

THE PULSE

HCFAS-
PROUDLY
VOLUNTEERING
SINCE 1967

THE HEARTBEAT OF THE HUNTINGTON COMMUNITY FIRST AID SQUAD

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President's Report- Seth Fischer

Hello Members,

Hope everyone is doing well.

In the coming weeks, your Board of Directors will be working with the Chief's office to finalize our operating budget for 2022. I appreciate our Committee Chairs for their input and recommendations. We will keep you updated when we are able to finalize.

Please make sure you are up to date with your review trainings, as well as your LOSAP. Have an understanding how you are currently trending for the year. If you have any questions or concerns please speak with your Day Captains.

We appreciate everyone's understanding by the recent change in our mask policy. Not only do we care about your physical health, but we also care a tremendous amount about your mental health as well. If you feel as if you would like help, we are always here for you. Please let us know if there is anything we can do, you are not alone.

Be well, and thank you for continuing to make our agency shine!!!!

Seth

Questions? Submissions?

Email Editor
Katie Donegan at
thepulse.hcfas@gmail.com



Chief's Report - David Kaufman

Dear Members,

It was wonderful to see everyone for the first General Membership meeting at Headquarters since the pandemic started. Thanks to Lisa Mohr and the kitchen committee for a wonderful dinner. I was glad to be able to hand out so many length of service awards that night. For our probationary members, we encourage you to attend General Membership meetings to make your requirement and to meet other squad members.

I'm so proud of our Post 215 Explorers. They've just elected Orla Comerford-Roberts to replace Alex Bayer as the new Post Chief. Best of luck to Orla in your new position, and thank you Alex for a job well done.

Although Alex Bayer is no longer the Post Chief, he's still contributing to our agency. His Boy Scout Eagle project is to build a mobile workbench for our garage, to assist in re-supplying the BLS closet and to be used for vehicle and building repairs as necessary. We're anxious to see how this turns out.

Thanks to Fiona Witkowski and our recruitment and membership committees. In the last 6 months, our agency has grown by 25 new members, all of them eager to demonstrate their caring and commitment to our community. While many of our newest members are college-bound in September, we appreciate their dedication during the summer months - with some doing 3,4 even 5 shifts a week to make up their hours for the rest of the year. We really do survive on the strength of our volunteer members.

We are marching in the Greenlawn Parade Thursday September 2nd. We will be leaving headquarters at 17:45. Please sign up on <https://forms.gle/J2CwfWbKckQHY2Qz9>. Refreshments will be served.

Again - I'm sure your Captains are reminding you to do checkouts, keep up with your training and report any accidents, so I won't mention that here again.

Thank you for all that you do! Enjoy the rest of your summer.

1st Deputy Chief – Ryane Como

Happy August! I hope that everyone is enjoying the final weeks of summer and spending lots of time outside with loved ones.

As much as I would love to never talk about COVID again, here is another reminder that the virus is still a reality we must remain aware of. At the time of writing this article, we are continuing to require only non-vaccinated members to be masked in the building, however, this may change soon due to current CDC guidelines and the unfortunate trending of cases in our area. Please be aware that any policy changes are for the protection of everyone and we are doing our best to be proactive and not reactive.

All providers, regardless of vaccination status, should continue to wear N95 masks and eye protection on every call. Additional PPE should be donned at the provider's discretion based on patient presentation. All patients and anyone else riding in the ambulance must wear surgical masks regardless of vaccination status. Providers and patients must be masked when entering the hospital. Please continue to take temperatures of all patients and document it in the vital signs. If a patient is confirmed or suspected COVID positive, please use the COVID impressions in the narrative screen.

Huntington Hospital will continue to notify us if we transported a COVID positive patient, however, if you are wearing the appropriate PPE you have nothing to worry about. If you have an exposure outside of the squad, please email or text me before coming to the building. If you have any signs or symptoms of illness, please do not come to the building. All providers, regardless of vaccination status, should continue to wear N95 masks and eye protection on every call. Additional PPE should be donned at the provider's discretion based on patient presentation. All patients and anyone else riding in the ambulance should be masked regardless of vaccination status.

If you are submitting an educational leave of absence request, the HCFAS ELOA form must be accompanied by your semester schedule as well as your school's academic calendar. Please be sure all documentation is submitted to avoid the leave request being denied or delayed.

The second quarter ended on 6/30/21; anyone who was short on hours received an email and a letter notifying them. The third quarter ends on 9/30/21. Everyone needs 48 hours per quarter. Please remember to finger in and out on the same shift. If you are going to miss a shift, plan to make up the hours by coming in early and staying late or doing another shift entirely.

