

THE PULSE

HCFAS-
PROUDLY
VOLUNTEERING
SINCE 1967

THE HEARTBEAT OF THE HUNTINGTON COMMUNITY FIRST AID SQUAD

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



Happy February!!

Hope everyone is doing well.

As all of you know, the first 30 days of the year have been difficult and challenging for your Board and Operational Officers. In keeping with complete transparency, I would like to provide a summary as to where we stand today:

1. HCFAS has received a Statement of Deficiency (SOD) from the Department of Health, based on a member providing patient care on expired credentials. In response, we have provided the DOH with a detailed description of proactive measures being taken and engaged legal counsel to ensure this will never happen again.
2. Additionally, our Chiefs and Operational Officers:
 - Have laminated all of your cards, and mandated they be on your persos on all calls.
 - Will be requiring that checkouts be done with regularity to be prepared for future DOH random spot checks either at our building or at Huntington Hospital.
 - Will be recommending such other regulations that they feel may be necessary to ensure our continued excellence.

I am very confident that the proactive measures that Chief Como and his team put in place will ensure and solidify the oversight we need moving forward.

If anyone has any questions, it would be my pleasure to speak with you or your shift to answer any questions or concerns. Please let me know and I will make myself available to come down to the building to discuss it with your group as a whole. My email address is sethfischer11@gmail.com, and my cell is 631-697-6286, just say the word.

President's Report- Seth Fischer (cont'd)

In closing, I would like to remind everyone to stay positive, stay focused, and know that we will get through this! We will never let anything happen to the greatest organization in the world, with the greatest group of volunteers.

Love you guys!!!

Seth Fischer

Chief's Report - Michael Como

Happy February everyone! Just like that, the year is rolling along. I've spent this past month getting acquainted with the duties of Chief and had the opportunity to see the 2019 Officers and the membership in action. I am tremendously grateful for all of the hard work and time you contribute to HCFAS.

I'm sure some of you are wondering why the Captains have been asking members for copies of their EMT cards and drivers licenses. The reason is twofold: 1) To protect you the riding member and, 2) To protect our agency as a whole. Once we have updated credentials from all of you, we will be laminating them and giving them back so you can have them on you when you ride. This will keep you and HCFAS in compliance with NYSDOH Part 800 requirements and protect us from NYSDOH enforcement actions.

Moving along to a more fun topic...there may be no snow on the ground here on Long Island, but there is plenty of it on the mountains of the Northeast. Lehti Laas was kind enough to organize a squad ski trip to Jiminy Peak which will be taking place February 23rd. The Squad will be picking up the tab for a lift ticket and transportation to and from the mountain. The trip will only happen if 40 people submit check. So if you are interested, please put a check in the "Ski Trip" mailbox. The checks for \$70 needs to be made payable to HCFAS. The check will be returned to you on the bus. I hope to see you all on the mountain!

Thank you again for all of the hard work you do. As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

1st Deputy Chief – Elizabeth Wuestman

Great Job to all of those who have already handed in their certifications and licenses so that we could make laminated copies! Anyone that has not already done so, please put a copy of your EMT-B/CC/P cards and license (drivers only) in my first deputy mailbox. This is part of your uniform and your responsibility to wear on your person at all times while operating at the squad.

I also want to say thank you to all of those who have reached out to update their personnel information in SCM, to ask questions, and to resolve any issues they may have. I am available 7 days a week 24/7 and am happy to help.

Our standby committee is hard at work filling stand-by requests and keeping up positive working relationships with our neighboring EMS agencies. Probationary members: if you are looking for events as well as all members, reach out to Eric Nazinitzky or Julia Vodopia, they definitely have stand-by opportunities for you. Whether it is stand-bys for HFD or HMFD Fire academy trainings or installation dinner coverage for surrounding departments, they need drivers, crew leaders and first aiders!

We are only a month into 2019 and so much is getting accomplished administratively. Anyone that knows me is well aware of how much I love organization and cleaning!

Mid quarter is just around the corner (February 14th), so try to take a look at your hours and finger reads so that you can make adjustments as needed. If you missed a shift, come in early, leave late, or pick up an additional shift. I promise you are needed and it is greatly appreciated!

