

The OEC Series continues..
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As our NSP OEC 2006 OEC Refresher cycle "B" closes out we should try to remember what we learned and discussed this fall. One was there had to be a lot of planning and implementation that took place before you even stepped through the door to register for the day.

Yes it was not that easy to think a few days before on what you needed to do before waking up and driving to one of those regional hosted refreshers even as you expected from your peers another outstanding job in providing you more good continuing education services.

Lets see if you can guess how many of these 'prep the mind" items you did -

- Went looking for your OEC Technician Card – yes the one in your wallet, purse or in the desk drawer that had not expired yet or had all of the cycles signed off.
- Found your first-aid belt or backpack, dusted it off and looked for some BSI gloves and discovered that missing candy bar from last season.
- Looked in the frig and started to plan out your brown bag lunch menu.
- Checked the local weather station to see what you needed to lay out for clothing as again the hand-on skills stations were to be conducted outside, as it's an outdoor refresher.
- Called your patrol buddies to decide who was driving and where to meet.
- Looked again for your OEC card and still can not locate it.
- Went looking for the ON SCENE Journal OF Outdoor Emergency Care Summer 2006 issue where inside was your OEC Refresher Study Guide.
- Found it and for the 1st time looked inside.
- Decided to really do the written portion, but there was a good TV show or sports event you wanted to watch instead. Oh well, we can do the study guide later.
- Found your OEC Manual, yes the 4th edition one and looked for your OEC Card again.
- Wow. Found your OEC Card - It was where you put it last year.
- Decided you really wanted to patrol again and be part of your local area patrol for one more year. Yes you would miss the social part if you dropped out and deciding buying a season pass instead was not that inviting.
- Finally completed the scenarios and decided it was really painless once you started reading the study guide as it was clearing out those cobwebs of basic OEC procedures and techniques. Not a bad thing these days.

Well, what did we miss? Possible the most important part and that was a note to remind you to *thank your Instructors* at the refresher for doing what they do for you each refresher season and that is volunteering to give up many hours of their time to insure you get the very best OEC program delivery refresher possible. You see, the OEC Instructor-Trainers met in June and planned the refresher and were involved with the Instructor Refreshers and the OEC Instructors were asked to do two member refreshers.

It sure not for the pay as there is none; it's not for the glory to be an Instructor as there is no glory; it's possible because they wanted to do something more than just

be a paid or volunteer patroller and don't know any better. You too can become an OEC Instructor.

Please thank your peers who assisted with your OEC continuing education and next year try to remember where your NSP OEC Technician Card is. Think about for Cycle "C" it might be fun to get a few of your patrol buddies together for food and drink and do the study guide together as a little socializing helps put the fun back into being an patroller.

Our Bottomline:

Please have a great ski – riding season, as you are the rescuer for the snowsports industry and when the time comes to put your patrol training and education to work, just do it.

Remember to Think Snow only for the trails, slopes, park & pipes, not for the hi-ways and by-ways – think PENNDOT said that.

Cheers/Eddie