

Friday Night (under the) Lights...

Twenty - twenty



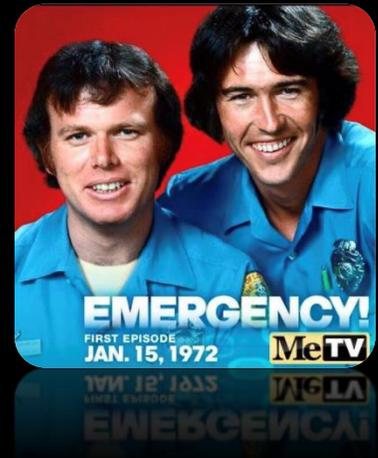
Happy Friday...

I hope everyone is doing well tonight. I happen to know for a fact that many of you had a long week this past week. A lot going on in the world of EMS...

The good news is, it's Friday. I realize some of you have to work today, so it may not be *quite* the same kind of Friday as a non-work Friday (or vice-versa?) but I hope it's a *Happy Friday*, regardless...

The month of January has a few fascinating anniversaries that are important to EMS – whodathunk (clinical term) the anniversaries would actually align around the same time. *Better turn up the creepy music.*

So, this past Wednesday (January 15th) was the 48th Anniversary of the debut of the show EMERGENCY!. The series starred Randolph Mantooth and Kevin Tighe as two paramedic firefighters in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. They worked on Squad 51, a medical and rescue crew of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.



Their hospital partners were based at Rampart General Hospital.

The widely popular show (hello, duh – it's EMS...) followed the daily lives of a what were a relatively unknown group of professionals as they cared for patients in building collapses, plane crashes, fires, massive heart attacks and all the standard dramatic life-threatening emergencies we see day after day...

Of note, the “weak and dizzy” calls and “unknown man down” and “generalized sick person” weren't invented yet – hence the high acuity of their calls...

I loved watching EMERGENCY!. How cool was it that you could transmit an EKG from beside some road directly into the doctors and nurses in the hospital! They could even get real-time physician orders for life-saving drugs like D50W (drug shortages weren't invented then either, as an aside).

Truth be told, the show aired at a time when ambulance coverage in the United States was rapidly growing and changing, and the role of the “paramedic” was emerging as a new profession. The series is credited with popularizing the concepts of EMS and paramedics in America.



The show even inspired several states and municipalities to develop new or expanded EMS systems.

EMERGENCY was the first US television show that gave the general public a fairly realistic view of what *could* be done in the streets (as opposed to having to bring an ill or injured patient directly to the hospital). As you can imagine, communities wanted THAT kind of service to take care of them in THEIR hometown...

The hospital, Rampart General, was actually modeled after Harbor – UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, California. Johnny & Roy communicated with the hospital via the BioPhone (not to be confused with the *BatPhone* used by Commissioner Gordon to summon you-know-who)



Johnny, Roy and all the staff at Rampart knew what they were doing. No one ever died on EMERGENCY. Everyone lived. Just like real life (insert big eye emoji...)!

I bet they had perfect Run Forms too...

And get this. The series ended in 1978. How did they end it?

Johnny & Roy were promoted to Captain! That promotion precluded them from continuing as paramedics, so they ended up leaving behind a profession that inspired so many people in real life.

Ironically, DeSoto had previously passed up promotion to Engineer, which would have also taken him away from the paramedics corps, in the Season 3 episode "Promotion".

Ugh. One wonders if a TV show impacted history based on one episode?

But, here's the deal. EMERGENCY truly was a quiet, powerful television drama that stimulated the development of contemporary EMS systems nationwide... It accelerated the growth of the profession we know & love today.

Happy 48th...

- **And 75 years ago ...**

Thanks to Tim Pickering who reminded all of us of the historic anniversary of the first US Helicopter rescue in New York.

75 years ago (I've done the math for you) on 15 January 1945, Jack Woolams was forced to bail out of a Bell P-59A-1-BE, 44-22616. He suffered a deep laceration to his head as he left the airplane. He lost his flight boots when the parachute opened, and on landing, had to walk barefoot through knee-deep snow for several miles to reach a farm house.



The deep snow prevented the company's ambulance (Bell had their own Company Ambulance?) from getting to Woolams. Bell Aircraft president Lawrence D. Bell sent the company's second prototype Bell Model 30 helicopter, NX41868, flown by test pilot Floyd Carlson, to transport a doctor, J.A. Marriott, M.D., to the location.



