**OEC Chapter 2: Emergency Medical Care Systems**

**Overview:** this chapter covers a general overview of emergency care systems, the history of emergency medical care (history can be skimmed), and the different levels of emergency personnel and how they work together to ensure quality patient care (very important).

**Major points:**

* An emergency care system is a network of specially trained personnel, equipment, facilities, and other resources that respond to emergencies. (Ski Patrollers are part of the emergency care system)
* Emergency care system resources are deployed using a tiered approach based on specific needs.
* The various components of emergency care systems work as a team by utilizing common goals, language, and practices. Effective communication within systems is extremely important.
* Continuity and documentation of care is vital.
* In the US the 4 types of prehospital emergency care providers are EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs, and paramedics.
* An effective emergency care system has 14 distinct attributes and public health departments play pivotal roles in the development of emergency care systems.
* Research is used to identify trends, report clinically relevant findings, and introduce new technologies, practices, and techniques.
* Medical oversight and ongoing quality improvement ensure that the care patients receive is in accordance with area medical guidelines.

**Must Study**:

* Functions, responsibilities, and levels of training of the different levels of emergency personnel, p. 27-29
* How different people in emergency care systems work together to ensure continuous and efficient patient care (throughout chapter)
* Commonly used prefixes in medical terminology (you will see these over and over), p . 32 table 2-1
* CASE presentation, p. 24, 33, 36: read through these and take a moment to test your knowledge and think about what you would do

***Key terms (all defined in chapter review):*** *Advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT), Advanced life support (ALS), Basic life support (BLS), Emergency medical care system, Emergency medical dispatcher (EMD), Emergency Medical responder (EMR), Emergency medical services (EMS), Emergency medical technician (EMT), Medical director, Medical Oversight, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) Technician, Outdoor First Care (OFC) provider, Paramedic, Prehospital providers, Protocols, Scope of practice*