



DICKINSON COUNTY
EMS ASSOCIATION

**39th ANNUAL
UNIVERSITY OF OKOBOJI
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
CONFERENCE**

September 26-27, 2026

**Dickinson County Expo
1602 15th Street
Spirit Lake, IA**

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Time	Title	Instructor	EMS Hour Topic
0700-0750	Registration and Breakfast (Boy Scouts Fundraiser)		
0750-0800	Welcome to the Campus and the U of O Conference	DCEMSA Staff	
0800-0900	Sneaky Emergencies	Nurse Gwenney	1 Medical
0900-1000	Agricultural Emergencies (Anhydrous, Chemicals)	Brian Freese	1 Operations
1000-1015	Break		
10:15-11:15	Agricultural Trauma	Brian Freese	1 Trauma
11:15-12:15	It's Called Critical Access for a Reason	Nurse Gwenney	1 Medical
12:15-13:00	Lunch		
13:00-14:00	Beyond SPICES and Beers: Geriatrics in the Field	Dr. Carrie Manke	1 Medical
14:00-15:00	Medications "The Adverse Reactions"	Daryl Michael	1 Medical
15:00-15:15	Break		
15:15-16:15	It Won't Happen to Me: The Silent Threat of Complacency	Dr. Carrie Manke	1 Operations

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Time	Title	Instructor	EMS Hour Topic
07:00-07:50	Registration, Breakfast (Boy Scouts Fundraiser)		
07:50-08:00	Welcome to the Campus and the U of O Conference	DCEMSA Staff	
08:00-09:00	Penetrating Head Trauma	Nurse Gwenney	1 Trauma
0900-1000	The Call No One Wants to Get: From Patient to Provider Perspective	Dr. Carrie Manke	1 Medical
10:00-10:15	Break		
10:15-11:15	Fear Factor: Navigating Patients in Crisis	Dr. Carrie Manke	1 Medical
11:15-12:15	Identifying Predators and Victims of Sex Trafficking	Kevin Krull	1 Operations
12:15-13:00	Lunch		
13:00-14:00	Distracted Driving EVO Accidents	Kevin Krull	1 Operations

Daryl Michael NRP FP-C

Daryl is dedicated to training the next generation of emergency responders in caring for the sick and injured. He started out as an EMT volunteer in 1986, graduated to a field paramedic in 1996. While a field medic and working crazy hours he somehow found time to run his own education company. Daryl continued to become a flight paramedic in 1998 and has been flying ever since.

In 2021 Daryl added Avera Care Flight Simulation Coordinator to his credentials providing education for critical access hospitals, competencies for Avera's Care Flight, McKennan's main ER and the 2 free standing ER's, EMS/Paramedic recertification and in addition, teaches emergent care for management of electrical burns. Daryl has a perpetual interest in best practice, new techniques and research. His background and pursuit of knowledge have led to an exceptional level of expertise. Two little known facts about Daryl, he has a tendency to notice how ET tube friendly you might be for placement even when you are not his patient, and he makes the best potato salad ever!

MEDICATIONS – “THE ADVERSE REACTION” DARYL MICHAEL

- Define adverse drug reactions, side effects, and toxicities.
- Explain the mechanisms behind allergic and non-allergic reactions.
- Identify high-risk patient groups, such as the elderly or those with organ failure.
- Classify reactions by severity, type, and predictability.
- Recognize common signs of adverse reactions across body systems.

- Differentiate a true allergy from a normal side effect.
- Assess patient medication histories for drug interactions.
- Recognize vital signs changes and lab results during treatment.
- Report adverse events using standard safety systems.
- Modify or stop medication plans safely under clinical guidance.
- Educate patients on warning signs to watch for at home.
- Prevent errors by checking patient allergies before prescribing or giving drugs

Brian Freese

Brian is a full-time instructor for the National Education Center for Agriculture where he teaches fire departments around the country various courses in ag rescue. He holds a Master of Science from Columbia Southern University in Fire Executive Leadership: Emergency Services Management. He has been involved in EMS for 18 years and the fire service for 19. He is a nationally registered paramedic with endorsements as an instructor and an evaluator. He holds fire certifications including fire officer 3 and fire instructor 2.

AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCIES – BRIAN FREESE

Topics covered:

- Anhydrous Ammonia Exposure
- Manure Pit Rescue
- Chemical Exposure

Learning Objectives:

- Describe an agricultural rescue incident scene size up
- Explain the importance of proper lock-out-tag-out procedures
- Explain the considerations for resources and management of an agricultural rescue call
- Identify and understand treatment options based on given scenario

AGRICULTURAL TRAUMA – BRIAN FREESE

Topics covered:

- Fluid injection injuries
- Power take-off shaft injuries
- Combine and auger injuries
- Pinch point injuries
- Tractor rollover injuries

Learning Objectives:

- List different types of dangers that can lead to traumatic injuries
- Understand triage and proper patient assessment as related to agricultural trauma
- Identify the appropriate medical center (in their response area) to transport a victim of agricultural trauma

Gwenny Winkler

Gwenny Winkler is an EMS & nursing educator who sprouted her roots in the ER and HEMS. She believes learning should be fun and lives for those aha! moments when her students come alive with curiosity and a hunger for growth. Frequently called “intense,” for her fast-paced and loud personality, Gwenny's ability to slow it down to connect with patients and treat their humanity along with their pathology is her superpower.

When she's not in the ED, a helicopter, or the classroom, she enjoys destroying her opponents at pickleball and cooking exorbitant amounts of food. Her husband and five children are the light of her life, but those kids exhaust her to no end. Gwenny is a connoisseur of Diet Coke (can, fountain, bottle) and her blood type is Torchy's queso. In 2026, she and her husband released an education platform, The Nurse Gwenny Library, with over 100 hours of fun and engaging continuing education designed for today's learner. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, CFRN, CTRN, CCRN, & CEN.

SNEAKY EMERGENCIES – NURSE GWENNY

A look at several “Sneaky Emergencies” and what makes them so hard to spot! From assessment findings to interventions, this lesson will have you earning your medical detective badge!

Learning Objectives:

- Identify atypical signs and symptoms associated with high-risk “sneaky emergencies,” including euglycemic DKA, thyroid storm, myxedema coma, geriatric sepsis, and others
- Differentiate subtle assessment findings that distinguish these conditions from more benign presentations
- Apply evidence-based nursing interventions to improve patient care and outcomes

IT’S CALLED CRITICAL ACCESS FOR A REASON – NURSE GWENNY

Using a case study of a crashing patient in a rural Kansas hospital, this course highlights the urgency of having high level providers in the rural healthcare setting and highlights the importance of rural healthcare teams maintaining a high level of clinical excellence.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify statistics associated with rural or critical access healthcare facilities and patient outcomes
- Demonstrate the importance of critical access nurses and paramedics to their communities
- List ways that critical access clinicians can maintain proficiency in high acuity, low occurrence pathologies

A TRAUMA CASE STUDY: PENETRATING HEAD TRAUMA – NURSE GWENNY

Penetrating trauma might seem easy to manage at first glance: control bleeding, replace lost volume, transport to the OR. Easy peasy, right? WRONG. There can be so many factors that complicate a patient with penetrating trauma, particularly when the head is involved. From managing the airway to the ethics of caring for a patient with unsurvivable injuries, there is so much more to these patients to consider! This lecture discusses management of hemorrhagic shock, traumatic brain injury, and prehospital management of a difficult airway.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss a GSW to the head case study
- List possible complications in this patient
- Distinguish circulatory management in traumatic arrest patients from other shock types
- Identify realistic outcome goals

Dr. Carrie is a published author, national speaker, life coach, and advanced practice nurse with over 15 years of experience in healthcare. She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Minnesota and has served as an Emergency Department clinician, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Educator. Known for launching Minnesota's first mobile ECMO program and implementing a multi-hospital suicide risk assessment tool, Dr. Carrie is a sought-after speaker on mental health, resiliency, trauma, and suicide prevention. She combines evidence-based practice with personal experience to deliver practical and inspiring presentations that empower healthcare professionals.

THE CALL NO ONE WANTS TO GET: FROM PATIENT TO PROVIDER PERSPECTIVE – DR. CARRIE MANKE

Certain calls induce immediate trauma when you hear them come over the radio. How do you respond when you know that call is going to be traumatic? Or reminds you of a similar call that didn't go well? Foundational knowledge on trauma-informed care is critical to provide a safe and compassionate culture for trauma victims and avoid re-traumatizing the patient. This presentation will dive into a personal account of sexual assault and provide the learner with an understanding of how trauma impacts the patient and first responder, and how to create a trusting relationship with a trauma victim.

Objectives:

- Define and explain the importance of creating a culture of trauma-informed care
- Describe the physiologic impact of trauma on the brain and body

- Demonstrate how to effectively interact with a sexual assault victim and developing a trusting relationship

BEYOND SPICES AND BEERS: GERIATRICS IN THE FIELD – DR. CARRIE MANKE

As the population continues to age, healthcare professionals face a unique and growing challenge to effectively care for older adults. In this presentation, we will delve into the complex world of geriatric healthcare through an in-depth review of the pathophysiology of aging. We will also review common geriatric syndromes, underdiagnosed and missed conditions, and atypical patient presentations to better equip you in caring for this complicated population.

