

# THE BURN SHEET

## Documentation, Refusals and Lawsuits...eeeeww....

Most EMS lawsuits come to the courtroom on average two to three years after the incident. The only thing you have to back your actions up is your run sheet. You must do everything you can to make sure your run reports are:

**Accurate + Precise/concise + Comprehensive + Legible + Objective + Timely + Unaltered**

Think about and document:

When — page times, scene time, times on all procedures, ect.

Where — pt. position, “pt was moved...”

How — as in mechanism of injury

Who — includes all crew members present, family giving hx, bystanders, physicians giving orders, on scene RN’s or other “off duty” medical people involved

What — care of pt, attempts on procedures etc.

Use quotation marks to document what people said. Things not to include...your personal opinion, chart only what you observe.

Unfortunately, up to 90 % of all EMS lawsuits involve pts who were evaluated, but not transported.

### Ck list for refusals:

- do an assessment & document findings
- document hx of event
- document prior medical hx
- clearly offer transport
- contact medical control — you must call the NPMC Dr. on call or the ER Dr. before the pt signs the refusal. The Dr. may want to speak to the pt about the risks of no transport and the benefits of transport.
- write the report for the pt to read and understand and sign. Have pt and witnesses sign the back of all three copies of your run sheet.

Remember, your run sheet is a legal document! Care on your documentation can save a great deal of time and trouble down the road. Protect yourself!

### EMT-B CLASS

Thanks to everyone who helped recruit! We have 16 students, which will be a BIG help to all of us. Attached to the newsletter is a class schedule -- we could use help on the Saturday "skills" days either as patients/victims or proctors. We also need the same help on our additional "skills" day on Sunday starting at

1 pm. Please let Richard know if you can help at 234-3475. THANKS!

### FYI

#### Care Flight from St. Mary's

Care Flight will not respond to a call where CPR is in progress. Your only resource at that point is ALS rendezvous with DCAD.

## Annual Membership Meeting Feb. 2nd

All members, which includes our drivers & EMT's, are welcome to attend this annual meeting, held this year at the Crawford School Gym at 7 pm on Thursday, February 2nd. **We will have desserts and coffee with door prizes and a grand prize. Hope to see you there!**

**NORTH FORK AMBULANCE  
ASSOCIATION**

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PROVIDING  
EXCELLENCE IN  
EMERGENCY CARE  
IN THE NORTH  
FORK VALLEY,  
SINCE 1970

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# EVENT CALENDAR

## Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 2, Crawford School Gym, 7 pm

## Next Board Meeting

Thursday, March 2, 7 pm, Hotchkiss Ambulance Barn

## Continuing Education

Thursday, Feb. 9, 7 pm, Crawford Fire Barn

## Arrhythmia - Rhythm Recognition

Starting Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 pm

Charles Huffman from DCAD, Canteen Room

Memorial Hall, Hotchkiss. This six-week course will

consist of workings of the heart, some anatomy &

physiology, and rhythm recognition and interpretation.

This course will stretch and increase your knowledge  
of reading the heart monitor.

## Colorado Symposium on Emergency Care

June 1—4, 2006

Telluride, CO



### Weird facts from

Rick...

Table manners from

"50 Table  
Courtesies"

published in 1290:

"Refrain from falling  
upon the dish like a  
swine while eating,  
snorting disgustingly  
and smacking the  
lips."

"Do not spit over or  
on the table in the  
manner of hunters."

## Call Review with Dr. Funk

### Straight from the doc...

**Documentation** is the key word  
for this quarter. Please take a bit  
more time filling out your run re-  
port and make sure that:

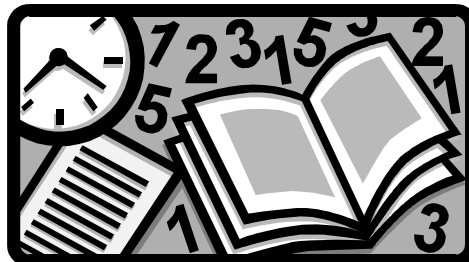
- document** run times
- document** if on-scene time is  
more than 20 minutes

-**document** complete vitals taken  
and retaken

-**if rendezvous** needed,  
document why

-**document** whether the treatment  
was helpful or not

-**document** pulses prior to splint-  
ing, after splinting and any  
time after the patient is  
moved



### And a note from the ER:

Make sure the pink copy of your run  
sheet you leave with the ER Staff is  
legible. If not, you must take the  
time to make a copy of the top sheet