A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF  
C.W. SCHWALBE

I would like to wish all those candidates running for office good luck. While the year is almost over, I can assure your our work is not. We are continuing to finish up open project, tie up some loose ends, and do what it takes to recognize the a job well done by all of you. We have had few days where we are been running non stop for hours with multiple ambulance on the road. THANK YOU!!!! I say it every month, but you continue to provide high quality care to the community on a daily basis. Keep up the good work and keep those pagers on.

EMSManager is in full swing. As with anything new, there are a few bums to get over in the beginning. Please be patient and reach out to anyone on the CAO committee if you need a hand.

We continue to make improvements and update the website. There is a probationary section that will be up and running shortly. You can see what the class is up to and take advantage of any of the material Karen has posted. The EMS-Manager log in box has been fixed and fully functional. Please check the website, and check it often. Announcement / Events are posted as well as many other services.

The alphamate system is to be used for call related pages or emergencies. Please do not use the alphamate as a general way to get a message about to an individual or a group. If there is something that is not an emergency, please visit the website and fill out a “Work Order”. It will be forward to the appropriate individual and tracked. If you do need an officer or someone in an emergency, remember to put the name of the group or individual you are paging FIRST. This allows the recipients to know who you are looking for.

The computers will be update starting Nov. 17th. Anything stored on the local computer will be deleted. Remember you have space on the network. The work you save on the network will be saved. We will be updating the operating system, Microsoft office, Adobe, and the browsers. This should eliminate the inability to open and view certain documents. The tech committee has a list of projects to complete. We will be working with the Chiefs to put in priority order and get them taken care of in a timely manner. If you have any tech concerns, report them via the work order on our website.

Remember to stay safe and stay warm. Winter is right around the corner. Make sure you have your winter jackets, gloves, etc when you are riding. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask.
Motor Vehicle Report
Tom Lowenberg, 3rd Assistant Chief

As the colder weather approaches, we remind everyone to utilize blankets for the patients. The driver should also remember to keep the heat on in the rear of the ambulance. The driver should check before leaving the vehicle that the heat is on so when the patient enters the vehicle the temperature will be comfortable for them. Also once the heat is turned on, make sure the doors remain CLOSED!!

The same holds true for the bay doors. We need to keep the vehicles warm while in the building, while at the same time keeping our heating/utility costs down. Keep the bay doors closed at the end of a run. Think of it no different than your own home - do you leave the doors open and let the cold air blow through the house?

As the inclement weather approaches, the back of the ambulances can get pretty dirty also. If you could sweep out the excess sand/dirt in the back that would also be helpful!

The following website should be viewed from time to time by our drivers:
http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/emshome.php

Happy Thanksgiving to each and every member and their families.

Membership and More
Assistant Chief Gregory C. Miniutti

Over the next several weeks the Officers 2011 will be organizing for the year ahead. They'll be looking for you, the members, to volunteer to assist. As many positions exist behind the scenes exist as on the crew board, and they are just as integral to the continued, good functioning of our organization.

Chief Schwalbe has put a survey on the website where members can list their preferences. Please be aware that not everyone will be able to serve in every capacity that they wish.

To the right here I have chosen to use the rest of my space this month to convey a childhood story, one that reflects the spirit of cooperation necessary to succeed together, in soup, or in life.

STONE SOUP.

Some travelers come to a village, carrying nothing more than an empty pot. Upon their arrival, the villagers are unwilling to share any of their food stores with the hungry travelers. The travelers fill the pot with water, drop a large stone in it, and place it over a fire in the village square. One of the villagers becomes curious and asks what they are doing. The travelers answer that they are making "stone soup", which tastes wonderful, although it still needs a little bit of garnish to improve the flavor, which they are missing. The villager does not mind parting with just a little bit of carrot to help them out, so it gets added to the soup. Another villager walks by, inquiring about the pot, and the travelers again mention their stone soup which has not reached its full potential yet. The villager hands them a little bit of seasoning to help them out. More and more villagers walk by, each adding another ingredient. Finally, a delicious and nourishing pot of soup is enjoyed by all.
**Medical Messages**

2nd Assistant Bob Cavalieri

As the cold weather approaches it is important to remember that our patients get cold. We must make sure that when we check out the ambulances that there are two blankets in every ambulance.