2nd Deputy Chief – Ryane Como

Thank you to Mark Brenner for holding a 2 hour non-core CME on Part 800 after the January GMM.

Thank you to John Mancino and Fiona Witkowski for coordinating "Stop the Bleed" on January 17th. We had a great turnout with over 50 participants including many from other agencies.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday February 6th at 1900 there will be 2 hour non-core CME by LI PREP on "Synthetic Drugs: The Dangers to First Responders." Please RSVP to jmancino@optonline.net or Fiona.witkowski@gmail.com.

2nd Deputy Chief – Ryane Como (cont'd)

March 12th 1900-2100 Colby Rowe will be here from Stony Brook Hospital for a Trauma Pre-Notification and Call Review presentation. Please RSVP to second.deputy@hcfas.org if you plan to attend so that food can be ordered accordingly. Dr. Vosswinkel, the chief of trauma at SBH, will hopefully join Colby. They will be reviewing our PCRs from the past year of trauma patients transported to SBH.

Friendly Reminder:

Please be sure that you are uploading EKGs from the Lifepaks into the ePCR. This can be done by transmitting from the Lifepack to "epcr" and then uploading it on the vitals tab from the cloud. If you run into transmission issues or need a refresher on how to retrieve vitals from the Lifepack archives, please reach out to me. Thank you!

3rd Deputy Chief – David Kaufman

In remembrance of President Lincoln (birthday Feb 12):

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863

3rd Deputy Chief – David Kaufman (cont'd)

Please keep these valiant words in mind as you go about your business this month. Anyone who memorizes and recites the Gettysburg Address back to me will receive a hearty congratulations and a mystery prize.

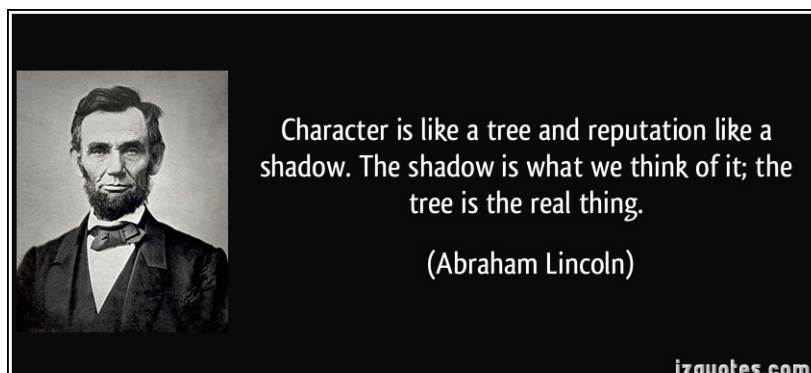
Quick thank yous from January- for assistance with moving vehicles to/from various repair shops: Paul Bayer, Israel Cortes, Brandon Eybergen, Esteban Lopez. Bobby Loysch for replacing the NYS registration stickers. Paul Bayer for repairing ALS cooler locks. Liz Mohr and Lauren Connolly for retrieving equipment from 80 to stock 89 as a responder vehicle again. Your extra time was very much appreciated!

Here are some highlights from January. 16, our newest ambulance, went back into regular service after a long wait on parts. Our Lifepaks and Lucas devices were all serviced and should be in top shape.

Upcoming, we have a company installing Wi-Fi/GPS in 82 and repair on 80 should be completed soon. 18 and 19 should be returning in the next couple weeks after sizable repairs. More CO detectors are on the way and spare portable oxygen regulators will be ordered shortly.

Now for a couple of vehicle reminders: we had a number of accidents in January. There are things we can do to reduce the risk. If you are not 100% sure you can successfully back the ambulance into a tight space or complete any kind of maneuver, don't do it! Or at a minimum, use a spotter. Even minor accidents come at a cost to the Squad, and increase the difficulty of bringing our fleet up to a higher standard.

