



The Official
Newsletter
of the IAFC
EMS Section

EMS CHIEF ADVISOR

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Exciting Times in the EMS Section

By Chief Gary Ludwig, MS, EMT-P



I am truly excited about the things happening in the EMS Section. We are hitting on so many cylinders that I don't know where to begin and I won't be able to include all of them in this column.

We are only weeks away from Fire-Rescue Med—the EMS Section's annual conference in Las Vegas. I can now tell you about two exciting additions to Fire-Rescue Med that have come about in recent weeks. First, certain classes at Fire-Rescue Med will now be eligible for CEUs through the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services.

Second, a special presentation on the recent wildland fires in southern California will be made by Chief William Metcalf, fire chief for North County Fire Protection District just outside San Diego. The North County Fire Protection District lost more than 400 homes and experienced mass evacuations during the catastrophic fires. Chief Metcalf will detail how his department coordinated efforts in his area, including the mass sheltering of his residents at Qualcomm Stadium.

If you haven't registered yet for Fire-Rescue Med, go to www.iafc.org/frm.

Also, I'm excited to announce, in 2008, that

the EMS Section will roll out two-day regional conferences for fire EMS officers. You'll be hearing more about this later.

Another exciting happening in the EMS Section is that our membership continues to grow. I can remember when we set a goal several years ago of getting 1,000 members within the section. Today, we are close to 1,300 members and the executive committee has plans to grow that number even more. Obviously, the more members we have in the EMS Section, the more of a voice we become in the EMS community on a national level.

Other exciting happenings include that we have expanded and tapped into the expertise of EMS Section members. More than ever, EMS Section members have been appointed to various liaison and committee positions. Members of the EMS Education committee continue to represent you with respect to the new EMS educational standards that will be coming out in a couple of years. They met in Memphis late last year to generate a feedback letter to the draft educational standards and they continued to represent you at the stakeholder's meeting this past February. Other members have attended the National Association of EMS Physicians meeting in Phoenix and at meetings with the National Association of EMS

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BE AT FIRE-RESCUE MED

By Kate Ruhe, IAFC Marketing Manager

It's not too late to register for Fire-Rescue Med:

- **Education.** Many conferences offer EMS education, but none offers leadership-level expertise on such topics as cyanide poisoning, evaluating paramedics, the new EMS designation and more.
- **Speakers.** Learn from high-level presenters, and when sessions are done, speak one-on-one with leading experts, ask questions and get feedback you can take back to your department.

- **Network.** This is the time to come out of your shell and meet with other attendees. Share stories and learn from each other—you may find the person next to you has the solution to one of your toughest challenges.

We'll help you make the most of your conference experience:

- **Share.** Recap what you learned for those in your department. Pass around your notes and handouts and explain how what

you learned can help others.

- **Practice.** Though you may come back to emails and other work at your department, start implementing what you've learned. Don't let your notes get buried—implement the tools and techniques immediately and start seeing results.
- **Follow up.** Email or call those you met at FRM. You've expanded your network; now stay in touch year-round for brainstorming and problem solving. ☒

TREASURER'S REPORT

REPORT FOR 2007

AS OF 12/31/2007

EMS SECTION: ACCOUNT 605

CARRYOVER FROM PREVIOUS YEARS	\$ 307,675
INCOME MEMBERSHIP DUES + (MAILING LIST)	\$ 17,545
OTHER INCOME	\$ 480
TOTAL SECTION EXPENSES	\$ 136,891
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 188,329

2007 FIRE-RESCUE MED CONFERENCE: ACCOUNT 810

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 275,648
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 259,853
NET ASSETS	\$ 15,795
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 204,124

Submitted by: Rob Brown
EMS Section Treasurer

EVENTS, LEGISLATION, NEWS & NOTES

This spot is reserved for best practices, news, events and legislative activities. Send us a brief description of any of the above and we'll feature them in the newsletter. If you think your organization is doing something we all need to know about, let us know so we can get the information out and help your peers. This is a conduit and flows both ways; it's most effective if you contribute. Send an email to Gary.Ludwig@memphistn.gov.

NEW EMS EDUCATION STANDARDS

Later this year, new education standards will be published that follow the current National Scope of Practice for the four provider levels for EMS. The levels are emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician and paramedic. These standards will soon change the education that is provided for entry-level EMS providers.

