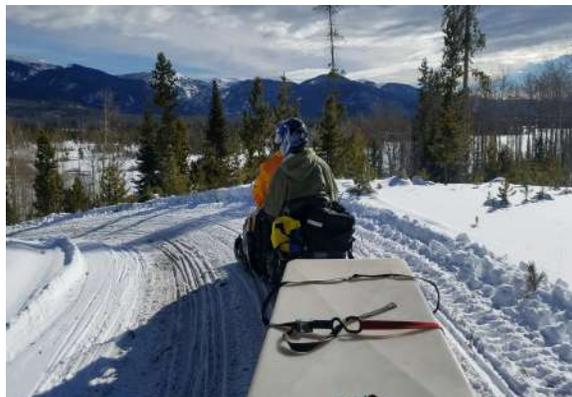


If you have any pictures and stories that you would like highlighted in the MONTHLY Newsletter, please email them (high resolution) to Christian at [chornbaker@co.grand.co.us](mailto:chornbaker@co.grand.co.us) along with a brief description. The more pictures the better we can recognize all of you!

Jessica Knezovich and Shannon McGill getting ready to go into the field to assist Grand County Sheriff's office search for burglary suspect along with the help of Kai Tarr. Slinging 40+ pounds of tactical and medical gear to your upper body and riding around on an ATV isn't for just anyone, so we might as well send in our big guns! Great job out there and thanks for all of your help!



Above: Chief Jennings working with Undersheriff Wayne Schafer during the search for the suspect.  
Left: Steven Kentfield and Derrick Pavlisin helping to extract a patient from a snowmobile accident in Grand Lake.



### Events and Announcements

- Jan 16-19 CDPHE Visit
- Jan 18 LEPC meeting
- Jan 18th 1300hrs, MMRT meeting
- Jan 18th 1600hrs, CQI
- Jan 18th 1700hrs - Interaction with CDPHE staff and main staff meeting
- Jan 24th & 25th MMRT Hut Trip



**Thanks for making GCEMS a respected organization in Grand County! 2018 will be an awesome year with all of your help and professionalism!**

## NEW YEAR, NEW STUFF!

- Chief is looking into replacing the furniture at station 1, 2, and 4. This includes new TV's and couches. If there are other furniture items needed please let him or other members of the Command Staff know. Please be reasonable in your request and we'll see what can be done. Can you think of a piece of equipment we need?
- Hopefully you have had an opportunity to look at the IV pump being considered. It is our goal to get new IV pumps that will be purchased by the end of the month.
- Have you noticed the new (LIGHTER and SMALLER) Oxygen tanks in all of the ambulances? Same volume as before but it was decided to move to these new tanks to make it better for you!

## REMINDERS

- **Official communication and notifications at Grand County EMS is through email. Remember, it is your responsibility to check your email to stay up to date on information.**
- We appreciate all of your help in getting all of your paperwork in promptly so we can all get paid! Thanks to Nadine and Robin for their great work!
- Don't forget to get your timecard in and on time in order to get paid promptly!
- Medication Log Books and Waste Signatures:
  - Protect your credentials and make sure your entries are legible and completed correctly. Be sure to include your signature, printed name, certification level and EMS number.
  - When you are wasting medications, make sure you have a witness and that it is documented.

## EMPLOYEE(S) OF THE MONTH



“I would like to nominate Rebecca Polyack AND Cordie Stieve for employees of the month as they always have a great attitude, work hard and are ALWAYS smiling (especially Becca). They are like the best!” They are a great example of keeping a positive attitude in the face of a lot of stress, and we're fortunate to have them at GCEMS! Thank you!

Don't forget to drop off your nomination for employee of the month in the day room at station 1. This is a great chance to let the Command Staff know of things we may not always see and is a great way to show your peers some love that we all need for outstanding work.

## Carfentanil Is Out There!

**Carfentanil** is a synthetic opioid that is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl, which itself is 50 times more potent than heroin. According to Maryland Poison Center the lethal dose is unknown. However, it's estimated that 2 milligrams of fentanyl can be fatal, therefore as little as **200 micrograms** of **carfentanil** might be lethal, a **dose that is 1/100th of the amount shown next to the penny** in the DEA photograph.

DEA, local law enforcement and first responders have recently seen the presence of carfentanil, which has been linked to a significant number of overdose deaths in various parts of the country. Improper handling of carfentanil, as well as fentanyl and other fentanyl-related compounds, has deadly consequences.

**In any situation where any fentanyl-related substance, such as carfentanil, might be present, law enforcement EMS and should carefully follow safety protocols to avoid accidental exposure.**

Carfentanil is used as a tranquilizing agent for elephants and other large mammals. The lethal dose range for carfentanil in humans is unknown; however, carfentanil is approximately 100 times more potent than fentanyl, which **could be lethal at the 200-microgram to 2-milligram range**, depending on route of administration and other factors.

