

# jems

A JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

**AMENDED**

**KKK-A-1822**

**Interpreting the New  
Ambulance Specifications**

**Toxic Time Bomb:  
An EMS System Approach**

**Evaluating Paramedic  
Field Radios**



**James O. Page**  
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief

**Keith Griffiths**  
Managing Editor

**Betty Scalice**  
Associate Editor

**Jan Schwettman**  
Contributing Editor

**Thom Dick**  
Contributing Editor

**Jane Ann Seymour**  
Assistant to the Publisher

**Mary Jane Preiser**  
Advertising Coordinator

**Bobi Dorward**  
Circulation Manager

**David Boe**  
Design Consultant

**The Art Depot**  
Production

**Joan Whitcombe**  
Graphic Artist

**Executive and Advertising Offices**  
P.O. Box 152  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
201/766-7937

**Editorial Offices**  
P.O. Box 1026  
Solana Beach, CA 92075  
714/942-5148

*jems*, A Journal of Emergency Medical Services, is published monthly by Backdraft Publications, P.O. Box 152, Morristown, NJ 07960.

**Subscription information:** Send \$12.40 for one year (12 issues), \$22.00 for two years (24 issues), or \$30.00 for three years (36 issues) to P.O. Box 152-M, Morristown, NJ 07960. Add \$10.00 per year for mailings outside the U.S. and Canada. Add \$4.00 per year for Canadian mailings. Financial or other discounts, services or inducements may be offered periodically to encourage subscriptions or resubscriptions. Change of address notices should include both old and new addresses and zip codes. CANADA — *jems* is distributed in Canada by Emergency Care Ontario, P.O. Box 604, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6V5; (416) 357-4825.

**Advertising Information:** Rates are available upon request. Contact Mary Jane Preiser, advertising coordinator, at 201/766-7937; P.O. Box 152, Morristown, NJ 07960.

**Editorial Information:** Manuscripts, letters and queries should be directed to Keith Griffiths, managing editor, P.O. Box 1026, Solana Beach, CA 92075; 714/942-5148.

Copyright 1980 Backdraft Publications. No material can be reproduced without express permission of the publisher; ISSN 0197-2510. Controlled circulation postage paid at San Fernando, California.

Postmaster—Return Form 3579 to P.O. Box 152, Morristown, NJ 07960.

Cover illustration by Ray Vogler.

# CONTENTS

VOL. 5 NO. 8

OCTOBER 1980

## FEATURES

- 22 Interpreting the New Ambulance Specifications**  
An expert explains the important changes in the KKK-A-1822 document — *by Steve Acai*
- 24 The Bird and the Rhinoceros**  
Can small be better when it comes to the patient compartment in the ambulance? *by Paul Lally and Frederick Peterson, Jr.*
- 31 A Primer on Radio Communications Part 4 — Paramedic Field Radios**  
The last in the series of articles evaluates the available models — *by Harlan Felt and Andrew Seybold*
- 38 Toxic Time Bomb: An EMS System Approach**  
How a New Jersey region used preplanning to handle a hazardous materials explosion — *by Robert Freeman*

## DEPARTMENTS

- 4 Letters**
- 5 Editorial — Are You Ready?**
- 8 Inside EMS**
- 8 Washington Report** *by Jim Malone*
- 9 Nuggets** *by Jan Schwettman*
- 11 Around The Nation** *by Betty Scalice*
- 17 Calendar**
- 18 EMS Workshop — An EMS Analogy**
- 20 Tricks of the Trade** *by Thom Dick* — Getting Back to Blankets
- 42 Clinical Review** *by Michael Antoline* — Near Drowning
- 46 Innovations — Handles for Your Patient**
- 49 New Product Guide**
- 54 The Publisher's Page — One Year Ago**