



AURORA SOUTH WI EMS MONTHLY UPDATES

JANUARY 2024

Quote for the Month

"In EMS, teamwork isn't just a choice; it's the compass that guides us through the chaos."

- Aurora South WI EMS Office of Medical Direction



Much like a compass navigating treacherous terrain, teamwork provides direction and stability amid the chaos of an emergency response. It ensures that every member of the EMS team contributes their expertise, pooling their skills and knowledge to deliver the best possible care to those in need. In essence, it's not just a choice but a fundamental principle that enables us to save lives and provide vital support for our patients and each other during critical moments of crisis.

Q1 JANUARY TRAINING DATES

Our Q1 trainings are in full swing for the month of January! Plan ahead. If you are unable to attend your scheduled department training, sign up to attend any of the following:

- 1/15 - 6:00-8:00 pm Burlington FD
- 1/22 - 6:00-8:00 pm Lyons FD
- 1/23, 1/24, 1/25 - 8:00-10:00 am Racine FD Station 1
- 1/23, 1/24, 1/25 - 10:00 am-12:00 pm Racine FD Station 1
- 1/23, 1/24, 1/25 - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm Racine FD Station 1

ADDITIONAL JANUARY EDUCATION

Each month our EMS Medical Directors and Educators provide additional EMS education at area departments. Interested in additional training? Feel free to join us this month for:

Topic TBD

- 1/16 - 6:30-8:30 pm Tichigan FD



Scan the QR code to access our CME site to view & sign up to attend trainings!

ELKHORN AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S SWIFT STROKE RESPONSE SAVES A LIFE! KUDOS!



On December 5, Elkhorn Area FD demonstrated remarkable efficiency and teamwork, resulting in a life-saving intervention for an elderly patient experiencing weakness. Upon arriving at the scene, the crew quickly identified signs and symptoms indicative of a stroke. Their prompt recognition of the situation led to an immediate prearrival neuro alert to the hospital, ensuring the patient's swift transfer to the CT scanner just three minutes after arrival. This crucial decision allowed for timely diagnosis and evaluation. Additionally, the EMS team's thorough assessment and prearrival report to the ALMC Emergency Department (ED) staff played a vital role in the patient's care. The report alerted the ED staff to promptly manage the patient's elevated blood pressure, a contraindication for the administration of Tenecteplase, a medication used in stroke treatment. As a result of this coordinated effort, the elevated blood pressure was treated and the door-to-needle time was an impressive 48 minutes, significantly improving the patient's outcome. We are thrilled to share that the patient was discharged three days later with no deficits, a testament to the exceptional care provided by our dedicated EMS providers and ED staff.

In recognition of their pivotal roles in this life-saving intervention, Elkhorn Area FD **Paramedic Tanner Tenpas** and **AEMT Bailey Vieau** were honored with a well-deserved BRAIN pin. Their collaboration and dedication to patient care exemplify the highest standards of EMS professionalism.



TANNER TENPAS & BAILEY VIEAU
ELKHORN AREA FD

"Great Teamwork and Way to BEFAST!"

FARM RESCUE FOR EMS PROVIDERS

Looking to expand your skills and make a significant impact in rural communities? Look no further! Aurora South WI EMS, in collaboration with Lauderdale LaGrange FD is thrilled to

announce an upcoming Farm Rescue Class, designed exclusively for EMS providers. This hands-on class will help you gain expertise in responding to unique farm-related emergencies such as tractor accidents, machinery entanglements, and other interventions and life-saving techniques specific to farm accidents. This class will be held on a local farm and will provide interactive, hands-on experience. This is one training you won't want to miss, so **Save the Date - April 6**. More information coming soon!



**HAVE A QUESTION, CONCERN,
OR NEED FOLLOW UP?**

CONTACT US



EMS Office: (262) 743-3440



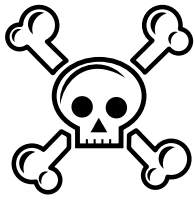
EMS Office: aah-ems@aah.org



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From the Desk of Dr. Donald Keen: Exploring the Dangers of Xylazine: A Growing Concern



Xylazine, also known by the street names "Tranq", "Tranq dope", or the "Zombie drug" is a potent tranquilizer approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in animals like horses, not people! While it lacks FDA approval for human use, it is rapidly emerging as a dangerously popular illicit street drug, often deemed more addictive than Heroin.

