



# FAREMS

## Rural Dispatch

**Quarterly Newsletter**

**Spring 2011**

*The Florida Association of Rural EMS Providers' (FAREMS) mission is to provide a unified voice for EMS providers at a state and local level to expand and improve the delivery of pre-hospital emergency medical service in the rural areas of Florida.*

### Our Board

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**Region III Representative**

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Hendry County EMS

### Dates

**June 17, 2011**

**Chad A. Reed Memorial**

**Scholarship Application Due Date**

**Next General Meeting**

**TBA**

## A National Treasure

*by Michael Patterson*

**FAREMS President**

It is no secret that in late 2009, Putnam County EMS started the transition to becoming Putnam County Fire & EMS. Our county is respectable in land mass (over 700 square miles) but at the same time, we have very limited resources and are listed as a fiscally-constrained county. It doesn't look like it will be getting better any time soon. Our transition to a full fire and EMS department is going to be a long process and not an event. This county depends on mostly volunteer firefighters, and we are very lucky to have them. I suspect that our county will be predominately volunteer well after I disappear off this earth. I am fortunate to have good relationships with many of the volunteer fire chiefs. Our story here in Putnam County is unique in many ways in the fact that we have 18 volunteer fire departments, plus one fire and EMS service (still mostly EMS) that serve our citizens. All are completely independent of each other until we arrive together on the emergency scene. At that point we work together in unison until the emergency is over.

Many of our volunteer fire chiefs have told me of their experiences attending the National Emergency Training Center (NETC). The virtual "mother ship" of the NETC is the Department of Homeland Security. In early in 2010, I decided to apply for the program, which is held in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and was accepted. I have been to Emmitsburg before, but I have to tell you, this last trip (in late October 2010) really opened my eyes to what a national treasure we have there. For any government agency that deals with EMS, fire, emergency management and the like, there are on-line classes by the dozen that you and/or your personnel can sign up for and take at no cost. You may also apply to actually travel to Emmitsburg and take classes for virtually every discipline of emergency services (fire, EMS, emergency management). The NETC also maintains a very comprehensive Learning Resource Center (LRC), with access to over 18,000 books, 6,000 published papers, and a collection of more than 5,700 DVDs/VHS tapes. You can borrow materials through Interlibrary Loan (ILL). Check out the ILL program at <http://www.lrc.fema.gov/ill.html>. The email address for the LRC is [netclrc@dhs.gov](mailto:netclrc@dhs.gov). Also the United States Fire Administration (USFA) will send fire departments and first responder agencies (EMS) all kinds of free materials from the USFA Publications Center just for asking. Brochures, handouts, CD-ROMs/DVDs, kits, manuals, reports, posters, videotapes, kid's educational materials – you name it. Check out the USFA's Publications Center Web Site at [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov) or email the publications center at [USFA-Publications@dhs.gov](mailto:USFA-Publications@dhs.gov).

It is tough times right now, and it probably will be for a while. As long as the NETC is in business, we should all consider making the most of our training dollars by taking advantage of these great programs that have been made available for all of emergency services. As always – if you have any questions that I can answer for you – give me a call or email me at [mike.patterson@putnam-fl.com](mailto:mike.patterson@putnam-fl.com). Take care – Mike

## EMT and Paramedic Scholarship Availability

## Our Partners



FAREMS is dedicated to supporting rural Florida EMS agencies in their efforts to improve pre-hospital emergency care in their communities. In order to improve the level of care emergency medical care provided to rural Florida citizens, in July 2011, the Chad A. Reed Memorial Scholarship program will award EMT and paramedic scholarships to selected persons living in Florida's 33 rural counties. Eligible applicants must reside in a rural Florida county, be recommended by an EMS director, and submit a completed application form with required attachments. Paramedic applicants must have six months of EMT experience. Applications are due June 17th and available on our website at [www.farems.org](http://www.farems.org). You may contact Tracy at 352-256-5503 or [tburger@farems.org](mailto:tburger@farems.org) for more information.



## AHA 12-Lead and Pharmacology Training

Beginning in summer 2011, FAREMS will be partnering with the Shands Jacksonville Medical Center to provide the American Heart Association's 12-Lead and Pharmacology/STEMI Provider Course to agency members. This six-hour course is designed to enable healthcare providers the ability to assess, diagnose and treat acute coronary syndrome (ACS) patients and improve quality care and outcomes in heart attack patients by improving healthcare system's readiness and response to ACS patients. The course is only open to staff of FAREMS agency members for a fee of \$20 per student. For more information, contact Tracy at [tburger@farems.org](mailto:tburger@farems.org).



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website: [www.farems.org](http://www.farems.org)

## Group Purchasing with NCEMSC

Did you know that agency members of FAREMS are automatically members of the North Central EMS Cooperative (NCEMSC) group purchasing program? The NCEMSC is in existence to reduce member cost, improve quality and efficiency and establish standard specifications for organizations, supplies and equipment through this joint purchasing program. The NCEMSC offers products such as ambulances, defibrillators, medical supplies, firefighting equipment and supplies, and more, from companies like Zoll, Kaplan Continuing Education, and BoundTree Medical. Check out their pricing at [www.ncemsc.org](http://www.ncemsc.org). Questions? Contact Tracy at [tburger@farems.org](mailto:tburger@farems.org).

## Are You a Member Yet?

FAREMS offers members numerous ways to improve pre-hospital emergency medical service in their community. Our 2009 agency members saw a 238% return on their investment and received services worth \$3.38 for every \$1.00 spent. Many educational offerings FAREMS provides are *only* available to agency members. Questions about membership and/or benefits? Contact Tracy at 352-256-5503 or [tburger@farems.org](mailto:tburger@farems.org), or visit our website at [www.farems.org](http://www.farems.org).

## Did You Know?

- At the 2010 State Bureau of EMS Awards Ceremony, FAREMS received an award for a recruitment and retention video and was recognized by Ana M. Viamonte Ros, State Surgeon General, for efforts to improve EMS in rural Florida.
- The Department of Health filed a reorganization plan with the Governor and State Legislature. The link to the report is <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/REPORT.PDF>. Changes that affect EMS are on pages 25-27.
- You can get automatic e-mails consisting of current EMS events, news, and updates from the Florida Bureau of EMS. To subscribe to the mailing list and receive automatic e-mail updates, visit <http://www7.doh.state.fl.us/mailman/listinfo/flmscomm>