

Book Review

Streetsense

By Kate Dernocouer, REMT-P

As I began reading this book, my approach was similar to that for a standard textbook. The "task" soon turned to compulsive reading, mixed with many fond (and not so fond) recollections of my twelve-plus years as a street paramedic, supervisor and educator.

Streetsense contains three sections. Section I deals with communication - with patients, co-workers, and special populations such as the elderly. The author, Kate Dernocouer, shows a refreshing sensitivity to the need for improved communications among EMS workers. Section II is about safety, mainly in the form of do's and don'ts, peppered with tricks of the trade. The material in these two sections has been partially covered by other EMS texts. Thus, I found some parts dry, others informative. Section III, however, covers a relatively untouched area, that of control. It begins with a well written overview of stresses found in EMS. The legal risk chapter would have fit into Section II more comfortably, but

was good. Dernocouer saved the best for last. Chapters 14 and 15, one on scene control and the other on choreography, respectively. These chapters are some of the most useful I've seen written in several years. They deal with skills that are more art than science. The author has put into print concepts that are rather nebulous and not thoroughly researched in any other EMS book to my knowledge.

Streetsense is more than a textbook. It is your senior partner, giving a philosophical guiding lecture on the joys and pitfalls of prehospital care. I recommend this book as required reading for any EMS student - novice or veteran.

Kate Dernocouer: *Streetsense*. Brady Communications Co., Bowie, MD, 1985. Approx. 228 pages, \$16.95.

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