

## REGION 1 – Western NY

MIDSTATE REGION issued a notice in October advising that its Rapid Recertification Program will be discontinued until further notice. Starting January 2013 two instructors will be starting “CME Satellite Sign Ups” for the Online CME Program. If your agency is in Herkimer, Madison or Oneida Counties and you would like them to come out to your agency please call (315) 624-4539. If you sign up during a “Satellite Sign Up” you will only be required to attend 1 class at the end of the program. To qualify for the Online CME Program your agency **must** be in the Midstate Region and your agency must be enrolled in the CME Program with the NYS DOH.

COVERT TOWN, Seneca County, is proceeding with plans to establish the Town of Covert Ambulance District to encompass the entire town outside the Village of Interlaken. A Public Hearing was conducted on 1/14/13 to hear comments. Expected cost for the ambulance service is given as a maximum of \$93,000.00 annually and financing for the Tax District would come from an ad valorem tax at the rate of approximately \$.33 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. The NYS DOH has already assigned Agency Code # 6243 to the Town of Covert Ambulance for a BLS level service. Trumansburg EMS from Tompkins County has been providing ALS service to about two thirds of Covert with South Seneca Volunteer Ambulance Corps based in Ovid providing ALS coverage to the rest as well as Lodi, Romulus, Ovid and most of Varick. Covert officials had been expressing concern about their ambulance service contract payments to South Seneca and patient billing and seem to have wanted a blanket waiver of copays which would have run afoul of Medicare regulations which only permit waiver on a individual case-by-case basis. A South Seneca officer, however, indicated the contract monies are not to take care of co-pays but are to be used to cover where insurance and co-pays don't cover.

OAKFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, Genesee County, discontinued its ambulance service on 12/13/12. Lack of EMS volunteers was cited as the reason – it would take 10 to run the ambulance but the department is down to three EMTs. Oakfield had started its ambulance service in 1974, the first in the county by a VFD, at a time when the only ambulances in the county were run by St. Jerome's and Genesee Memorial Hospitals. Oakfield will be providing BLS level First Responder service with ambulance transportation handled by commercial provider Mercy EMS and backup available from VFD and independent ambulance services from Alexander, Bergen, Bethany, Byron, Darien and Le Roy.

RANDOLPH REGIONAL EMS CORP., Cattaraugus County, a newly former all volunteer nonprofit organization, is now providing emergency ambulance service for all of the village and town of Randolph and portions of the towns of Conewango and Napoli. The new service is not to be tax supported but financed through billing of patients and their insurance carriers. The change from being a VFD Rescue Squad providing a free ambulance service to an independent agency was necessitated by increased medical calls and fuel and supply costs, increased training demands, recruitment and retention issues and other concerns. Local officials are working to get word out about the new system through media and social networking sites hoping residents are not shocked when bills arrive.