"Carfentanil is surfacing in more and more communities." said DEA Acting Administrator Chuck Rosenberg. "We see it on the streets, often disguised as heroin. It is crazy dangerous. Synthetics such as fentanyl and carfentanil can kill you. I hope our first responders – and the public – will read and heed our health and safety warning. These men and women have remarkably difficult jobs and we need them to be well and healthy."

Carfentanil and other fentanyl-related compounds are a serious danger to public safety, first responder, medical, treatment, and laboratory personnel.

These substances can come in several forms, including powder, blotter paper, tablets, and spray – they can be **absorbed through the skin** or **accidental inhalation of airborne powder**.

### **Safety tips**

If encountered, responding personnel should do the following based on the specific situation:

**Exercise extreme caution.** Only properly trained and outfitted law enforcement professionals should handle any substance suspected to contain fentanyl or a fentanyl-related compound. If encountered, contact the appropriate officials within your agency.

**Be aware of any sign of exposure.** Symptoms include: respiratory depression or arrest, drowsiness, disorientation, sedation, pinpoint pupils, and clammy skin. The onset of these symptoms usually occurs within minutes of exposure.

**Seek IMMEDIATE medical attention.** Carfentanil and other fentanyl-related substances can work very quickly, so in cases of suspected exposure, it is important to call EMS immediately. If inhaled, move the victim to fresh air. If ingested and the victim is conscious, wash out the victim's eyes and mouth with cool water.

**Be ready to administer naloxone in the event of exposure.** Naloxone is an antidote for opioid overdose. Immediately administering naloxone can reverse an overdose of carfentanil, fentanyl, or other opioids, although multiple doses of naloxone may be required. Continue to administer a dose of naloxone every 2-3 minutes until the individual is breathing on his/her own for at least 15 minutes or until EMS arrives.

**Remember that carfentanil can resemble powdered cocaine or heroin.** If you suspect the presence of carfentanil or any synthetic opioid, do not take samples or otherwise disturb the substance, as this could lead to accidental exposure. Rather, secure the substance and follow approved transportation procedures.



## Normal Saline Shortage!

There is currently a nationwide shortage of Normal Saline (NS) that is impacting Grand County. Please use saline only when necessary to help GCEMS and Grand County hospitals provide it for the most critical patients. If you're only giving medications, please use a saline lock.

FDA's efforts to mitigate the shortage include:

- Temporarily allowing the importation of IV saline products from facilities outside of the U.S.
- Encouraging the expansion of production at existing facilities to meet shortfalls.
- Expediting its review of new product applications that will help address this shortage.
- Working with federal and local government partners to prioritize a small number of critical facilities based on public health needs.

Encouraging hospitals to consider clinical recommendations for managing the shortage of these IV fluids, including recommendations by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the University of Utah.

**Epinephrine 1:1 is currently in a vial. Please make sure that you are looking at all labels to verify correct dosage. Even in the complexity of a 911 call, double checking dosages is important!**



### Cold Storage at Station 1

Please do not stack cardboard in cold storage. All boxes need to be broken down and placed in the dumpster.

If anyone would like to take over the responsibilities of recycling our cardboard let Audrey know. This would entail taking the cardboard to Hot Sulphur Springs on a weekly basis.



## We Wish You Well!!

We are sad to say goodbye to both **Jessica Knezovich and Darren Toro** as they begin new adventures elsewhere. We've appreciated their service to Grand County and know that they will succeed in their future endeavors.

## Future Paramedics Watch:

**Erich Barber, Dustin Sanchez and Nick Pax** are about to start their training and education to become Paramedics and we're excited to see how the next 6+ months will effect them. When you see them around, make sure to bring them extra coffee due to their studying efforts! Good luck to the three of you!

## New Hires Incoming!

Starting Monday, Jan 8th you will see two new EMTs going through our new hire training. Please make sure to introduce yourself to **Meghan Woods and Charity Loar** when you see them as they begin their journey with GCEMS! Welcome to the team!

**Gardner Mendenhall** has accepted the Education Captain position and will be starting on January 15th. He and his family will be moving from Meaker in- to Grand County and we're looking forward to having him on board with us. Please take a moment and introduce yourself to him when you see him.

Congratulations and welcome aboard!

