

Maryland

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NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17, No. 10

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

June 1991

Straight Talk on Prevention (STOP) Program



After participating in the STOP program, a fifth grader illustrates Maryland's EMS system.

A plastic skeleton wearing a Shock Trauma tee-shirt and an EMS hat helps MIEMSS nurses educate the public about injury prevention and related topics, such as substance abuse, highway accidents, seat belts, bicycle safety, firearms, and water sports. "Mr. Bones" is a silent-but effective--associate of the Straight Talk on Prevention (STOP) program, a free, 60-minute presentation for community, school, health care, and civic groups.

Injuries are the third leading cause of death for Marylanders, surpassed only by heart disease and cancer. From 1979 to 1987, 22,139 Maryland residents died of injuries. Almost two-thirds of all the injury deaths occurred to residents under age 45. Trauma nurses on the front lines see these devastating injuries on a daily basis. Although caring for the critically injured patient is the immediate concern, the ultimate goal is to prevent the injuries. Cindy Raisor, RN, from the MIEMSS

Division of EMS Nursing and Specialty Care, and Berti Shemer Glowac, RN, MEd, from the nursing education department of MIEMSS Shock Trauma Center, launched the STOP campaign in collaboration with the Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., National Study Center (NSC) for Trauma and Emergency Medical Services. Ms. Raisor and Ms. Shemer Glowac are the only speakers in the volunteer program at present, but they plan to include other Shock Trauma Center nurses in the future.

Seed money for developing the program was contributed by the Maryland Department of Transportation in the form of a grant to the NSC. Since the expiration of the grant, the project has been continued as a collaborative venture between the MIEMSS clinical and EMS nursing divisions.

The STOP program is structured by age-related content: grades 1-4, 5-8, high school, and adult. The presentations are lively. For example, they show a slide of a child without protective gear on a skateboard. At this time Mr. Bones is in the spotlight; the nurses explain what injuries might

occur, which bones would be affected, and how protective gear could avoid these injuries. The presentations are spontaneous and audience interaction is encouraged.

"We teach the children that these injuries do not need to happen; they can prevent them if they know what to do," says Ms. Raisor. "For example, we show them what kinds of injuries can occur in a motor vehicle crash if they are not wearing seat belts, so they understand the importance of wearing them. We also tell them this is the one-and-only time they can 'bug' their parents, to persuade them to wear their seat belts. The response has been awesome."

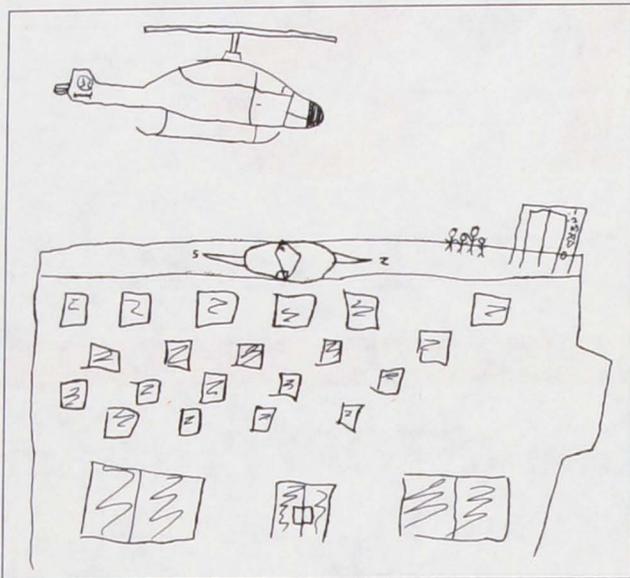
Dozens of letters from school-children who have seen the program verify that they were impressed and are now using their seat belts and bicycle helmets (see page 2 for excerpts). The presentation has been well received by adult civic groups as well. For further information about the STOP program, contact Cindy Raisor at 301-328-3930 or Berti Shemer Glowac at 301-328-6321.