Objectives:

- Explain the pathophysiology of aging and implications for practice
- Identify and list risk factors for common geriatric syndromes
- Recognize atypical presentations of older adults and describe implications for pre-hospital personnel

IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME: THE SILENT THREAT OF COMPLACENCY – DR. CARRIE MANKE

Embark on an engaging journey to discover the hidden dangers of complacency, as we delve into its risky effects on both patient and staff safety. By exploring the root causes and consequences of complacency, the learner will verbalize the urgent need for proactive measures to combat this silent threat. This presentation will cover strategies for addressing complacency, including fostering a culture of continuous learning, accountability, and change. Attendees will gain valuable insights to recognize signs of complacency, understand its consequences, and implement effective solutions that promote growth, innovation, and sustained success within their agency.

Objectives:

- Explore the root cause of complacency and define the comfort zone
- Explain the consequences of complacency
- Demonstrate how to resist complacency with tips and tricks for continuous learning, accountability, and change

FEAR FACTOR – NAVIGATING PATIENTS IN CRISIS – DR. CARRIE MANKE

The number of mental health patients who seek emergency medical care continues to rise. Interacting with this population can be challenging and requires a skillset beyond traditional first aid. To effectively and safely care for these individuals, first responders must be able to identify patients in crisis and develop an immediate trusting relationship with them. The emergency care provider and mental health patient both experience fear as a predominant emotion during their initial interaction. This presentation will provide an overview of behaviors exhibited by a patient in crisis, explore the underlying fear response, and provide the learner with strategies to implement during the initial encounter of a mental health patient in need of emergency care.

Objectives:

- Identify specific behaviors that indicate a patient is in crisis
- Explain the fear response underlying the patient's explicit actions and fear experienced by the first responder
- Demonstrate de-escalation techniques and tactics for developing a safe and trusting relationship with patients in crisis

Kevin is a 1993 DPS 19th academy Graduate of Alexandria Technical College with AAS degree in Law Enforcement. Kevin worked at the Capitol Division of the State Patrol from 1993-1995, he was a former part-time MCSAP (truck enforcement) officer for the patrol. In 1995 he transferred to Road Trooper in post 6 Spencer Office and currently lives in Emmet County and works as a road Trooper out of Spencer Office. Kevin also serves as a Post 6 Public Resource Officer (PRO), Crisis Negotiator assistant team leader for Area B (western Iowa), Verbal Defense and Influence Instructor, De-escalation instructor with Force Science, Defensive Driver instructor and Resiliency Instructor. Kevin serves as a critical stress debriefing team member as well as on the Peer support team. As a Public Resource Officer, he spends time presenting and providing instruction on a wide variety of topics around traffic and community safety.

DISTRACTED DRIVING/EVO ACCIDENTS

- Discuss responsibilities and laws regarding emergency vehicle operations. Review case studies of Emergency Vehicle accidents and liability.

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IDENTIFYING PREDATORS AND VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

- Discuss awareness and common indicators of Predators and victims of sex trafficking. Review case studies and discuss what to do when you see indicators.

EMS Continuing Education Hours (CEHs)

Iowa Lakes Community College will award EMS providers Continuing Education Hours for attendance at the conference. Please note that participants must attend the entire day to qualify for these hours.

The conference offers a total of 12 EMS hours (7 on Saturday, 5 on Sunday) which are divided into Core topics as outlined in the Schedule.

Continuing Education for Nursing Professionals

DCEMSA provides courses that are well-qualified for nursing continuing education hours. Please note that the Iowa Board of Nursing (IBON) no longer approves nursing hours directly; rather, it leaves it up to individual providers to attend courses that qualify for their renewal. Nurses will need to determine whether the course content meets the IBON's criteria for appropriate continuing education subject matter, as outlined in IAC 655-5.2(3).

Following the completion of the Conference a CE certificate of completion will be provided via email from the EMS Scanning Company after completing the online Evaluation. It is highly recommended that each participant keep a copy of their certificate, the Conference Agenda/Schedule, and the Conference booklet (which contains the presenter information, topic objectives, and learning outcomes), as these items may be required in the event of an audit.

Save the Date

**The 40th Annual
University of Okoboji
EMS Conference
will be held on**

September 25-26, 2027

We hope to see you there!

The Dickinson County EMS Association would like to thank Iowa Lakes Community College, the EMS Scanning Company, the speakers, the DCEMSA Conference Committee, Terril EMS for providing the food, the Boy Scouts for the breakfast, the beverage committee, the vendors and all of our donors for making the conference a success for 39 years. We look forward to serving you in the future.

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EMS ASSOCIATION

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