



# National Ski Patrol

## CENTRAL DIVISION

### Ohio Region

## OEC REGION REVIEW 2011

Since we officially begin our new ski season (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012), it is time for another Ohio Region OEC IT Team E-letter. The purpose of this correspondence is one of sharing information and ideas that will allow us to continue to offer a high quality OEC program to our Region. You are receiving this because you either have undertaken the role as a patrol OEC POC, OEC IT or are currently being mentored as an OEC IT. Please disseminate this info to your OEC instructor core.

Region OEC plans and formats are outlined below for this upcoming season. Please feel free to contact me anytime to ask questions, share ideas or provide suggestions. My intent is to have an open door policy and utilize a “TEAM” approach in solving issues and achieving our ultimate goal of providing a quality program for our fellow patrollers in our Region.

Thanks in advance for your participation this year and I look forward to working with all of you.

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#### IV. **OEC INSTRUCTOR RECERTIFICATIONS**

NSP mandates that all OEC instructors recertify at least once every 3 years to continue as an OEC instructor. The Region will NOT offer any OEC recertification clinics this year other than at the Division meeting in Cincinnati in September. Each Patrol will be responsible for putting on their own recertification clinics. PNS has already done one in June and I know other Patrols have some planned as well. Any clinics planned must be coordinated through me, registered with National, QA'd, and a CCR form filled out.

#### V. **QUALITY CONTROL (QA)**

The National QA mandate for every Patrol is 4 items: OEC Refresher, OEC instructor refresher, OEC class and OEC Practical Final. All IT's must be involved in this process as it is key in the participation process when making yearly OEC IT appointments. IT's will need to perform 1-2 QA functions at an area outside of their own. I'm in the process of attempting to provide minimal financial travel reimbursement. More to follow on that matter.

#### VI. **SEM/ARM**

The SEM/ARM test clinic will be the same time frame as last year. Please see Event Calendar attachment for the March 2012 dates. This event MUST be held "on snow", skiing candidates must be able to ski to the scene (if required) and it allows candidates the opportunity to practice in the environment in which they will be tested.

#### VII. **OEC 5<sup>th</sup> ED**

The new OEC 5<sup>th</sup> ED has been available now for several months and all Patrols should have already obtained them for their instructors and Patrollers. Many questions have arisen pertaining to new OEC skills, Instructor Manual available on myNSPkit, print typo's, and changes in the way we used to do things.

.....”When you change the way you look at things.....the things you look at change!!”.....

Please understand that the 5<sup>th</sup> ED was written for 27,000+ Patrollers and others across the U.S. What applies to your Patrol may or may not apply to a Patrol in Oregon! The way we get around this issue is by using the “Standard of Training” (National policy) and the “Standard of Care” (local protocols) text on pg 21-22 in the 5<sup>th</sup> ED.

Please see attachments for the OEC 5<sup>th</sup> guidelines for OEC classes this year and the new text. There are some new OEC skill sets that we need to add and address. Also included are skill check-off guides. These are actually being used by the Eastern Division and they gave us permission to use them. Feel free to use the forms and the recommendation is to keep each individual signed off sheet in your Patroller’s file or computer depending on how you keep your documents. **All OEC instructors must be checked off by an OEC IT BEFORE they teach a new OEC skill set to a class.**

The 5<sup>th</sup> ED E-exercise is **NOT mandatory** however it **SHOULD** be incorporated into the Refreshers to update all patrollers on the new items and changes.

OEC skill sign off sheets need to stay at the local level with Patroller records. It’s **NOT** mandatory that they be signed (just strongly recommended) and is up to the local Patrol discretion (IOR) as how to do this.

Typo errors in text should be sent to Karen Hadden, not NSP. We want to consolidate as they come in rather than many emails.

All OEC course candidates **MUST** be comfortable with the skills on pg XII **BEFORE** taking the final evaluation.

Additional attachments include PPT. presentation that you may use if desired, OEC 5<sup>th</sup> ED Updates/changes by chapter, MyNSPkit Helpful Hints, and the OEC Skill check-off sheets (a sheet with all **AND** a sheet with just new ones. I have purposely omitted the Orientation Exercise quiz as it is available on the NSP website.

My intent is to hopefully visit an OEC class for each Patrol between now and the end of August for any last minutes tweaks.

## VIII. **CONCLUSION**

The OEC courses for the year have already started up or will shortly. Refreshers (including instructor) have been planned and QA assignments are in progress. It won't be long then until we can perform our skill sets in an environment of play that we call work.

I appreciate everyone's efforts to help to continue to set a great example within the Central Division and to allow our local Patrols ways to continue improving the OEC program in our Region. Your comments are welcomed and Laura and I look forward to working with you in any way we can.

Best regards,

Dave Baumlein  
Ohio Region OEC Administrator