◆ Ernal Segal

Pyramid '91

See pages 5 & 6 for schedule and registration forms!

Straight Talk on Prevention (STOP) Program



A fifth grader's drawing of the heliport at the Shock Trauma Center.

6th Nat'l Traumatic Brain Injury Symposium

Nearly 750 professionals of varied disciplines—speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, physicians, nurses, special education teachers, etc.—recently attended the 6th National Traumatic Brain Injury Symposium, "Decade of the Brain," in Baltimore. Forty states were represented and a large contingent also came from Canada. The symposium, sponsored by the Speech-Communication Disorders Program of the MIEMSS Shock Trauma Center, took place on the campus of the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

The pre-symposium workshop on dysphagia (swallowing impairments) drew over 450 participants. Major symposium topics were pediatric and adolescent trauma, vocational rehabilitation, adult neurogenetics, neuropsychology, and outcome issues related to traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Lt. Gov. Melvin Steinberg welcomed the symposium participants, and Dr. Nancy Grasmick, secretary of juvenile services and special secretary to the governor's office for children, youth, and families, presented a proclamation from Governor William Donald Schaefer declaring March 13-15, 1991, as Brain Injury Days in Maryland. Among other highlights of the symposium were addresses by Marilyn Price Spivack, founder of the

National Head Injury Foundation, and Nancy Schmidt, foundation president, on national legislative issues related to community reentry for TBI survivors. The symposium featured more than 100 speakers and 65 exhibitors.

Haz Mat Training Offered

Is your ambulance crew ready to handle a patient who has been contaminated by a chemical spill? Is the receiving hospital read to accept the patient?

To assist your EMS organization in preparing to deal with a hazardous material incident, the MIEMSS Office of Prehospital Training & Certification has developed an 8-hour training program entitled "Hazardous Materials Training for EMS Providers." This program is targeted for EMS providers in Maryland and includes three modules: recognizing and identifying hazardous materials; "Always Suspicious, Always Prepared," dealing with EMS response; and hands-on activities involving personal protection and protection of the ambulance.

An additional one-hour in-service educational program is being developed to orient hospital emergency departments about the proper handling of patients from a hazardous materials incident.

Information on the "Hazardous Materials Training for EMS Providers" program or the emergency department orientation program should be directed to Kenneth Young, Associate Director, Prehospital Training & Certification, MIEMSS, 636 W. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21201; (301) 328-3666.

Following are some excerpts from thank-you letters from fifth and sixth graders for the STOP presentation by Cindy Raisor and Berti Shemer Glowac.

Thank you for motivating me to ride my bike with more caution and with a helmet. I am glad I do so I won't have to see you at the Trauma Center. I am now very cautious in whatever I attend or do! Thanks a lot!

...Your presentation may have saved my life. That Tuesday, the day of your talk, my mother and I were driving home, and we were almost in an accident. If it weren't for my seat belt I would have been thrown against the dash board when my mother slammed on the brakes. I'd always taken it for granted that I would never be hurt in an accident, or even a "close call." If I were only going on a five minute drive, I would usually leave my seat belt off. However, this happened right in front of my own house. If everyone could see your graphic slide show, people might be frightened into using the appropriate safety precautions.

Thank you for coming. You made me more cautious. I learned a lot. How can you stand that goolish [sic] stuff.

...I have learned a lot of things from your presentation. For example, I already knew you had to wear a seat belt but I never knew what would happen if you didn't. I also did not know what kinds of injuries would result from not wearing a helmet when you ride a bike...

...I am going to bug my mom and dad about safety tips. Thank you... P.S. Your program is wonderful. I wish I could see it over again.

National AIDS Info Clearinghouse

To obtain current scientific data on HIV/AIDS and guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), EMS providers can contact the National AIDS Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-458-5231. The Clearinghouse also maintains information databases that describe more than 6,000 AIDS-related educational materials and more than 12,000 organizations providing HIV- and AIDS-related services and resources. Selected HIV/AIDS reprints from *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report* and all issues of CDC's HIV/AIDS Surveillance can be obtained through the Clearinghouse. All services are free.