As we get busy around the holidays with parties and shopping we must remember that the people of Commack must still get an ambulance in a timely fashion.

We are working on some new and innovated ways for drills and checking out the ambulances for next year. Stay tuned for further updates.

And on a sad note: sniff sniff, I will not be able to attend this year’s football game between us and the fire department. I know you will miss my gazelle like agility out there and my awesome blocking but I know you will make me proud. Be careful and don’t get hurt. And remember to run our “special” plays.

Until next time enjoy thanksgiving with your families and keep those pagers on …be PS I was only kidding about driving a stake through the vampires heart…just wear garlic instead.

**OP FROSTY**

2nd Assistant Bob Cavalieri

OPERATION FROSTY

Did someone say snow in November?? Yes you saw it right. You are thinking how could we have snow in November? Well if you must know I ordered it. Yes I wanted you all to be in the mood for yes you guessed it:

OPERATION FROSTY

So here we go, we are set for our annual toy and food drive. This year it seems that more families are in need of food this year. It is a great day to see all the children and see how much they appreciate us. It is also great to see the toys and food pile up in Santa’s sleigh.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus are all set and I hear the youth squad and senior corps elves are hard at work getting the ambulance ready for the big debut. This year the public will also have input on the voting for the best decoration. Well that’s it for now. Until next time keep those sleigh bells ringing.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

CLICK ON THE BOX FOR MORE INFO

**TURKEY BOWL**

THANKSGIVING MORNING

@ COMMACK H.S.

**Training Coordinator**

Capt. Karen Moks

Way to go...

Oh the weather outside is frightful,
But the probies are so delightful,
And since you all want to know...
There are 22 training Tuesday nights.

Sixteen are from the Senior Corps,
And six more from the Youth Squad,
So as you can plainly see,
There’s no time for us to watch “Glee”.

You know Ed’s really got them learning,
Signals, radios, crews and paging,
Phones, Red Alert, log books and more,
They are ready to train for sure.

“Thanks” to all the dispatch trainers,
And all the CVAC members,
Who step up to help the probies,
Way to go, way to go, way to go.

Oh riding starts in December,
(Garry, please remember...)
Check the website for dates and times,
And come and visit on Tuesday nights.

Until next month...help the probies,
With radios and Dispatch training.
Keep all your patients toasty...
**Dispatch**

**Cpt. Ed Nordstrom, Coordinator**

Our second round of probationary members for 2010 are beginning to get into the office for the practical portion of their training. They have just been through six weeks of classroom activities which include learning signals, procedures, and how to phrase pages. It is important that trainers please allow the trainees to do everything in the office. The only way they can perfect their craft is by actually dispatching. Although it is sometimes difficult to give up control of the office, this is exactly what we need you to do and then remediate them if they make a mistake. Please also be sure to go over Net Dispatcher with them, as this is an area that cannot be covered in a classroom setting. Again, I would like to thank you for helping us train our newest members. It is a great responsibility that you have all met with success. As always, if there are any problems, please let me know.

**Reminder:** Each time a probationary member trains, they must have a training report filled out. They will keep a copy and place the other copy in the membership mailbox in the atrium.

