

AS THE AMBULANCE ROLLS

Grand County EMS

All Staff Meeting This Thursday

April 2018

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Caught in action

To the right: EMS 20 and station 1 crew staging for EMS assistance at a single structure fire in Grand Elk. Thankfully nobody was injured and the house just needs a bit of work internally.



Below: HS EMS students work in the conference room on triage and bandaging. Is that Audrey laying down on the job or acting as an injured patient? You decide!



Above: Chief demonstrates to command staff where the ambulances in the bay need to be. Lines have been marked on the ground to show all crews where to park to provide access to education

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 along with a brief description. The more pictures the better!

Events and Announcements

- April 17 Death CE
- April 17 CPR/FA
- April 18 Death CE
- April 19 All Staff
- April 20 Grand Beginnings Health Fair-Granby Elem
- April 22 W/P Closing day
- April 28 Kremmling Health Fair
- May 20-26 EMS Week!



Thanks for making GCEMS a respected organization out in our community!

FENTANYL[†]

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

[†] For the purposes of this document, fentanyl, related substances, and synthetic opioids (herein after referred to as fentanyl[†]) includes fentanyl analogues (e.g., acetylfentanyl, acrylfentanyl, carfentanil, furanylfentanyl), novel synthetic opioids (e.g., U-47700), and other drugs that may be laced with these substances.

- ▶ **The abuse of drugs containing fentanyl[†] is killing Americans. Misinformation and inconsistent recommendations regarding fentanyl[†] have resulted in confusion in the first responder community.**
- ▶ You as a first responder (law enforcement, fire, rescue, and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel) are increasingly likely to encounter fentanyl[†] in your daily activities (e.g., responding to overdose calls, conducting traffic stops, arrests, and searches).
- ▶ This document provides scientific, evidence-based recommendations to protect yourself from exposure.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ▶ Fentanyl[†] can be present in a variety of forms (e.g., powder, tablets, capsules, solutions, and rocks).
- ▶ Inhalation of airborne powder is **MOST LIKELY** to lead to harmful effects, but is less likely to occur than skin contact.
- ▶ Incidental skin contact may occur during daily activities but is not expected to lead to harmful effects if the contaminated skin is promptly washed off with water.
- ▶ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is effective in protecting you from exposure.
- ▶ Slow breathing or no breathing, drowsiness or unresponsiveness, and constricted or pinpoint pupils are the specific signs consistent with fentanyl[†] intoxication.
- ▶ Naloxone is an effective medication that rapidly reverses the effects of fentanyl[†].

Actions to take . . .

To protect yourself from exposure

- ▶ Wear **gloves** when the presence of fentanyl[†] is suspected.
- ▶ **AVOID actions that may cause powder to become airborne.**
- ▶ Use a properly-fitted, NIOSH-approved **respirator** ("mask"), wear **eye protection**, and minimize skin contact when responding to a situation where small amounts of suspected fentanyl[†] are visible and may become airborne.
- ▶ Follow your department guidelines if the scene involves large amounts of suspected fentanyl[†] (e.g., distribution/storage facility, pill milling operation, clandestine lab, gross contamination, spill or release).

When exposure occurs

- ▶ Prevent further contamination and notify other first responders and dispatch.
- ▶ Do not touch your eyes, mouth, nose or any skin after touching any potentially contaminated surface.
- ▶ Wash skin thoroughly with cool water, and soap if available. **Do NOT use hand sanitizers as they may enhance absorption.**
- ▶ Wash your hands thoroughly after the incident and before eating, drinking, smoking, or using the restroom.
- ▶ If you suspect your clothing, shoes, and PPE may be contaminated, follow your department guidelines for decontamination.

If you or other first responders exhibit

- **Slow Breathing or No Breathing**
- **Drowsiness or Unresponsiveness**
- **Constricted or Pinpoint Pupils**
- ▶ Move away from the source of exposure and call EMS.
- ▶ Administer naloxone according to your department protocols. Multiple doses may be required.
- ▶ If naloxone is not available, rescue breathing can be a lifesaving measure until EMS arrives. Use standard basic life support safety precautions (e.g., pocket mask, gloves) to address the exposure risk.
- ▶ If needed, initiate CPR until EMS arrives.



