

GENERAL INFORMATION

PURPOSE

The Greater Northwest EMS Conference is geared towards those involved in pre-hospital care with basic and advanced training, including first responders, emergency medical technicians, firefighters, nurses and law enforcement personnel.

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received by Monday, September 21, 2026 in order to avoid late fees. Walk-in registrations are accepted, however late fees will apply. Conference materials will be available for pick up Thursday, October 1, 2026 from 5:00-7:00 pm and each morning.

ACCREDITATION

Credit hours are approved through Sanford Health EMS Education. A total of 10.0 contact hours will be available. Greater Northwest, has worked diligently to provide a variety of topics to assist in participants in meeting the NCCP Model 25 training requirements.

LODGING

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Shooting Star Casino & Event Center, which features a pool, restaurant, sports bar, buffet, lounge, casino and secured parking. A block of rooms is available through September 22, at a rate of \$70/Thursday night and \$85/Friday night. To reserve a room call 800-453-7827 and refer to **BLOCK #13639**. The Shooting Star Casino is pleased to provide a smoke-free environment throughout the event center and dining areas.

REFUNDS

Full refunds will be made only if cancellations are received by Monday, September 21, 2026; substitutions are welcome at any time. Greater Northwest EMS reserves the right to change or alter program contents/scheduling as needed.

VENDORS

Greater Northwest EMS is proud to offer a large exhibit hall on Friday, October 2, 2026. Come check out the variety of emergency medical service vendors and talk with our knowledgeable show representative. Friday Only!

FUNDING

Funding for this conference is made possible in large part through sponsorships. **Thank you to the following sponsors!**



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 2026

8:30am – 9:30am • Registration & Coffee (Richwood Room Entrance)

9:30am – 10:30am

Fat Bottomed Girls...No More!

Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

Wegovy, Ozempic and others are becoming widely popular as what is referred to as the “weight loss shot.” What should we as EMS providers know about these shots? What happens if a patient stops taking them? We will review lifestyle, dos and don’ts, and what to expect regarding side effects of each.

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS
(Richwood Room)
Medical

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Seconds Save Lives: Predicting Crashes for Responders

Katy Kressin, NRP, FPC

What if we could predict severe crashes before they happen? In emergency response and traffic safety, every second matters. Learn about Minnesota’s newly deployed CrashForesight tool, an analytical solution shifting safety planning from reactive analysis to predictive resource allocation.

Sponsored by: MN Towards Zero Deaths
(Beaulieu Room)
Operations

10:30am – 11:00am • Break & Vendor Exhibit Area (Bejou & Detroit Lakes Rooms)

11:00am – 12:00pm

Clue Me In: Using Critical Thinking Skills

Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

Sometimes your patient can’t or won’t tell you what is wrong. Maybe they are a poor historian, unresponsive or just not understanding. What about the things around them? This presentation will help you focus on the scene to help you make sense of medications, items, and behaviors to help clue you in.

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS
(Richwood Room)
Operations/Medical

11:00am – 12:00pm

EMS Toxicology Update

Kirk Hughes, RN, CSPI, NREMT

This presentation will discuss emerging topics in EMS regarding drugs of abuse trends, including Kratom/7-OH, edible THC products including delta & 9, and common adulterants found in fentanyl (e.g. medetomidine – a powerful veterinarian drug).

Sponsored by: MN Regional Poison Center
(Beaulieu Room)
Medical

12:00pm – 12:45pm • Lunch (Mahnomen Ballroom) & Vendor Exhibit Area (Bejou & Detroit Lakes Rooms)

12:45pm – 1:45pm

Chronic Respiratory

Laurie Hill, AA, FP, NRP

Are we under using CPAP? Case studies and the use of CPAP, nebulizers, oxygen, and other medications. Which treatment is best. What chronic respiratory disease process responds to which treatment. What does the science say? Lab portion included!!

Sponsored by: LifeSigns Plus
(Richwood Room)
Airway/Respiratory/Ventilation

12:45pm – 1:45pm

Time is BRAAAINS: Stroke Care During the Apocalypse

Molly Murch, MSN, RN-BC, SCRNP, CBIS

A mysterious outbreak is spreading – but not every patient who looks like a “zombie” is infected. Participants will learn about the different types of strokes and the acute treatment for each, discuss the role of EMS in stroke care, and review how to perform a FAST-ED assessment.

