

24th Annual Conference

Follow the Yellow Brick Road October 3-4, 2025



Mahnomen, MN

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 22, 2025 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 2, 2025 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 #13638**. 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 22, 2025; 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 3, 2025. 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!**



Vendors

Altru Health Systems
Grand Forks, MN



MN Office of EMS
Minneapolis, MN



EMSC
Edina, MN



North Memorial Air Care *SPONSOR*
Minneapolis, MN



Essentia Health EMS *SPONSOR*
Edina, MN

NorthPoint Emergency Training
Pine River, MN



Essentia Health EMS Stroke
Fargo, ND



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Essentia Health & Vascular Programs
Fargo, ND

P51 Products
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Sanford Air Med *SPONSOR*
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Sanford Health EMS Education
Fargo, ND



Life Link III *SPONSOR*
Minneapolis, MN



Simulation is Motion
Grand Forks, ND



Life Signs Plus/Bemidji Ambulance
Bemidji, MN



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

9:30am – 10:30am

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer: Geriatric Emergencies! (Richwood Room)

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

What is different about geriatrics that we need to consider with assessment and treatment? What changes go on with the human body? We will answer these questions and more by going from one body system to another addressing bone calcification, brain atrophy, kyphosis and much more.

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Sponsored by: Essentia Health & Life Link III

Ding Dong the Witch is Dead: Part 1

(Beaulieu Room)

Matt Ashmore, NRP & Ty Weigman, BS, NRP

How was your EMS training for delivering death notifications in the field? For most it was non-existent. Join us on this adventure as we meet up with the Scarecrow to learn why EMS is lacking in this subject.

(See next session for continued description)

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

11:00am – 12:00pm

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

Lil' Rascals: Respiratory Distress

(Richwood Room)

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

This session looks at airway and respiratory from a pediatric view - respiratory distress, ventilation, asthma, croup, RSV, pertussis and more. Indications for intubation as well as tricks to make the process go more smoothly. We will also discuss obligate nose breathers and how kids breathe.

11:00am – 12:00pm

Sponsored by: Essentia Health & Life Link III

Ding Dong the Witch is Dead: Part 2

(Beaulieu Room)

Matt Ashmore, NRP & Ty Weigman, BS, NRP

Learn how to deliver notifications using the GRIEV_ING mnemonic. Get a heart and learn empathetic communication skills along with building mental health resilience with the Tin Man. Build up your courage and practice giving notifications in small group scenarios with the Lion.

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

12:45pm – 1:45pm

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

Environmental Emergencies: Spiders & Snakes

(Richwood Room)

Laurie Hill, AA, FP, NRP

In today's world, collecting may include those who like to collect the "strange," "abnormal" and "different." Do you know the "collectors" in your area? Let's talk about reptiles, arachnoids and other creepy crawlies. How to protect yourself, what we can treat and how to treat.

12:45pm – 1:45pm

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

Opioids and Other Drugs of Concern

(Beaulieu Room)

Dr. Andrew Topliff

This presentation will discuss what is predominantly killing people. Fentanyl (much more than Xylazine) and other related opioids. We will address stimulants which can be deadly but are a less frequent cause of death. This session will also address any questions that arise.

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

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

What to Expect When You're Expecting: High-Risk OB Transport (Richwood Room)

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

Who doesn't LVOE a high-risk obstetric transport? No? We will review a pregnancy, delivery complications and basic field fetal monitoring. How to recognize what that pile of fetal monitoring strips are saying – early decels, late decels, variability, VEAL CHOPS, HELLP Syndrome, and hypertensive states will also be discussed.

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

From STEMI to OMI: Understanding the Shift in MI Recognition

(Beaulieu Room)

Brian Imdieke, BS, FP-C, CCP-C, NRP

This presentation will introduce the concept of looking for signs of coronary occlusion on a 12-lead without looking for the classic STEMI criteria. This will also explain why we need to move beyond the STEMI criteria outlying its limitations and dated concepts through evidenced-based research.