REMINDERS

- **Official communication and notification at Grand County EMS is through email.** Remember, it is your responsibility to check your email to stay up to date on information. If you are not getting emails from Command Staff, talk with Allen ASAP
- 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!
- There is still a lot of cleaning that can happen around the stations. Take a little bit of time each shift and help make the place look great!
- Don't forget to get your timecard in and on time in order to get paid promptly!

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Nadine continues to work extremely hard to not only get all of the billing done in a (crazy) timely manner, but she keeps just about all of the command staff up to date on all things administrative wise. She's come in on weekends (when we really want her to spend time relaxing!) if needed and has always been a huge asset to our team. 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.

Welcome to our new Paramedic, Elizabeth Schenk!



GCEMS is pleased to have Elizabeth Schenk, NRP filling our vacant paramedic position. Schenk is a five-year veteran of the Colorado National Guard and holds the rank of E5. She's been an EMS professional for nearly five years and is a certified flight medic with the Colorado National Guard. She's been wanting to join GCEMS for a long time now due to the connection that the agency has with the community and the advanced protocols needed in the mountains.

Welcome Elizabeth!!

Mark Your Calendars!

The Kremmling Healthfair is scheduled for April 28th. Crews stationed over in Kremmling on Sat will need to be available to help with the PR table.

The remaining death investigation CE dates for April are:

April 17 @ 9am & 2pm

April 18 @ 9am & 2pm

EMS Week is May 20-26

We're starting to plan and prepare for the 2018 EMS week and need your help! Chief is asking for ideas on this year's celebration, so please reach out to him with any and all suggestions! Was the picnic fun last year? Are there ways we can improve upon it and help recognize all of you that deserve it?

MANDATORY ALL STAFF MEETING THIS THURSDAY, APRIL 19TH

BIRTHDAYS

Alex Law 4-21

Belated Birthday to Tammy Russell who I had as April 29, but was really March 29!



Our apologies if your birthday was missed. We're updating our list so please make sure you email Christian with your birthdate!

What do the 13 Folds of the American Flag Mean?

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
 2. The second fold signifies our belief in eternal life.
 3. The third fold is made in honor and tribute of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace.
 4. The fourth fold exemplifies our weaker nature as citizens trusting in God; it is to Him we turn for His divine guidance.
 5. The fifth fold is an acknowledgment to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."
 6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
 7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through the armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies.
 8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
 9. The ninth fold is an honor to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
 10. The 10th fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first-born.
 11. The 11th fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 12. The 12th fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.
- The last fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

Grand County Commissioner Presentation



Thank you to all of the crews that assisted with the Board Of County Commissioners Cardiac presentation. We were thankful to have hosted them for roughly two hours demonstrating all of the primary equipment that we have in each of our ambulances, as well as a training scenario brought to you by Audrey. It gave Jeanne a great opportunity to interact with each of the commissioners and to describe, in detail, what the crews were doing and why. The importance of having our elected officials and others see what we do, even in a training situation, helps advance our agency in the eyes of the public. Logan, Cooper, Chris, Erik and Allen, thank you for your work!!



What's Wrong With This Picture Below?



- A) The lid is not properly secured on the tub
- B) The person that attempted the Michael Jordan 3-point shot did not make it
- C) The person that cleaned the vehicle did not complete their job by properly disposing of the hazardous material bag and shutting the lid

*answer will be addressed in the April 19th Staff Meeting

Other notable FYI's

- We would like to wish Brian Gourdin and his family well as he begins his new journey with Union Pacific. Brian will be sorely missed as he was an integral part in the crews and command staff. Thank you for all that you did for us and take care!
- The MANDATORY All Staff meeting is THIS THURSDAY.

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.

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.