Each quarter, you need 48 hours. To qualify for the end of the year gift card, you need 36 shifts by December 1st. Shifts only count if they are the full 4 or 8 hours. Gift card season is rapidly approaching. Please talk to your Day Captain or send me an email if you are unsure about your quarter hours or shift count to date.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to HCFAS and service to your community. Please contact me if you need anything!

2nd Deputy Chief – Dale Bartolomeo

Some Old Stuff

Effective June 1st, NYS has updated its documentation requirements for PCRs. This information is extremely important and must be reviewed by all EMTs. The changes were posted on ESO, emailed, and can also be found here: https://www.esosuite.net/EsoSuite/Notifications/NY_State_Reporting_Config_Changes_060121.pdf

All of the changes except one have been updated in the ESO software, meaning that if you do not perform a required task and fill out the required information, the PCR cannot be locked. On scene, you must be aware of these new requirements ahead of time so that you still have a chance to gather the information. This way, you are not stuck after the call without it and unable to lock your PCR.

The one change that must be incorporated, but that ESO will not remind you about, is that when answering to nursing homes, schools, and urgent cares, you must start manually inputting the scene location information from the predefined drop-down list. This is the only way to include the newly required Facility IDs from these types of locations. Without the Facility ID, the state will not accept the PCR. In my opinion, this is the most confusing update, so if you have any questions, please reach out to me for clarification.

Please remember all PCRs must be completed and faxed within four hours.

Anyone looking to take a EMT Refresher course there are multiple postings in the ready room.

Anyone looking to take a CPR class please use this QR code below to register for an upcoming class.



2nd Deputy Chief – Dale Bartolomeo (cont'd)

