



# Lifeguard Newsletter

July 2013

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When contacting Lifeguard through your local dispatch or by calling (800)223-6627, please be ready to provide the following:

- Your general location & type of Emergency
- Identify frequency that Lifeguard will be using to speak with ground units
- Identify who Lifeguard will be speaking with

*Lifeguard Air  
Ambulance  
1026 A Ave N.E.  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
52406-3026*

*Going the Distance to Save Lives*

## What happened to big BLUE?

As you backboard and collar your patient from the head-on crash, you keep an eye on the sky. You have multiple accident victims to attend to, and you're anxiously awaiting the arrival of big blue. You know that when Lifeguard arrives, you will have two more partners in care, and they will quickly join forces with you to care for the sickest patients.

As the helicopter approaches, you are stunned to see it's painted white. Where is the crew from Lifeguard? You know the Lifeguard Crew, and you know you can expect safety, excellent patient care, speed, and compassion. The Lifeguard Crew provides safety training and education at your meetings, and the Lifeguard Crew can be counted on to work with and respect the ground crews. Now what?

As the crew climbs out, you see two familiar faces, and while relieved to see crew you know, you are somewhat baffled. What just happened??

Well, here's the scoop: while we have the capacity to give great care in the big, blue Bell 407 you have been counting on for years, we find that we have times when we haven't been able to meet your needs because the aircraft needs regular maintenance. Without a back-up plan, we have been unable to provide service to you during those times. As a result, Lifeguard has chosen to partner with MedTrans, a company that provides support to air medical programs around the country.

This is an exciting and great partnership, because MedTrans retained our full-time pilots (Michael, Wayne and Scott), MedTrans will provide on-site maintenance, and they'll provide a back-up aircraft during extended maintenance times. Our back-up helicopter will also be a Bell 407, which provides the consistent capabilities you have come to expect from Lifeguard. We are also adding night vision goggles for added crew safety at night. Along with eliminating days of downtime for maintenance, here's what this does for YOU:

- **No weight limit**
- **Hot loads on scene**
- **Minimal down time**
- **Night vision goggles**
- **Same GREAT care**

MedTrans will be updating the interior of our aircraft to match their fleet so during those times we are in our back-up, our pilots, medical crew and you as the ground crew can focus on the patient without having to re-learn new aircraft operations. Whether the crew arrives in a red, white or blue aircraft, you can still expect the same high standards you have become accustomed to.



Photo to left:  
Jordan and Vicki at the Eastern Iowa Airport, sitting on a MedTrans Helicopter. St. Luke's Lifeguard Helicopter is in the background. Both air ambulances are Bell 407's

### Requesting Lifeguard:

Remember if you are unsure whether you'll need Lifeguard, you may tell dispatch that you would like to place Lifeguard on "stand-by".

The crew will prepare for lift-off while awaiting the "go-mission" call. This saves minutes on lift-off time because the crew is already at the helicopter, and ready for lift-off.

You can also request Lifeguard to be an "in air" standby. This is a good option for when calls are a distance away. There is no charge if Lifeguard is cancelled.

### Updates & Reminders:

Get your calendars out! We're scheduling Safety Classes through September.

The Iowa Air Medical Safety Committee is asking that all services use law / mutual aid without tone codes for all communication with an incoming helicopter.

If you have an educational opportunity and would like it included in the Lifeguard Newsletter, let us know!

**319-369-8995**  
 Schedule your Lifeguard Safety Training Class **TODAY!**  
 We're scheduling Through September 30th

- To do
- Done

### Welcome

Welcome our newest Flight Nurse, Nicky Morgan! She comes to us with much experience. Nicky has been a nurse for 14 years. She began her health care career by taking an EMT class and then decided to go even further. She went to Central Community College in Grand Island, Nebraska and obtained her LPN and then her RN. After graduating, she took a job at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in the Burn Unit. After a stint there, she moved to the Neuro/Oncology Unit for 5 years. She came to St Luke's and has been in the Emergency Department for over 6 years.



During all this she found the time to marry John and have 4 "crazy" children: Halley 17, Emma 8, Stone 6 and Steel 3. They also have a wonderful and crazy dog, Bella. Is Nicky excited to be part of Lifeguard? Sure. Is she nervous? You betcha! She is really excited about getting out there and being part of your scene calls. She says that she has so much to learn, but she has a great team to teach and mentor her, and that team includes you. So, let's give her a very warm welcome!

### Upcoming Educational Opportunities

7/30-7/31	Basic Dysrhythmias	STL
8/15	First Responder-EMR Transition	Kirkwood
9/9-9/10	Critical Care Paramedic	UIHC at WDM
9/26-9/27	Basic Dysrhythmias	STL
<b>9/28</b>	<b>Lifeguard EMS Day</b>	<b>STL</b>
10/9	Advanced Dysrhythmias	STL
10/15	EMS Instructor Update	Kirkwood
10/22 & 23	CEN Review	STL
11/5	PALS	STL

### Watch for PHTLS coming to KCC in October

Looking for other EMS opportunities? Check out [www.iaemstraining.org](http://www.iaemstraining.org)

### Did you know...

July is Air Conditioning Appreciation Month, National Wheelchair Beautification Month and National Hot Dog Month.  
 July 4-10 is Freedom Week, July 14-20 is Everyone Deserves a Massage Week (schedule yours!!), and July 25-27 is World Lumberjack Championships.  
 July 6<sup>th</sup> is Cherry Spitting Day, the 10<sup>th</sup> is Hot Dog Night and July 30<sup>th</sup> is Cheesecake Day  
 August is American Adventures Month, Golf Month, and Motor Sports Awareness Month.  
 August 4-10 is Farmer's Market Week (support local farmers), August 11-17 is Feeding Pets of the Homeless Week, and August 18-24 is Little League Baseball World Series  
 August 1<sup>st</sup> is US Air Force Day, the 4<sup>th</sup> is US Coast Guard Day and the 7<sup>th</sup> is Purple Heart Day  
 September is Atrial Fibrillation Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and Baby Safety Month  
 September 1-7 is Nutrition Week, September 15-21 is Clean Hands Week, and September 15-21 is Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Week  
 September 2<sup>nd</sup> is Labor Day, the 8<sup>th</sup> is Hug your Hound Day and the 28<sup>th</sup> is Good Neighbor Day.

**Did you schedule Lifeguard Safety Training Class? Call now 319-369-8995**