How Search & Rescue Dogs Work

Training air-scenting search dogs for major disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, or explosions, can be accomplished in local settings up to a point. Dogs are taught agility by practicing in children's playgrounds, parks, etc. But there comes a time when the dogs need to train in a more realistic environment to learn to test rubble for stability and not to jump on something sharp. They cannot work on leashes because they must pick their own footing.

Setting up exercises is difficult, with problems such as finding buildings that are ready to be demolished, getting permission to use them, and arranging insurance coverage. Such arrangements were made for a 3-day exercise in Pittsburgh, PA, in which a wrecking ball had partially demolished buildings to simulate a major disaster. Air-scenting search and rescue (SAR) teams, which are volunteer, came from as far away as Florida and California to participate. It was the first such US drill using all the components necessary in a real disaster, including fire, medical, and hazmat experts, safety officers, listening device experts, and construction engineers. Another drill was held in Virginia Beach, VA, with snow on the ground.

Because the 2 dozen or more air-scenting dog SAR units from all over the country receive standardized training based on the work of Bill Syrotuck, the pioneer of the field, they are able to integrate and work together on large-scale searches. Each dog/handler team must train twice a week for at least one year before it is considered mission-ready. Dogs and handlers may be needed to work 12-hour shifts, day or night, in almost any weather.

Dogs-East, Inc., is one of two air-scenting dog SAR units currently operating in Maryland, with teams in various locations throughout the state and in Virginia. According to Beth Barkley, dog handler for Dogs East and the U.S. Disaster Team, dogs/handlers from Dogs East responded to earthquakes in Mexico City, Armenia, El Salvador, and the Philippines; floods in West Virginia; a mud slide in Puerto Rico; Hurricane Hugo; and other large-scale disasters.

Air-scenting dog SAR units respond under the direction of law-



Search and rescue dogs are used during disasters. (Photo courtesy of Dogs East)

enforcement or EMS agencies. Through the Rescue Coordination Center at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, dog teams may be flown to distant search sites by military or Civil Air Patrol aircraft. These services are free to the requesting agency. Units do not respond to known criminal searches that may present a threat to the handler.

An air-scenting dog is trained to locate the scent of any human in a specific search area, through mud, water, or snow. The dog can search long after the person's track has been obliterated, even up to 10 hours later. All humans, alive or dead, constantly emit microscopic, corn-flake-shaped particles bearing human scent. Millions are airborne and are carried by the wind for considerable distances.

Unlike tracking dogs, which follow footsteps and search with their noses to the ground, air-scenting dogs keep their heads up to sniff the air. Keeping in close touch with their handlers, they run back-and-forth excitedly when they catch the scent. Each dog has its own body language to notify its handler of a find. Their reactions differ, depending on whether their find is alive or dead. With a "live alert" the dog may bark joyfully, have its ears cocked, and attempt to dig the person out; with a "dead alert" the dog's ears may be tucked, its tail tucked, or it may bark, paw the ground, or urinate near the area. This ability to discriminate

between a live or a dead find is very helpful in a disaster situation, because the first priority is to the living. Rescuers can commit their resources to extricate a live person or come back later if they know that the person is dead.

There is a check and recheck system: One dog works with two observers and another dog waiting. Each dog works 15-20 minutes and they verify each other. Sometimes two dogs work simultaneously in different parts of a building with three observers. A waiting dog provides confirmation. When the dogs have found a number of dead persons after a major disaster, they sometimes become depressed. The handlers deliberately "plant" live people to be found to revive their dogs' spirits.

