



**CALVERT COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

Phone (301) 535-1600 ext. 217

*Director*  
Marvin W. Riddle

*Board of Commissioners*  
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September 24, 1979

MEMO TO: All Fire Departments and Rescue Squads  
FROM : Marvin W. Riddle  
SUBJECT: Emergency Care Case Review and Continuing Education Program

The Board of County Commissioners has approved the attached proposal and our 1979/80 program will begin on October 10, 1979 at 7:30 PM in the Continuing Education Training Room at Calvert Memorial Hospital. The program will run from October thru June, with one session per month held on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:30 PM at Calvert Memorial Hospital.

The following continuing education subjects will be covered October thru December:

October 10 - Blunt and Penetrating Trunk Trauma (Chest - Stomach)  
November 14 - Emergency Childbirth  
December 12 - Pre-Hospital Burn Management

These sessions will be structured for emergency care at the EMT/A level. However, if a department or squad has active members at the EC I or Advanced First Aid Level, they will be eligible to attend the sessions. Each squad/department is requested to have six active members attend each session.

Last year's program was very productive. We hope to expand on last year's program emphasizing continued education in some key areas while at the same time continuing to review cases which provide the broadest possible learning experiences.

Attachment

cc: County Commissioners  
Fire & Rescue Association  
Calvert Memorial Hospital  
Region V EMS Coordinator  
County EMS Council  
MIEMS

Calvert County  
Emergency Medical Services  
Advisory Council

Proposal

Subject

Rescue Squad and Fire Department's Emergency Medical Technicians Case Review Program

Background

In just 18 short years, the Emergency Medical Technician as a class, has become the fastest growing body of allied health professionals. In the early sixties, the major thrust was to upgrade approximately 60% of the ambulance technicians to Advanced Red Cross and CPR training. The national goal was to have all ambulance personnel trained to this level.

In September 1966, the National Academy of Sciences published the historic document, *Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society*. The picture of the nation's Emergency Medical Services system was indeed grim. Only three or four states were offering courses designed specifically for the training of ambulance personnel, and only four states had established an organizational unit at the state level to administer their Emergency Medical Services program. Today all states, including D.C., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Guam, not only have a full time staff administering the Emergency Medical Services program at the state level, but EMT courses meeting national standards are being offered throughout each state.

Our county rescue squads, in cooperation with the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services, have participated in the Emergency Medical Technician's training program for a number of years, and we now enjoy the benefit of 123 EMTs in our county. The majority of these EMTs are active members of our fire departments and rescue squads. Our squads and the emergency ambulance service they provide, have become an extension of the hospital's emergency room.

Discussion

A great deal of time, effort and funds have gone into the EMT training of the rescue squad and fire department's personnel. In rural areas such as Calvert County, there is a deterioration of skills because of the infrequency of emergency ambulance runs and the opportunity to utilize the emergency care skills learned in training. A three year EMT Refresher Program has been developed. This is a requirement for all Certified EMTs to take a refresher training course every three years to become recertified as an EMT. This program helps, but it is too extended a period to maintain the skills of the rural EMTs.

In an effort to provide a more helpful, continuing education program for our county EMTs, the County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) along with the Region V EMSAC and MIEMS at the state level applied for a Department of Transportation (DOT) grant to fund a continuing education program.

The grant was for a pilot case review program and would fund only 5 counties in the State of Maryland. Calvert County was selected as one of the five, primarily due to its total Emergency Medical Services system being in place and operating on a 24-hour-a-day basis. In addition, the cooperation of Calvert Memorial Hospital to agree to provide emergency room staff support for the Case Review Program was a key item in receiving the grant of \$1,400.

The program began in September 1978 and will run until June 1979. It is conducted monthly in conjunction with emergency room doctors and nurses, who review current and old patient cases that have been handled by the squads and the emergency room. The EMTs attend the monthly meetings held at the hospital where cases are reviewed, discussed and training is conducted. The program is designed as a learning experience for rescue squad personnel to increase coordination and use of emergency care techniques in the field. The doctors and nurses who provide training and lead the discussions, select cases which provide the broadest possible learning experience. In general, cases from one of the six major critical care areas (cardiac, burn, poison, behavioral, neonatal, trauma) are selected. A broad discussion of each case is conducted and covers - emergency field care, emergency room treatment, transfer procedures, operating room procedures and the recovery phase. Emphasis is placed on the rescue squad's field care and emergency room treatment.

