



Notes from Call Review with Dr. Pruett

- Thanks to the training on use of the nebulizer, Albuterol use for Basics is now in place if you have had the training or can be signed off on the skill by Dr. P. For any difficulty breathing patients, get a good history, listen to lung sounds, take baseline vitals and call for Medical Direction.
- Other notes from Call review: Reminder: Head trauma + blood thinners= High level of suspicion/poor outcome for patients. Be on your guard!
- Blood draws are for the convenience of the ER staff and if not done properly will have to be repeated. Be sure you have the right procedure in place.

Be aware, be safe

Please carry with you a heightened sense of awareness when responding to any scene for an unresponsive patient, particularly if the call involves a person slumped over in a vehicle, bathroom, outbuilding or other small space. The person may have attempted chemical suicide by mixing common household chemicals to create hydrogen sulfide gas. This is a highly toxic and flammable gas. This type of activity is being seen across the country, with two cases in Colorado.

If you enter an area that smells like rotten eggs or has an almond odor, **exit the area**. You may see containers of household chemicals, a five gallon bucket or other improvised “containers” such as a sink, or the glove box of a car used to mix the chemicals. People who initiate

chemical suicide may, or may not, place warning signs on doors or windows to indicate the presence of deadly gas inside the space.

These individuals will require extrication by **trained Hazmat personnel with proper PPE and SCBA**. Once the victim is removed from the toxic space assessment of viability and the appropriate resuscitation attempts will then be made. If alive, the victim will be stripped and decontaminated with soap and water before being transported from the scene. Anyone who has been exposed to the vapors should be decontaminated with soap and water. Clothing should be removed and double bagged.

Your awareness is key in preserving your own life. Be aware, be safe.

Colorado Symposium on Emergency Care

Held this year June 11, 12, & 13 in Telluride, this conference features new and returning top-rated EMS speakers. If you would like to attend, please fill out the NFAA form “Financial Aid for training, conferences or EMT class” (available at each barn, and as a download on our website) and bring it to the April 1st Board meeting in Paonia or on May 6th at the Crawford Fire Station.

North Fork Ambulance Association

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Calendar

April 1, Board Meeting, 7 pm, Paonia Ambulance Barn

April 13, Continuing Education, 7 pm, Paonia Ambulance Barn, Trauma Assessment

June 11, 12, 13 Colorado Symposium on Emergency Care, Telluride

www.northforkambulance.com

AN ALL-VOLUNTEER EMS AGENCY
SERVING THE NORTH FORK VALLEY SINCE 1969

Paonia Staff for Review

As NFAA Staff members, your input is vital to this organization. Your review is a time to let the Board know how things are going for you and the NFAA. And it is a time to go over your efforts to meet the minimum standards as an active member of the NFAA. Reviews usually start around 8 pm, so you can arrive then, or at 7 pm for the start of the business meeting. Those choosing not to attend in person will be contacted by phone.

BELL, DOUG

NIERENBERGER, MARLENE

PITT, KEN

Board Bits

Please fill out a computer generated report every time the ambulance leaves the barn. If you do a hand written report for some reason, you must make arrangements to enter it into the computer as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please be diligent about rotating drugs at three months before expiration date.

Just for fun...

EMS has introduced trained service dogs to help cut costs. Canines have been used for police work, search & rescue, tracking, service dogs, and a variety of other tasks. Now they're assisting EMS and doing so at a much lower cost.

