



CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

NO. 2-99

January 11, 1999

TO: SHERIFFS, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS, TRAINING COORDINATORS AND COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION

RE: FIRST AID TRAINING AND CHEMICAL AGENTS LESSON PLANS

Two issues have recently been raised concerning training and the answers to these questions may impact many facilities across the state. Please review these two matters for possible changes in the training at your facility, changes which may help reduce training costs and time for your facility.

First, during discussions between Commission staff and county jail training officers, it has become apparent that some counties may be training their staff on First Aid every year, even though the staff's certification is valid for two or three years. The question this raises is "Does the Commission require **annual** recertification training for First Aid?"

In the past, most certificates were valid only for a one year period, and references were made to **annual** training. However, certifying agencies now appear to be going to two or three year certification for First Aid. Pursuant to Part 7010, section 7010.2(f) "Facility staff shall receive training and maintain certification in approved first aid and emergency life saving techniques including the use of emergency equipment." The requirement is **not for** yearly refresher training (as would have been necessary under the old one-year term for training), but rather **maintaining current** and valid certification.

Please contact your current certifying agency for First Aid (i.e. Red Cross, American Heart Association) to ascertain their current certification time frame. You may either adjust your recertification to this time frame, or make a decision to continue annual training. Factors that should be taken into account include county policy, past practice, union issues, and county contracts. The Commission will recognize any valid current certification as meeting the standard.

However, it is important to remember that OSHA/PESH **requires the availability of emergency equipment and training in the use of such equipment on an annual basis** as part of Blood Borne and Tuberculosis management in correctional facilities. This equipment must be readily available throughout the facility if staff are not assigned their own pocket masks.

As a second matter, an officer who is BMP certified to teach BMP's Chemical Agents lesson plan and is also SCOC Train-the-Trainer certified inquired as to the feasibility of his being allowed to train correction staff at his facility even though he had not completed the Commission's Train-the-Trainer course for Chemical Agents.

New York State Commission of Correction
4 Tower Place
Albany, New York 12203-3702
(518) 485-2346

Alan J. Croce, Chairman/Commissioner

Thomas J. Goldrick, Commissioner
Patricia R. Tappan, Commissioner

The decision has been made that a BMP Certified Chemical Agents instructor who **also** has completed Legal Issues training by the Commission will be able to instruct correctional staff on the Commission's Chemical Agents course and refresher.

This combination, if it occurs in your facility, may reduce the need to use an outside source for chemical agent training.

Our review of training issues such as these is part of our continuing endeavor to assist the counties in their effort to better manage costs by allowing for the reduction or elimination of non-mandated expenditures.

Alan J. Croce, Chairman/Commissioner