At approximately 11:23 AM on May 13, 2000, immediately following the 87th Commencement of Rice University, Rice University EMS (REMS) was dispatched to the Lovett College Commons for an unconscious female. Off-duty REMS EMT, Jesse Groh, had been summoned after a relative of a student was found to be unconscious and unresponsive. Groh immediately evaluated the patient, determined her to be in full cardiac arrest, initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with other bystanders, and instructed other bystanders to notify the Rice University Police and EMS dispatcher. REMS, the Houston Fire Department, and a Rural Metro ambulance that had been on standby for the Commencement were all dispatched to the scene.

REMS records its fourth CPR save and maintains its 100% witnessed cardiac arrest save rate.

Upon the responding units’ arrival, the patient was still without a pulse. Patient care continued on scene in the (cont. on p. 2)
RUPD Vehicle Soon To be Equipped With AED

Rice University EMS is in the process of evaluating several different automated external defibrillators. One AED will be purchased for use by Rice University Police Department officers. REMS will train officers in the operation of the device, and the AED will be carried in one patrol vehicle on each shift.

The rationale behind this initiative is rather straightforward. A police officer may be the first responder to arrive at the scene of a cardiac arrest and could have the patient defibrillated prior to the arrival of REMS units. This is likely to occur in two different situations. The first is on a call in the middle of the night. While it may take REMS personnel a minute or two to start responding, the police officers are already patrolling and in “response mode.”

The second situation is if REMS is working multiple calls at the same time.

In addition, four members of the RUPD are currently being trained by Captain Christine Borgstrom as Texas Department of Health Emergency Care Attendants. This training course, as well as the training of officers in AED operation and the placement of an AED in a university police vehicle should greatly enhance and strengthen the chain of survival for victims of sudden cardiac arrest on the Rice campus.

Commencement Save (cont. from p. 1)

Lovett Commons for approximately 25 minutes at which time the patient regained a strong, spontaneous pulse and life-sustaining heart rhythm. The patient was then transported by Rural Metro with REMS Lieutenant Andi Tenner on board to the Memorial Hermann Hospital Emergency Room. The patient was further treated and evaluated and admitted to the Cardiac Care Unit of Memorial Hermann Hospital. The patient was on a ventilator for the better part of two days, but by the following week, the patient was discharged from Hermann and returned to her home state of New York. Her family reported that she is doing quite well.

The immediate initiation of bystander CPR and the quick access to professional and quality patient care undoubtedly contributed to this patient’s remarkable and thorough neurological recovery.


Promotions (cont. from p. 1) meeting him at our next membership meeting.

Baker College Sophomore, Stephen Anthony, will take over Sean Joyce’s role as scheduling coordinator. In addition, Stephen has also volunteered to assist REMS in its webpage upkeep.

REMS has a vacant student Lieutenant’s position. If you are certified to at least the Intermediate level and are interested in submitting your name for this position, please contact Noah Reiter at njreit@rice.edu or (713)-348-5785.

REMS To Design New Logo

The Rice University administration has asked REMS to design a new insignia by January of 2001. The reasoning behind the request was Rice’s desire to more stringently enforce trademark violations committed by members of the public.

REMS has several working designs (see opposite page), which will be distributed at its first meeting in the Fall. REMS would definitely appreciate input from any of its members regarding the new insignia.
Above are two working designs for a new REMS insignia. Several more will be developed, hopefully with input from the membership before a design is decided upon. The background color for the logo on the left is Rice yellow, and the background color for the one on the right is Rice blue.

**ALS On Its Way Soon**

All but one obstacle has been negotiated in REMS’ goal to upgrade the level of its service to advanced life support. The University has budgeted REMS with adequate funding to purchase the necessary capital equipment and disposables for the implementation of ALS first response. Rice University’s Office of the General Counsel has drafted an ALS first response agreement between Rice University EMS and the Houston Fire Department. The agreement is currently being reviewed by the City of Houston’s General Counsel, and once approved, an upgrade to ALS will be possible. The upgrade of REMS’ patient care from BLS to ALS has been much anticipated and is very exciting. This increased level of care will allow the Rice community to not just receive rapid, professional emergency medical care, but rapid, professional, advanced emergency medical care. The upgrade will undoubtedly enhance REMS through the ability to provide more definitive treatment for its patients.

An upgrade to ALS will require much dedication from the members of REMS. This will include continuing education, advancement in certification levels, and gaining experience through riding at outside agencies. The time and effort should be well rewarded through a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction through the provision of a quality service to the Rice community.
REMS Summer Newsletter

Rice University
Emergency Medical Services
6100 Main Street - MS 551
Houston, TX 77005-1892

Summer Notes

- The crew quarters in the basement of Lovett College is coming along well. There is already one bed, two tables, and a couch in place. F&H will be giving REMS a couple of more beds and a TV unit soon, and REMS will be purchasing a few items such as a TV and VCR.
- REMS members posted new emergency phone stickers in each dorm room to reflect the transition of student phone lines to the university network. They instruct the community to “Dial 6000.”
- REMS is still seeking correspondence from members who are interested in attending either the Texas EMS Conference in Austin (11/19-11/22) or the NCEMSF Conference in upstate New York in February of 2001. If you are interested, please contact Noah Reiter at njreit@rice.edu or 713-348-5785.
- To date, 19 of the 27 students from this past Spring’s EMT course have become certified as EMT-Basics. Two, David Melville and Elizabeth Dravis, are currently enrolled in EMT-Intermediate courses.
- Since October of 1999, REMS has treated 314 patients. The current statistical year ends at the end of September.
- Rice University’s administration has rewarded the excellent service that REMS provides to the community through increasing its budget to include funding for: an upgrade to advanced life support, summer housing for EMTs, an additional supervisor stipend, and continuation of supervisor stipends through the summer months.

That’s all for now. We hope you are having a great summer and look forward to seeing you back in Houston in about a month!