2016 Tri-State Emergency Responder Conference Sessions

Friday Fire Presentations

The Art of Go/No Go!, Mike Gagliano
Successful fire-fighting is all about making the right decisions, and the toughest decision you'll ever make as company officer is whether to enter the involved structure or not: Go or No-Go? Using video, simulation and real world experience, you'll learn to utilize a simple framework of four varying profiles - rescue, fire, building and tactical - to focus your decisions, draw on your experience and react to changes in the dynamic fire environment. This is an intuitive approach that evolves throughout your career. During the class, each participant develops their own notebook and begins the process of reacting to what they see, learning from what they hear from other students and leaving with a model that is easy to replicate in their own firehouse and department.

Passion, Tools, and Cartoons, Paul Combs, co-taught with Mike Gagliano
Like any fire truck, every firefighter possesses a unique set of tools that can be used to achieve a goal or to make a positive difference. So it is with leadership. You will be encouraged, in an interactive environment, to explore the qualities of good leaders, recognize the value of diverse leadership styles, and discover your own unique ability to influence and lead the people around you. Throughout the class, Paul will be drawing a cartoon based on the contributions of all participants. At the end, one lucky member from the class will get the original, signed by the artist and instructor.

The Art of Making a Difference, Paul Combs
Paul Combs has been creating fire service editorial cartoons for over a decade and has the stories, successes, failures, and backlash scars to show for it! During Drawn By Fire: The Art of Making a Difference, you will get an inside look at Paul's creative process and see what makes one of his zany cartoons come to life. Paul will also show a selection of work that has made a difference in his career and share the cartoons that have evoked the strongest reactions — the good, the bad... and the hilarious! However, there's more to this presentation than a showcase of cartoons. Like any fire truck, every firefighter possesses a set of tools that can be used to achieve a goal or mission. This class will explore your ability to make a difference and you will be encouraged, in a positive environment, to seek out your unique voice to influence and lead the people around you. Paul will present an energetic and inspiring class that will engage and motivate you to set these skills into motion. Join Paul in his visual and inspirational journey and see what makes Drawn By Fire something to get fired up about!

Friday EMS Presentations

Sepsis and EMS: The South Denver Experience, Mike Grill
In 2009 the South Denver EMS team developed and implemented an EMS Sepsis alert program for fire/EMS agencies in Colorado. The results? If EMS properly identifies and alerts the receiving facility of the pending arrival of a severely septic patient, mortality in that subset of patients can decrease from 26% to 13%. This presentation describes the sepsis alert development process, education, protocol implementation, the role of the receiving hospitals and the research making it an award-winning program as identified by UCLA's Pre-hospital Research forum.

Pre-Hospital Intubation: Fighting for Its’ Life!, Mike Grill
By tubing our patients are we sending our patients down the tube? One can hardly pickup an EMS magazine or medical journal without stumbling on to an article addressing the controversy regarding the use of intubation in the pre-hospital setting. Many feel intubation is fading away — especially considering the existence of quicker advanced airway alternatives and recent research demonstrating that "the golden airway standard" may not be all that golden! How much longer will intubation be allowed in your EMS system? Don't be left in the dark when your medical director begins to question endotracheal intubation in your agency!
Case Studies In Pre-Hospital Care 2015, Mike Grill

Trauma, pulmonary emboli, and AAA are just a few of the case studies offered in this interactive class. The students will be challenged to use their knowledge, skills, and experience in this workshop with cases from actual calls experienced by the instructor in his EMS career. This class is for the serious EMS provider who really wants to test their patient assessment and treatment skills. If you want a class that you can sit down, relax, and dream about tomorrow, than this class is not for you.

Carbon Monoxide: Silent and Deadly!, Mike Grill

Carbon monoxide (CO) is the most commonly encountered and pervasive poison in our environment. It is responsible for more deaths than any other single poison, as well as suffering for those who survive a significant exposure. Delayed neurological syndrome (DNS), characterized by memory loss, confusion, and seizures, may occur in almost 50% of victims experiencing significant exposure to CO. Learn how to recognize and treat victims of CO poisoning using new technologies currently available to all EMS providers.

Medical Marijuana – What’s The Buzz About?, Mike Grill

With 17 states and the District of Columbia now having some form of medical marijuana legislation enacted and 2 states legalizing for public use, what is the impact for pre-hospital care? In this session, a case study is presented whereby a patient never having used cannabis before has a reaction to its effects. The history, science, pathophysiology, pharmacokinetics, and treatment of a person having an adverse reaction to medical marijuana is presented – including a discussion of various state and federal laws and how various states have enacted medical marijuana initiatives.

Ischemic and Hemorrhagic Stroke: Two Sides of the Same Coin, Dr. Joshua D. Stilley

Dr. Joshua Stilley from the University of Iowa Hospitals will examine the difference between ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes, and discuss pre-hospital management of both types of stroke. Students will understand and be able to identify the common complications and interventions necessary for appropriate treatment.