The national registry has announced that effective January 1, 2013, all paramedic candidates to take the national registry examinations must graduate from an accredited paramedic program. The accrediting agency for EMS education programs is CoAEMSP.

Beginning last year, the EMS Section had several informal discussions with CoAEMSP board members and their executive director, George Hatch, about the IAFC becoming a member of the CoAEMSP board. Those discussions have led to a formal request for membership on the CoAEMSP board. That request is working through the process for approval. ❏

REGISTER FOR FRM TODAY

Go to www.iafc.org/frm and click on the word Registration in the top navigation bar. ❏

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The IAFC EMS Section promotes fire-based EMS by providing a forum for addressing fire-service EMS issues, providing guidance and direction to the IAFC board and membership on fire-service EMS issues and representing fire-based EMS issues before the federal government and other EMS interest groups.

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Subscriptions are free for EMS Section members. To see if you qualify, contact Member Services at membership@iafc.org or by phone at 866-385-9110.

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Chief Jeff Lindsey

Member Profile

Chief Jeff Lindsey Excited about Fire/EMS New Products, Research

By Courtney McCain

Chief Jeff Lindsey is not one to rest on his laurels.

The Florida-based fire chief—who holds a doctorate, educates personnel throughout the country and has authored numerous publications—is looking forward to his next project: gathering statistical information on the effectiveness of fire-based EMS.

Research intrigues Lindsey, an associate member of the Pre-hospital Care Research Forum and current IAFC liaison for the American College of Emergency Physicians. The longtime manager is very familiar with how funding can make or break an agency's progression. But without hard data plugged into the correct format, entities holding those purse strings aren't likely to be swayed into spending more money for new equipment. Simple pleading before city commissioners isn't enough anymore.

"I'm very interested in getting more people involved with research, so it will gain momentum," Lindsey said. Though EMS-specific research is fairly common, Lindsey said the fire-based component of EMS research is limited, and he would like to see more departments investigating the unique issues of fire-based EMS.

"So many times, the agencies have the data, but they may not know what to do with it," Lindsey said. "Hopefully, we can team up those resources."

Funding fire-based EMS studies also is an issue for many agencies, Lindsey said. But that could change if studies show trends in fire-based EMS that should be investigated. Failure to note important trends can be costly for fire-based agencies, regardless of their size.

"Law enforcement has done a lot of research and they've benefited based on what they compiled," Lindsey said. "I think we can do that, too, if we have the data."

Lindsey will facilitate a session on new products during this April's Fire-Rescue Med conference in Las Vegas and will present a program about how research is done, giving a basic overview and using recent investigations as examples.

"It will be a road map for agencies wishing to pursue [research]," Lindsey said. "I'm hoping people will be interested in researching how the fire-based system is comparing. What are our save rates? Do we need to be sending first response and transport at the same time? We need that research to demonstrate the effectiveness of our system."

A native of Pennsylvania, Lindsey caught the EMS bug the same way that nabbed many a veteran (the legendary television series *Emergency!*). He started working as a volunteer in his hometown of Carlisle, Pa., and was that community's first paramedic.

It wasn't long before Lindsey traversed to a firefighter/paramedic and just as quickly emerged as a future leader in the profession. He worked for several different departments in Pennsylvania (often at the same time and in different capacities) before moving with his family to Florida, where he remains today as fire chief of Estero Fire Rescue.

A longtime EMS instructor, Lindsey enjoys passing on what he has learned. In 2004, he earned his doctorate in instructional technology/adult education. He also holds a master's degree in safety-engineering technology and an associate's degree as a paramedic. Though he isn't often on the ambulances, he maintains all his EMS certifications (including his

I'm very interested in getting more people involved with research, so it will gain momentum.

original certification through Pennsylvania).

Though Lindsey's day job is based in Florida, his teaching work spans the United States. He's a member of the adjunct faculty at St. Petersburg College in Florida, a member of the adjunct faculty at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix and education coordinator for 24-7 EMS in Bainbridge Island, Wash.

In addition, Lindsey has authored dozens of EMS, fire and public-safety management-related training manuals and books, plus numerous magazine articles—and he has a few more books that are pending publication. He helped with developing training curriculums, writing grants and developing interactive software and video productions.

Understandably, Lindsey is an in-demand speaker at many conferences and rescue-related summits throughout the country. His expertise has also been utilized in several court cases, where he has appeared as an expert witness and consultant.

