

Big Sky EMS Education Symposium

Pre-symposium



Train the Trainer

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

First Responders face relentless stress, trauma and pressure – on and off the job. The ResponderStrong Mental Health Curriculum is a science backed, peer led program designed to build resilience, reduce stigma and address stress injury, burnout, compassion fatigue, anxiety, depression and suicide.

What You'll Learn:

- Suicidality, how it develops, effective intervention and prevention
- Proven practices to improve resilience and better manage stress
- Research and data on the prevalence of stress injury
- Impacts of the job on families and ways to mitigate
- The stress injury model and physiology of stress
- Supplemental resources and solutions

What You'll Get:

- Free access to the Champions Network instructional support community
- Skills to lead impactful mental health training in your agency and community
- A comprehensive instructor manual and online access to updated materials
- Certification to teach the Responder Strong Mental Health Curriculum

ResponderStrong is committed to the overall performance and wellbeing of all Responders. Equipping them with tools to protect themselves from the mental and emotional exposures of the job – from recruitment through retirement – as well as to their families and the communities they serve.

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 \$35/person plus 2 day symposium fee

8 CE hours available for completion of pre-symposium course

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

The program is being sponsored by:

DPHHS EMS & Trauma Systems Section

With help from - MEMSA & Montana Ambulance Association



**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**



Thursday, November 5th, at 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

Join Montana Emergency Medical Services Association (MEMSA) for a meet and greet, some information about MEMSA, a taco bar and a chance to visit and get to know our fellow EMS providers.

This event is sponsored by MEMSA and is limited to **65 participants**.

MEMSA unites EMS professionals from across the state to collaborate, share expertise, and advocate for excellence in emergency medical care. They aim to ensure every agency – large or small – has a voice in shaping Montana's EMS future. Their mission is to be the unified voice to represent, educate and inform all ambulance services and pre-hospital emergency care providers in the state of Montana. And their vision is to improve access and reduce the cost of high-quality pre-hospital educational opportunities.

Come and listen to MEMSA Board members give an update on the status of MEMSA and the goals for the future.

This is a great opportunity to mingle with our EMS peers and visit about our industry.



November 6 & 7, 2026

Symposium Agenda

Friday, November 6

7:00 - 7:55 a.m.	Registration
7:55 - 8:00 a.m.	Opening Announcements
8:00 - 9:10 a.m.	EMS Detective Shaun Pitts
9:10 - 9:40 a.m.	<i>Continental Breakfast With Vendors</i>
9:40 - 10:45 a.m.	Modern Day Communications: Radios & More! Justin Jagers
10:45 - 11:55 p.m.	Beat The Heat: Strategies To Prevent Heat Illnesses Dr. Valerie Moody
11:55 - 1:10 p.m.	<i>Lunch - On Your Own</i>
1:10 - 2:15 p.m.	Sirens & Stitches? – Trauma! Shaun Pitts
2:15 – 3:15 p.m.	Leading Through The Hard Stuff: Entry To Exit Pat Songer
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 - 4:55 p.m.	Sudden Cardiac Arrest In Youth Janet Trethewey
4:55 – 5:10 p.m.	MT DPHHS EMS Section Update/Information
5:10 - 6:30 p.m.	Fundamentals Of Cardiac Arrest Shaun Pitts

Saturday, November 7

7:00 - 7:55 a.m.	Registration
7:55 - 8:00 a.m.	Opening Announcements
8:00 - 9:10 a.m.	But Then I Got High: Common Pre Hospital Toxidromes Aaron Peth
9:10 - 9:40 a.m.	<i>Continental Breakfast With Vendors</i>
9:40 - 10:50 a.m.	What Would You Do? – Trauma Edition Dr. Michael Englehart
10:50 – 12:00 p.m.	People Care Shaun Pitts
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.	<i>Lunch - On Your Own</i>
1:15 - 2:25 p.m.	Scene Safety & Awareness Shaun Pitts
2:25 - 3:35 p.m.	Protecting The Unprotected: Child Abuse Aaron Peth
3:35 – 3:50 p.m.	MEMSA Update/Information
3:50 - 4:00 p.m.	<i>Door Prize Drawing (must be present to win)</i>
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	<i>Refreshment Break With Vendors</i>
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	You Wouldn't Go To Work Intoxicated Would You? Shaun Pitts
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Suffering In Silence – One Paramedics Journey Through Post Traumatic Treatment Aaron Peth
6:30	<i>Symposium Adjourned</i>

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

National Speakers:

Shaun Pitts

Shaun Pitts, AEMT/FF, is the Head of Education for EMSConnect and an Advanced EMT/Fire Fighter in Spokane County. EMSconnect is a web-based education site for CE credits in EMS. Shaun is a Senior EMS Instructor in Washington State, as well as AHA Instructor for BLS, PALS and ACLS, and Affiliate Faculty with NAEMT teaching PHTLS and TCCC. Shaun hosts the podcast "EMSConnect On Shift" - a podcast for all levels of EMS, geared towards educating providers during their downtime. Shaun has been an EMS educator for over 10 years, teaching various EMS courses across the US. He strives to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world job duties, while keeping students engaged, entertained, and inspired to become better providers!



Aaron Peth

Aaron Peth, MS, CCP-C, is a critical care paramedic, national EMS educator, and Special Faculty member in Creighton University's Department of Paramedicine. A sought-after speaker, Aaron presents across the country on evidence-based prehospital medicine, delivering engaging, clinically relevant education to providers at every level of EMS. Drawing from more than 15 years of experience in urban, suburban, rural, and austere international environments, Aaron combines real-world clinical insight with practical strategies that providers can immediately apply in the field. His diverse public safety background also includes five years as a sworn law enforcement officer, providing a unique perspective on multidisciplinary emergency response. Aaron earned both his Master of Science in Paramedicine and Bachelor of Science in Emergency Medical Services from Creighton University. His areas of expertise include prehospital airway management and advancing critical care capabilities in the prehospital setting. Passionate about improving patient outcomes through high-quality education, Aaron is known for translating complex clinical concepts into engaging, evidence-based presentations that challenge, inspire, and equip EMS professionals.