Ventilation - It Will Take Your Breath Away, Michael Kaduce

This class reviews critical strategies used in the pre-hospital setting to determine the adequacy of a patient’s ventilations and help determine the sustainability of the patient’s breathing. It will cover minute and alveolar ventilation, techniques to differentiate between common respiratory conditions, positive pressure ventilations and the effects of ventilation on cardiac output. The class will also review respiratory treatments including CPAP, PEEP, and automated transport ventilators. Students will put their assessment skills and knowledge to use in case studies that involve patients suffering from common respiratory conditions.

Everyone Goes Home: EMS Culture of Safety, Matt Fults

In a world in which EMS providers face many threats to their health, safety, and general well-being we must remain ever-vigilant in protecting ourselves and our patients. This class will focus on key aspects of EMS safety and the need for culture change in EMS. Participants will be able to identify common EMS practices that do not coincide with a culture of safety and review strategies for risk mitigation. It will include discussion about the culture of volunteer and professional EMS departments and review issues that plague culture change in each.

Saturday Fire Presentations

The House Rocks - The Place Everyone Wants to Work, Mike Gagliano

There is nothing quite like the environment of a firehouse. It can be the most incredible experience of your life or a miserable exile in purgatory. It can be a place of learning where skills are honed and techniques refined, or a stagnant cesspool of ineffective complacency. What is it that causes one firehouse to be brimming with camaraderie while just down the road at the next one there is dissension and drudgery? Learn five key elements that can turn any firehouse culture into one that enables firefighters to thrive and fulfill their calling – the place everyone wants to work.
Saturday EMS Presentations

The Elephant in the Room: When Medical Errors Go Bad, Jason Dush
Can you think of a time when you heard of, know of, or personally committed a medical error while proving care to a patient? Of course, we all can. The number of medical errors that are covered up, unnoticed or unreported is shocking, at best. In this enlightening class, you will journey through a series of incidents that uncover some of the most common medical errors and other contributing factors that affect patient outcomes.

EMS Management of our Elderly Population, Jason Dush
The elderly account for the most rapidly growing segment of the U.S. population, as life expectancy continues to increase. This patient population which presents some of the most complex medical and trauma issues impacts our pre-hospital, hospital and long-term acute care facilities. It is important to understand the unique issues related to caring for elderly patients to ensure they are managed appropriately. With any luck, you will be elderly someday, so come join this fascinating discussion of what life looks like for you in the future!

This is My Puzzle: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Jason Dush
Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) affect one out of every 68 children in the U.S., though it’s unclear whether the growing number of diagnoses reflect a real increase in the incidence of the disorders or result from improved detection. Managing sick or injured patients with Autism can be challenging. Are we prepared as EMS providers to manage patients who have pre-existing conditions that affect social acceptance? Come join our discussion and better understand the puzzle of the Autistic patient population from a professional and personal perspective.

Bath Salts-Beauty Or Beast, Jason Dush
The street drug called ‘Bath Salts’ is the latest addition to a growing list of synthetic stimulant substances people ingest or snort to get high. Unfortunately, health care and law enforcement professionals across the country are seeing an alarming number incidents involving bath salts that end in ER visits for cardiac issues, agitation, hallucinations, extreme paranoia, suicide, and murder. This class offers an in-depth look at the street level use of “bath salts” and the challenges providers may face when managing this rising patient population.

Size Does Matter: Obesity’s Impact on Pre-Hospital Care, Jason Dush
The term ‘bariatric’ has become common vocabulary in flight medicine and critical care transport in the past several years. Although the clinical implications of obesity are clear in the literature for in-hospital care, best practices for pre-hospital air and ground transport are still emerging and evolving. This class provides an important look into the challenges transport teams face with this special patient population, including pharmacology, medication calculation and administration, fluid resuscitation, airway management techniques, equipment, packing and transport.

Permissive Hypotension: Are Fluids Truly your Best Friend?, Jason Dush
Remember in EMT school when you learned a blood pressure of 120/80 was the target goal for all trauma patients? The “Golden Rule” treatment was MAST pants, 2 large bore IV’s with fluids wide open and lots of diesel. Recent studies have found that there is some benefit to allowing specific patients to experience some degree of hypotension in certain settings. Does the Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) on my monitor really matter to me? The current trend, in ambulances and emergency rooms, is to limit fluid resuscitation, at least until hemorrhage is controlled. Let’s discuss why our trauma patients are being managed drier than we have in past times.

What The Research Says, Michael Kaduce
This class engages students with current hot-button topics and trends in emergency medical services. It will review recently-published, peer-reviewed literature to help break down some of the controversies EMS personnel will face, both in the station and in the field. Topics include spinal immobilization, fluid resuscitation, hemorrhage control, rapid sequence induction, provider fatigue, and oxygen therapy. All provider experience levels are welcome, as evidence-based practice impacts all EMS professionals.
Owning the Outcome: Examining Pre-Hospital Resuscitation, *Matt Fults*

This class will focus on practices of resuscitation during cardiac arrest. We will look at current practice consistent with 2015 American Heart Association guidelines as well as potential future practices. In an evidence-based field with evidence-based guidelines, some practices are not so evidence-based, making for a spirited discussion about differing points of view.