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**Sizing up the Scene**

**Capt. Alan Groveman**

Scene Size-up (Starts at Home)

Scene size-up is a safety related process that is used by all emergency personnel with various components that are relevant to all and some that change based upon the type of services provided. In the EMS world, we typically don’t have to worry about fire exposures or think about snipers. All size-up starts as you leave your house and continues through signal-5. Generally speaking, the following components are among those included:

- **Time of day**
  
  Will it be light or dark out, who is likely to be home, how busy will the roads be, what is the likelihood of additional manpower (0300 Monday vs 1400 Saturday)

- **Weather**
  
  Road conditions, need for blankets, possibility of exposure (patients and crew), heat stroke vs frostbite

- **Date**
  
  Holidays like July 4th, Thanksgiving, New Year’s Eve, all have potential for greater call volume

- **Crew Status (current)**
  
  Who do I have available and at what levels (driver only, EMT-B, EMT-CC, etc), how can I divide up to cover possible second/third calls (Is one/two crews already out)

- **Potential Crew Status (signal 3)**
  
  Date and Time and existing calls all impact- Other Departments may be busy or free

- **Location of Incident**
  
  Indoors/Outdoors, second floor/basement, parkway/side street, baseball field/In the Woods (all have different obstacles and issues)

- **Type of Incident (1 Alpha-1 or 4 Delta-6)**
  
  Will Command need to be established; are officers available, possibility of multiple patients, need for helicopter

- **Number of Patients/Severity**
  
  How many can I handle with my existing crew; on one bus; level of care required

- **Crew Safety**
  
  Think of everything; Items 1-14; pets; family members, irate drivers, traffic, other resources (PD/FD)

- **Vehicle Safety**
  
  Is the bus in a safe location; can it be moved after arrival to a better location

- **Access to Patient**
  
  See Item #6; size of patient, specific location (small bathroom, between wall and object, trapped) ; need for extrication, removal of wall, specialized lift from hole or removal from attic

- **Movement of Patient**
  
  Will you be able to move patient with resources available; what/who else is needed

- **Appropriate Hospital**
  
  What is the best choice; what are the options

- **Available Resources**
  
  Not limited to CVAC; think Surrounding Departments, FD, PD, School Buses, etc.
CHANGE TO ARTICLE 9 – ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

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CURRENTLY READS;

a. Training Requirements (Operating Personnel and Firefighter Drivers)

1. All active operating personnel must hold a New York State Emergency Medical Technician Certification or the equivalent within two (2) years of their acceptance into the Corps as an Active Operating Member.

2. All operating personnel, firefighter drivers, and all riding Auxiliary Members shall be required to attend at least eight (8) out of ten (10) different monthly training sessions per calendar year.

CHANGE TO:

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1. All active operating personnel must hold a New York State Emergency Medical Technician Certification or the equivalent within two (2) years of their acceptance into the Corps as an Active Operating Member.

2. All operating personnel, and all riding Auxiliary Members shall be required to attend at least eight (8) out of ten (10) different monthly training sessions per calendar year and all mandatory training sessions as determined annually by the officers.

3. Firefighter Drivers shall be required to attend all mandatory training sessions as determined annually by the Officers.

REASON:

To solidify the mandatory requirement currently imposed on all members. (form follows function) and to loosen the newly imposed restriction on the firefighter driver. The change required FFd’s to attend too many drills which were not relevant to their category of membership and might detract from their interest and/or ability to participate as such.
Date: 8/20/10

To: Chief Minutti
From: Alan Groveman
Re: By-Law Change

cc: Chief Schwabe

After discussion of our quarterly duty hour requirements with the Captains and Chiefs, I am recommending the following by-law change:

ARTICLE 9
ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The Officers, in order to insure properly functioning operation, have invoked the following minimum Active Membership requirements. Unless otherwise indicated, failure to comply with these requirements will, at the discretion of the responsible Officer, result in Corps suspension.

a. No Changes
b. No Changes

c. On-Duty Requirements (operating and Dispatching Personnel)

1. All Operating Personnel shall be required to make a minimum of fifty-four (54) duty hours per calendar quarter. For all Operating Personnel sworn in as members after January 1, 2011, the minimum number of hours shall be seventy-two (72).

2. All Dispatching Personnel shall be required to make a minimum of twenty-seven (27) duty hours per calendar quarter. For all Dispatching Personnel sworn in as members after January 1, 2011, the minimum number of hours shall be thirty-six (36).

Alan Groveman, 040

[Signature]