



Big Sky EMS Education Symposium
Pre-symposium October 30, 2025

Emergency Cardiovascular Care

Thursday, October 30th, 8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

The course provides 8 hours of classroom instruction.

Designed for EMS professionals, this course equips students with crucial knowledge of care for cardiovascular patients. This will be a scenario based course with hands on practice.

Topics:

- STEMI
- Stroke
- Cardiac Arrest
- CHF
- CARES Reporting

Appropriate for BLS & ALS providers

*Complimentary snacks will be available. You will have a break to enjoy lunch on your own.

This course will be open to participants who have enrolled in the 2 day symposium, and then to general admission as space permits, on a first come first serve basis.

There are only **60** spots available.

Cost is \$30/person plus 2 day symposium fee.

8 CE hours available for completion of pre-symposium course

The program is being sponsored by:
DPHHS EMS & Trauma Systems Section



**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

October 31 & November 1, 2025

Symposium Agenda

Friday, October 31

7:00 - 7:55 a.m.	Registration
7:55 - 8:00 a.m.	Opening Announcements
8:00 - 9:10 a.m.	Kicking & Screaming: Breaking Down The Good, The Bad & The Science Of The Crying Child Dr. Claire Gahm
9:10 - 9:40 a.m.	<i>Continental Breakfast With Vendors</i>
9:40 - 10:45 a.m.	Humor In The Crazy World Of EMS Steve Berry
10:45 - 11:55 p.m.	Neonatal Emergencies Dr. Claire Gahm
11:55 - 1:10 p.m.	<i>Lunch - On Your Own</i>
1:10 - 2:15 p.m.	The Hard Lessons Of An Active Shooter Event – Time To Change Our Approaches Dr. Ed Racht
2:15 – 3:15 p.m.	What Do You Mean He’s Dead Steve Berry
3:15 – 3:25 p.m.	<i>Door Prize Drawing (must be present to win)</i>
3:25 - 3:55 p.m.	<i>Refreshment Break With Vendors</i>
3:55 - 5:25 p.m.	Assessment & Response Tools For Mental & Behavioral Health Emergencies Erica Gotcher
5:25 - 6:30 p.m.	Listen To What I Mean, Not What I Say – The Power Of Perception In EMS Dr. Ed Racht

Saturday, November 1

7:00 - 7:55 a.m.	Registration
7:55 - 8:00 a.m.	Opening Announcements
8:00 - 9:10 a.m.	Service With A Smile – Dealing With The Hostile Patient Steve Berry
9:10 - 9:40 a.m.	<i>Continental Breakfast With Vendors</i>
9:40 - 10:50 a.m.	Never Events Matthew Streger
10:50 - 11:50 a.m.	Aging Gracefully In EMS Steve Berry
11:50 - 1:05 p.m.	<i>Lunch - On Your Own</i>
1:05 - 2:45 p.m.	Mack Deposition Matthew Streger
2:45 - 3:50 p.m.	Yellow, Red Lights & Sirens – Trauma, Triage & Care In Montana Dr. Barry McKinzie
3:50 - 4:10 p.m.	<i>Door Prize Drawing (must be present to win)</i>
4:10 - 4:30 p.m.	<i>Refreshment Break With Vendors</i>
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Mama Don’t Let Your Kids Grow Up To Be Ambulance Drivers Steve Berry
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Leadership In The Ambulance Matthew Streger
6:30	<i>Symposium Adjourned</i>

Up to 16 CE hours available for EMS providers.
8 hours are available for each day.

National Speakers:

Steve Berry

Steve is a former teacher and interpreter for the hearing impaired. Steve has published numerous EMS related cartoon books since his escapades as a paramedic/EMS instructor began over 35 years ago. Steve has written an extensive number of monthly humor columns for JEMS magazine along with cartoon illustrations for JEMS and EMS World Magazine. A paramedic for Southwest Teller County EMS in Colorado, Steve seeks world peace along with frequent flyer mileage!



Dr. Claire Gahm

Claire Gahm is a Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Global Health and EMS physician at Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora, Colorado. She is the Associate Medical Director of EMS at Children's Colorado as well as the Pediatric Medical Director of Aurora Fire Rescue. During her EMS fellowship in San Diego, she worked as the Associate Medical Director for the SDFD paramedic program which sparked her passion for EMS outreach and education. She completed her MPH degree with a focus on community public health and systems development while serving for a year as an Emergency Medical Services for Children Innovation and Improvement Center (EMSC-EIIC) Fellow with a focus on pediatric disaster preparedness. She also recently served as the community health domain lead for the ASPR Center of Excellence pediatric disaster preparedness grant for the Gulf region. Her interests include pediatric advocacy, paramedic education, disaster preparedness and global EMS system development.