A calm demeanor goes a long way. Be kind, gentle and patient with our patients; and be kind, gentle and patient with our equipment. Our patients can interpret our body language and if we are rushed and careless we are likely to increase their anxiety, while damaging or forgetting our equipment. If you pack up calmly, and proceed carefully (as appropriate), our patients will be able to relax as much as possible and have a more comfortable ride while we have everything we need for the next call.



Chief Dispatcher - Michael Barker

I have enjoyed my first month back as Chief Dispatcher. It is a very different job than it was since I last did it in 2003-2004.

When I made my rounds to all the shifts during my first week on the job, an overriding concern from many dispatchers was they were uncertain who was on the ambulance. Please, Crewleaders, when you pick up the incident sheet, tell the dispatcher who is going on the call. We need to know so we can give everyone LOSAP credit in the CAD and, by deduction, know who is still in the building to respond to upcoming calls. If someone joins you on scene, please tell us when you return so we can give them credit for the call as well.

Dispatchers, some riding members asked that you provide them with the name of the store or establishment, particularly if they are responding from the hospital and do not have the incident report. If you are sending the ambulance to 1100 East Jericho Turnpike, please say "Stop and Shop." A driver can find the scene quicker if you tell them it is Taco Bell as well as 1898 New York Avenue.

When adding personnel to the call in the CAD, please remember to add "Rescue" next to the name of anyone doing a backup call. It is no longer necessary to attach "driver" or "dispatcher" or anything other than "Rescue" to the personnel list.

If the ambulance does **not** transport, you need to add a reason on the "Signal" drop down menu. Add "Call Cancelled, No Pt. Found, RMA, Unfounded, or Signal 50" to the incident. Please do **not** use "Neg Transport." That does not answer the question. If you feel additional information is warranted, please add it to the "Description" box on the drop down menu.

If you have a signal 24, after returning the call to MedCom, please fill out the Mutual Aid Log Sheet #149. Make 5 copies and put in the mailboxes as directed on the bottom.

We are having dispatch classes regularly for all levels of training. If you feel you would like a refresher, or perhaps just a one-on-one to answer some questions, please let me know. I will be more than happy to stop by on your shift or a mutually convenient time.

Company 1 – Captain Bill Connolly

SUNDAY

No Report.

Company 2 – Captain Kelly Murphy

MONDAY

I would like to start off by saying we are 24 free on Monday. Thank you so very much to my Co 2 members, the wonderful Co8 members that continually come in and fill shifts , to name a few Keith Tetrault, Pam Brenner Davis, Liz Mohr, Tim Quigley Jack Kovalsky, Sam Ryan, Bedel Saget and Nancy Courtemanche (please forgive me if I left anyone out). Also the members that answer up to calls on a regular basis: Andrew Giusto, Bobby Loysch, Tom O'Leary, Seth Fisher, Mike Como and Jon Domanick.

I would also like to congratulate Andrew Giusto on becoming a Grandad, again. Andrew is not a Monday member but he is well known and loved. Andrew may God bless you and your family always.

What Monday needs;

0700 1st due CL, 2nd due DR, FA's

1100 1st due CL/DR, 2nd due CL , ALS, FA

1500 1st due ALS, 2nd due DR, FA

1900 2nd due DR,CL,ALS and FA

2300 1st due ALS, 2nd due ALS and FA.

Please reach out to me if you are ever available to cover these spots.

Kelly Murphy
Monday Day Captain

Company 3 – Captain Elizabeth Mohr

TUESDAY

Thank you to everyone who has helped out in the last month! It's been a busy first month, including 25 calls on the first day. Big thank you to all the extra people who have come in to help out, Bobby, Jake, Esteban, Melissa, Dale, Lauren, Casey, Eric, Fiona, Kristin (T and V), Seth, and everyone else who has come out to help.

Help is always needed on Tuesday's, especially the 2300 shift and the 1100 shift. If anyone is available please let me know. Also, please remember to have your cards and license on you while riding and to complete your checkouts.

