

## ***Tenth Annual EMS Week Contest Sponsored by South Dakota EMS for Children***

Could your service use some new equipment to expand your abilities as an EMS provider? If your answer is yes, please read this letter carefully to see how you can make it happen.

**In support of National EMS Week, South Dakota Emergency Medical Services for Children is offering \$1,000 in cash awards to the South Dakota EMS services that are winners in this contest to promote EMS in their community.**

**\*\*This contest is exclusive to South Dakota EMS services. \*\***

**Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week 2009 will be celebrated throughout the nation May 17-23, 2008.**

National EMS Week will feature hundreds of grassroots activities coast-to-coast that will be planned around this year's theme, "**EMS: A Proud Partner in Your Community**" which underscores the commitment and dedication of the 750,000 EMS providers who serve their communities.

Throughout EMS Week, state and local planners will hold activities honoring paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders, fire fighters, and the police. EMS providers also will educate the public about injury prevention, safety awareness, and medical emergencies.

Emergency Medical Services Week 2009 will bring together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of the medical "front line."

### **Special Day During the Week-Long Observance**

#### **May 20, 2009 - Annual Emergency Medical Services for Children Day.**

This annual observance draws attention to the specialized need for pediatric emergency care to ensure that every child in the nation receives the highest quality emergency care possible.

#### **May 23, 2009, 7pm – Roanoke, VA – National EMS Memorial Service**

The National EMS Memorial Service is a nondenominational ceremony held each year to honor those men and women of America's EMS systems who have lost their lives in the line of duty. During the ceremony, family members, friends, co-workers, EMS and political leaders, and colleagues from EMS agencies from around the nation come together to remember their loved ones and colleagues. The day incorporates the National Moment of Silence at 20:00 hours EDT. For more information, call 804-749-8191 or visit <http://nemsms.org>

**Every community is different.** Try to target activities to your own unique regional concerns. By looking at your community to find the areas of greatest need, you will give your EMS Week activities more focus and stronger impact. Many educational topics are supported by the kit materials. For example, you might consider using the Children's Activity sheets included in the kit for a school visitation program or assembly targeted to elementary school students. Have handouts available at your EMS Week events. To help target several audiences, this kit includes public education materials covering a variety of topics.

**Don't forget these important steps:**

**Support.** Invite paramedics, dispatchers, emergency physicians, nurses, EMTs, firefighters and others to participate in your event. In addition to recognizing the services of EMS providers, you are giving the public the opportunity to learn more about the EMS system. Consider holding a "Meet the Lifesavers" open house or an "EMS Awareness" fair. These events are a great opportunity for EMS personnel to explain the valuable role they play on the EMS team.

**Sponsorship.** Invite organizations, local businesses, or other area EMS systems to sponsor your event. Combining resources is a great way to host an EMS Week event and attract new audiences-see the Planning Guide. Local businesses are often eager to help-sponsoring equipment displays, door prizes, and free health clinics, or publishing articles in their employee newsletters and ads in local newspapers. You might ask retail businesses to run banner ads or to distribute circulars during EMS Week.

**Participation.** Invite targeted groups such as children, local businesses, or seniors to join your celebration. Think about the concerns and interests of specific audiences, and how you might best reach them. Many EMS Week participants look at the week as an opportunity to offer special programs to their communities, or to provide services such as free safety inspections, glucose screenings, and medical identification programs.

For more information or to obtain an EMS Week kit please visit ACEP's EMS Week Web site at: <http://www.acep.org/emsworld>

**For additional EMS Week Contest information or additional EMS Week resource materials contact Amy Marsh at South Dakota EMS for Children (605) 328-6668 or email [amy.marsh@usd.edu](mailto:amy.marsh@usd.edu).**

**Please visit our website for more information and resources.**

**[www.sdemsc.org](http://www.sdemsc.org)**