Dr. Gahm is sponsored by DPHHS EMS and Trauma Systems Section – EMS for Children Program

Dr. Ed Racht

Dr. Ed Racht is the Chief Medical Officer of Global Medical Response, the largest Air & Ground EMS provider in the nation. He has been involved in Emergency Medical Services and healthcare systems for more than 35 years. Prior to his current position, Racht served as the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs for Piedmont Newnan Hospital in Georgia. Racht was the first full-time Medical Director for the Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services System, where he spent 13 years from 1995-2008. The System was nationally recognized in the Institute of Medicine's Report on the state of emergency care for its collaborative approach to challenging healthcare integration issues. Racht is the recipient of numerous awards including being named EMS Medical Director of the year for the State of Texas, the American Heart Association's Paul Ledbetter MD Physician Volunteer of the Year Award, and being named a "Hero of Emergency Medicine" by the American College of Emergency Physicians. In 2015, he was the first recipient of the Joseph P. Ornato Excellence in Clinical Leadership Award and in 2011 received the Slovis Award for Educational Excellence by the US Metropolitan Municipalities Medical Director Consortium. In his early years, Racht was featured in a cover article in *JEMS* magazine on the "New Breed of Medical Directors". He is also the third Inductee in the Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Foundation Hall of Fame. Racht has three adult children who still remind him every day what his mother taught him years ago. "One day honey, you'll have kids of your own. You'll see..."



Dr. Racht is sponsored by American Medical Response

Matthew R. Streger

Matthew is a paramedic and attorney with more than thirty-five years of EMS experience. Matthew is a Partner at the law firm of Keavney & Streger in New Jersey where he focuses his practice on the needs of EMS agencies and healthcare providers. He is the recipient of multiple law and EMS awards and is admitted to practice in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Matthew has practiced law since 2006 and is a past leader in the New Jersey State Bar Association. He previously worked in EMS systems in New Jersey, New York, South Carolina and Ohio. Matthew served as the Executive Director of Mobile Health Services at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Jersey and the Deputy Commissioner of EMS in Cleveland. He was a member of the Panel of Commissioners for the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) from 2015 to 2020 and is a principal member of the CAAS 4.0 Standards Committee. Matthew actively serves as a Per-Diem EMT for the Cherry Hill Fire Department EMS in New Jersey.



Local Speakers:

Erika Gotcher

Erika is the Lead EMT for the Missoula Fire Department's Mobile Support Team. She got her Associates in Paramedicine from Missoula College and instructs for Crisis Intervention Team Montana. She also holds a Bachelor's in Theater Arts from the University of Minnesota and spent most of her young adulthood in the backcountry of northern Wisconsin, Alaska and Canada. Please tell your dog she says hello.



Dr. Barry McKenzie

Dr. McKenzie began his medical career as an EMT at Medcor. He received his undergraduate at Rocky Mountain College, his medical degree from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences and completed his Residency at Michigan State University in Grand Rapids. He currently practices General Surgery and is the Trauma Medical Director at St Vincent's Healthcare, a Level I Trauma Center in Billings, MT. He is the Chair of the State Trauma Care Committee and is the American college of Surgeons representative for the Montana Trauma Care Committee. Dr. McKenzie is a huge voice for rural and urban EMS and trauma care at the state and national level. He regularly travels throughout the state to help provide education through the Montana State EMS and Trauma TEAMS courses.



Registration:

Brochures will be arriving in the mail soon and online registration is available at this link:

<https://billingsclinic.cloud-cme.com/default.aspx>

Create an account by going to New User “Sign Up Now” or if you registered here last year, you can use your established login, then go to the “CME Conferences” to find our link.

****A small credit card fee will be applied.**

Fee:

Early Bird Registration by October 20th

2 day attendance - \$145.00

1 day attendance - \$90.00

Registration after October 20th

2 day attendance - \$165.00

1 day attendance - \$100.00

Symposium Location:

Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Mallowney Lane

Billings, MT

I-90 Exit 446

Lodging Accommodation:

Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Mallowney Lane, Billings, MT

800-537-7286

406-248-7151

<https://billingshotelmt.com>

The hotel features an inviting pool with a water slide and hot tub, making it an ideal destination for the whole family!

A block of rooms has been reserved for the **EMS Symposium**. To receive the discounted rate, reservations must be made by October 17th. Be sure to identify yourself as a Big Sky EMS Symposium participants when booking.

