Auction host

Marc Avery is this year's official host for the Channel 56 TV Auction. The auction is in its 11th year. More than one million viewers are expected to watch the auction and bid for items donated to the public television station by area merchants. The auction runs March 30 through April 7. Avery is a host on WJR radio.

Emergency technicians' role grows

By STEVE RADDOCK

The letters E M T may seem like just another acronym to many. But to accident victims they have sometimes made the difference between life and death.

Emergency medical technicians, known as EMTs, are becoming more prevalent among fire department and ambulance crews in response to a growing need for first responders to provide medical treatment at accidents, fires and sick calls.

State law now requires ambulance services to have a certain number of trained EMTs on their staffs in order to qualify for licensing.

In the case of fire departments, the EMTs are the firefighters themselves. And, while not required by law to have EMT training, they've voluntarily returned to school to earn their certification and better equip themselves for handling the medical crises that are regularly encountered in their jobs.

One such program training fire personnel to become basic EMTs is sponsored by a partnership of two other acronyms.

mOHEP/SPIDR. OHEP is the Oakland Health Education Program, which is underwritten by a consortium of five Oakland County hospitals and three southwest Michigan universities to provide coordinated health education in the Oakland County area.

Besides its involvement in basic EMT training, OHEP coordinates residency recruiting for its member hospitals, which include Crittenton, Pontiac General, Providence, St. Joseph Mercy, and William Beaumont. The Meadow Brook Lecture Series in Medicine and Surgery, postgraduate courses in obstetrics and gynecology, and continuing education for nurses and physicians are among its other functions.

Participating universities in OHEP are Oakland University, Wayne State University, and the University of Michigan.

The other half of the duo, SPIDR (Special Procedures in Disaster Rescue), is an incorporated group of advanced EMTs, EMT nurses and paramedics interested in highly specialized methods of rescue—such as rescuing people from skyscrapers.

In 1977, SPIDR and OHEP jointly organized an instructional program to train personnel from Oakland County public service agencies—police, fire and public safety departments and ambulance services—in basic emergency medical treatment, leading to basic EMT certification.

OHEP provides the organizational matrix for the program, the course materials and its members' hospitals as teaching sites. SPIDR provides the instructors.

The OHEP/SPIDR EMT Training Program, which consists of 84 hours of classroom training and 46 hours of clinical experience over a 13-week period, has been successfully completed by fire personnel from Avon Township and Rochester.

ACCORDING TO Ernest Hammel, executive director of OHEP, the prerequisites for admission into the OHEP/SPIDR EMT program are twofold. First, the applicant must either be a full-time employee or a volunteer for a public service agency in the county.

The other rqeirememt, said Hammel, is current American Red Cross Advanced First Aid Certification. Toward that end, the Avon Fire Department, under the direction of Chief Mark Belkoff, has been conducting classed in advanced first aid for its personnel.

Most of the program's applicants, admitted Hammel—a Rochester resident whose OHEP offices are on the Oakland University campus—have been from fire crews.

Oakland County's Division of Emergency Medical Services, a governmental agency, recently organized a crash injury management course for police and public safety personnel. This training for first responders, however, is comparable to advanced first aid and does not include in-hospital clinical experience.

"What we're shooting for ultimately is to train first responders, regardless of whatever agency they're from, to preserve life until more highly trained people come on the scene and/or these victims are transported to a hospital emergency room in Oakland County," said Hammel.

"I think it's a good, solid aim for the county to have people trained to help an injured person at that first instant when it's so important," he continued.

WITH THIS IN MIND, OHEP/SPIDR EMT students are exposed to the methodology of basic emergency medical treatment in a mix of classroom sessions and in-hospital clinical rotations. All sessions are conducted at an OHEP-member hospital.

Last Fall, Crittenton Hospital was the site of one of two OHEP/SPIDR EMT sections.

The classroom aspect involves 28 sessions ranging from "The EMT, His Role, Responsibilities and Equipment; Hospital Procedures, Medical Terminology" to "Rescue and Extrication." Physicians assigned by the host hospital teach 11 of the 28 classes, which cover fracture management, respiration and airway control, environmental emergencies, soft tissue injuries, emergency childbirth, bleeding and shock, and wounds and bandaging.

Advanced EMTs provided by SPIDR teach the other classroom sessions, which include cardiac arrest and CPR, initial patient survey, patient lifting and moving, vital signs and symptoms, and rescue and extrication.