SAR dogs are worked in patterns. The terrain is divided up by using topographical maps to determine natural boundaries. Temperature of both the body and the environment make a difference in the dog's ability to pick up a scent. A warm body has the most scent; an ideal situation for searching would be a warm body in a cold environment. In descending order, scent emissions become weaker with a warm body in a warm environment, a cold body in a warm environment, and a cold body in a cold environment. Winds, thermals [rising columns of warm air], and temperature patterns

(Continued on page 4)

Search & Rescue Dogs

(Continued from page 3)

must be considered to understand how the dog is working.

Air-scenting SAR dogs can also be used for water search. Handlers try to work into the wind and go upstream with the dog. They zigzag on rivers. On boats with gasoline-powered motors, fumes must not be blown toward the dog. "Some dogs have a tendency to jump out of the boat and swim in circles when they find the victim, but entering the water is too dangerous for the dog," says Caroline Hebard, a handler who has worked at the sites of two collapsed bridges. Sometimes the dog will bite at the water if human scent is found.

The dogs are used not only in major disasters. They respond day or night to search for hikers or campers lost in the wilderness; children lost in parks, etc.; old people who wander away from homes or nursing homes; or

victims of crimes.

SAR dogs live as valued members of their handlers' families and regard people as their friends. They are usually the larger working and sporting breeds of dogs: German Shepherds, Dobermans, Rottweilers, Golden Retrievers, Giant Schnauzers, and Labradors. However, small dogs are used to gain access to small places.

Dogs-East, Inc., trains every week, usually on Sundays. For further information contact them at 136 Indiantown Road, King George, VA 22485, or call 703-775-9568.

In case of emergency, their 24-hour alert numbers are: in Maryland, the Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, 301-279-1594; or the Virginia Department of Emergency Services, 800-468-8692 or 804-323-2300.

◆ Erna Segal

BCFD'S SAR Dogs

The other SAR dog unit available in Maryland is a component of the Baltimore County Fire Department Advanced Tactical Rescue Team. The four dog handlers, all EMS trained, work in separate fire stations and respond to pagers when needed. The handlers have taken search management training and can assist in organizing and controlling other aspects of the search as well. The two dogs are trained in air-scenting and tracking for alive or dead victims, on land or under water. The Baltimore County SAR unit responds on a mutual aid basis to Dogs East and other units, such as the Blue and Gray in southern Pennsylvania.

Baltimore County is the first career fire department in the nation to sponsor a search-dog unit; most SAR units are either volunteer or law-enforcement sponsored. (SAR dogs differ from law enforcement [search-and-destroy] dogs; SAR dogs are not aggression-trained. Police dogs are kept on leashes; SAR dogs usually run free.)

A start-up grant from NNCB (North Carolina National Bank of Maryland) enabled the purchase of the dogs and provided the initial training. All veterinary services are donated by Dr. Kim Hammond of the Falls Road Animal Hospital.

To contact the Baltimore County SAR unit for either information or an emergency response, call the 24-hour Baltimore County dispatch at 301-887-4592.

Jurisdictions Join in Haz Mat Drill

Three jurisdictions joined Emmitsburg, Frederick County (Region II) fire/rescue/EMS personnel in a haz mat drill. EMS units from Carroll County (Region III) and Adams and Franklin counties in Pennsylvania helped to respond to a scenario in which an auto ran a stop sign and crashed into a gasoline tanker truck.

The drill involved a car wedged underneath the truck with the driver and two passengers pinned in the front seat. Gasoline gushed out of the punctured tanker and ran downhill toward a creek. The 125 drill participants tested local emergency response plans, training, and systems. Containment techniques included laying down a foam blanket to prevent fire; building a sand dike to keep contaminants from reaching the creek; and shutting off natural gas in the area. Nearby homes and sewers were checked for contaminant levels.

The drill was sponsored by the Frederick County Local Emergency Planning Committee in cooperation with the Vigilant Hose Company of Emmitsburg, under the auspices of the

Frederick County Public Safety Division, Department of Fire/Rescue Services. Emmitsburg Fire Chief Frank Davis declared the drill a success; however, there were communication problems between the various jurisdictions because of the differences in the radio frequencies used.