Sponsored by: Essentia Health
(Beaulieu Room)
Cardiovascular

1:45pm – 2:00pm • Break & Vendor Exhibit Area (Bejou & Detroit Lakes Rooms)

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Dirty Dozen: Infection Control in EMS

Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

This is more than just, “Wash your hands and wipe down your equipment!” This presentation addresses the most common infections we encounter as well as the different isolations and how we can safely transport an isolation patient and what we need to have ready to make the transport.

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS
(Richwood Room)
Operations/Medical

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Riding Toward the Apocalypse: Battling the Four Horsemen

Matt Ashmore, NRP

The apocalypse in EMS isn’t always cinematic. Sometimes it looks like a confused nursing home patient, a pale trauma patient, a person who can’t breathe, or a witnessed collapse. This course will show how to fight, and hopefully win, against the 4 most critical types of patients EMS providers come across.

Sponsored by: Essentia Health
(Beaulieu Room)
Trauma/Medical/Cardiac

3:00pm – 3:15pm • Break & Vendor Exhibit Area (Bejou & Detroit Lakes Rooms)

3:15pm – 4:15pm

No O2 For You! Using Too Much of a Good Thing

Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

30 years ago, it was thought that if a little oxygen is good for you, then a lot must be even better. Oxygen titration is now recommended in many national recognized programs. But why can’t we give some extra to our patients? What bad could really happen if we continue what we have been doing?

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS
(Richwood Room)
Airway, Respiration & Ventilation

3:15pm – 4:15pm

Responding to a Crime Scene: How to Identify, Protect, & Document

Chad Museum

How to recognize a crime scene, ensure personal and public safety, protect the scene from contamination, identify potential evidence, and preserve its integrity until investigators arrive. Topics include scene security, documenting, preventing contamination, and maintaining chain of custody.

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS
(Beaulieu Room)
Operations

5:00pm – 6:30pm Social Hour: Nacho Bar, Cash Bar, Caricatures, Bingo & Prizes! (Mahnomen Ballroom)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD, 2026

8:30am – 9:30am • Registration & Breakfast (Mahonomen Ballroom)

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Man vs. Wild: Environmental Emergencies for EMS

Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

Lions, tigers, and bears...wait...okay, maybe not wildlife but there are several things that are necessary to know when treating patients who have decided to "rough it" in the outdoors. We are going back to the basics and using common sense knowledge to treat a variety of environment emergencies including hypothermia, hyperthermia, diving emergencies, lightning, drowning & more.

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

(Richwood Room)

Trauma/Operations

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Your Voice. Your Association. Your Future.

AJ Gengler, John Fox, Wendy Lynch

This panel brings together EMS leaders from across the state with diverse experience in operations, clinical practice, workforce development, education, and organizational leadership. Collectively, the presenters represent decades of experience in EMS and will share practical insights, lessons learned, and strategies that can be applied across a variety of EMS systems & communities.

Sponsored by: MN Ambulance Association

(Beaulieu Room)

Operations

10:30am – 10:45am • Break (Mahonomen Ballroom)

10:30am – 10:45am

To Pee or Not to Pee: Renal Failure & Dialysis in EMS

Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

We will review the different types of dialysis, what a dialysis patient must go through daily and the high maintenance each type of dialysis requires. We will also review what things EMS personnel are liable to find when responding to a patient who happens to have renal failure or is on dialysis despite what the reason for calling EMS was.

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

(Richwood Room)

Medical

10:45am – 11:45am

Getting More Comfortable with the Uncomfortable: Pediatric Emergencies (Beaulieu Room)

Patrick Huot, EMSC Educator

This presentation will discuss the responders stress response caused by low-frequency high-stakes peds calls and the pediatric assessment triangle. Learn how to rely on cognitive aids to eliminate errors while under the pressure of a pediatric emergency. Lastly, learn about managing the room as well as the patient when faced with caregiver anxiety.

Sponsored by: EMS for Children

Pediatrics

10:45am – 11:45am Sponsored by: SIM-ND & Greater NW EMS

Pediatric Trauma Simulation – Broken Leg: Why is My Nose Bleeding When I Broke My Leg? Trauma (Bejou & Detroit Lakes Rooms)

A child injured on the soccer field presents with an obvious leg fracture – and an unexpected nosebleed that points to something more. EMS learners must look past the obvious injury, manage pediatric trauma and shock, and navigate family concerns through assessment, treatment, and transport to the ED. **This course is capped at 24 learners.**

11:45am – 12:15pm • Lunch (Mahonomen Ballroom)

12:15pm – 1:15pm

Hidden Diagnosis

Laurie Hill, AA, FP, NRP

Sometimes signs and symptoms are all over the place. Walk through a tough scenario with me to find the underlying root cause, treatment and ultimate outcome. Multiple trips to the doctors, multiple diagnosis, and several failed treatments. Let's put on our Sherlock Holmes and find out what is going on.