Local Speakers:

Justin Jagers

Justin Jagers serves as the 911 Communications Manager for the City of Billings, bringing over three decades of experience in public safety and service to the community. A retired Billings Police Officer with 21 years of dedicated law enforcement experience, Justin has also served the community as a Paramedic with AMR Billings for 10 years, responding to critical emergencies with professionalism and compassion. Before entering public safety, Justin served in the United States Navy and is a proud veteran of the Global War on Terror. This foundation of military service shaped a lifelong commitment to leadership, discipline, and service to others. Throughout his career, Justin has maintained a strong focus on training and program development, helping to elevate standards, improve readiness, and build resilient teams. He is a passionate advocate for public safety, mental health and wellness, recognizing the unique challenges faced by emergency responders and working to ensure they have access to the support and resources they need. As 911 Communications Manager, Justin brings his deep operational knowledge, leadership experience, and unwavering dedication to public safety to oversee the critical communications systems that connect the community to first responders.



Dr. Valerie Moody

Valerie Moody, PhD, LAT, ATC, CSCS, Director – MYSSI, University of Montana. Dr. Moody has been at the University of Montana for 20 years where she serves as the Program Director of the Master of Athletic Training Program, Director of Montana Youth Sports Safety Institute and Chair of the School of Integrative Physiology and Athletic Training. She has been a certified athletic trainer for 28 years and still is a practicing clinician providing athletic training services to youth hockey athletes in the Missoula community. She is active in researching interprofessional care models in concussion management and emergency preparedness and sports safety in high school and youth athletics in Montana.



Pat Songer

Pat Songer, MBA, NRP, CEMSO, FACPE, is the Division Chief of EMS to the Central Valley Fire District. Pat brings more than 30 years of progressive leadership in emergency medical services, with experience across fire-based, hospital-based, private, and integrated EMS systems. His career has focused on building high-performing organizations grounded in clinical excellence, workforce development, and system readiness. He has served as Chief of EMS in multiple complex systems, overseeing 911 response, critical care transport, air medical programs, and specialty teams. His work includes advancing community paramedicine and Mobile Integrated Health programs, strengthening clinical governance, and improving coordination between EMS agencies and healthcare systems. Pat currently serves as Chief of EMS and Chief Operating Officer for a Critical Access Hospital, where he has expanded rural access to care and developed innovative, sustainable service models. Nationally, Pat serves as Executive Director of the National EMS Management Association (MEMSMA) and is a recipient of the James O. Page EMS Leadership Award presented by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).



Janet Trethewey

Janet Trethewey, EdD, NREMT is the Time Sensitive Illness & Injury Program Manager for the EMS & Trauma Systems and Injury Prevention Section - Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Initially, her responsibilities were assisting the development, implementation, and assessment of an emergency cardiac care system. Over the past eleven years, the position has evolved to include other time-sensitive emergencies. She works with communities, 911 dispatch centers, EMS, law enforcement agencies, and hospitals developing cohesive, data-informed systems. Her position includes the privilege of traveling the state, working with first responders and front-line health care workers. Her position allows her to really “nerd out” on research and apply it to the field. She is a retired athletic trainer and college professor. Janet is married to a retired fire fighter/EMT. Their son is a fire fighter/EMT. Their grandson will be a senior this year! She has a dog, a cat, and a large yard all needing TLC.



Michael Englehart, MD

Dr. Michael Englehart joined Billings Clinic in 2010. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of California San Diego. He went on to complete his medical school training at the Medical College of Wisconsin and an internship, residency and surgical critical care fellowship in Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. Dr. Englehart specializes in general surgery, trauma and surgical critical care. His surgical interests are in anti reflux surgery, abdominal wall reconstruction, pancreaticobiliary, esophageal and gastric surgery. Dr. Englehart is the medical director of trauma, ATLS Course Director and medical director for nutritional services. He has been instrumental in Billings Clinic becoming the first Level 1 Trauma Facility in the state of Montana.



Registration:

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

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

Or search "Billings Clinic Cloud CME" – this should bring you to the option to click on "Billings Clinic Continuing Medical Education – WELCOME". Then to 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 "Conferences" to find our link, Big Sky EMS Symposium.

Fee:

Early Bird Registration by October 26th

2 day attendance - \$155.00 (November 6 & 7)

1 day attendance - \$90.00 (November 6 or 7)

Registration after October 26th

2 day attendance - \$175.00 (November 6 & 7)

1 day attendance - \$100.00 (November 6 or 7)

Pre- Symposium Registration

ResponderStrong – Train the Trainer

1 day pre symposium - \$35.00 (November 5)

****This course is open for 2 day enrolled symposium participants first, then general admission as space is available.**

Registration will be on a first come first serve basis.

There are only 60 spots available. Must register online.

MEMSA Meet & Greet Pre- Symposium Registration

Only 65 spots available, first come first serve!

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. pre symposium (November 5)

Sponsored by MEMSA – no fee

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

No refunds will be issued after November 2nd

Symposium Location:

Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Mullooney Lane

Billings, MT

I-90 Exit 446

Lodging Accommodation:

Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Mullooney 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 have been reserved for the EMS Symposium. To receive the discounted rate, reservations must be made by October 11th. Be sure to identify yourself as a Big Sky EMS Symposium participants when booking.