In the midst of his busy life at work, Lindsey is careful not to forget his support system at home. His wife, Kandace, is a breast cancer survivor. They have three children, ages 19, 14 and 11. The Lindseys often travel for enjoyment and utilize Florida's heralded waterways for scuba diving and fishing with their children. The entire Lindsey family will participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, scheduled March 15 in Estero.

"Kandace is a one-year survivor now," Lindsey said. "We can refocus." ❖

Courtney McCain has worked as a paramedic in Kansas and Texas. She works in Kansas City as a freelance writer focusing on public-safety issues. Contact her at kemsnews@everestkc.net.

Chief Lindsey will present *Fire Service-Based EMS Research: It's a Journey!*

Tuesday, April 22, 1:30–3 pm, Room 402

In the Spotlight

Issues of EMS Scene Photography to Be Presented at Fire-Rescue Med

By Courtney McCain

Hoping to share what they've witnessed at work, public-safety personnel are sending on-scene photos by the thousands across cellular and cyberspace.

It hasn't taken long for some of those images to wind up on Facebook, YouTube and a few other websites with less-than-educational intentions. Even in the wake of several publicized situations involving on-scene photography by department personnel, few agencies actually have made policies addressing it.

But one longtime public-safety photographer hopes to change that with a presentation slated for this April's Fire-Rescue Med conference in Las Vegas.

"Providers really need to take a more proactive stance regarding scene photography," said Ray Kemp, a former firefighter/EMT whose on-scene photos have been published in multiple public-safety journals and books. "There are privacy implications, there are legal and ethical implications. Departments have got to develop guidelines, especially on

cell phone cameras, because they're here to stay."

Photographer has fire/EMS experience

A native of Ohio, Kemp grew up in the St. Louis area and began working as a firefighter and EMT while still in high school. He has worked for several ambulance companies, but his longest association has been with St. Charles County Ambulance District (SCCAD) in the St. Louis suburbs, serving at different times as an EMT, paramedic, board member and public information officer.

Kemp left his PIO post in 1992 to raise his three daughters (now teenagers) and to work more predictable hours in the computer industry before returning to the EMS realm in 2003.

A longtime photographer, Kemp has freelanced for a number of publications,

Ray Kemp will present *On-Scene EMS Photography: Guidelines for Staying Legal*

Tuesday, April 22, 10:30 am–Noon, Room 303

including the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and many public-safety magazines, since the 1980s. Five years ago, he decided to make photography his full-time profession and founded the company 911 Imaging.

Now he travels throughout the country as an EMS photographer, but still considers SCCAD home through a long-standing photo agreement he has with the agency.

"When my daughters got older, I decided to pick up my cameras again and get back into freelance work," Kemp said. "I really missed being in EMS and was excited to be back. But time had passed, and I didn't know about HIPAA when I first came back."

Personnel with SCCAD informed Kemp about the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which remained vague and open to interpretation even after it took effect in 2003.

As a photojournalist, Kemp already knew how media law restricted photographers from obtaining shots while physically on private property without consent from the property owner. Though persons visible on or from public venue may be photographed without repercussions, Kemp had always obtained consent from identifiable patients pictured in the back of an ambulance.

"When I heard about HIPAA, that put the brakes on things temporarily until I went and did the research to see what this meant," Kemp said. He found laws and regulations that showed how HIPAA wasn't that different from standard privacy laws governing photojournalism. An agreement with SCCAD was struck, and Kemp's latest foray into photography resumed.

But HIPAA wasn't all that had changed by

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Conference sessions at FRM cover a wide range of issues affecting the EMS community. See this year's schedule of sessions at www.iafc.org/frm.

then. Once cumbersome and expensive, digital cameras now are tiny enough to slip into a shirt pocket. Most cell phones now possess cameras with video options. Either can be whipped out for quick shots on scene, and those photos can be sent to anyone within seconds.

From there, those images can spread like a virus. The potential for privacy violations in an increasingly litigious age are obvious. For Kemp, the implications are disturbing.

"This is a real serious problem," he said. "I can't tell you how many EMS agencies I've visited, and every place I go I always have a medic who comes up to me, and he flips open his cell phone and says, 'Oh we had this a few weeks ago,' and here is this photo of childbirth."

Research begets a presentation

Kemp's initial investigation found little legal or policy information about on-scene photography. Across the United States, cell phone-wielding personnel were being disciplined after on-scene photos appeared on their personal websites. Some personnel were fired on the spot or raked by media and public opinion when the issue spread beyond interdepartmental lines.

