

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

UNIT 1, PART 2: Ambulance Readiness

Marilyn Niffin BSc, ACP
Professor, Georgian College
© Copyright 2022

Ambulance Readiness

15 mins early, last
crew has to keep
working

- ❖ Arrive on time
- ❖ “Take care of business first!”
- ❖ Circle check
- ❖ Medical equipment/drug check
 - sign for narcotics
- ❖ Vehicle and equipment cleanliness
- ❖ “Other duties as assigned”

Arrive On Time

- ❖ This means arrive early.....
- ❖ 15- 30 minutes before shift start
 - Full uniform*
 - PPE
 - Personal Equipment (stethoscope, belt, light etc.)

CIRCLE CHECK

Purpose

- ❖ Early identification of vehicle problems and defects before the vehicle is operated on the highway
- ❖ Prevent the operation of a vehicle with conditions that are likely to cause or contribute to the severity of an accident



Overview

- ❖ entire team responsible though
- ❖ Every 12 hours, beginning of shift. If Call first, prioritize the emergency, then do inspection later
- ❖ Driver conducts an inspection of a vehicle
- ❖ Inspection is conducted with the use of a schedule which lists the components and systems requiring inspection
- ❖ Driver completes a report of inspection
- ❖ Inspection reports valid for 24hrs
- ❖ Driver records on the report and defects found during the inspection *or during the day*
- ❖ Driver reports defects to the operator (Supervisor is usually the first point of contact)

The Schedule

- ❖ Provided by the MTO
 - Service operators may have a modified version (vehicle check sheet/envelope)
 - This ensures appropriate and applicable sections are inspected

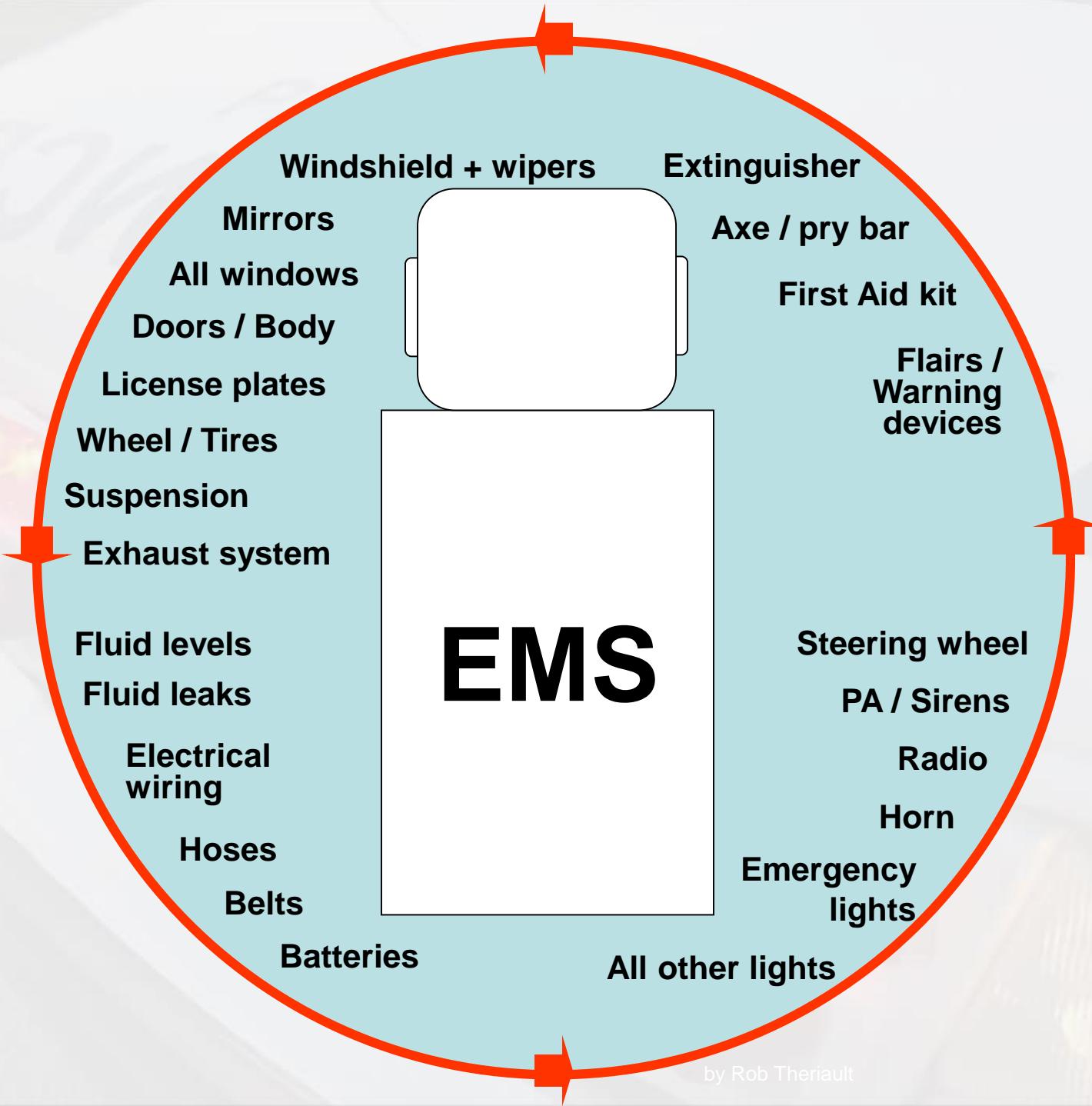
RELEVANT
study all major and
minor effects

Defects: Major? Or Minor?