A foam blanket is used to help prevent fire during a haz mat drill.

Pyramid '91

MARYLAND'S TRI-COUNTY EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
 Hosted by the Calvert County EMS Advisory Council
 Presented by MIEMSS and the Region V EMS Advisory Council
 September 7- 8, 1991

The Program

Pyramid '91, Southern Maryland's third annual EMS provider conference, is designed to meet the continuing education needs of Maryland's prehospital BLS and ALS providers in a relaxed atmosphere that allows for the informal exchange of ideas and information.

The program is accredited for 12 hours of continuing education for Maryland EMT-As attending the sessions on both Saturday and Sunday. Credits are also available for CRTs and EMT-Ps. Participants must attend both days to obtain credit.

The program is open to all interested individuals at the cost of \$70 (before July 15, \$60). This includes all instructional materials, workshop lectures, and meals. The dinner on Saturday is available at the cost of \$25.

Walk-in registrations on the day of the conference will not be accepted. Registrations will be accepted until August 30 **if space is available**. Register early to ensure that you have a spot for Pyramid '91!

Location

Pyramid '91 will be held at the Holiday Inn in Solomons, off Maryland Rt. 2-4, in Calvert County.

Hotel Reservations

For your convenience, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn in Solomons at a rate of \$66 per night for a single/double room. Room reservations received after August 6 can be provided only on a space available basis.

Because this is a resort hotel, rooms are limited. Book early to prevent any disappointments. Please use the separate registration form for room reservations and send it directly to the hotel.

Cancellation Policy

Refunds, excluding a \$20 processing fee, will be mailed for cancellations received prior to August 15, 1991.

Information

For further information, call the Region V EMS Office, 301-474-1485.

PYRAMID '91 SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

September 7, 1991

7:30 am	Registration Continental Breakfast	1:00 pm	Injuries on the Water: Safe Care and Treatment
8:30 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	2:45 pm	A Prehospital Perspective on Injury Prevention in Maryland
9:00 am	Keynote Address: EMS in Russia from a Maryland Perspective <i>Leon Hayes, EMT-P, Charles County EMS</i>	4:00 pm	Saving Lives in Your Community
10:15 am	Assessing Trauma Emergencies	6:00 pm	Reception - Cash Bar
12:00 pm	Lunch - Picnic on the Waterfront	7:00 pm	Dinner

PYRAMID '91 REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
 Social Security # _____
 Address _____ County _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home Phone # _____ Work Phone # _____
 EMS Affiliation _____
 Level of Certification _____
 Cert. Expiration Date _____
 I am registering for:
 _____ Program (\$70) _____ Dinner (\$25) _____ Total Amount Enclosed
 (Program is \$60 if received by 7/15/91)

Make check payable to the Region V EMS Advisory Council and send it along with this form to the
 MIEMSS Region V Office, 5111 Berwyn Road, College Park, MD 20740.
 Registrations will be accepted until August 30, 1991, **if space is available.**
NO WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS!

HOTEL REGISTRATION-PYRAMID '91 HOLIDAY INN, SOLOMONS, MD September 7-8, 1991

Name _____
 Address _____
 Home Phone # _____
 Work Phone # _____
 Arrival Date _____
 Departure Date _____
 Single/Double Room (\$66) Number of Beds _____
 Cash/Check (a 1-night deposit is needed 30 days prior to arrival)
 Credit Card Card Type _____
 Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

Mail this form with payment to: Holiday Inn Solomons, P.O. Box 1099, Solomons, MD 20688,
 ATTN: Reservations/Code EMS

PYRAMID '91 SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

September 8, 1991

- 8:00 am** Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 am** Special Considerations in the Care
of Older Patients
- 9:45 am** A Prehospital Perspective on
Medical Emergencies
- 11:00 am** Prehospital Management of Burn Patients
- 12:30 pm** Brunch
- 1:45 pm** Extrication: A Primer for EMS Personnel
- 3:00 pm** Double Jeopardy
Test your knowledge as teams compete.
- 4:30 pm** Closing Remarks/Evaluations

Credits: BLS 4 hours Trauma
 4 hours Medical
 4 hours Local Option
 ALS 8 hours 1-b
 4 hours Local Option

Participants must attend both days to receive credits.

