

The Job Market—  
Present and Future

Motivating Street  
Paramedics

August 1989 Volume 11 Number 8 53.00

**jems**  
JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Challenge of  
Chest Trauma

1989 Paramedic  
Training Sites  
Directory

# CAREERS

I N · E M S

# 90



0240

\*\*\*\*\*3-DIGIT 920

# CONTENTS

## FEATURES

### Making the Grade in EMS 28

by Dennis W. Jones,  
RN, BSN, NREMT-P

Are college degrees necessary in EMS, or do they just result in a few more initials at the end of your name?

### Bridging Professions 31

by Tom Roper, EMT-P

### From the Streets to Positions of Power 34

by James O. Page

These five profiles illustrate how EMTs can create their own career paths and ultimately excel in other professions.

### A Partnership in Care— EMTs Find a Place in Mental Health Services 43

by Marla Graham, MPH,  
Rock Richardson, MPH,  
Russell Calhoun, BS, REMT-P

In this Oklahoma program, EMTs and paramedics use their unique skills to assist in mental health emergencies.

### Before You Quit, Read This 46

by John M. Becknell

Motivation and career satisfaction are not automatic. They must be desired and cultivated, but the rewards can be great.

### Penetrating the Complexities of Chest Trauma (CEU Article) 50

by Michael G. Smith, REMT-P

Whether pneumothorax or cardiac tamponade, an accurate assessment is the first step in conquering the challenge of chest trauma.

## COLUMNS

### Guest Comment 5

by Cary L. Mark, CPC  
Who Has Control of Your Career?

### The Publisher's Page 6

by Jim Page  
There's Life After "Emergency"

### Guest Comment 11

by Mary Newman  
Chain of Survival Concept Takes Hold

### Special Report 23

by Michael Gilbertson, Andrew Stern,  
Robert Elling and Suzanne Barg  
N.Y. State Gets To Know Its EMTs

### Innovations 26

by Thom Dick  
Spider's Embrace: The Idaho Answer to  
Backboard Straps

### Current Research 61

by Bruce Goldfarb

### Teacher Talk 66

by Jan Jones-Hall  
Skill Retention: Adults Learn Differently

### Interface 73

by Jack Stout  
Peak-Load Staffing: What's Fair for  
Personnel and Patients?

### In the Industry 80

by Rick Minerd

## CAREERS 90 SUPPLEMENT

### HELP WANTED: S-3

#### The Jobs are There, But Where?

by Bruce Goldfarb

If you need a job, or if you're just itching for a change of climate, here's where to look.

### So You Want to Be a Paramedic? S-8

Experts answer students' 10 most common questions about EMS.

### A Brief History of EMS S-11

by James O. Page

### For More Information... S-12

### 1989 Paramedic Training Sites S-15

by Charles D. Toporek

## DEPARTMENTS

Letters 14

Inside EMS 20

Classifieds 63

Inroads 65

Calendar 79

Advertiser Directory 81

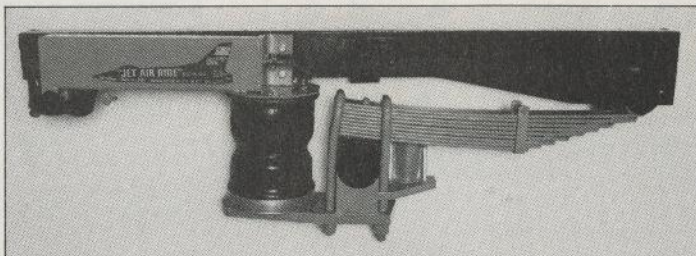
The Last Word 82

Cover: Photo by Ron Machczynski  
Design by Bob Schmitt

# JET AIR RIDE SUSPENSION FOR AMBULANCES

with optional Park and Level®

Patented • Satisfaction Guaranteed!



**P**ut your ambulance on a Jet Air Ride Suspension and ride on "Cloud 9!" Delivers a smooth, quiet ride with less vibrations to the ambulance. Makes every mile a smooth, more comfortable one!

