**OEC Chapter 1: Introduction to Outdoor Emergency Care**

**Overview:** this chapter is mainly (pretty irrelevant) history of NSP, along with some important legal information. You should read the legal sections, but the history can be safely skimmed.

**Major points:**

* “Minnie” Dole founded the NSP.
* To get your OEC certification you must pass a written and a practical examination.
* Once you get your OEC, you’ll need to complete a yearly refresher course to maintain it, along with an active CPR certification.
* Good Samaritan laws protect a person from legal liability when the person volunteers to perform an act to help someone else. They are not in effect in all states (they are in VT).
* OEC technicians have a moral and legal duty to act.
* Documentation is an important component of patient care and a critical part of risk management.
* It is important for OEC technicians to understand their roles and limitations and to understand the level of care they can provide to patients based on their particular state’s EMS laws, rules, and regulations.
* Whenever possible, obtain consent before caring for a patient.

**Must Study**:

* Doctrine of public reliance, p. 11: essentially, any time you’re wearing a medical cross, you’re obligated to act as a medical responder should an accident occur.
* Abandonment, negligence, pp. 12: know what these terms mean.
* Consent, p. 14-15: in general, before administering treatment you must ask for consent. If a patient is unconscious, on drugs, or otherwise incapacitated, you are legally granted implied consent to treat the patient.
* Refusal of care, p. 16: for legal reasons, if someone refuses care, you should document this in writing, ideally with their signature.
* CASE Scenario, p. 3, 10, 18: read through these whenever you encounter them in the textbook, and take time to think about what you would do.

***Key terms (all defined in chapter review):*** *Abandonment, Assault, Battery, Breach of duty, Charles Minot “Minnie” Dole, Consent, Doctrine of public reliance, Duty to act, Ethics, Expressed content, Good Samaritan laws, Gross negligence, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Implied consent, Informed consent, Minor consent, National Medical Advisor, National Medical Committee, National OEC Program Committee, National OEC Program Director, National OEC Refresher Committee, National Ski Patrol System, Inc. (NSP), Negligence, Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC), Prehospital care, Refresher, Standard of car, Standard of training, Winter Emergency Care*