Another Bell test pilot, Joe Mashman, circled overhead in a P-63 King Cobra to provide a communications link.



Later in the day, an ambulance was able to get through the snow to take Woolams to a hospital.

This high profile event is widely regarded to be the first coordinated helicopter rescue in the US.

The Marriott-Carlson Award, still given annually by the Association of Air Medical Services, is named for the doctor and pilot in that first rescue flight.

Happy 75th...

- **What we can't see, can definitely hurt us...**

This one's really important.

Earlier today, the CDC announced it would begin an enhanced screening program for ill travelers in 3 US airports – San Francisco, New York (JFK) and Los Angeles. They are focusing on travelers from Wuhan, China.



The focus of the combined effort by CDC & Homeland Security Customs & Border Control, is to screen for the potential entry of persons infected with a newly identified form of respiratory virus. This activity is in response to an outbreak in China caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (2019 nCoV), with exported cases to Thailand and Japan.

The infections have been linked to a large seafood and animal market in Wuhan. The virus can cause a serious form of pneumonia.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people and then spread between people.



You may remember this is the mode of transmission identified in MERS and SARS. SARS became a significant illness in EMS staff in Toronto years ago.

The potential for human-to-human transmission of 2019-nCoV is currently unknown. BUT - Because of the potential large scale transmission, the CDC is initiating enhanced surveillance programs to identify any potential US entry.

What does this mean for us?

As with any newly emerging infectious disease, remember the critical importance of Universal Precautions.

In the case of 2019-nCoV, the focus is on respiratory protection. It's important to remember that washing your hands BEFORE applying a mask (something we don't always think about) is important to prevent contamination of the mask by your hands which is then applied to your face.

Although the transmission dynamics have yet to be determined, CDC currently recommends a cautious approach to patients under investigation for 2019-nCoV.

Such patients should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private area. Healthcare personnel should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and use eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield).

Immediately notify your healthcare facility prior to arrival.

As with the evaluation of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) during the Ebola threat, the CDC has identified a similar initial screening approach:

Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as a PUI in association with the outbreak of 2019-nCoV in Wuhan City, China.

1) Fever AND symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
–and in the last 14 days before symptom onset,

History of travel from Wuhan City, China

-or-

Close contact² with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.

2) Fever OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
–and in the last 14 days before symptom onset,

Close contact with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

We will be providing additional information as we learn more from the CDC. As always, reach out to your Clinical Leadership with any questions...

Side note – If you don't already have it, you may want to consider signing up for the CDC Health Alert Network (CDC HAN). It's a great way to get notified directly for any urgent healthcare issue from the CDC.

Go to <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/updates.asp> and follow the instructions. It's a handy way to know about nasty stuff early.

▪ **And, on a lighter, but pertinent note...**

Tom Baldwin, VP of Safety for GMR, recently sent out the requirements for facial hair and fit testing for respiratory protection. 2019 nCoV reminds us how important this really is.

AND – who ever knew facial hair had so many names? I'm a Circle Beard, for the record...



- **GMR Life...**

Meet Tucker.

A member of the GMR Therapy Dog family in Gulfport, MS.

Did you know the program includes CPR training?

(He's still working on the challenge of overlapping paw placement).



- **What the...?**

Meet Diego.



He is credited with saving his entire species from extinction.

Now ... This is a family FNuL so you'll have to Google on your own *how* he did it.

That clearly qualifies as tonight's WTH....



- Epilogue...

Mother superior tells two new nuns that they have to paint their room without getting any paint on their clothes.

One nun suggests to the other, "Hey, let's take all our clothes off, fold them up, and lock the door."

So they do this, and begin painting their room. Soon they hear a knock at the door. They ask, "Who is it?"

"Blind man!"

The nuns look at each other and one nun says, "What the heck, Sister. He's blind, so he can't see. What could it hurt?"

They let him in. The blind man walks in and says, "Well heIIloooo there, ladies. Where do you want me to hang the blinds?"

So, that's it from my World. Happy Friday.

Oh yeah. *Almost forgot.*

Today marks one more important day in history that's applicable to EMS.

100 years ago, on January 17, 1920 (Happy to do the math for you...) the Eighteenth Amendment of the US Constitution was enacted. The Amendment established the prohibition of intoxicating liquors in the United States.

What does that have to do with EMS?

13 years later, the 21st Amendment repealed the Prohibition, thereby allowing alcohol in the US once again.

And so was born the tremendous job security we enjoy today... EMS History.

Ed

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