The clinical rotation part of this program, which is above and beyond the 84 hours of classroom training, includes 32 hours of emergency room and intensive care unit experience. Four hours are devoted to obstetrics and gynecology and delivery room observation.

TEN HOURS ARE SPENT doing laboratory work in the rescue and extrication of victims trapped in vehicles.

While classroom sessions can accommodate up to 25 students, clinical rotations are arranged in groups of four. Clinical instructors are advanced EMTs or EMT nurses.

The clinical rotation, explained Hammel, is designed to give the basic EMT student exposure to a patient situation and exposure to a hospital and what goes on there. Another outcome of these rotations is exposure to human dynamics—that is, how to talk to and deal with patients, and the practical aspects of getting information from patients about their conditions.

"An important feature of a basic EMT's activity is to do an assessment of the patient. Taking blood pressure, pulse and respiration at the site of an accident or in transit is tough work. There's a lot of noise going on and they often have to do it under duress," said Hammel.

"It's better for the person in training to get these procedures down pat so it's almost an automatic thing," he continued. "They can look for that fourth-phase cut-off that will give them the diastolic blood pressure; to be able to pick up the systolic quickly and easily; to be able to apply the cuff to the arm at the proper place and put the stethoscope at the proper place.

This is the kind of training these people are getting," remarked Hammel.

WHAT ABOUT THE individual who isn't affiliated with a public service agency, but would like EMT training?

EMT programs are offered by several local universities, including Oakland Community College and Madonna College. These programs also require an advanced first aid certificate for admission and are oriented toward training someone who's interested in a career as an EMT.

These college offerings, moreover, are usually offered in the daytime—while OHEP/SPIDR's classes are conducted at night.

According to Avon Fire Chief Belkoff, most of his EMTs-in-training have opted for the OHEP/SPIDR program because it's shorter, more intensive and inexpensive. The fee for the 130-hour program is $125.

OHEP/SPIDR will continue to offer the EMT classes as long as the program is able to pull in enough students to break even. Hammel calculated this break even point to be 13-18 students.

The EMT Training Program put through 39 students in the fall of 1977 and 36 in the fall of 1978. The next class is slated to begin on March 12.

"Our first obligation is to get Oakland County on a high level of EMT capability," explained Hammel.

Jewels back, teen arrested

Kenneth Hardin, 18, of Detroit has been charged in connection with Thursday's break-in at LeRoy's Keepsake Diamond Center in the Northland shopping center.

The jewelry, with an estimated worth of $22,276, was recovered by Southfield Police about five minutes after the store's silent alarm went off.

Responding to a report from Northland Center security police, Southfield Ptl. Richard Cramb found the suspect, Hardin, sitting in an enclosed bus shelter in front of the Green-Eight Shopping Center. A pillowcase full of stolen jewelry was found inside the bus stop.

Two other 18 years olds from Detroit were at the bus stop, and police took all three in for questioning. The two other men were released by police while an investigation into the robbery continues.

A tracking dog twice picked out Hardin's scent in a line-up of the three subjects.

The dog followed the scent from the store to the bus stop, police claim.

The glass door of the jewelry door was broken in the robbery attempt and three showcases were smashed.

A glass window next to the exit doors on the south end of the mall also was broken.

Hardin was arraigned on a charge of breaking and entering with intent to commit larceny, a crime that carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail. He was jailed in Oakland County after being unable to post a $10,000 cash or surety bond. His pre-trial examination is set for Feb. 14 in Southfield 46th District Court.

Cranbrook studies Great Lakes

The ecology of the Great Lakes region will be discussed by botanist and atmospheric physicist Dr. David M. Gates at Cranbrook Institute of Science Feb. 16 at 8 p.m.

Gates' illustrated lecture, first in the institute's 1979 lecture series, will trace the history of the Great Lakes from their glacial creation 10,000 years ago through their impact on our lives today.

Also discussed will be the popular prediction of a warming trend that might result in situations as varied as lowered water levels to glaciers that melt and inundate major cities.

Gates is professor of botany and director of University of Michigan Biological Station. He has served as president of the American Institute of Biological Stations, chairman of the National Academy of Sciences' environmental studies board and advisor to the Federal Department of Energy.

For lecture ticket information, call 645-3225.

Cranbrook Institute of Science is at 500 Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills.

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