After months of research, Kemp has developed a presentation for the upcoming Fire-Rescue Med conference this April. *On-Scene EMS Photography: Guidelines for Staying Legal* will encourage agencies to establish policies. Kemp consulted with several EMS and photojournalism attorneys in preparation for the program.

"First and foremost, we've got to cover the legalities relating to the privacy act, HIPAA and copyright issues, especially now that we have cell phones," Kemp said. "Another potential culprit that's coming up on the horizon is the helmet cam. That came to my attention when an area fire department told me they had it in their budget to buy helmet cams. The cams will be great, but we're getting back to the area where strict policies and controls need to be put

into place, but most departments haven't done that yet."

Legalities and ethics of on-scene photography

Though there are many sub-areas of discussion regarding EMS photography, they all can be lumped into two main groups: legalities and ethics.

"First off, you need to look at legal issues," Kemp said. "That's always number one. HIPAA is the pinnacle as far as EMS is concerned."

For professional photographers, HIPAA isn't much of a change from privacy laws that already existed in the first place. If photographers are honest with patients and their families about why they want to take the photos and if they obtain that permission before taking identifiable photos in a private venue (like the back of an ambulance), the photographer generally is covered.

But it isn't always so simple.

"You get into legal binds with intoxicated patients, because if you ask them to sign a release while they're intoxicated, they can come back and say, 'Hey, I signed this while I was drunk and I didn't know what I was signing,'" Kemp said. In those circumstances, Kemp tends to shoot from behind and at an angle so patients can't be identified—if he shoots the scene at all.

There are many circumstances when a photographer's presence can cause scenes to disintegrate rapidly. Though Kemp no longer is certified as an EMS provider, the street smarts he learned as an EMT are invaluable.

"I'm probably more conservative than I need to be," Kemp said. "I think the best thing is to have that past medical experience because I know how to read the patient. I know whether I can take the camera out without creating a problem for the crew. That's really important to be able to know what's going on.

"Unless you've worked in this business [as an EMS provider], it's very difficult to read the circumstances and may very well cause trouble," Kemp said. "That's important, to have that back-

My opinion is that cell phones should never be used for official photography in the field.

ground. People who are in this business are the best qualified to be taking these pictures, but they need to know what their limits are and where to draw the line on things."

Subjective ethics

The wide-ranging and subjective topic of photo ethics is an often-argued topic in many venues. Photos that are acceptable in some circumstances might be condemned in others. While footage of human bodies floating through New Orleans in 2005 generated outcry over indecency, most editors chose to publish the shots to illustrate the dire situation after Hurricane Katrina. Conversely, a photo of the body of a youngster who didn't survive being struck by a car would result in community outrage, regardless of the newsworthiness of the event or its public venue.

The same principles exist for on-scene photos, and Kemp hopes that chiefs across the nation will discuss the ethical implications of potentially controversial photos being taken on scene by their personnel.

"Ethics is a standard. You have to establish a standard," Kemp said. EMS needs to start developing its own standard as to what's going to be ethical and what isn't appropriate for photos. You just can't throw that broad brush out there for ethics without first establishing a standard, because the two go hand-in-hand.

"First off, you need to develop policies on the control and usage of *any* kind of photography, whether it's a cell phone, a personal camera that an employee's carrying [or] a camera that's been provided for personnel to carry-on the trucks to shoot mechanisms of injury," Kemp said. "Even when it's used in an official sense—and MOI is the most common usage of cameras, typically, for official purposes—they have to develop policies and procedures for how that data is controlled once it's in the camera."

Once a department establishes the initial disposition of the photo, it then must consider the next step: How can the photo be used, and who should have access to it?

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Unless you've worked in this business ... it's very difficult to read the circumstances and may very well cause trouble.

“And now we get back to ethics again, because a standard needs to be established. Does it meet our standard of ethics?” Kemp asked. “They need to identify what they feel is appropriate, and they need to stay within the boundaries of the law.”

What’s appropriate?

“Often when I ride for photos, people at the station will say, ‘You missed this really good call where the guy was’ ... fill in the blank,” Kemp said. “And I tell them that I’m only interested in paramedic-to-patient interaction. If the patient is dead on the ground, I have no interest in mauled-up people. I have no interest in that kind of photography at all. My purpose is to educate. I’m not out here to sensationalize anything.”

