

EMT EDUCATION DAY IN ENNISCRONE

Education and integration were high on the agenda for voluntary and statutory emergency services personnel at the third annual Education Day for EMTs, which was hosted by Sligo Fire & Rescue Service at Enniscrone Fire Station during the summer.

The EMT Education Day on Saturday 14 July combined both theory and practice to address some of the new clinical practice guidelines for 2017-18. Marion Davis, Civil Defence Officer for Sligo, opened the proceedings by welcoming all delegates to the northwest seaside town of Enniscrone.

Michael McDonagh, Assistant Tutor and EMT with Sligo Civil Defence, outlined the importance of the one-day event for delegates and introduced the speakers who came from a

number of professional bodies.

He acknowledged the key role of Sligo's fire service personnel, especially Tom O'Boyle, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, and David Nevin, Station Officer, adding that they provided "a very real and meaningful experience for EMTs on dealing with a simulated road traffic accident".

Clinical lead Dr Aine Mitchell, Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Sligo University Hospital, played a central role throughout the day by significantly utilising her expertise to



answer questions and to provide advice on various aspects of pre-hospital care. Derek Nolan, Advanced Paramedic with HSE West, got the day under way with his presentation on recognition of the sick child.

INTERAGENCY CO-OPERATION

Tom O'Boyle, Sligo's Assistant Chief Fire Officer, gave a stimulating talk on the work of the fire brigade in relation to attending road traffic accidents and the task of ensuring patient safety and that of his fire crews.

He emphasised the importance of all voluntary and state agencies working closely together. Of special interest was the idea of dual response and there was unanimous support to this idea and the benefits that this would provide to patients.



Michael McDonagh, EMT with Sligo Civil Defence and Assistant Tutor with PHECC, gives a demonstration on chest compressions during the EMT Education Day at Enniscrone Fire Station.



Martina Byrne, Account Manager at Galen-Pharma, provided new updates on analgesia provision in pre-hospital care.

Specialist Registrars in Emergency Medicine at Sligo University Hospital – Dr Kate Langtree and Dr Inge Van Ingle – shared their expertise with delegates on the hot topic of the treatment of burns and chest injuries respectively. Both talks were very well received and prompted much discussion on the issues presented.

EMT EDUCATION

Mark Dixon, Senior Lecturer at the Graduate Entry Medical School at University of Limerick, gave a presentation on the science behind extrication and the proper management of spinal issues in the event of a road traffic collision.

Analgesia provision always gets due attention and this again proved to be the case when Martina Byrne from Galen Health-Care discussed Methoxyflurane (Pentrox) provided an update on a new method of analgesia provision in pre-hospital care.

Michael McDonagh, Sligo Civil Defence EMT and Clinical Nurse Manager, shared his experiences to date of its use within the Emergency Department and its potential uses within the pre-hospital care setting.

MAJOR INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

The final talk of the morning session fell to Dr Aine Mitchell on major incident management. Sligo University Hospital's Consultant in Emergency Medicine outlined the protocols to be followed in the event of a major incident and how the command structure develops, whilst also stressing the need for a co-ordinated approach.

The afternoon session provided a practical demonstration for EMTs when working closely with the fire crews during a simulated road traffic accident and extrication exercise. HSE



Pictured at the presentations in the Diamond Coast Hotel, Enniscrone, were (l-r): Martina Byrne Galen Healthcare; Marion Davis, Civil Defence Officer Sligo; Dr Aine Mitchell, Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Sligo University Hospital; David Nevin, Enniscrone Station Officer, Sligo Fire & Rescue Service; Dr Kate Langtree SPR Emergency Medicine at Sligo University Hospital; Tom O'Boyle, Assistant Chief Fire Officer of Sligo Fire & Rescue Service; Michael McDonagh EMT, Assistant Tutor (PHECC) Sligo Civil Defence; Dr Inge Van Dijk, SPR Emergency Medicine at Sligo University Hospital; Mark Dixon, Course Director of Paramedic Studies at the Graduate Entry Medical School, University of Limerick; Seamus Egan, Commander Civil Defence Sligo; and Derek Nolan, Advanced Paramedic Tutor.



Tom O'Boyle, Assistant Chief Fire Officer of Sligo Fire & Rescue Service, was the lead assessor of a simulated road traffic accident during EMT Education Day.



An aerial shot by drone of an RTC exercise during this year's EMT Education Day at Enniscrone Fire Station (courtesy of Sligo Fire & Rescue Service).

West Paramedic Aidan Doran the Advanced Paramedic Derek Nolan advised and directed on the safe retrieval of patients from the site.

Having safely extricated the 'casualties' from the 'accident site' EMTs were then put through their paces in triage by Regina McLoughlin, a staff nurse from Sligo University Hospital's Emergency Department.

In his concluding remarks, Michael McDonagh said that all delegates were happy with the day and had praised the efforts of all those involved in organising the EMT Education Day.

He also thanked the medics, paramedics and tutors who gave up their time on the day, particularly Sligo Fire & Rescue's Assistant Chief Fire Officer Tom O'Boyle, and Station Officer David Nevin.

Photographs courtesy of Paddy Sheridan; aerial photographs (by drone) courtesy of Tom O'Boyle, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Sligo Fire & Rescue Service.