

MISSOURI FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

July 2007

<http://msrc.pixeleffect.com/>

District Updates

District 1: District I new officers effective July 1:
George (G.W.) Hamilton – President;
Cheryl Hoerr - Vice President;
Sandy Uhlemeyer – Secretary;
Karen Lane - District Representative.
20th Annual Fall Meeting for 6 CRCEs will be held at Forest Park Community College in St. Louis on September 7, 2007.

District 2: No Report.

District 3: District 3 annual conference will be October 11th & 12th, 2007 in Jefferson City at the Truman Hotel & Conference Center.
New District 3 officers are:
Shawna Strickland - President
Dana Evans - Vice-President
Bob Crawford - Secretary
Linda Smith – Representative

District 4: Our last meeting was May 22nd. There was an educational presentation on "Understanding High Frequency Oscillatory Ventilation", presented by Troy Gordon, RRT, Clinical Specialist from Viasys Healthcare, 1 CEU was given for attendees. Our next meeting will be July 24th, 7:00pm at Chappell's Restaurant and Sports Museum, 323 Armour Rd. North Kansas City. The meeting will be sponsored by Odyssey Hospice, and the topic will be "The Role of the Respiratory Therapist in Palliative Care".

District 5: District V meeting was held on March 20th at Cape Girardeau Career & Technology Ctr. The guest speaker was Kevin Brown with Sepracor who gave an in-service titled "Xopenex Use in Bronchoconstriction" which was approved for 1 CEU. District V seminar will be held Aug 7th and 8th at the Career & Technology Ctr. District V elections for new officers will take place at the seminar.

Uninsured population hits 43.6 million in '06

In 2006, at least 43.6 million Americans, or 14% of the population, did not have health insurance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported today. Among working Americans aged 18-64, nearly 20% did not have health insurance in 2006, up from 18.9% in 2005. Starting at age 18, younger adults were more likely than older adults to lack health insurance, and men in most of the adult age groups were more likely than women to lack coverage. Approximately 9.3% of children under the age of 18 were uninsured in 2006, a significant decrease from nearly 14% in 1997, but an increase compared to 8.9% in 2005. The percentage of uninsured among the 20 largest states ranged from 7.7% in Michigan to 23.8% in Texas. Hispanics were most likely to be uninsured, at a rate of 32.1% in 2006, compared with 10.4% for non-Hispanic whites and nearly 16% for non-Hispanic blacks. The data were taken from the CDC's 2006 National Health Interview Survey, representing interviews in more than 100,000 households nationwide.

Source: Modern Healthcare's Daily Dose, written by Jennifer Lubell

MRSA more common than estimated

The rates of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA, a drug-resistant bacteria that can be deadly to patients with compromised immune systems, is eight to 11 times higher in hospital settings than previously estimated, according to a report released today by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology.

Researchers of the report, titled the *National MRSA Prevalence Study*, collected data on MRSA-identified patients from 21% of acute-care hospitals (or 1,237 facilities), with facilities from all 50 states participating in the study.

Researchers found death rates among patients with MRSA were 2.5 times higher than among patients with staph infections that were

susceptible to treatment with an antibiotic. The cost for treating MRSA-infected patients was also much higher than treating those with other healthcare-associated infections: \$35,367 compared with \$13,973.

MRSA now represents 60% of all healthcare-associated infections compared with just 2% in 1972, according to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reducing or eliminating MRSA infection, which is passed to patients through contact with unwashed hands or contaminated gloves and medical equipment, could substantially decrease the rates of death due to hospital-acquired infections, the association's epidemiologists said. The group's eight-point prevention guidelines for hospitals includes developing an MRSA risk-assessment program using past and current infections-rate data; developing a comprehensive surveillance program; enforcing handwashing hygiene and the wearing of appropriate barrier clothing among healthcare providers and other workers who come in contact with patients; and isolating MRSA-infected patients.

Source: Modern Healthcare: Daily Dose. Author: Shawn Rhea

Toxin detected after 1 shift in smoky bar: study

Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke in bars and restaurants can result in measurable levels of a toxin in workers' bodies that is known to cause lung cancer, U.S. researchers said on Thursday.

They found nonsmoking workers in Oregon who worked a single shift in a bar or restaurant that allowed smoking were more likely to have a detectable level of NNK -- a carcinogen linked with lung cancer -- in their bodies than those who worked in nonsmoking establishments.

"NNK is only found in the body as a result of either smoking or breathing other people's smoke," said Michael Stark of the Multnomah County Health Department in Portland, Oregon, whose study appears in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Stark and colleagues studied 52 nonsmoking bar and restaurant workers who were exposed to smoke at work, and compared them to 32 similar nonsmoking workers from communities in Oregon that prohibited smoking in such places. For the study, participants, mainly young, uninsured women, gave urine samples before and after working at least four hours.

"As a group, four out of five of the nonsmokers who worked in a smoking environment had some detectable level of this deadly chemical in their body, and as a group, for every hour that they worked, that level increased by 6 percent," Stark said in a telephone interview.

Other studies have shown that nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke have about a 20 percent higher risk of lung cancer. They are also at a higher risk of asthma and perinatal complications such as sudden infant death syndrome.

"This adds to the very strong and growing body of evidence that second-hand smoke exposure is dangerous and people need to be protected," Stark said.

According to Stark, clean indoor air acts protect about 70 percent of workers from exposure to tobacco smoke.

Levels of environmental smoke in restaurants and bars are two to five times higher than in homes with smokers, they said.

Source: Reuters. Julie Steenhuysen; June 29, 2007.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN2830652920070629?sp=true>

Looking for CRCE's????

Check out the MSRC webpage under the "Meetings/ CRCE Opportunities" tab.

The AARC also has 3 programs that provide 9.0 CEU's available at NO COST for AARC members. For additional information, go to: http://aarc.org/headlines/free_crce/

Passy-Muir offers 5.0 free CEU's online regarding tracheostomy education. Go to the URL address below for access:

<http://www.passy-muir.com/ceu/>

John Rogers Memorial Scholarship Recipients

The John Rogers Memorial Scholarship committee was pleased to recognize three Missouri respiratory therapy students with awards this year at the MSRC annual conference in May. Ashley Edwards, a student at the University of Missouri, received first place for her paper about the hemodynamic effects of mechanical ventilation. Sherry Whiteman (Missouri Southern State University) and Michael Banning (University of Missouri) shared second place awards for their original papers. Sherry wrote about the release of histamine from lung cells and its impact on disease treatment. Michael's paper focused on capnography as a useful diagnostic tool.



Pictured: Michael Banning (2nd place), Sherry Whiteman (2nd place) and Ashley Edwards (1st place).

MSRC Information/Concern

Contacts:

The Director-at-Large positions of the MSRC are the positions elected to represent the members of the Society at the Board of Directors meetings. If you have any issues or concerns you would like the MSRC to address, please bring them to the attention of the Directors-at-Large. They are:

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Missouri Board for Respiratory Care Contact:

If you have any questions about CEU's or your professional license, direct those questions to the Missouri Board for Respiratory Care (MBRC). Phone is 573-522-5865, Fax: 573-526-3489, email: rcp@pr.mo.gov