Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with a hammer and a cross

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**Here’s the scoop on happenings in EMS at Jefferson County Fire & EMS**

By Dep. Chief Michael DK Lepin

A black and silver camera

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The view from a CMAC video laryngoscope. JCF&EMS is in the process of replacing their old ones with a much newer model that records. The recording will be an asset for training as well as liability.

**Personnel**

**New Paramedic:** Welcome Zachary Alexander, Paramedic, to our part-time roster. Zachary moved to Oregon from Wisconsin a month ago. Planning ahead, he has already obtained his Oregon reciprocity. He has some fire training from Wisconsin, but we are not sure how much of that training will be able to cross over. Please make him feel welcome and part of our Fire & EMS family.

A person standing in front of a desk

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**Local Connections**

**Water Operations Training for JCSO:** On July 3rd, Deputy Chief Kasey Skaar and Captain Andrew Glen joined me in training Deputies & Marine Deputies of Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office on some strategies in coordinating with our department and some introduction to rescue techniques.

Some really good information came out of this training. Of course, the biggest thing is communication. If your patient is at the Three Rivers Marina, or at Perry South, on a boat on Lake Billy Chinook, it’s a good idea to check with Dispatch to see if a Sheriff Boat is available; if so, it is a good option to meet with them at the Crooked River Day use dock and ride out to your patient on the boat. This is often quicker than driving all the way out. Remember to take your equipment with them. In turn, Deputies have been told it would be great if they would update us on calls they respond to. This will give us an idea of what equipment and other resources are needed.

A group of people standing next to a boat

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A KED is a great tool for moving patients from a boat.

A group of people in a body of water

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It was a great day to be in the water. DC Skaar as the patient being rescued by Capt. Glen & Me.

**Training**

**Fall Rodeo:** Will be on Monday, September 15th**.** This rodeo’s class line-up is: Trauma Update, Human Trafficking, Hospice, Elder Abuse, & Child Abuse.

**More Vent Training:** I have been in communication with Denny, an RT from SCMC, unfortunately he will not be able to assist us. I will be working with A Shift to make training videos aligned with Dr. Welle’s check-off form.

**De-Escalation/Defensive Tactics/Restraints:** With the recent assaults on our crews, we are going to provide training to give you some extra tools to protect yourselves. Monday, September 29th there will be a day of EMS Defense Training. Deputy Mitch Turner, Crisis Negotiator with Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office will teach De-Escalation. Deputy CJ Linden, DT Instructor (and Kung Fu Legend) also with Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office will teach Defensive Tactics and I will teach Physical Restraints. The agenda will be posted soon but mark your calendars!

**Equipment & Supplies**

**Video Laryngoscopes:** Three CMACs have been ordered. That’s right, I said three. I budgeted $30,000 to purchase two but we received a significant discount that allowed the purchase of three. That means all three ALS ambulances will have one!

**HandTevy:** HandTevy has been updated with the new protocol changes and medication changes. Thank you for your patience. At first, I was waiting for Dr. Welle’s final touch but then waited for the new budget season to start.

**Expired Drugs:** Please do not put expired IV bags of NS or Dextrose in the expired drug box. These can be opened and dumped in the sink. Then toss into the trash. There is nothing protective about them and they take up space in the box.

**HERO-KIDS:** Is a voluntary registry that allows families to record critical health details of their children which helps to provide needed information to EMS and ERs. Of the 36 counties in Oregon, 28 of them have kids registered in HERO-KIDS. There are 3 here in Jefferson County.

A map of the united states

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 A close-up of a logo

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There is an app you can use that allows you to enter the kid’s name and it will let you know if your patient is registered. If your patient is registered, it will provide you with needed information. To make it even better, HERO-KIDS shares the app with the Oregon POLST Registry. This registry allows you to track to see if your patient is registered in the POLST registry and if they are, you can see the POLST form.

I know there are some people here who are new enough that you probably do not have this app on your phone. If not, come see me and I’ll help you set it up.