Thank you again!
Liz

Company 4 – Captain Katie Donegan

WEDNESDAY

Endless gratitude to those of you who continuously come down on Wednesdays, you make this job much easier for me each and every week. Thank you to Bob Biersack, Steven Benjamin, Seth Fischer, Mike Como, Fiona Witowski, Hank Waldron, Israel Cortes, Andrew Giusto, Andrew Taylor, Brandon Eybergen, Casey O'Riordan, Jake Levinsky, Esteban Lopez and MANY others that I'm sure I'm forgetting for all of your help. As many of you probably know, Wednesdays are always in need of help. The 0700, 1100 and 1500 have major gaps in first due crews and always need extra hands. If anyone is ever interested in switching shifts or taking on an extra one, my phone is ALWAYS on and I will take any help I can get.

As the weather is getting colder and colder- stay safe out there and stay warm! Thank you for everything you all continue to do day in and day out!

Katie

Company 5 – Captain John Mancino

THURSDAY

I want to thank everybody for their support and dedication to the squad during the transition process of new officers like myself coming on board. Without all the support from you there is no way to be successful with our mission to the community we serve. I especially want to thank those of you for talking me off the cliff on several occasions, you know who you are!!

A big shout out to Fiona Witkowski for re-energizing the QA/QI training with the Stop Bleed Program. We had over 60 participants from agencies all over Suffolk County showing them what a great agency we are and how dedicated we are to EMS in our community. I especially want to thank the Chiefs last year and this year for their support of these efforts. Keep in mind we have another good CME coming up on Synthetic Narcotics. This one will be on February 6, and looks to be another great presentation. We also put this on the Suffolk County EMS calendar so feel free to invite other first responders that you know.

Thursdays need a lot of help. I'm really hoping company eight members can help us out. Squad SOP does say four hours per week on the day shift, 8 hours every other overnight. Any members on any shifts who "LOVE TO RIDE" or need to make up time please reach out to me.

Thursday 1100 had a very unusual medivac call. A person was found down in the street from unknown circumstances bleeding from the head. Aviation was already in route and the crew was prepared to make the transfer. Everything they did was textbook perfect. I reached out to the flight medic who I know, and she said, "everyone did a great job and everybody was very easy to work with" which is not something she always experiences. Some great pictures appeared on social media

Company 5 – Captain John Mancino (cont'd)

THURSDAY

of HCFAS getting the job done. As it turned out this patient had severe brain trauma and went to the appropriate level one trauma hospital (SBUMC) per protocol. Thank you for the great action by the crew. One of the most exciting things from that call was our new member Brett catching a medivac on his very first ambulance call. I don't remember my first call but I know it was not that exciting.



A lot has been in the news and first responder trade journals about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). PTSD is becoming more and more accepted mainstream and it no longer carries the stigma it once had. Let's be there for each other. At the kitchen table or in the bunk room, if you notice a change in an individual's behavior or mood, be on the lookout for these five warning signs of PTSD:

- Isolation from others
- Disturbed sleep
- Increased irritability
- Decreased interest in significant activities
- Self-destructive or reckless behavior

If anybody is upset, bothered, concerned or you just want to vent about a call, please talk about it. Grab a friend, kick the cops out of the back room and talk about it. Crew leaders, have a debriefing with the team after a serious call. Realize you are not alone, we have all been there. I can tell you from personal experience going it alone does not work. Suffolk County EMS does offer help in these circumstances. Please feel free to reach out to any chief or officer if you would like their services.

I'm looking forward to a good year. I'm sure I've made some mistakes in my first month, but I'm sure many of you will help me work through them.

Stay safe everyone.

John Mancino #1494

Company 6 – Captain Kathy Castillo

FRIDAY

No Report.

Company 7 – Andrew Taylor

SATURDAY

Saturday (Company 7) February 2019. We have **0** signal 24 (making the YTD total **0**)

Company 7 members, Thank You, for all you do. I'm very proud to be your Saturday Day-Captain and working with all of you. The year started great with most of company 7 photos were taken and placed near my desk. So many of you have gone above and beyond by staying extra time or doing extra shifts to ensure the day was staffed. There are also countless members that came in consistently to fill in open spots or answer up on signal 3s. Those members are Chief Michael Como, 2nd Deputy Chief Ryane Como, Jake Levinsky, Esteban Lopez, Richard Cortes, Melissa Anastos, Andrew Giusto, Matthew Valle, Douglas Mayers, Brian Canty, Jeffery Brenner, Jonathan Dominick, and Kimberly Prestin. If I did forget anyone I do apologize. Thank you all.