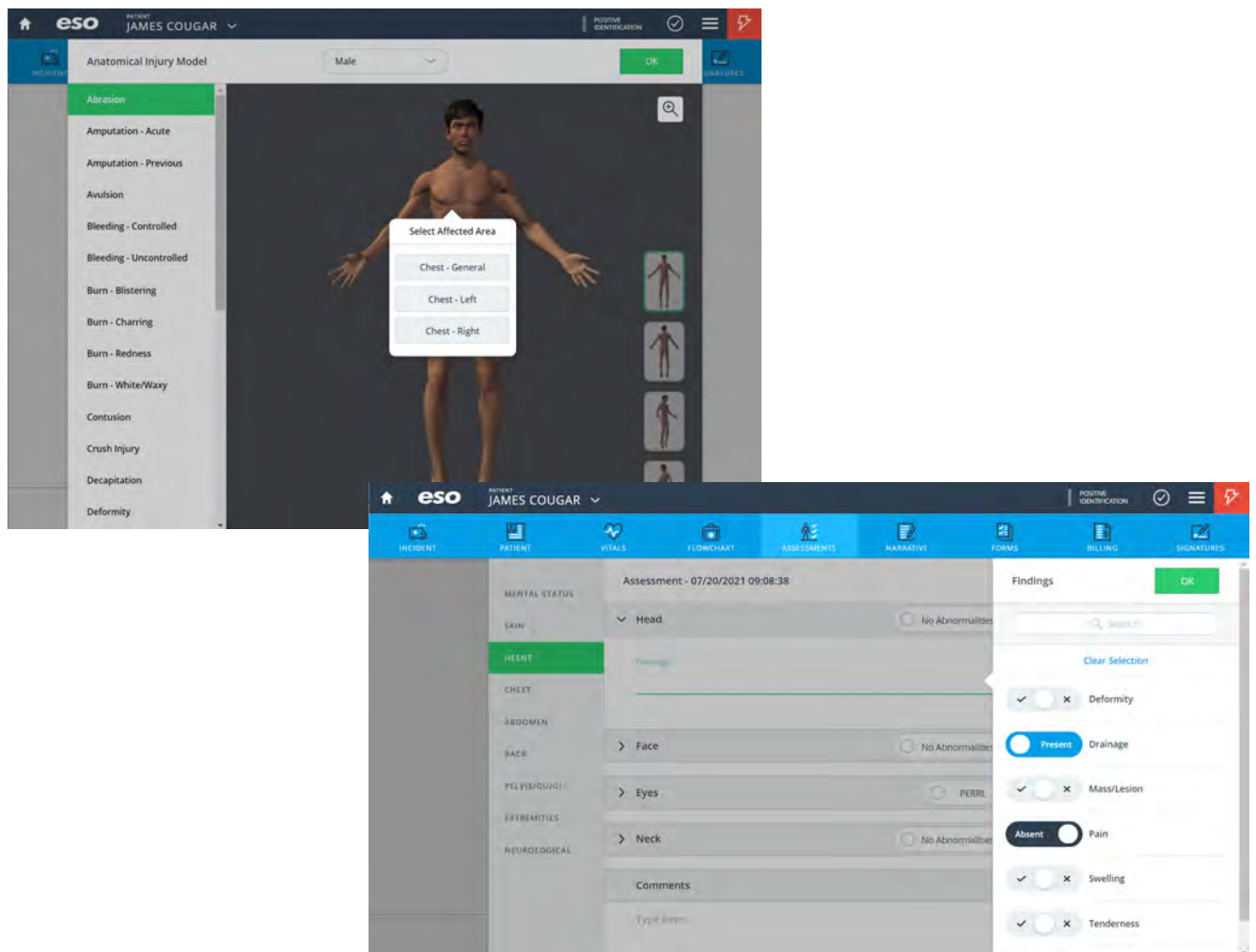
New and Exciting

On July 28, 2021, we will introduce significant improvements to the workflow for documenting Assessments in EHR including:

- A redesigned user interface with more than 70 new medical and injury findings and finding locations
- The ability to document an unlimited number of assessments with speed
- New nomenclature of “present” and “absent” for documenting findings

We recommend you preview these enhancements and new workflow in a video and user guide we have posted to the [EHR Training portal](#).

- [Assessments User Guide](#)
- [Assessments Video](#)



3rd Deputy Chief – Bill Connolly

Dear Members,

Please remember to contact your Day Captain and myself when there is an issue with the ambulances. I can be reached on my cell phone (516)457-0967 or email, Third.deputy@hcfas.org

Also continue to be careful while driving and don't be afraid to take your time if necessary. Safety is first. Please remember to put the Chevy ambulances in high idle at the scene:

- 1) put the ambulance in park,
- 2) set the parking brake,
- 3) turn cruise control ON and push SET.

If you are not familiar with these steps, ask a driver trainer. In the Ford ambulances, you need only to set the parking brake. This activates the high idle.

Thank you for everything you do. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Respectfully,

Bill Connolly

Chief Dispatcher - Mike Capotosto

Dispatch Training: Congratulations to our newest dispatchers, Brittany Martinez, Grace Kata, Devon Linden, Odaly Velasquez, Wendy Qu, Nicole Kilada, and post member Monica Rios.

Thank you to the dispatch training committee for getting our newest members through training so quickly!

Statistics: We closed out June with 566 total calls, transporting 82.2% of calls, a bit below our usual 85%.

We no longer have Priority 36 calls coming in from the county, so no more stats on COVID calls for us.

We have had 16 mutual aids as of writing (7/28/2021) for a 0.46% mutual aid YTD, not too shabby. We have had people respond to the building as backup personnel 44 times this month. Thank you everyone for listening up!

If you are interested in a pager, please speak to your captains and we will get them to you ASAP!

Thank you,
Mike Capotosto

Company 1 – Captain Jake Levinsky

SUNDAY

Hello everyone and happy beginning of August. I would like to once again thank everyone for welcoming me as the new Sunday Captain.

Many thanks to those members that filled in on shifts and answered up for my first two Sundays. All of your help is always appreciated.

Congratulations to Nicole Kilada #1650 for passing dispatching and continuing onto the ambulance.

Congratulations to Marissa Lindner #1646 for passing her EMT-B state written and on becoming an EMT, and soon to start ACLing.

Congratulations to Monica Mulchandani #1162 for 15 years!

And finally, congratulations to Jaclyn Rittershaus #1492 for going to medical school. You will be greatly missed and hope for the best in your endeavors!

Help is needed for the overnight: dispatcher and second full crew. Anyone available please let me know. Much would be appreciated and thank you all.

As always please remember to Clock IN and OUT after completing either your 4 or 8 hour shift. The new finger reader by dispatch and the back door allows members to see what time they clocked in so everyone can now tell what time they need to clock out to receive credit for the full shift. Also don't forget to do your weekly checkouts.

Company 2 – Captain Paul Bayer

MONDAY

Hello HCFAS volunteers, from your Monday Captain! Here again with news from Company 2 for July 2021. We've just passed the halfway point for a great year. I hope everyone is having a quality summer - spending time with (vaccinated) friends and family.

A warm welcome to Pedro Benitez (#1644) who has been dispatch training with Richard Stone on the 0700 shift. He's looking forward to starting an EMT class in the fall and is anxious to get on the ambulance soon.

Another warm Company 2 welcome to Wendy Qu (#1649) who has started on the Monday overnights. She's already an EMT and was able to pass her Dispatch test in record time on July 6th. She's beginning her ACL training already on Monday nights, so we're also anxious to have her as an overnight Crew Leader.

