

That's a Wrap! 30 Years in NYS EMS

Lee Burns
Director (Retired)
NYS Bureau of EMS & Trauma

Lee got hooked in EMS and joined the local volunteer ambulance service as a high school student in a suburb outside of New York City. Once at college she became an EMT and joined the volunteer ambulance service in Saratoga Springs, NY. Lee served in many rolls; as an EMT, paramedic, member of the Board of Directors, squad captain, operations manager & the agency's advanced life support coordinator throughout 30+ years. She has been involved in prehospital care and EMS education since the early 1980's, a paramedic since 1985 and now an EMT again! Lee recently retired from the New York State Department of Health's Bureau of EMS director. During her long tenure with the Department of Health, she was the Deputy Director for the Operations Unit and the regional EMS representative for the 17 counties in northeastern NY.

Also, along the way, Lee is a certified instructor coordinator in county, regional & state EMS education programs, a speaker at national, state and regional EMS conferences, served as a paramedic and currently is an EMT with a vibrant ambulance service in Saratoga County. Lee is a skiing member of the National Ski Patrol and serves as the patrol director for a small ski area in northeastern NY. In the three minutes of off time, Lee pays mortgage for three Labrador retrievers, skis, snowshoes, bicycles, motorcycles and camps.

After many years with NYS DOH, retiring last year as the Bureau Director, Lee Burns reflects on the many changes she has seen and experienced in NYS EMS.

Presentation Outline:

- Changes to Article 30 of the NYS Public Health Law
- Amendments to Part 800 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations (10 NYCRR)
- New regulations, policies, protocols and patient treatments
- Education and certification
- Responses to large events
- Statewide disasters through the years
- Changes in the EMS responder
- Developments in equipment and vehicles

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe three changes in NYS EMS over that past 30 years
2. Discuss the influences on EMS affecting ability to train providers
3. Recall two regulatory changes that have affected NYS EMS