I wanted to say Congratulation to EMT-B Lauren Aviles (1900) for receiving her Five Year pin. It is great to have you on Company 7 as you trained our members and post 215 members. We are proud of you Lauren, as you have trained new members coming on and helping out on other shifts.

I also wanted to say Congratulations to our NEW EMT-B Casey O'Ridan (2300) #46895. Casey had her sit down with Tim the ACL Coordinator to start training to become a crewleader. Thank you, Tim and best wishes Casey as your become a strong BLS provider.

I wanted to Congratulate Mary Sisinni for being granted twenty (20) Year Exempt Membership. Thank you, for all you do as you continue to train our Dispatchers from last year and this year.

Saturday continues to need help throughout the day, especially the overnight. If anyone is ever available to help out, please let me know.

As of now Company 7 has answered 46 calls. Again, thank you. Be safe

There will be a ski trip for HCFAS Members only on Saturday, February 23rd 2019. There is information posted in the ready room. Minimum 40 members needed for the bus. SIGN UP!

Notes from Board Secretary Bob Franz

NYS Income Tax Claim for Volunteer Firefighters' & Ambulance Workers' Credit for 2018 – Bob Franz

You can claim the \$200 refundable credit for 2018 on the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance **Form IT-245**. As per the instructions, **you cannot claim the credit if you receive a real property tax exemption that relates to your volunteer service under Real Property Tax Law**. The ambulance workers' credit is available to full-year NYS residents who are active volunteer ambulance workers for the entire tax year for which the credit is claimed. A copy of the Form IT-245 & instructions is posted on the bulletin board. If you have any technical questions, consult your independent tax advisor.

10 % Property Tax Exemption – Bob Franz

The filing deadline with the Town of Huntington Assessor is Friday March 1, 2019 for property tax year 12/01/19 to 11/30/20. Members who are currently receiving the 5 year or 20 year tax exemption will be recertified by the Squad by the deadline date. Current recipients who moved or sold their home prior to March 1, 2019, please drop a note with your detail information in Bob Franz's mail box. If you moved and purchased another home, you must fill out a new application form for your new residence.

Members who will be eligible for the first time (achieved at least 5 years or more of service by 3/1/19 and own a home-(title must transfer by 3/1/19), please complete an application form and place it in Bob Franz's mailbox before Friday February 8, 2019. To be eligible, your name or your name and your spouse's name must be on the property deed. The property must be your prime residence and be in the Town of Huntington and you must have 5 years of active squad service by March 1, 2019.

For members with 20 or more years of service by March 1, 2019, the property can be located anywhere in Suffolk County (Call Bob Franz at 631 421-9121 or email robo4200@hotmail.com for specific details).

Note for members currently receiving the property tax exemption: if you do not want the Squad to renew your property tax exemption on 3/1/19 because you intend to take the \$200 NYS income tax credit for calendar year 2020, please put a note in Bob Franz's mailbox prior to February 9th.

LOSAP 2018 Points – Bob Franz

The 2018 LOSAP Point listing posted on the bulletin board is being updated periodically. It is requested that each member review their points and report in writing any discrepancies to the LOSAP point committee. All review trainings had to be completed & submitted by December 31, 2018 to be eligible for LOSAP points for 2018.

Notes from Board Treasurer Brian Canty

Just a reminder

ARTICLE V SECTION 1 – DUES

The active membership is required to pay an annual dues of \$3.00. It is due and payable by January 1st. Those members who are not paid up by February 1st are in arrears, and are ineligible to vote, or attend any social functions, and will be so notified by the Treasurer in writing, stating that this is a final notice, and that if payment is not received by March 1st, the member is automatically expelled without further notification. Members expelled for non-payment of annual dues may be reinstated only upon submission of a new application as described in Article III, Section 2.

