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Revisions made in EMT courses

Certain revisions have been made in the emergency medical technician course, it was learned Tuesday night at the monthly meeting of the Mid-Maryland Emergency Medical Services Council.

The course which now runs 81-hours will change to 84-hours beginning in January. However, an 84-hour test class is now underway in Emmitsburg.

Another revision is the practical examination at the conclusion of the course. There will be regional tests rather than each class having individual tests. The students from several classes in the region will meet at a central location for testing, which should be scheduled 10 to 12 days after the course.

It was feared by many EMT instructors that regional tests may be held weeks or months after the conclusion of the course.

Another new factor in the practical examination will be the re-testing of a student at the site on the same day. In other words, if a student fails one or two stations (certain problems like bleeding, fractures, etc.), he will be re-tested after consultation with an evaluator. Persons failing three or more stations must be re-tested at another time.

State statistics show that while only three percent of the students fail the written test, approximately 30 percent fail the practical test.

In other activity, the transportation committee is contacting the state concerning the feedback from the ambulance runsheets. When the project started, the state promised that each county would receive computed statistics periodically.

The CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) courses in high schools in Frederick County are again underway and each high school has been given an Annie and CPR literature. Teachers in Washington County were recently certified as CPR instructors and courses there should be getting underway in the near future.