



VITALS

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A Weekly Safety Newsletter For Medical Transport Professionals

Do You Have An IED In Your Vehicle?

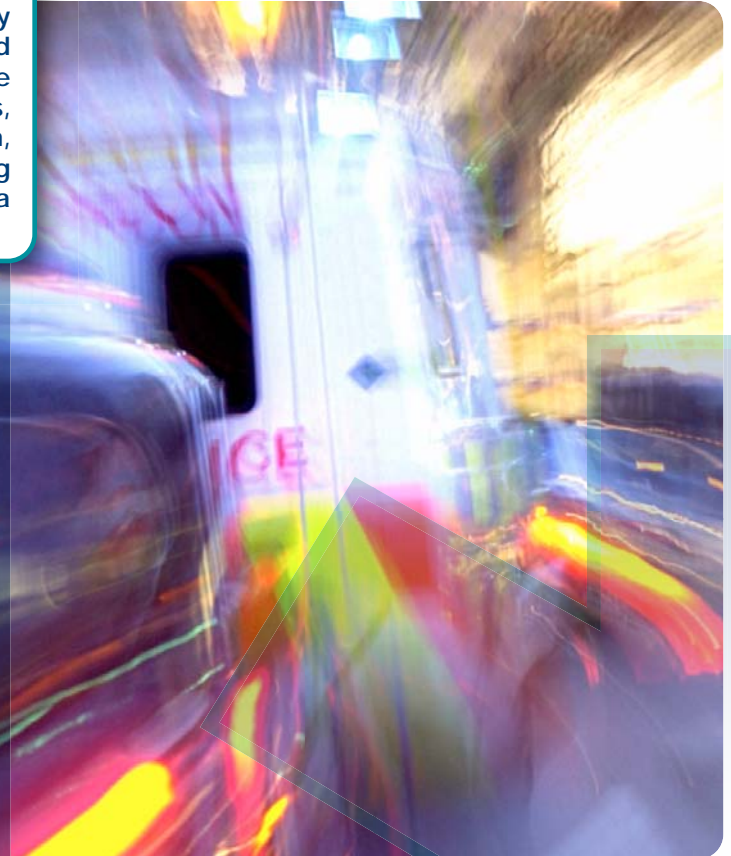
Have any of your drivers ever expressed his/her frustration via "Road Rage"? If people experience "Road Rage", they may suffer from Intermittent Explosive Disorder (IED). "Road Rage" may be manifested by: generally aggressive driving, cutting others off, honking the horn, rude gestures, shouting abuse or threats, deliberately causing a collision, getting out of the car to start a confrontation, hitting another's car with an object, making threats with a weapon and throwing projectiles. What is IED?

IED is a type of Impulse Control Disorder. It is characterized by repeated outbursts of aggressive, violent behaviors that are greatly out of proportion to the situation. The outbursts may end in bodily injuries and property damage. Later the person with IED may feel remorse. On the other hand, a study involving people formally diagnosed with IED revealed that 88% experienced relief and 46% pleasure during the violent episode. Sadly, there is a risk of self-aggression and suicide among IED sufferers. Is this risk carried to the "Road Rage" population?

These aggressive episodes may last for 10 to 20 minutes. They may be preceded by or occur with symptoms such as tingling, tremor, palpitations, chest tightness, head pressure or hearing an echo. The behavioral component may be due to low brain serotonin turnover. There are also some indications that genetic components or structural lesions may be involved.

While there is a wide range of opinion regarding whether or not "Road Rage" is a true psychological abnormality, we know that there is no place for any kind of rage in the workplace. How can we afford to have personnel exhibit any behavior that is "greatly out of proportion to the situation"? If we're not monitoring these behaviors by either direct observation or some sort of onboard monitoring system we're not going to see them. If we don't see them, we can't prevent them. Direct observation can be accomplished by anybody. If your employees truly buy into the culture of safety, they will not tolerate outlandish behaviors. Peer pressure can help.

Every episode of "Road Rage" is a tick on the timer of this emotional bomb. The greater the number of ticks you miss, or even worse, tolerate, the closer you come to catastrophe. Don't wait until you have an emotional explosion to find out if you have an IED in your vehicle.



Poster Pointers

Running Hot or Not: Safe Driving Rules Apply !

Responding to an emergency, making a non-emergency transfer or performing a wheelchair transport all require the application of "Due Regard". In other words, you, the driver, are responsible for the safety and protection of everyone in the vehicle and everyone around you. Co-workers who tolerate unsafe driving practices violate "Due Regard". Medical Transportation professionals have the responsibility of giving themselves every opportunity to respond to and avoid the consequences of the mistakes of non-professional drivers. Review "Emergency Response & Intersection Management" in "Arrive Alive Do No Harm".

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