The program has been most productive and we have been averaging 17 EMTs per session along with two nurses and one doctor. The program has proved to be the most popular EMS effort ever conducted in our county. The rescue squad personnel have made a number of unrequested comments about the program such as "best program we have ever had", "what we discussed at meeting was used three hours later on ambulance run", "the program should be continued as a year round effort", "I appreciate the emergency room personnel and their problems much more", "we have members requesting to attend each month". It can be seen from these comments that the program has been most worthwhile.

### Conclusion

The rescue squads, fire departments, and hospitals, having a responsibility for delivery of pre-hospital and hospital emergency care, must be trained in and held accountable for administration of specialized emergency care and delivery of the victims of acute illness or injury to a medical facility. Specialized training, retraining, and accreditation of such persons necessitate development of courses such as the case review program. Obviously, the quality of care for the sick and injured depends on a good continuing education program that will train the EMT to meet new standards of competency and efficiency. Not only must his previously learned basic manipulative skills be upgraded, but he must also be educated in diagnostic skills and the more advanced pre-hospital techniques of emergency care. This training can best be accomplished at the local level through the continuation of the case review program in cooperation with Calvert Memorial Hospital.

### Recommendation

The Calvert County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council recommends that the Case Review Program be continued in FY 80 at the local level and be funded by the County. The funding required for FY 80 is \$2,000.

Case Review  
Year End Report

- 9/13/78 - Subjects: Cardiac Cases, Anaplylactic Shock, Behavioral Problems  
Cases Reviewed: 5  
Attending: 17
- 10/11/78 - Subjects: Head, Cervical Spine Injury  
Cases Reviewed: 3  
Attending: 13
- 11/8/78 - Subjects: Pre-hospital Care for Spinal Cord Injuries and Treatment  
for Injuries to Bones and Joints  
Cases Reviewed: 3  
Attending: 21
- 12/13/78 - Subjects: Patients in Shock, Pre-hospital Care of Burns  
Cases Reviewed: 4  
Attending: 22
- 1/10/79 - Subjects: Wintertime Emergencies, Fractured Hips, Pre-hospital  
Care for Cardiac Arrest  
Cases Reviewed: 4  
Attending: 18
- 3/14/79 - Subjects: Cardiovascular System Problems, Airway Obstruction Cases  
and Use of Stethoscope  
Cases Reviewed: 2  
Attending: 21
- 4/11/79 - Subjects: Cardiac Arrest, Classical Symptoms, Typical Symptoms,  
Crisis Intervention  
Cases Reviewed: 3  
Attending: 12
- 5/9/79 - Subjects: Head Trauma, Neurological Assessment  
Cases Reviewed: 3  
Attending: 21
- 6/13/79 - Subjects: Summertime Emergencies - Snake Bites, Insect Stings,  
Spider Bites, Near Drowning and Radiation Emergency  
Procedures  
Cases Reviewed: 3  
Attending: 14

EMT-A CASE REVIEW

Attendance Rooster

1.	_____	11.	_____
2.	_____	12.	_____
3.	_____	13.	_____
4.	_____	14.	_____
5.	_____	15.	_____
6.	_____	16.	_____
7.	_____	17.	_____
8.	_____	18.	_____
9.	_____	19.	_____
10.	_____	20.	_____

EMT-A CASE REVIEW

Activities Report

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PHYSICIAN: \_\_\_\_\_

NURSE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CASES REVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPES OF CASES REVIEWED:

TRAINING CONDUCTED:

COMMENTS:



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December 17, 1979

MEMO TO: All Rescue Squads and Fire Departments  
FROM : Marvin W. Riddle  
SUBJECT: Emergency Care Case Review and Continuing Education Program

The following emergency care continuing education subjects will be covered January thru March 1980:

January - Crisis Intervention (Psychiatric - Drugs)  
February - Cardiac Emergencies  
March - Crisis Intervention (Alcohol)

This schedule should be included as part of your year round continuing education effort.

As a reminder, these sessions will be held the second Wednesday of each month, 7:30 PM at Calvert Memorial Hospital. Each squad/department is expected to have seven active members attend each session.

cc:  
County Commissioners  
Fire & Rescue Association  
Calvert Memorial Hospital  
Region V EMS Office  
County EMS Council