(NOTE: This presentation is for advanced learners)

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

3:15pm – 4:15pm

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

An Extraordinary Mind: Mental Illness Review

(Richwood Room)

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

We don't get enough training to adequately handle our patients who have psychiatric disturbances. This session will not make you an expert, but understanding the basics to mental health problems and the stigma that goes with it will make us better providers. It will also help us develop a rapport with our patients and their support system so they can get the help they need.

3:15pm – 4:15pm

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

Finding Your Inner Superhero

(Beaulieu Room)

Josh Duda, NRP, FP-C

What do you do when things don't go as planned? How do you respond when the going gets tough? Are you prepared for the unthinkable? How do you find the strength to dig deep and continue forward? This session will explore a personal journey through tragedy, lessons learned, and tools used to overcome the challenges encountered. You control your own outcomes.

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

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

9:30 am – 10:30 am

There's Something in the Water: Drowning
Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

*Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS
(Richwood Room)*

In 2002, the World Health Organization released its new guidelines regarding the definition of drowning, but no one noticed. Twenty years later, we are still behind in proper identification of drowning and, more importantly, treatment. We will go over the pathophysiology behind drowning, and why we need to change our thinking when someone walks up to you and reports "I drowned."

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Toxic Inhalation
Reed Groth, FP-C

*Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS
(Beaulieu Room)*

Objectives for this presentation include defining toxic inhalation and its major complications. Identify signs and symptoms of toxic inhalation involving heat and toxins. Analyze and apply treatment for various types of toxic inhalation.

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

10:30am – 10:45am

Toxic Avenger: Sepsis in EMS
Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

*Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS
(Richwood Room)*

Sepsis is the hot topic, with one person dying every 3.5 seconds somewhere in the world. The International Sepsis Campaign has developed guidelines for improving patient outcomes, including interventions that can be started in the field. In this presentation we will develop a better understanding of sepsis and how it is more than "just an infection."

10:45am – 11:45am

DMIST
Matt Ashmore, NRP & Alex Horn, NRP, RN

*Sponsored by: Essentia Health
(Beaulieu Room)*

This presentation will discuss how to systemically relay patient information to emergency department staff for patients arriving by EMS. It will also talk about how to get the emergency department to listen to EMS during patient hand offs.

10:45am – 11:45am

Simulation: Pediatric Cardiac Arrest (Bejou & Detroit Lakes Rooms)

Sponsored by: SIM-ND

Learners will have the opportunity to work in small groups in this hands-on class. They will be presented with a 9-year-old who collapses in a school gym after outdoor activity. Learners must quickly assess and manage a worsening respiratory emergency that progresses to cardiac arrest. **This course is capped at 24 learners.**

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

12:15pm – 1:15pm

1, 2, 3 GO! Patient Assessment
Laurie Hill, AA, NRP

*Sponsored by: LifeSigns Plus
(Richwood Room)*

Join this session to breaking down patient assessment. We will look at verbal vs. non-verbal communication. Why is it important to ask for permission? How many acronyms can you name in your assessment? Current additions to the assessment pathway will be discussed, broadening your knowledge and awareness quickly. Come join for some review and acronym fun!

12:15pm – 1:15pm

Wake Up Dorothy! Is it a Dream or a TBI?
Matt Ashmore, NRP & Ty Weigman, BS, NPR

*Sponsored by: Essentia Health
(Beaulieu Room)*

Did Dorothy dream the Oz experience, or did she get hit in the head by flying tornado debris? Whether it's poppies or projectiles, we will look at common altered mental status causes and focus on TBI's. Unmask subtle signs of a TBI that can be missed in the field. Assess and prioritize patients with decreased LOC. Participate in interactive group decision-making scenarios.

1:15pm – 1:45pm • Break (Mahonomen Ballroom)

1:45pm – 2:45pm

Industrial Revolution: Traumatic Injuries Specific to Industrial Settings (Richwood Room)
Janet Taylor, BSN, CEN, CFRN, CCEMT-P

Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS

In this presentation, we will address some of the specific injuries we would see in industrial settings, such as welding shops, paint shops, farms, auto mechanic shops and construction sites. We will go over chemical exposures and decontamination, ocular injuries, high pressure injection injuries, degloving, impaled objects, burns and harness/suspension syndrome to name a few.

