



# VITALS

For Medical Transport Professionals

A Weekly Safety Newsletter

## SAFETY NET SEMINAR 2007 TESTIMONIAL

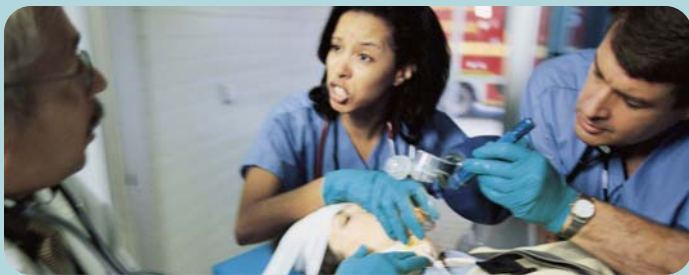
Randy Meininger, NREMT-P, ASM, President of Valley Ambulance Services, Inc wrote the following note to Howard Handler, Senior VP at Thomco.

"The 2007 EMS Safety Net Seminar was a tremendous experience. At first I was skeptical, not knowing what the motives were behind the insurance companies involved. I soon learned this was not a seminar to get us out of town and sell us a product, but a time to brainstorm, learn, network, and form relationships to increase the safety of our operation and protect the patients entrusted to our care. I have been in EMS for over 28 years and can truly say that Thomco and Zurich have become partners with me to provide safe efficient emergency services. Working together Thomco has developed a seminar focused on safety and arriving alive to do just that."



### Dead Batteries Make Dead Patients

Several recent media reports have described situations in which patients could not be defibrillated because of battery failure. Some of the more sensational stories described the failures of batteries that were 8 and 10 years old. Unfortunately for the patients and health care providers, the manufacturers indicated that the batteries have a **two year useful life**. In addition to the standard manufacturer recommended maintenance and inspection for any device or product, there should be additional policies and procedures in place to address the following. All equipment should be in its proper location and inspected for damage or tampering. When available, as with various electrical equipment, various status lights, monitor screens, and audible or visual prompts should be determined to be in proper working order. The expiration dates of all batteries, drugs and disposables should be known. Replacement should occur as a matter of routine. Also, be vigilant about product recalls. On June 20, 2007 Baxter issued a Class 1 recall (the most important, which may cause serious injury or death) for the Baxter Colleague Triple Channel Volume Infusion Pump.



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### Safety Tip

Ray Crewey, EMTP, owner of Summers County Emergency Medical Services, Inc. in Pipestem, West Virginia, has a novel approach to public perceptions of ambulance driving speed. Ray recalled that after responding to a call a woman came up to him and said, "That siren was going 100 miles an hour!" Instead of getting into a discussion of sound traveling at the speed of sound and the siren traveling at the speed of the ambulance, Ray purchased a speed gun and mounted it in the Supervisor vehicle.

Ray makes it a point to monitor non-emergency calls, returns from calls, as well as emergencies. He's been doing this for some time and has not seen excessive speed from his units. Ray concludes, "So far it works, if they know you can see how fast they are going they seem to drive slower."

Our thanks to Ray for sharing this tip. Got a SAFETY TIP you'd like to share? Send it to [meszczygiel@thomcoins.com](mailto:meszczygiel@thomcoins.com)

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