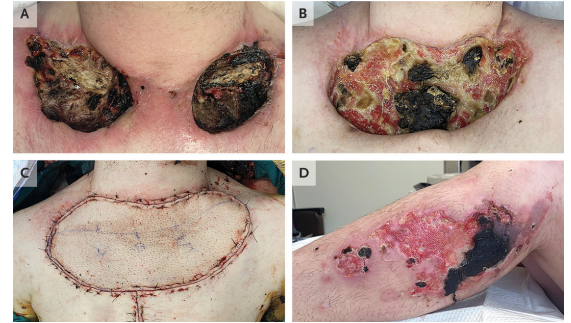
This illicit substance is frequently encountered in various forms, either used on its own or blended with other substances like heroin, cocaine, and especially fentanyl. Disturbingly, in 2022, the DEA discovered xylazine in approximately 23% of seized fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills, highlighting its prevalence in the illicit drug market.

Xylazine can be consumed through ingestion, smoking, snorting, or injection into the muscle or vein. It produces effects akin to opioids, although it is essential to note that Xylazine does not belong to the opioid medication category.

Pharmacologically, Xylazine stimulates alpha-2 receptors in the brain, leading to significant central nervous system depression resulting in:

- Sedation
- Depressed breathing and/or apnea
- Hypotension & bradycardia
- Constricted pupils
- Muscle relaxation
- Reduced pain perception

Xylazine abuse can cause skin issues, including blisters, purplish bruises, scabs, and ulcers, often prone to infection. In some cases, necrosis can develop as seen in the photos, and at times, requiring limb amputation.



Figures A, B, C, D: A 32-year-old man presented with a 1-month history of enlarging chest wounds. He reported a history of daily injection of fentanyl mixed with xylazine into his neck and arm veins. PHOTO SOURCE: N ENGL J MED 2023; 388:2274 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMCM2303601

EMS providers should continue to administer naloxone for suspected opioid overdoses and consider the possibility of a xylazine exposure when patients are not responding as expected to naloxone. Treatment for Xylazine overdose primarily involves providing supportive care, with an emphasis on airway management and ensuring proper oxygenation/ventilation. Despite not being an opioid, Naloxone should be administered to any suspected Xylazine overdose patient, as Xylazine is frequently used alongside narcotics such as Fentanyl. Reversing the effects of the narcotic component may prove sufficient in restoring respiration. Of interest is that Xylazine is not detected in routine toxicology screens.

The rise of Xylazine as a street drug underscores the need for heightened awareness and education surrounding its dangers. Stay informed and vigilant to protect yourself and your community from the risks associated with this emerging threat.

Have a question? Email any of our docs:

steven.andrews@aah.org

andrew.aswegan@aah.org

donald.keen@aah.org

HIGH RELIABILITY TOOLS & TACTICS FOR Q1: COLLABORATES

As we start the new year, we want to focus on building collaborative relationships in EMS and the power of information sharing and crosschecking. In the world of EMS, effective collaboration is a cornerstone of success. It involves both **Sharing Information** with others and seeking information from others. A critical aspect of this collaboration is crosschecking and coaching.

Crosschecking involves verifying and validating information with colleagues and team members. It's about ensuring that everyone is on the same page, reducing the risk of errors and enhancing patient care. By crosschecking, we create a safety net, catching potential mistakes before they become critical.

Coaching is equally important. It's about fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement. As EMS professionals, we should actively seek input and feedback from our peers, mentors, and experienced colleagues. Embracing coaching helps us refine our skills, stay up-to-date with the latest practices, and ultimately deliver better care to our patients.

In summary, collaboration in EMS begins with sharing and seeking information and thrives when we crosscheck and coach one another. Together, these practices enhance patient care and strengthen our EMS community.

SHARING INFORMATION

- Integral to collaboration in EMS
- Involves both giving & receiving information
- Facilitates effective communication within the team

CROSSCHECKING

- Verify & validate information
- Ensures everyone is aligned - ↓ risk of errors
- Enhances patient care & establishes a safety net

COACHING

- Promotes a culture of continuous learning
- Encourages seeking input & feedback
- Provides opportunities for skills refinement
- Leads to improved patient care and outcomes

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