1:45pm – 2:45pm

Stroke: The 12-Lead for Neuro Profusion
Reed Groth, FP-C

*Sponsored by: Greater NW EMS
(Beaulieu Room)*

This session will look at the onset of symptoms to a stroke, or thrombectomy. Topics discussed include looking at stroke vocabulary and defiance's of right and left MCA occlusions. We will also dive into cerebellar strokes and how they are missed.

1:45pm – 2:45am

Simulation: Precipitous Delivery (Bejou & Detroit Lakes Rooms)

Sponsored by: SIM-ND

Learners will have the opportunity to work in small groups in this hands-on class. They will be presented with a 27-year-old with a history of rapid deliveries who begins active labor hours from her planned birthing hospitals. Participants must assess maternal-fetal status, prepare for emergency delivery, manage potential complications like postpartum hemorrhage and coordinate care.

This course is capped at 24 learners.

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. She also writes modules for various online forums and is regularly featured on EMS1.

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.

JOSH DUDA, NRP, FP-C

Josh is a nationally registered paramedic and certified flight paramedic with 30 years of experience. He has served with North Memorial Air Care for the past 20+ years as a Critical Care Flight Paramedic, Field Training Officer, & Educator. When not at work, he can also be found responding with the local sheriff's office dive & rescue team. Josh has been a dedicated safety professional and advocate his entire career. He is the sole survivor of a medical helicopter crash in 2019.

REED GROTH, NRP, FP-C

Reed Groth is a flight paramedic at Sanford AirMed in Fargo. He has been in EMS since 2002, obtaining his paramedic in 2005. He has worked the streets in Bismarck, ND for Metro Ambulance and FM Ambulance in Fargo, ND. He started his flight career in 2016. Reed holds an advanced certificate in Flight Paramedic Certification and an advanced certificate in Safety Management Raining through the Association of air medical services. Reed is also a private pilot and enjoys flying.

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.

BRIAN IMDIEKE, BS, FP-C, CCP-C, NRP

For 15 years, Brian has worked in prehospital emergency services. He has been a certified flight paramedic for North Memorial Air Care since 2011. Brian currently serves as a flight educator while also working on a casual basis for ground EMS operations across the state. Brian is also actively involved in outreach education on ventilation and cardiology for local, rural, and state emergency services, as well as their hospitals. He has become a regular speaker at online, state, and national conferences.

DR. ANDREW TOPLIFF

Dr. Topliff is a physician currently working in addiction. He was previously an EMT and is boarded in three specialties, Emergency Medicine, Toxicology and Addiction. Dr. Topliff taught a toxicology fellowship for almost 20 years and is still associated with the MN Poison Center. He currently works in addiction and providing medical guidance to an ambulance service.

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 Northwest MN. Using mobile simulation labs and high-fidelity human simulators, SIM-ND provides hands-on training in a safe yet realistic learning environment.

TY WEIGMAN, BS, NRP

Ty has 20 years in EMS. He spent the first part of his career in Grand Forks as a paramedic for the hospital and SWAT team. After that he moved to Hibbing, MN where he worked as a firefighter/paramedic. Currently Ty works for Lifelink III, starting as a flight paramedic and worked his way up to Partner Engagement Manager. He also currently works for Essentia EMS as a casual paramedic and teaches as well.

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? ☐ Pediatrics Cardiac Arrest

☐ Precipitous Delivery

CONFERENCE FEES

ONE DAY

☐ Friday **OR** ☐ Saturday (Check one)

☐ Prior to September 22 (In region) \$95.00

☐ Prior to September 22 (Out of region) . . \$105.00

☐ After September 22 (In region) \$125.00

☐ After September 22 (Out of region) \$135.00

TWO DAYS

☐ Prior to September 22 (In region) \$145.00

☐ Prior to September 22 (Out of region) . . \$165.00

☐ After September 22 (In region) \$175.00

☐ After September 22 (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 22 will be assessed the \$30 late fee, even if the registration form has been received!



There is no place like learning . . . **REGISTER NOW!**

www.greaternwems.com/conference

Greater Northwest EMS, 2301 Johanneson Dr NW, Bemidji, MN 56601

office@greaternwems.com



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