

# SEMS Bugle

*Special Events Medical Services*

**Special points of interest:**

- Policy Reminder
- Mark Ragonese was injured
- Crowd Psychology
- Wheel Chair Rental Service is available

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## Move Over “12 Lead”... Cardiac Saliva Test may Rule!!

In the pre-hospital setting, early detection of cardiac damage is key, not only for patient survival, but also for saving cardiac tissue. Many heart attack patients, especially women, experience nonspecific symptoms, or have normal EKG readings, making rapid diagnosis very difficult. A simple saliva test may one day be used in ambulances to quickly tell the EMS provider that their patient is having a cardiac episode.

“Proteins found in the saliva have the ability to rapidly classify potential heart attacks,” Dr. John T. McDevitt, a biochemist at the University of Texas at Austin told

Reuters Health.

McDevitt and colleagues developed a nano-bio-chip sensor that is biochemically programmed to detect sets of proteins in saliva capable of determining whether or not a person is currently having a heart attack or is at high risk of having a heart attack in the near future.

With the saliva heart attack diagnostic test, a patient spits into a tube and the saliva is transferred to a credit card-sized lab card that holds the nano-biochip containing a standard battery of cardiac biomarkers. The card is inserted into an analyzer that



May soon become an antique

determines the patient’s heart status in as little as 15 minutes.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in developed countries, including the United States. In 2008, estimated 770,000 Americans will have a new coronary attack, and about 430,000 will

## Crowd psychology Warm Walkup vs. Cold walk up

Discussed last issue was the perception a crowd has towards our service as we do not conform to the “traditional “ EMS form. This issue we discuss warm vs. cold walk ups.

**Warm Walk ups:**

A warm walk up is a situation where the EMS provider’s

authority and competency, prior to their arrival has been established or implied. This can be established a number of ways, but the most common is whomever arrived before you, either law enforcement, security or event staff have established their authority and have vouched

for you as a competent provider.

You can usually detect this by the introduction a person give you when you arrive. “Mrs. Smith this is the paramedic I was telling you about. He is very good” or “your in good hands”. This is the ideal situation and you competency

## Move Over “12 Lead”... Cardiac Saliva Test may Rule!!



have a recurrent attack.

ther cardiac damage.

EMS providers are more and more relying on “12 lead” readings to determine if their patient is having a cardiac episode. This process takes time and is usually redone in the ER department. Using the saliva test, in conjunction with EKG readings, in the pre-hospital setting will promise to dramatically improve the accuracy and speed of cardiac diagnosis and treatment to save lives and prevent fur-

*“we pitched  
a no hitter”  
yesterday  
~Dr. Hung*

## A Word from our Medical Director

Thank you again for all your help over the last two weekends [Grand Nationals & Hunt Cup]. Clearly, we had a challenging weekend at the Grand Nat but our expertise and ability still shined. There has been plenty of praise for what is viewed as one of the best teams in the country at this venue. The National Steeplechase Association views us of one of the premier medical teams. They are literally writ-

ing the protocols based on what we do. To quote Dr. Hung, we “pitched a no hitter” yesterday. However, having us there made all the difference in the comfort level for the jockeys, officials and race committee. Special thanks to Kelly Bethel for the wonderful tailgate spread. Perhaps, yesterday’s Hunt cup was the best event that I have done! Finally, for those that

thought yesterday was quiet, Amiel and I got called to the barn at 5:30 for a 24 year old girl with an asthma attack. Thanks again for a job well done!  
Jeff

*Dr. Jeff Sternlicht is the Medical Director for SEMS Maryland Operations, Head of GBMC Emergency Department and Medical Director for area Steeplechases.*

## Policy Reminder– No Autographs, Ever.



Just a reminder employees of SEMS are never under any circumstance allowed to autograph seek. If an entertainer offers you an autograph you must respectfully decline. This includes taking pictures or asking for souvenirs of the event or entertainer.

This policy is in effect at all times and at all events. Violation of this policy can result in being removed from the premises and possibly terminated. Please remember it is never permissible to autograph seek.

## Warm Walkup vs. Cold walk up

is established and is yours to maintain or lose.

### Cold walk ups

A cold walk up is just the opposite and far more common. You have different agencies or companies handling various jobs. Since you have no prior knowledge of each other you must upon arriving on a cold scene established "Perceived Competency" then recruit your team from these people. If you handle the first situation masterfully. The

staff in attendance for that particular incident will later become valued allies in establishing competency. If this turns out to be the case you can expect warm walk ups.

Be warned that this can backfire and the staff can become a very powerful adversary hindering your ability to do your job.

The best way to establish any type of perceived competency and repore is to maintain

your professionalism at all times.

- + Look professional, clean uniform and good personal hygiene.
- + Being prompt and dealing with the crowd and patient in a firm but professional manner.
- + Controlling body language to convey authority and confidence
- + Being polite, but firm



## Please Keep Mark Ragonese in Your Prayers

*Mark Ragonese is part of SEMS' extended family. He works for Corrigan Sports a long time client of SEMS... This is an excerpt from his wife's blog <http://www.caringbridge.org/cb/viewMyStory.do?method=executeInit>.*

The accident happened while Mark was setting up for a running race on Sunday, June 8th (Ironically, the race was the Survivor 7 Mile Run, an event created to raise awareness and funds to assist survivors of catastrophic injuries get back to an active lifestyle.)

Mark was on a box truck unloading 8 ft wooden tables - something he has done approximately 20 weekends a year for the past 10 years. The three-person crew was working together, two on the ground placing tables in their proper location and Mark on the truck handing them down. The two helpers had just

taken their load of tables when the 8-10 tables fell on top of Mark. Although no one actually saw the tables fall, it is thought that he was knocked to the ground by the following tables and hit his head in such a way that caused the injury.

Emergency services were called immediately and an ambulance was on the scene within 15 minutes. Mark was taken directly to University of Maryland Shock Trauma, the best hospital in the WORLD (literally) for his type of injury.

Mark broke several vertebrae in his neck and injured his spinal cord. Doctors have performed two surgeries to "fuse" the bones in his neck together so that the spine will have a clear pathway that will cause no further damage to the spine and aid in its recovery. Since the accident, Mark has had no feeling in his legs

or arms. He is alert and aware and lights up when his friends and family come to visit. He is still sedated and has a ventilation tube in this throat to assist him in breathing while they performed the surgeries and he recovers from the initial trauma. Because of the tube, he is unable to talk out loud but can converse through whispers, lip-reading, and facial expressions. Once he has regained the strength to fill his lungs to capacity on his own, they will remove the tube.

It is too early to tell the eventual outcome of the injuries. Everyone knows the importance and sensitivity of the spinal cord. Regardless, Mark will have a long road ahead of him. He will begin Rehabilitation almost immediately and a lot will be learned in the coming days and weeks. am sure Mark

*Please visit the blog and make a donation to the family.*



It's finally summer time



	<h1>SERVICE INFORMATION</h1>
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**Mark Ragonese in Your Prayers**

would love to hear from you and we plan to read the messages to him often.

Thank you again for your love and support Those of you who know Mark know his strong will and dedication and his undying love for his family and friends. It is this strength and desire that we hope and pray will drive Mark through recovery.

We hope to continue to update THE JOURNAL section of this site with updates on his progress. We invite you to check back often to find out additional details as we know them. We also invite you to utilize the GUESTBOOK feature of this site. I

