



**Seymour Ambulance Association is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with a gala and awards dinner**

The year was 1969. Richard Nixon occupied the White House and EMS as an organized public service was still in its infancy across the nation. That's when a 23 civic-minded men and women decided to improve the ambulance service in their home town and establish the Seymour Ambulance Association. A plaque bearing their names adorns the wall of the front lobby at the associations' headquarters on Wakelee Ave.

Prior to the formation of SAA, ambulance service was provided by Seymour Police in an ad hoc manor. Everyone agreed that a more formalized group should be established in order to deliver the best service and care possible to town residents. "The PD did a really good job from what I've been told. I think a more coordinated group of responders with one mission was being sought to take over the service", explained Kyle Kelley, the current association chief.

With one Cadillac ambulance, Seymour Ambulance Association began to answer emergency calls. There was little formal training and scarce equipment in the ambulance at that time, but the dedicated team of members provided a vital service day and night.

It wasn't long before one ambulance became two and the association grew out of its home at the Civil Defense building on Pearl Street. They moved into the newly constructed addition to the Citizen's Engine Company firehouse on DeForest Street where they remained for nearly 30 years. Now, the group owns three ambulances, four administrative and fly cars and an all-terrain vehicle, all headquartered at their Wakelee Avenue location.

SAA now boasts a membership over 100 strong. Long gone are the days of minimal first aid training, Cadillac ambulances and basic medical equipment. Ambulances are state-of-the-art vehicles with AED's, automatic CPR devices, power stretchers, and life-saving medication. Members are state certified as EMR's, EMT's and AEMT's. The association is also a training hub for EMS classes, public babysitting courses as well as CPR training in the community.

Many things have changed in the 50 years since Seymour Ambulance Association was formed. From answering just a handful of calls in a week to answering dozens a week, what remains steadfast is the dedication of the staff and members to the well-being of the people they serve. "We are so grateful to the 23 people who had the vision of creating an EMS system in town all those years ago. We hope that we are preserving their legacy by carrying on the mission with dedication and professionalism", said Kelley.



## Waterbury Hospital – Trauma Time

Trauma Activations... addition of age-specific criteria. As of July 1, the Waterbury Hospital Trauma Program has updated our criteria for Full Trauma activations to include a geriatric-specific parameter. Within the FULL Trauma criteria, we are adding to the existing

**“Confirmed Systolic Blood Pressure <90 in an adult OR Systolic Blood Pressure <110 in older adult age 65+”**

**Why this change now?** As the population ages, and the elderly are living longer and staying more active, the number of older patients with injury is increasing. As you all know, there are many changes that take place as the human body ages, and along with more comorbidities, the ability of the body to respond to stress and injury is severely compromised.

**Why blood pressure parameters?** Traditional parameters for an adult (Systolic BP <90 mmHg) do not account for the declining physiologic capacities of elder patients, and therefore, recognizing signs of shock may be difficult. Older patients are more susceptible to injury from minor mechanisms and less able to compensate from any injury, and as we know – even one episode of hypotension effects outcomes in trauma patients if not managed correctly. The values that should be considered abnormal for vital signs are different in older adults, and according to a large research study, systolic blood pressure less than 110 mmHg correlates with increased mortality in the geriatric population (UpToDate, 2017).

The myocardium of older adults becomes stiff, compromising cardiac output, and less sensitive to catecholamines, which often results in a less profound tachycardic response to hemorrhage, pain, or anxiety following trauma. The absence of an absolute tachycardia due to this blunted response may create a false sense of security on the part of clinicians. *Systemic vascular resistance is increased, often contributing to baseline hypertension, which can lead to the misinterpretation of blood pressure readings following trauma when expected declines may not manifest despite the onset of shock. Put another way, the values that should be considered abnormal for vital signs are different in older patients.* As an example, according to a large retrospective review of geriatric blunt trauma patients, heart rates above 90 beats per minute and systolic blood pressure less than 110 mmHg correlate with increased mortality in this population. (UpToDate, 2017)

Colwell, C. (2017) UpToDate. Geriatric trauma: initial evaluation and management. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/geriatric-trauma-initial-evaluation-and-management> -Monika Nelson

Trauma Program Coordinator –  
monika.nelson@wtbyhosp.org

## Waterbury Hospital does a Mock Disaster Drill

On October 24, 2019, WaterburyHEALTH held an exercise that included a strong police presence and additional help from AMR and Waterbury Fire Department. The



exercise was a full scale exercise that was based on a shooting that occurred just off the campus but the gunman was still at large. The building was on full lockdown and Waterbury PD had several officers in the ER. The command center was set up and assisted the ED by getting resources and planning the actions ahead. The ED saw ten patients including four red tags, four yellow tags, and two green tags. Some of these patients walked in while others came in by ambulance. The patients were students from Kaynor Tech.



**We now have a Keurig in the EMS Room for EMS personnel. We hope you enjoy it! Thank you for all that you do.**



### Upcoming Events:

#### Wednesday, November 20, 2019 (18:00—2100)

- Dr. Brown, Assistant Medical Officer, will be providing training on Medical and Legal Issues

#### Wednesday, December 18, 2019 (18:00 – 21:00)

- Tentative—Joel Demers of OEMS will be returning to answer questions and talk about the new EMS recertification process.