- ❖ Certain areas of defect will be noted as a *minor* and will allow the vehicle to be operated
 - Wording “minor” will be noted on schedule
- ❖ *Major* defects require the vehicle to be removed from service until corrected

Circle Check

1. Outside
2. Engine compartment
3. Patient compartment
4. Operator area



Circle check

1. Outside

- Windshield & wipers
- Certification date (*commercial vehicle*) on driver's side window
- Mirrors – damage? Cleanliness?
- All glass/windows (cracks, visibility, function)
- Doors (open, close, secure properly)
- License plates (valid stickers)
- Suspension
 - broken springs, faulty shocks, and sagging vehicle
 - When driving: bouncing, bottoming out / excessive sway
 - vehicle should not be driven with any of these defects



Circle check

Must be in same direction, else major defect



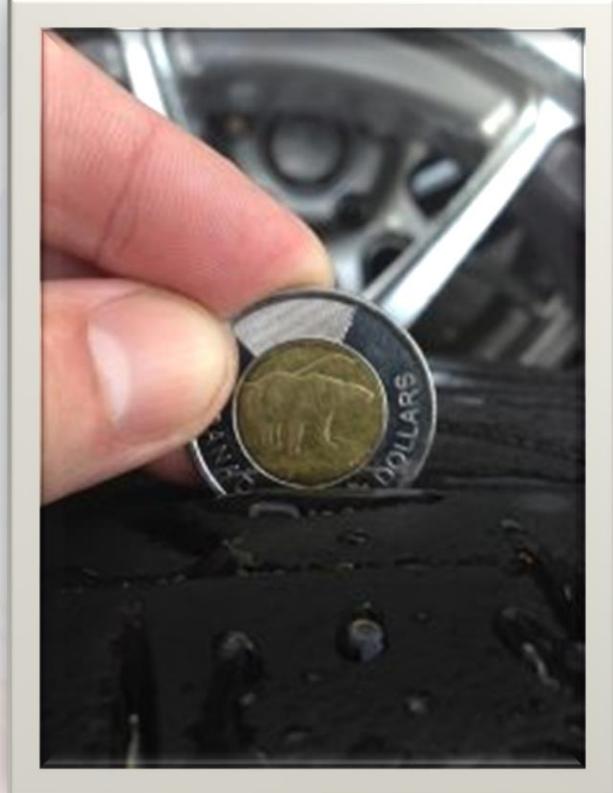
Outside

- Wheels / Tires
 - Tire pressure
 - Tread depth (next slide)
 - Wear
 - Ripple / other damage on the sidewall
 - Lug-nuts
- Exhaust system (smells, excessive drips, hanging)
- Body damage
- Fuel cap

Tire tread depth

Stick the toonie right side up between the tire tread. If the tread reaches...

- ❖ The bears paws, you're tires are practically new.
- ❖ The silver section of the coin, your tires are half worn.
- ❖ As far as the word “DOLLARS”, you need to replace your tires.



Circle check

2. Engine compartment

- Fluids: oil, brake, transmission, steering, radiator, windshield washer
 - ***Look under vehicle for fluid leaks***
- Electrical: look for loose wiring, light tug
- All hoses & belts: anything loose, light tug
- Batteries – any signs of corrosion

Note: we do not check spark plugs

[How To Check Engine Oil - Hot or Cold? - YouTube](#)

Circle check

3. Operator area - *Turn on the engine (does it start easily?)*

- Unusual noises
- Adjust seat and all mirrors to suit
- Seatbelt function
- PA system (+/- sirens), Radio system (CACC radio)
- Windshield wipers
- Steering wheel
- Brake action (check local policy & procedure), anti-theft
- Horn/Siren
- All interior gauges (e.g. fuel, oil, battery, other)
- Exhaust leak?
- Heating and cooling systems

Circle check

3. Operator area

- All lights
 - Emergency lights
 - All turn signals
 - Headlights
 - Flood lights (right, left and rear)
 - Tail lights
 - Brake lights
 - Back up lights
- GPS, Fuel cards, Insurance papers

Circle check

4. Patient compartment - shut down the engine

- Fire extinguishers (front & back)
- Flares or other warning devices
- O₂ – adequate PSI and is turned off
- O₂ is secured and positioned properly (M & D)
- Exhaust system/heating/cooling
- seatbelts
- +/- Axe / Pry bar





QUESTIONS?