Sponsored by: Calvert County EMS Advisory Council
 Charles County Association of EMS
 St. Mary's County Rescue Squad
 Association

**Information: Call the Region V EMS Office,
 301-474-1485.**

New Training Facility For Frederick County

A new Public Safety Training Facility in Frederick County (Region II) will enable fire fighters, rescue personnel, and public safety personnel to receive better training that is more accessible. The facility is the culmination of 5 years of planning by the Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and the Frederick County Public Safety Division.

When completed, the \$2 million facility, situated on a 20-acre site in the City of Frederick, will include a burn building for the controlled and safe training of firefighters under realistic smoke, heat, and fire conditions; a training tower for the practice of rescue skills from heights and for sprinkler system training; a maze building for practice in the use of self-contained breathing apparatus in a variety of challenging settings; an administration building with classrooms, an audiovisual library, a shop for the repair and maintenance of training equipment, and a garage for training vehicles; and a pond for the practice of drafting techniques. The pond will also serve as a water supply and will contain water runoff from the site.

EMS Highway Safety Grants

The Maryland Department of Transportation, Safety Programs Division, recently awarded the following 1991 EMS Highway Safety Project grants totaling more than \$81,000 to EMS organizations throughout the state. The grants will be managed and coordinated by MIEMSS.

- Pediatric Advanced Airway Management Training: This grant was awarded to Ivor Berkowitz, MD, of Johns Hopkins Hospital to conduct three airway management courses for 150 EMT-Ps.

- Basic Trauma Life Support Program: Patricia Hicks of Washington County Hospital received a grant to conduct six BTLS programs for EMT-As and three BTLS programs for CRTs and EMT-Ps.

- Training in EMS and Hazardous Materials: Ronald B. Schaefer of MIEMSS received a grant to certify 1,500 EMS providers in EMS/hazardous materials recognition through 30 training courses statewide.

- ACLS and EMS Training Equipment: This grant was awarded to

Tracey Leeson of Dorchester General Hospital to acquire ALS training equipment for the Dorchester County ALS program.

- Extrication Equipment: Ken May of the Region I EMS Advisory Council received a grant to acquire extrication equipment for several fire/rescue companies in Western Maryland.

P.G. County Donates Ambulances to Senegal

Prince George's (PG) County donated two surplus property fire department ambulances to Senegal, a country in west Africa, as part of a sister county relationship initiated in 1987. PG County Executive Parris Glendening helped establish the PG County Senegal Friendship Committee after his visit with Minister Robert Sagna, mayor of the Ziguinchor region. The committee has previously raised funds to send medical supplies to this region of nearly 140,000 people, which has a severe need for health and medical supplies.

Place
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MIEMSS
Attn: Editorial/Publications Office
22 S. Greene Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1595



Published Monthly
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Maryland Institute
for
Emergency Medical Services Systems

University of Maryland at Baltimore
22 S. Greene St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1595

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MIEMSS, Maryland EMS News,
22 S. Greene St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1595

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Fold Up Along the Dotted Line and Seal with Tape
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Do You Want to Continue to Receive This Newsletter?

The *Maryland EMS Newsletter* will continue to be mailed free to those who complete the form below. Due to budget cuts and increased postage and printing costs, we are trying to update our mailing list to ensure that it includes only those readers who want to receive the newsletter.

If you want to continue receiving the *Maryland EMS Newsletter*, please fill out the form below, affix postage, and return the form to us by July 5. If we do not hear from you by July 5, we will assume that your interests have changed and your name will be deleted from the mailing list.

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CRT _____ Physician _____

EMT-P _____ Other _____

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Comments _____