In an effort to dissuade those who are either trying to pirate his photos or otherwise view the photos for kicks, Kemp’s company website (www.911imaging.com) requires that anyone viewing his photos first must register with the website.

“They know we’re keeping track of who is on it,” Kemp said. “I think that does spook some people. We are serious about it.”

Kemp enjoys sharing photography tips, and many of his posted shots feature mini-stories that detail how he got the picture, plus any complications he faced. He also knows that timing is everything and often waits at least three months (sometimes longer) before posting photos of high-profile cases.

Establishing department policies

When providers step away from their caregiver roles to snap a few photos on scene, they need to be mindful of how that might come across to others on scene.

“Departments need to make policies, and they need to do it as soon as possible, about whether (personnel) can take photos on scenes,” Kemp said. “First off, do we even allow this? What are the conditions, and who’s allowed to take the pictures? Whose equipment may be used? The department’s camera or a personal cell phone?”

Kemp is emphatic about cell phone photography not being allowed under any circumstances.

“My opinion is that cell phones should never be used for official photography in the field, at all,” Kemp said. “Cell phones have no business in this business as equipment used to capture mechanism of injury or educational shots, or whatever. And the reason is that services cannot control where those photos go. If you have 30 or 40 paramedics, that’s 30 or 40 cell phone cameras out there, and you can’t control that. However, if out of all those paramedics you only have six trucks and every truck has a camera, now the controls are much tighter.”

Kemp said that most of the departments he has visited don’t have policies in place yet, but they’re interested in establishing them as a preventive measure. His session will include several case studies that illustrate how simple misunderstandings (plus political sour grapes) can snowball, thanks in part to an on-scene photo.

The problem doesn’t end with a simple snapshot. With YouTube and other video-sharing sites, the issue also traverses copyright law.

“There are areas called ‘scope of employment’ under copyright, and unless it’s under the scope of employment that an employee is supposed to take photographs, the copyright belongs to the photographer,” Kemp said.

On scene photos also may be discoverable in a court of law.

“There’s also an assumption that if you’re one of the providers on scene and you take photos, there’s an assumption that those pictures will become part of the patient record,” Kemp said. “They had been in public venue. With a medical provider, you expose yourself to that possibility. If you’re a medic on the scene and you’re taking a picture of the patient, I have to say that you’re doing that to put it in the patient record. You’re supposed to be rendering medical aid.” ❏

Educators, the National Association of EMTs, the American Ambulance Association, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Near-Miss Symposium and others. To find a listing of all the liaison and committee appointments, go to www.iafc.org/emssection and look under the About tab.

Another exciting happening is that the EMS Section now has its own web page, where you can find a ton of information and other resources. We will continue to add information as the website grows.

Other exciting happenings within the EMS Section include the fact that we have opened and expanded communication with our members. Now, minutes from all EMS Executive Committee teleconference calls are sent by email blast to all members and those minutes are posted on our website. Other email blasts also go out to EMS Section members on a regular basis. If you aren’t getting these blasts, contact the membership section of the IAFC to update your email address.

Shortly, the EMS Section in conjunction with the Volunteer & Combination Officers Section (VCOS) will release the Orange Report. This will be a special report written and funded by both the EMS Section and VCOS on how EMS integrates into volunteer and combination fire departments.

The EMS Section continues to participate in the Fire and Emergency Service Higher Education conferences, which are designed to create curriculums for fire and EMS degree programs.

There is much more I can write about, but the length of this column restricts me from writing more. Bottom line—the EMS Section is very active and clicking on all cylinders. ❏
Gary Ludwig, MS, EMT-P, is a deputy fire chief with the Memphis (Tenn.) Fire Department. He has 29 years of experience and previously served 25 years with the city of St. Louis. He is vice chair of the EMS Section for the International Association of Fire Chiefs and can be reached online at www.garyludwig.com.



Randolph Mantooth (from the TV show *Emergency!*) was the keynote speaker at FRM 2007; he was awarded an honorary chief distinction by the EMS Section.



A standing-room only crowd for a conference

BE THERE

FIRE-RESCUE MED 2008



Be there this year as hundreds of fire-based EMS attendees convene for Fire-Rescue Med 2008, the premier conference for EMS professionals. What you learn at this year's conference will make you rethink the way you perform your daily job. Fire-Rescue Med promises exciting education presented by top industry experts.

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**April 21-23
Las Vegas**

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