Gregory Henninger (#1653) will be starting his first shift on Monday, 7/26 during the 1100. Greg is an EMT already, and we're looking forward to meeting him and welcoming him to our Company 2 family.

Also - a congratulations to both John Stevens (#1627) and Isha Dave (Post Member) for passing their NYS EMT exam! Congrats John to also becoming a Driver - and an ACL so quickly.

Again a big thank you to all the members who have helped out on Mondays in July! Betty Wood, Casey McCormack, Jackie DeBruin, Jackie Callinan, Eve Pollack, Jordan Fuentes, Sean Moran, Marissa Lindner, Jeff O'Neill and Colin Weigele - a big thank you to you all!

Of course, no Captain's report is complete without a pleading for help! We need a second due CL on the 0700, a full second due crew on both the 1100 and 1500 shifts, as well as a first and second full crew on the overnight. We also need ALS on most shifts. If you're looking to fulfill your hours on a great day with great people – please give me a call and let me know when is good for you!

Thanks for all that you do!

Company 3 – Captain Elizabeth Mohr

TUESDAY

Happy Summer everyone! Hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather. Congratulations to Sean for passing his EMT Class and ambulance orientation and congratulations to Brittany for passing her dispatching class! Just a reminder to please perform rig checkouts on every shift, at any point we can be stopped by New York State and inspected. Also please remember to stay up to date on your review trainings. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Greenlawn parade this year. Thank you and stay safe.

Company 4 – Captain Eric Nazinitsky

WEDNESDAY

No Report.

Company 5 – Captain Colin Weigele

THURSDAY

Hello everyone! I hope you are all doing well

I'd like to thank everyone on Thursdays for their help this month. I really appreciate it.

I would like to welcome new member Bronwyn Kelly #1651 to the Thursday 1100! Bronwyn was a member of Post 215 and was just accepted as a member, so be sure to give her a warm welcome tomorrow!

Congratulations to Jamie Terenzi #1643 on passing her dispatching exam! Jamie passed her test this past week and will begin First Aiding very soon!

As always, Some help is still needed on Thursdays

A driver is needed on the 1500 and 2300

A crew leader is needed on the 1500 and 1900

If anyone is able to help please let me know!

Again, thank you for all your help and amazing work.

Colin Weigele 1553

Company 6 – Captain Kathy Castillo

FRIDAY

No Report.

Company 7 – Captain Casey O'Riordan

SATURDAY

No Report.

CME Report- Coordinator Pam Brenner-Davis

As we move to back-to-school mode please be mindful of your EMT certification and where you stand with your CMEs. A big thank you to Mark Brenner for donating his time this summer to teach a rapid CME series for HCFAS members. Gratitude also goes to Brian Canty for getting the county to allow him to offer a Skills session at HCFAS.

Please keep the following information in mind as you work towards your renewal:

All course completion documents must be submitted to the HCFAS CME Coordinator regularly to remain in the CME program.

All certification paperwork must be submitted, in person, to the Deputy Chief of Education at Suffolk EMS no later than 60 days prior to expiration. If you're an overachiever you can submit, at max, 9 months prior to expiration.

All participants must have a current CPR card with a minimum of 6 months remaining at the time of their EMT renewal. Please reach out to the CPR committee if your EMT expires in the next year or so and get that ball rolling.

The county is currently accepting classes through in-person and online study. Check out the Vital Signs Academy or CareerCert.com for some great courses that can be taken from the comfort of your own home.

Participants must be credentialed in Suffolk County and must maintain continuous practice at the level of their recertification. This means you **MUST** be a riding member who regularly appears on PCRs. Providers who are on continuous LOAs or serve as permanent dispatchers are not eligible to renew through the CME program.

I'm doing my best to keep up with all of you and your certification needs. I aim to answer your questions and provide guidance as quickly as possible. I appreciate all your dedication to HCFAS and to maintaining your certification. Let me know how I can help by reaching out to me at pamelabrenner@gmail.com or 516-521-6550

Important Links

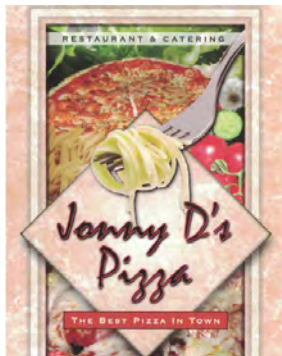
The new tracking sheets, breakdown of topic hours, information about the CME program and breakdown of Alphabet courses can be found [here](http://www.suffolkremSCO.com/main/downloads-forms/)
(<http://www.suffolkremSCO.com/main/downloads-forms/>)

If you're in the CME program, please read [this packet](http://www.suffolkremSCO.com/clientuploads/CME/2020%20CME%20Program/CME_Packet_to_all_providers_2020.pdf)
(http://www.suffolkremSCO.com/clientuploads/CME/2020%20CME%20Program/CME_Packet_to_all_providers_2020.pdf) so you have a clear understanding of your obligations. Failure to comply may result in your removal from the CME program.