Message from Special Events Committee Chair Brian Canty

Please be advised that the Installation Dinner Tables has been placed on the big board in the ready room. **Tables are a maximum of 12 Guests. Please write your table arrangements on these pages. This way everyone can see who is sitting where and there will be no duplicates.**

Please verify that whomever you assign to your table has responded.

Do not submit your requests to me, please fill in the tables on the posted board.

Calendar of Events

Check out these upcoming special events. Show your HCFAS pride by participating in events and supporting our organization and your fellow Members!

BOD Meeting	February 7
GMM	February 11
Officers Meeting	February 12
BOD Meeting	February 21



*Show your HCFAS pride!
We need your
participation at
meetings, parades, and
other events. It's a
great way to meet your
fellow Members!*

Message from 50th Anniversary Chair Martha Brenner

ATTENTION ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. The 50th Anniversary Journal has been completed. Many of you have expressed interest in obtaining a copy. The Board of Directors has approved distribution to associate members as follows:

There is no cost if you pick up your copy at headquarters.

If we need to mail the book to you we are asking for \$10 to cover postage. Send your check payable to HCFAS and your mailing address to:

HUNTINGTON COMMUNITY FIRST AID SQUAD
HISTORIAN MARTHA BRENNER
2 RAILROAD STREET
HUNTINGTON STATION, NY 11746



If you are life inactive or 20 year exempt and you did not receive a copy, or if you have any questions please contact me: email marthabrenner236@gmail.com or call me at 631-432-4958

Message from Driver Training Committee Jeffrey Brenner

As to always keep our focus on improvement through training and education I am going to make an effort to highlight training areas and documents. This month I have pulled a section from the bylaws and the sops.

Standard Operating Procedures

Article 5, section 3: Drivers and First Responder Driver (pages 34 to 38)

1. *Check-out of vehicle. A. The appropriate checkout sheet must be used. The vehicle is to be checked immediately upon arrival for your duty tour. If you wish to check out the on-duty rig prior to your duty tour beginning, let the on-duty Driver know that you will be doing so, but do not touch the mirrors or the seat until your duty tour begins. (Review the Checkout sheet). B. Any problems with the vehicles must be reported to the Day Captain and the Third Deputy Chief. You as the Driver have the authority to remove any vehicle from the line for mechanical problems, but the above mentioned people must be notified. You must post a note on the vehicle stating the date, time and problem. C. The on-duty Driver must fill any vehicle that is under one-half full on any tank.*

As the leadership talks about the need for checkouts here is the process for completing a driver checkout and a reminder that you are required to complete the driver checkout form.

Bylaw's: Section 17 – DRIVERS (page 10)

Drivers shall be certified by the First Deputy Squad Chief. The driver for a particular shift will be appointed by the appropriate Captain, or in his absence, by the Crewleader. The Chief and the Board of Directors will have veto power over the certification of any member as a driver. To be certified as a driver, a member must be 21 years of age and possess, as a minimum, a valid New York State Class D Drivers License (or equivalent), and a valid New York State Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) certification.

Please remember to keep you certifications and NYS Drivers License current and valid! We are all subject to these documents and they explain a lot about the processes of the organization.

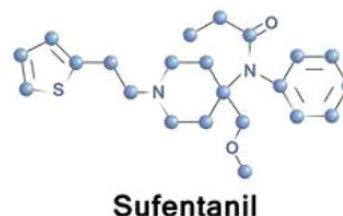
Thank you and drive safely!

Jeffrey Brenner #1135

Driver Training Chair



SYNTHETIC DRUGS



The Dangers to First responders.

Fentanyl, Carfentanil and what's coming up next????

THE HUNTINGTON COMMUNITY FIRST AID SQUAD in partnership with the LONG ISLAND PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (Long Island PREP) is hosting a lecture on the dangers being faced by first responders in this day of Synthetic Opiates on the street. **Presented by Paul Vecchione and Keith Scott**, learn what has happened in the past to EMS, PD/SWAT and DEA who have been accidentally exposed to these drugs. Understand where these drugs came from and how they are now being abused and the dangers first responders face. Learn to protect yourself, your crew and your family.

