



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 13

April 3, 2015

WHA Calendar:

- WHA Board Meeting
Riverton **5/20**
- WHA Trustee Education
Riverton **5/21**

Other Events:

- AHA Annual Meeting
Washington, DC **5/3-5/6**
- National Nurses Week **5/6-5/12**

Surplus Federal Medical Station Big Gain for Wyoming

A surplus federal medical station recently awarded to Wyoming will boost the state's ability to meet certain medical needs caused by an emergency, according to the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH).

The federal government decided last year that 18 of its 50 250-bed federal medical stations would be considered surplus and made available for states that wanted them.

Wyoming was the first state to receive a surplus station in early March.

"We are always looking for ways to be as ready as we can be to help Wyoming's residents during potential future emergencies," said Dr. Wendy Braund, state health officer and WDH Public Health Division senior administrator. "We expect these new materials will be a flexible and important medical resource."

Wyoming received equipment and supplies designed to serve as a 250-bed medical station that can provide surge bed capacity near areas affected by disasters.

Materials are non-perishable and include a wide range of items such as chairs, gloves, hand-washing stations, blankets, diapers, office supplies, cleaning equipment and beds.

Braund said the materials filled three large semi-trucks.

"Just one example of how we might use this resource were if local

flooding forced the evacuation of a community nursing home," she explained. "We could find an alternative location and use these supplies to help make it work as a temporary shelter for this vulnerable population."

Sheryl Roub, WDH Public Health Emergency Preparedness Unit manager, said she expects the medical station materials will be divided into 25- or 50-bed units that can be placed strategically in various locations around the state.

"We want these materials to be readily available to meet the needs of an evacuated facility's residents," she said.

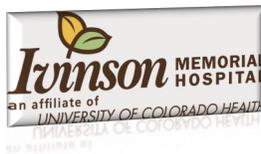
In addition to WDH, other state government groups involved in the surplus materials effort include the Department of Administration and Information Construction Management and Surplus Property divisions, the Department of Revenue Liquor Division, the Wyoming National Guard and the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security.



WHA Trustee Educational Program

May 21, 2015

Riverton Holiday Inn



Don't forget to send us a story about your hospital so we can feature you in our Member Spotlight



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IMH Partners With UW Anthropology Department

Iverson Memorial Hospital and the University of Wyoming collaborate on many projects.

The most recent project includes providing high resolution CT scans on a set of human remains that date from around 1850 to 1870 and are associated with the Oregon/California trail that runs through Wyoming.

The remains are of a female pioneer of European descent who died along the

trail. The bones are special, as they exhibit some very unusual features.

"It appears she had a procedure called a symphysiotomy in an effort to enlarge the birth canal. Very little information regarding this procedure is available for the 19th century, making the remains very unique," commented Rick Weathermon, PhD, Senior Academic Research Scientist with the Department of Anthropology

at the University of Wyoming.

The bones of the traveler tell many stories, which collectively, have led researchers to a possible identity.

They may have actually made identification on this woman based on information contained in diaries from trail travelers.

The remains are scheduled to be reburied in early May.

Department Seeks Safer Ambulance Rides for Children

A new Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) effort aims to ensure Wyoming children who must be transported in ambulances are as safe as possible during these critical rides.

The Wyoming Responders Safe Transport Initiative (WYRESTRAIN) is led by the WDH Office of Emergency Services (OEMS).

"It's a fact of life that there are times when some Wyoming children must be transported in an ambulance because they are very sick or injured, or because they

must go along with family members during a crisis," said Brandon Kelley, OEMS operations supervisor and Emergency Medical Services for Children coordinator with WDH.

"When we looked at data gathered from Wyoming ambulance services, we realized only 40 percent of Wyoming's ambulances could safely transport children weighing between 22 and 99 pounds. We saw we had a problem and wanted to fix it," Kelley said.

"The goal of WYRE-

STRAIN is to ensure that no child is transported in an unsafe manner in Wyoming because crews don't have the equipment, knowledge, protocols or training to do it the right way," Kelley said.

OEMS has purchased an ample supply of devices that can be added to ambulances so child patients can be secured safely to stretchers. "We will provide this simple equipment along with needed training to ambulance services across the state," Kelley said.

Wyoming Immunization Conference

The Wyoming Department of Health, Immunization Unit is proud to announce the first Wyoming Immunization Conference.

The conference is titled "Bringing Immunity to Every Community."

The conference will take place August 19th and 20th in Casper at the Parkway Plaza Convention Center.

The 2-day event will offer immunization providers and staff the opportunity to receive education and collaborate with subject matter experts and other immunization providers.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Anne Schuchat, Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention and so much more!

Visit the Immunization Program webpage at www.immunizewyoming.co

