

EMS STAFF SAFETY NEWSLETTER

PARSIPPANY — A 55-year-old Lake Hiawatha woman was arrested Sunday after she spit and attacked EMS workers, police said.

Officers responded to a North Beverwyck home at around 6:45 p.m. Sunday after they received calls about a drunk person.

At the scene, officers found 55-year-old Colleen Parker, of Lake Hiawatha, who became disorderly and started yelling obscenities at them.

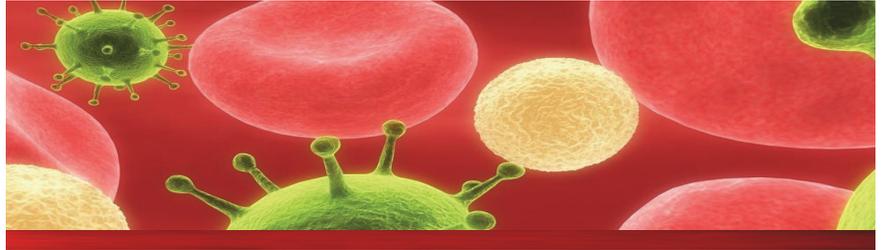
ParsIPPany Volunteer Ambulance was called to take Parker to Saint Clare's Hospital. After the ambulance left the scene, police received a call that they pulled over on Vail Road and Route 46 because Parker was assaulting EMS in the ambulance.

A 26-year-old volunteer EMS worker told police that Parker tried to punch him in the face and then spit on his uniform. A 55-year-old EMS Volunteer told police he came to help the other EMS Worker restrain Parker when she grabbed his leg and injured his groin.

Officers attempted to place Parker under arrest but she resisted. She was restrained and taken to Saint Clares Hospital on the ambulance with an officer onboard.

Parker was charged with two counts of aggravated assault and two counts of disorderly conduct. She was released on a promise to appear at future court date.

*By Fausto Giovanni Pinto
NJ Advance Media for NJ.com
on February 26, 2016 at 4:28 PM*



Exposure to bloodborne pathogens is a constant risk for EMS providers. Having proper policies and procedures in place is imperative. For EMS agencies, the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) bloodborne pathogens standard (29 C.F.R. § 1910.1030) applies to all personnel who may reasonably anticipate contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials in the course of providing services. Other potentially infectious materials can include contact with skin, eyes, mucous membranes or from piercing the skin.

To comply with OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard and other requirements, all EMS agencies must have an exposure control plan, which should contain an infectious disease prevention plan. They should also have a safety and infection control plan, an immunization/hepatitis B vaccination plan, a hazard communication program and a policy for post-exposure evaluation and follow-up.

As part of the exposure control plan, EMS agencies must appoint a health and safety officer (HSO) who's in charge of ensuring compliance with OSHA policies. The HSO should work with management and company staff to develop and administer any additional company policies and practices that might be effective in implementing the exposure control plan and other OSHA policies, should ensure that all staff are properly trained on the bloodborne pathogens standard and other OSHA requirements, and should conduct periodic audits to ensure the company is in compliance with respect to bloodborne pathogens and other OSHA requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact your Agency's Training Officer. Safety Success and Teamwork is everyone's responsibility.

Article: Excerpt from JEMS article written by Christie Mellott, April 06th, 2015.

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BURN NOTICE

Every year the American Burn Association (ABA) sets aside the first full week of February as “Burn Awareness Week.”

For this year’s theme on scalds, the ABA has provided these prevention resources on its website:

www.ameriburn.org/preventionBurnAwareness.php

- Cooking Safety for Older Adults
- Pediatric Scalds
- Consumer Resources for Burn Prevention

According to the ABA, “scald injuries affect all ages,” but “young children and the elderly are most vulnerable.”

The ABA further reports that “annually in the United States and Canada, over 500,000 people receive medical treatment for burn injuries. Roughly half of these injuries are scalds.”

However, scald injuries can be prevented with awareness training and safety precautions.

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Traffic deaths show a steep rise for the first time in years

There was a sharp increase in traffic deaths during the first nine months of 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). What can you do keep safe on the roads?

Transportation secretary Anthony Foxx noted that for decades, safety improvements have resulted in a steady decline in highway deaths. “But the apparent increase in 2015 is a signal that we need to do more,” he said. NHTSA estimates that more than 26,000 people died in traffic crashes in the first nine months of 2015, compared to 23,796 fatalities during the same period of 2014. The estimated increase of more than nine percent follows years of gradual declines—more than 22 percent from 2000 to 2014.

Although NHTSA says it’s too early to pinpoint the causes of the spike in road fatalities, the agency is responding to this statistical red flag and not waiting for the situation to worsen. That means taking on new initiatives and addressing persistent issues like drunk driving and failure to wear seat belts.

Consider these ideas to raise awareness about road safety at your workplace:

- Hold an all-hands “team meeting” to review the organizations most recent statistics and review current driving safety policy.
- Get fellow co-workers’ attention about distracted driving.
- Mentor new incoming co-workers that following the rules of the road is about doing the right thing, even when someone else isn’t watching.
- Review the company’s driver training to make sure it addresses any recent changes in the law and new risks that may have surfaced recently.