All Suffolk County classes can be found [here](http://www.suffolkremSCO.com/main/continuing-medical-education/)
(<http://www.suffolkremSCO.com/main/continuing-medical-education/>)

HCFAS Discounts- Dave Mohr

There are many places that offer discounts to Squad members. Even if you don't know if they do or don't, it can hurt to ask. I have had times when I have asked and the answer was 'we don't, but hold on' and they would go and talk to a manager/owner and in the end a discount was given. We have accumulated just some of the places in Huntington that offer a discount to Squad members. **If you know of a place that offers a discount to Squad members, put a note in Director David Mohr's mailbox or email me at davidmohr@yahoo.com.**



Jonny D's Pizza

946 New York Avenue

631-385-4444

15% Discount

Show Squad
Membership Card



15% Discount

Show Squad Membership Card



15% Discount

Show Squad
Membership Card



10% Discount

Show Squad Membership Card



Flowerdale by Patty

"Elegance with a personal touch"

1933 New York Avenue

10% Discount

Show Squad Membership Card

BASICS – August 2021

Hospital Notification

By Mark Brenner

Last month we looked at Trauma Notifications. You'll recall that we used the acronym MVIT: Mechanism, Vitals (highest pulse/lowest blood pressure), Injuries, Time of Injury and Treatments.

When making a hospital notification for medical calls, we want to be just as clear and concise. We can provide more detail when we arrive at the E.R. Think of your radio presentation as your "elevator pitch." You're on an elevator when the CEO of a company gets on, and it's only the two of you. The CEO is a captive audience. How would you pitch yourself for a job in their firm or your product? And in only the length of an elevator ride.

Here's what should be included in your hospital notification:

Age/Sex of the patient

Chief Complaint or Presenting Problem (more on this later)

Vital Signs

Interventions (medications administered by EMS, CPAP, 12-lead EKG, etc.)

ETA

The Chief Complaint or Presenting Problem may be different from that which you were told at dispatch. For example, you might have been dispatched to a "17-B-1 Fall", but find a 70-year-old man who, while falling from a standing position, has hit his head on an end table and is now bleeding profusely from his forehead. Don't call this a "victim of a fall", but rather a "man bleeding from the head as a result of falling from a standing position." It paints a clearer picture.

This is also the time to state some "trigger words" such as a STEMI notification, Stroke notification, Trauma Alert, Sepsis Alert. Do you have a restrained patient? Say so! This way the hospital will prepare additional manpower to help move the restrained patient onto the hospital bed. Are you transporting a woman in labor? Let the ER know the duration of contractions and the interval in between. Is this her second (or third or fourth) child? Let the ER know that. They may keep her on your stretcher and after getting her registered, have you take her up to Labor and Delivery.

And then, upon arrival at the ER, you can reiterate the presentation and embellish it with any known allergies, "last known well" in the case of a suspected stroke, any improvement from the interventions or any deterioration during transport, etc.

The next time you enter the Emergency Room and approach the charge nurse with your patient, think of her as the CEO and provide her with your best "elevator pitch" for the patient.

Thanks to Captain Paul Bayer for recommending this topic.

August 2021

HCFAS Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Dominic Heavey, Meaghan Salzone & Elizabeth Bernfeld	Lorrie Stone		Ann Maloney	Hugh O'Brien	Bruce Hafner & Maria Aviles
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rich Stone, John Palmieri, Mike Barker & Pete Como		Keith Tamaya	Alex Hastava	Vanessa Hernandez	Felix Medina	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Melissa Anastos		Brandon Eybergen	Tom Lemp			Bernard Poole
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Evi Baer		George Reeder	Suzie Biagi & Loreley Villamide- Herrera		Nate Bruskin
29	30	31				
Mary Jane Woznick & Anthony Cambareri	Christy Stiles, Margaret Coyle & Christina Denker	Dylan Collier				

August Length of Service and Longevity Awards presented at August GMM

10 years

Sara Manning #1345
Maxine Epstein #1346

20 Years

Fritz Barreau #1025
Christy Stiles #1024

Thank you for your continued service!