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

(Richwood Room)

Medical

12:15pm – 1:15pm

How Not to Go Crazy When Dealing with the Crazy

Chad Museus

EMS encounter traumatic events, high-stress situations, and demanding work environments that can affect mental, emotional, and physical well-being. This is a how-to for recognizing the signs of stress, burnout, compassion fatigue, and cumulative trauma while building resilience for a long and healthy career.

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

(Beaulieu Room)

Individual Component

1:15pm – 1:30pm • Break (Mahonomen Ballroom)

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Special Delivery: Post-Partum Care in the First Hour

Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

We've all had to take the obligatory childbirth class, but what happens in the hour following delivery? What should be expect? The number of elective home births has surged since the beginning of the pandemic, and it doesn't show signs of slowing down. What should mom and baby be doing? Can mom get up and shower? What if the placenta doesn't deliver when it should?

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

(Richwood Room)

Medical

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Every Breath Counts: Respiratory Emergencies in EMS

Tim Fresonke, PA-C

Respiratory emergencies span a wide spectrum – pediatric distress, asthma, COPD, CHF, airway compromise, and respiratory failure. This session provides practical skills for respiratory assessment, airway management, escalation strategies, and reducing cognitive overload in high-acuity calls.

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

(Beaulieu Room)

Airway/Respiratory/Ventilation

1:30pm – 2:30pm Sponsored by: SIM-ND & Greater NW EMS

Accidental Severe Hypothermia Simulation – Found Unresponsive in the Cold Medical/Trauma (Bejou & Detroit Lakes Rooms)

An unresponsive male is found in a stranded vehicle after a severe winter storm. EMS must recognize and stage hypothermia, initiate careful stabilization, and watch for the ventricular arrhythmias that rough handling can trigger. This scenario tests learners' ability to manage a complex, multi-system presentation with minimal patient history available. **This course is capped at 24 learners.**

2:30pm – 2:45pm • CHEESECAKE BREAK!

2:45pm – 3:45pm

Fast and Furious: Quick Lessons in EMS

Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P Airway/Resp/Vent/Medical/Cardio/Trauma

There are so many small lessons we pick up during our careers that we save in our brains, not ones that call for an entire hour-long presentation, but they're need-to-know information. This presentation is an hour of EMS hacks, assessment tools, tips, and tricks that will hold your attention. Fast-paced and hopefully fun!

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

(Richwood Room)

2:45pm – 3:45pm

EMS in Transition: Advances, System Challenges, & Future of EMS

Tim Fresonke, PA-C

This session explores major advancements including blood products in the field, TXA administration, and prehospital antibiotics. Attendees will also examine the growing challenges facing EMS, including workforce shortages, increasing call complexity, and provider burnout. Participants will leave with practical insights into adapting in an increasingly demanding environment.

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

(Beaulieu Room)

Operations



HIGHLIGHTED PRESENTERS

JANET TAYLOR, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

After graduating from nursing school in 1998, Janet worked in various departments through the hospital gaining knowledge and experience in ICU, Obstetrics and ER. She is a Certified Emergency Nurse, Certified Flight Nurse and has her certification as a Critical Care Transport Provider. Janet works full time for Golden Valley Memorial EMS as a nurse/medic and a community paramedic. She enjoys teaching part time for EMS conferences across the country and for local EMS programs.

TIM FRESONKE, PA-C

Tim is a Physician Assistant, longtime EMS professional, and healthcare educator with over 20 years' experience spanning prehospital medicine, emergency care, trauma, rural healthcare systems, and emergency management. Tim delivers practical, high-impact education focused on EMS excellence, critical decision making, emergency preparedness and large-scale systems improvement – helping providers, leaders, and organizations perform at a higher level when seconds matter most.