## BIRTHDAYS

**Christian Hornbaker 1/1**  
**Dustin Sanchez 1/10**  
**John Nichols 1/15**  
**Brad Holzwarth 1/27**



## All Staff Meeting January 18th

Mark your calendars for our next ALL-STAFF meeting on January 18th beginning at 1300 for educational classes. ALL GCEMS staff, part-time, full time, administration, are required to attend the quarterly meetings. This quarter's meeting will

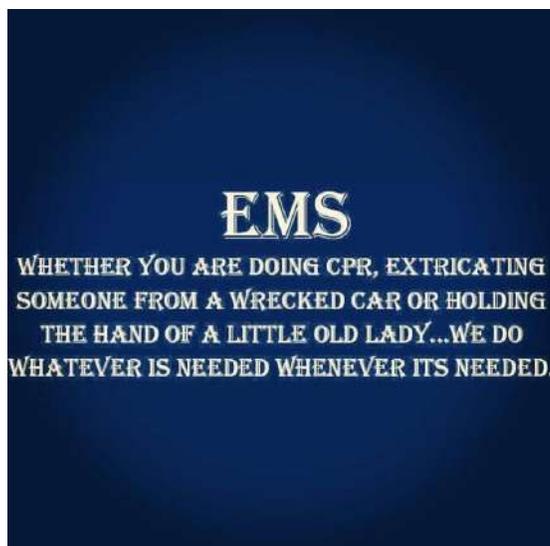


also allow you to interact with the consultation group from CDPHE at approx. 1700. Pictures will also be taken during the day, so be prepared to have an updated photo taken if you haven't in the past 6 months.

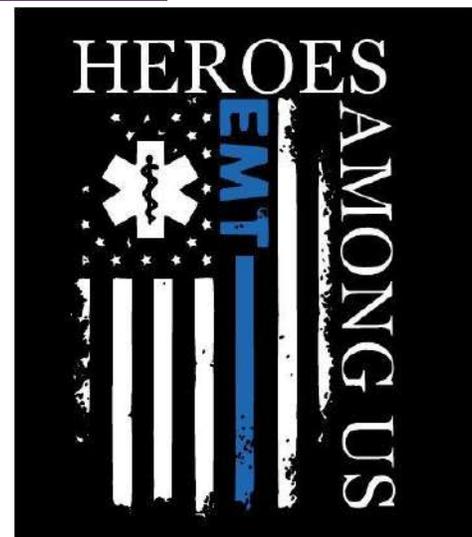
## Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Consultation Visit

GCEMS has worked with CDPHE to bring in a state consultation team to review our current program and provide professional feedback to us. They will be in county, visiting all of our stations from January 16th through the 19th and we encourage all staff to work with them and provide any information that they seek out. The more that they see and do alongside of us, the better information we will be able to receive from them at the conclusion.

In light of this, all crews will need to continue to keep the stations clean, the ambulances and bags well maintained and any other issues that arise to be quickly resolved.



*"Your job is not to judge. Your job is not to figure out if someone deserves something. Your job is to lift the fallen, to restore the broken, and to heal the hurting"*



## Other notable FYI's

GCEMS Command Staff wants to hear from YOU! If you have a comment or suggestion on how to make the stations more suitable to your day and evening, let us know. Our doors are always open!

Drive with your headlights and ICC lights on at ALL times. Traffic crash studies have shown this provides more visibility to a vehicle. You must turn the dial to on or only the Day Time Running Lights will illuminate. However, during hazardous road conditions (ice and snow on the road), do not run emergent. Doing so may cause other drivers to make erratic moves and get in their own accident. BE SAFE!

In order to gain complete safety enhancement, turn on the lights to provide 360 degree illumination enhancement. Be noticed and use all of your vehicles safety equipment while driving and operating a GCEMS vehicle.

SCENE SAFETY : Use the scene and ground lights to protect yourself, and illuminate the area around your ambulance to increase safety. Night operations and low light operations are the most hazardous – so light it up and be safe.

Make sure to get your stretchers back and ready for service and to turn them off when putting them into the ambulance. Clean all of the parts AND wipe down the mattress to insure a clean environment. And always improve the patient comfort by redressing with two blankets during the winter time along with redressing the pillow. Small details go a long way.

# Thank you for all that you do!

## **Mission Statement**

It is the mission of Grand County Emergency Medical Services to provide life saving point of care services, emergency pre-hospital care during transport, and emergent & non-emergency medical transportation, with the highest standard of professionalism, the most advanced training, and a deep sense of caring for our patients and their families.

Consistent with a commitment to excellence, Grand County EMS focuses a strong emphasis on quality emergency medical care, treating the professional EMS staff with dignity and respect as well as the citizens we serve.

Grand County Emergency Medical Services continually works to maintain excellence by investing in training and technology that enhances our professional EMS staff ability to provide the highest quality of emergency patient care, increase community awareness, and increase the value of our service.

Grand County Emergency Medical Service is Committed to the Community today and for the changing future.

# **Grand County EMS**

**Thank you for all that you do!**



**Celebrating 48 years of serving  
The Grand County community!**