Optional Park and Level® feature allows for easy transporting of patients! With just a flip of a switch from the driver's seat, the ambulance can be lowered in the rear which makes the entrance simple.

This suspension is also available for motor homes.

For further information contact:

**JET COMPANY, INC.**

1303 N. 13th Street

Humboldt, Iowa 50548

(515) 332-3117 or toll-free (800) 332-3117

For More Information Circle #11 on Reader Service Card

# Can You Afford Not To Be An EMS Insider?

**T**he oldest continuously published EMS newsletter (*The EMS Communicator*) soon will have a new name—*The EMS Insider*—and a monthly schedule. Published by the Emergency Care Information Center, an affiliate of JEMS, *The EMS Insider* can be your quickest source of management information (including announcements of grant programs and free or low-cost guidance documents) and late-breaking news in the EMS field. The annual subscription could be the best \$49 you'll ever spend. For a free sample copy of the September issue, write to ECIC at P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075, or call 619/481-1128.

# Jems

Publisher and Editor-in-Chief  
James O. Page

Publisher and Executive Editor

Keith Griffiths

Senior Editor

Nancy Peterson

Medical Editor

Cleve Trimble, MD

Associate Editors

Thom Dick

Marion Garza

Diane Lofshult

Lee A. Reeder III

Editorial Assistant

Katie Deininger

CEU Program Coordinator

Twink Gorgen, RN

Contributing Editors

Betty Till, RN; Norm Dinerman, MD;

Mike Frank, MD; Gary Morris; Mary Newman;

William Roush, MD; Garry Briese;

Ken Stults; and Bruce Goldfarb

Art Director

Robert Schmitt

Production Manager

Dana Jarvis Bies

Graphic Artist

Kathy Bush

Associate Publisher/Sales

Rick Miner

Advertising Director

Lisa J. Cota

Account Executives

Martin R. Lipp

Marte Reavis

Advertising Coordinator

Janene Long

Corporate Controller

Marilyn Bock

Corporate Accounting Manager

Garth M. Howe

Assistant Accounting Manager

Tracey Smith

Circulation/Marketing Director

Jay W. Hillis

Circulation Fulfillment Manager

Stephen W. Phillips

Director of Conference Operations

Betty Till

Assistant Conference Planner

Tamara McConnell

Executive Assistant

Pamela Birnbrauer

Customer Service Manager

Terri Maddox

Customer Service Representative

Shanon Wolper

Administrative Assistant

Chuck Toporek

Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

Kelly Kenney

Jems Publishing Company, Inc.

President

James O. Page

Secretary/Treasurer

Keith Griffiths

Vice President

Betty Till

Advertising Intern

Evan Weisenfeld

JEMS, *Journal of Emergency Medical Services*, ISSN 0197-2510, is published monthly by JEMS Publishing Co., 674 Via de la Valle, Suite 200; P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075; 619/481-1128 (Fed. ID #22-2357324).

**Subscription information:** Send \$19.97 for one year (12 issues), \$33.97 for two years (24 issues) or \$44.97 for three years (36 issues) to P.O. Box 27966, San Diego, CA 92128. Add \$10 per year for Canadian subscriptions, \$20 per year for foreign subscriptions. For new orders only, call toll free 1-800/334-8152 (in Calif. call 1-800/255-3302).

**Advertising information:** Rates are available upon request. Contact JEMS Advertising Department at 674 Via de la Valle, Suite 200, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075; 619/481-1128.

**Editorial information:** Manuscripts and queries should be directed to Nancy Peterson, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Editorial guidelines are available upon request. Submitted manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced and submitted in quadruplicate.

**Microfiche:** JEMS is available on microfiche. Please direct inquiries to University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106; 800/521-3044.

**Copyright 1989** Jems Publishing Co., Inc. No material can be reproduced without the express permission of the publisher. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to JEMS, P.O. Box 27966, San Diego, CA 92128-9959. Claims of non-receipt or damaged issues must be filed within three months of cover date. Second-class circulation postage paid at Solana Beach, California and at additional mailing offices.

BPA membership applied for November 1988.