Wednesday February 6, 2019 at 7PM

PLEASE PARK IN THE RAILROAD COMMUTER PARKING ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE BUILDING.

Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2 Railroad Street
Huntington Station, NY 11746

Please RSVP/ Walk-ins Welcome
For additional information and registration
Fiona Witkowski EMT (Fiona.witkowski@gmail.com)
John Mancino RN, EMT-CC (jmancino@optonline.net)



<https://www.longislandprep.org>

Addition to Captain John Mancino's Article

Serving EMS providers in Suffolk, NY




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Search:

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- Education
- Equipment Recall
- In The Spotlight
- Fundraisers
- Memorial

Email Signup

Your Name:

Your e-mail Address:

Critical Incident Stress Management

A Chief Officer or his/her designee can arrange for a critical incident stress debriefing by calling the hot line at:

(631) 924-5435

The Suffolk County Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team was established in 1984 to provide critical incident debriefing and related services for Suffolk County's emergency response personnel. A critical incident is defined as "an event which negatively impacts the responders in such a way that it interferes with their performance at the scene as well as their overall well-being". Critical incident stress debriefings have been shown to mitigate the effects of a critical incident and to assist emergency response personnel with the healing process. The Team operates a 24-hour-a-day hotline for debriefings and related services.

All requests are handled promptly, often immediately. The Team's services must be requested by the emergency response agency; the Team will not respond to an event or arrange for a debriefing unless it has been requested to do so.

If an individual is having problems of a personal nature, please encourage them to contact the Team. **The Team does not take third party calls; the individual must call the Team.**

Qualified health professionals, assisted by trained peer counselors, (many of which have extensive volunteer experience with their local response agency) conduct all debriefings.

The Team provides the following services:

- *Demobilization*: The Team is called upon to respond to the event location to observe personnel as they perform their duties;
- *Defusing*: The Team speaks to the emergency response personnel before they are dismissed from the event;
- *Debriefing*: The Team meets in a group session with those who participated within 48-72 hours of the event.
- *One-on-one counseling* is also available through the hot line number.

If you would like a CISM presentation for your training course or response agency, please contact Ellen Komosinski at [\(631\) 852-4797](tel:6318524797) or by e-mail at : ellen.komosinski@suffolkcountyny.gov.

HCFAS GMM Events Awards Programs



BASICS – February 2019
Left Ventricular Assist Device (L.V.A.D.)
By Mark W. Brenner, CIC

Medicine continues to advance at a startling pace. One of those advances is the Left Ventricular Assist Device. This medical appliance is typically used for patients with end-stage heart disease who are waiting for a heart transplant. The device most often used is the Heart Mate continuous flow pump.

1. Which of the following is true about the Heart Mate continuous flow pump?
 - a. Providers are unable to assess a pulse
 - b. Unable to assess a blood pressure manually
 - c. A hum from the pump is audible.
 - d. All of the above.
2. Patients who have an LVAD are subject to the following restrictions:
 - a. No swimming
 - b. Cannot become pregnant
 - c. Cannot participate in contact sports
 - d. All of the above.
3. LVAD patients are prone to:
 - a. Infection
 - b. Bleeding
 - c. Stroke
 - d. LVAD malfunction
 - e. All of the above
4. Most EMS calls for the LVAD result from: _____.
5. If the LVAD patient is unresponsive, the AED is ok to use.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. If the LVAD patient is unresponsive, the LUCAS device is ok to use.
 - a. True
 - b. False
7. Who would you call to authorize CPR approval?
 - a. The LVAD coordinator from Stony Brook
 - b. Medical Control

ANSWERS: 1D, 2D, 3E, 4LVAD malfunction, 5A, 6B, 7B

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Jim Barcoy, Paul Bayer	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andrew Campagnola						Ann Donegan
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Ryane Como			Mike Capotosto		Kathy Leonard	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Kathy Castillo			Jack Crane	Gerardo Vasquez		
24	25	26	27	28		
		Debbie Rudilosso				