LAURIE HILL, AA, FP, NRP

In 2005, Laurie became the Director of Walker Ambulance Service. In 2007, Laurie also began working as a Flight Paramedic for North Memorial. She has worked in all levels of EMS Education from first response groups to paramedic. Laurie is the mother of 3, grandmother of 3 and has learned that humor can not only be the best medicine, but a fun way to refresh material and learn. Laurie is the Outreach EMS Education Manager for LifeSigns Plus and Bemidji Ambulance.

KATY KRESSIN, NRP, FPC

Katy Kressin leads the charge for evidence-based traffic safety as the MN Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Program Coordinator for the West Central Region and is the Project Manager for the Traffic Safety Data Analytic Project. Her work is supported by over two decades of experience in critical care transport and emergency education, bringing a real-world focus to her goal of eliminating traffic fatalities.

CHAD MUSEUS

Chad Museus is recently retired after a 28-year career in law enforcement, in patrol and investigations roles. Chad started and ended his career working patrol at Bemidji Police Department and worked homicides, drug and predatory crimes at BCA.

MATT ASHMORE, NRP

Matt has been in emergency services for 30 years. He has spent time as a paid-on-call firefighter and EMT for Eveleth, MN; a career firefighter for West Des Moines Fire; a Battalion Chief/Paramedic for Hibbing Fire; and a brief stint as Chief of the Cloquet Area Fire District and EMT Course Instructor for Minnesota North College. Currently, he works for Essentia Health EMS Education, is an instructor for Minnesota North's Paramedic program and is the NAEMT Training Coordinator for Minnesota.

AJ GENGLER, JOHN FOX, WENDY LYNCH

This panel, representing the Minnesota Ambulance Association, brings together EMS leaders from across the state with diverse experience in operations, clinical practice, workforce development, education, and organizational leadership. Collectively, the presenters represent decades of experience in emergency medical services and will share practical insights, lessons learned, and strategies that can be applied across a variety of EMS systems and communities.

KIRK HUGHES, RN, CSPI, NREMT

Kirk Hughes is a Registered Nurse, Certified Specialist in Poison Information (CSPI), and National Registered EMT. He has served at the Minnesota Regional Poison Center since 2000, where he works as both a Poison Specialist and Education Director. Over the course of his career there, he has managed nearly 10,000 poisoning and exposure cases. Kirk also brings extensive experience in emergency services. He served 27 years as Firefighter/EMT, retiring in 2022.

MOLLY MURCH, MSN, RN-BC, SCRNP, CBIS

Molly is the Stroke Program Education Coordinator at Essentia Health in Fargo. Molly has 16 years' experience as a Med/Surg nurse and six years as a nurse educator. Molly originally grew up in a small farming town in ND. Being from a rural area, she knows the importance of providing education to our rural communities and critical access hospitals. Molly is passionate about providing stroke education.

SIM-ND

Simulation in Motion-North Dakota is a simulation education program managed out of UND. For over 10 years, SIM-ND has been dedicated to enhancing the skills of healthcare workers in rural North Dakota and NW MN. Using mobile simulation labs and high-fidelity human simulators, SIM-ND provides hands-on training in a safe yet realistic learning environment.

REGISTRATION

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Service: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Telephone: _____ State License # _____ State: _____

☐ Would you like an email confirming your registration? Email: _____

☐ Would you like an email copy of your receipt? Email: _____

☐ Would you like to be contacted regarding special dietary needs? Email: _____

☐ Would you like to attend one of the simulations on Saturday? ☐ Pediatric Trauma
☐ Severe Hypothermia

CONFERENCE FEES

ONE DAY

☐ Friday **OR** ☐ Saturday (Check one)
☐ Prior to September 21 (In region) \$95.00
☐ Prior to September 21 (Out of region) . . . \$105.00
☐ After September 21 (In region) \$125.00
☐ After September 21 (Out of region) \$135.00

TWO DAYS

☐ Prior to September 21 (In region) \$145.00
☐ Prior to September 21 (Out of region) . . \$165.00
☐ After September 21 (In region) \$175.00
☐ After September 21 (Out of region) \$195.00

PAYMENT METHOD

PAYMENT (due with registration)

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Purchase Order # _____ (Attach Copy) ☐ Credit Card (VISA or MasterCard)

Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: (3-digit code) _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Payments received after September 21 will be assessed the \$30 late fee, even if the registration form has been received!

REGISTER NOW!

www.greaternwems.com/conference

Greater Northwest EMS, 2301 Johanneson Dr NW, Bemidji, MN 56601
office@greaternwems.com

PREPARED MINDS SAVE LIVES.



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