**SCMC-JCF&EMS Connections**

**Transfer Center**: Rebekah and I were not able to meet this month.

**SCMC-JCF&EMS**: Will Bean has sent information that I passed on regarding Lockouts vs Restricted Access at St. Charles. If you have not seen this, please see me.

**Regional & State Activities**

**Wasco County ASA**: Thursday the 17th I drove to Maupin for the Wasco County Special ASA Committee meeting. Wasco County has 8 ASAs. Ours is ASA 5. This meeting was attended only by the EMS providers.

Not too long ago the Committee was debating the draft of the ASA plan. Once we finally reached an agreement it was sent to the OHA for approval. The OHA sent it back requiring some adjustments. The County Administrator made some major changes and sent it back to the OHA and the OHA approved it. Those changes were not brought to the ASA Committee for approval, and they were **major** changes. One change is that instead of 8 ASAs there would be only 1, and it would be the one in The Dalles (currently ASA 2). All the other ASAs would become sub-ASAs if they wished to continue to provide the service they are providing. The service who won the new ASA contract would be responsible for The Dalles area plus whatever area that was not covered by a sub-ASA. That could prove difficult if that new ASA provider had to cover, let’s say the Antelope area.

The other big change was that the new ASA provider would be **required** to do inter-facility transfers from the local hospital. Like many other areas in the state, the hospital in The Dalles struggles with patient movement. Mid-Columbia Fire does its best to perform these inter-facility transfers but at times they are not available, mostly during fires. MCF&R reached out to MetroWest Ambulance to see if they could help with these IFTs. They said they could but here’s the problem. There are not enough IFTs to afford to park an ambulance there to just do those transfers. The only way an agency could afford to do those transfers is to get a piece of the ASA or get a subsidy from the county or hospital. This illustrates the problems many agencies/areas are facing throughout the state.

It's not that different here in Central Oregon, except that Adventure Medics is available to pick up the slack where CCF&R, RFD, and us are not able.

Chief Jenson from Mid-Columbia Fire and I basically tag-teamed in complaining about how this came to us after it was sent to the OHA, rather than before. We expressed we are not supporting the proposed changes. In between our comments, Chief Magill of Womac Fire added his displeasure of the change. In fact, no one present from the other agencies were in support of this.

Chief Jenson is applying the OHAs recommendations to the original plan we agreed on and we will review it at our next meeting in November.

**Community**

**Idaho Firefighters:** This isn’t EMS Related except for the fact I left town to attend the Celebration of Life services to the two firefighters who were killed in Idaho; Bat. Chief Frank Harwood of Kootenai County Fire & Rescue and Bat. Chief John Morrison of Coeur d’Alene Fire Department.

Pipe Major Jessica Bryant of the Coeur d’Alene Firefighters Pipes & Drums, sent out an all call for other service pipes & drums bands to join the massed band at the service. Three of us from Bend Fire Pipes and Drums answered the call, Cait who is a bagpiper, Corey who played the bass drum, and me. I play a snare (side) drum.

Bend Fire Pipes and Drums is made up of first responders, active and retired, throughout the area. Half of the band is from Bend Fire, the rest are from Sunriver FD, Cloverdale FD, Sisters FD, Trident Response, and of course, Jefferson County Fire & EMS.

We joined Pipers and Drummers from all over the country and Canada. I met people from Cleveland, Boston, Baltimore, Dallas, Nashville, Las Vegas, Montreal, Victoria BC, and many parts of California, Washington, and Idaho. Portland Fire Department sent 20 band members and about 20 other people who participated in the honor guard.

This was an incredible experience. I struggle to find the right words to do justice for how I felt. In my long career, I have been to many service funerals, including EMS, Fire, and Police. This; however, was the first time that I participated in a service in this capacity.

A group of men in kilts standing on a beach

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A group of flags on a platform

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of people in military uniforms

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A group of people posing for a photo

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