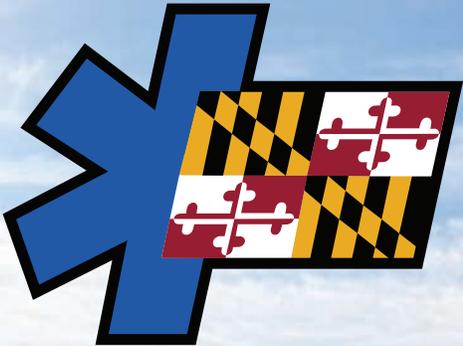


Maryland
EMS  **News**

For All Emergency Medical Services Clinicians

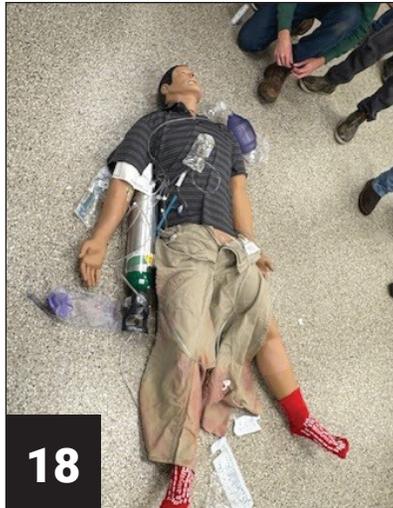
Vol. 52 No. 1

January 2026



**Coordinated
Readiness:
Inside BWI's
EPLEX Drill**

Plus:
Transporting MD's
Smallest Patients
Hi-Angle Rescue Simulation
Ski Patrol Instructor Honored
EMS News of Note



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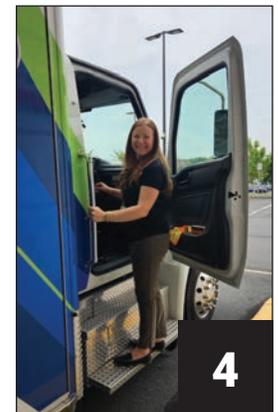
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Maryland EMS News
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 Baltimore, MD 21201-1536



Governor Wes Moore
Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

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Office of Governmental Affairs 2026 Maryland EMS Legislative Preview

THE 448TH SESSION of the Maryland General Assembly will convene on January 14, 2026, at the State House in Annapolis, where, for the ensuing 90 days, lawmakers will consider hundreds of legislative proposals impacting Marylanders.

MIEMSS will be introducing one departmental bill in the upcoming legislative session, which seeks to revise and streamline certain statutory provisions pertaining to the Public Access AED Program, which falls under the agency’s purview pursuant to § 13-517 of the Education Article. It also brings one subsection of the Health—General Article into alignment with the bill as proposed.

More specifically, this legislation will: eliminate obsolete provisions (references to “regional council AED committee” and the like); make definitional revisions intended to make the statute easier to understand; add one exemption to the list of entities that can operate an AED without a valid certificate (namely, law enforcement agencies that deploy AEDs in patrol vehicles); define the role of the “AED coordinator” in statute (the role is ref-

erenced in COMAR, but is undefined therein); add a provision requiring the AED coordinator to promote awareness about the AED, its location, and operation among potential or foreseeable operators in case of emergency; make it clear that grocery stores and restaurants subject to 21-330.3 of the Health—General Article are exempt from the educational and refresher training requirements of the Program while including them in the definition of “entities” (since they are registered as such in the State’s AED Registry); and make other typographical changes.

This bill, which is a high priority for MIEMSS, aligns with the Creating Safer Communities goal in the State Plan by promoting expanded access to emergency care for persons suffering sudden cardiac arrest.

Outside of the agency’s departmental bill, MIEMSS is committed to working with legislative stakeholders to ensure passage of its FY 2027 budget as requested to ensure that the agency and its partners can continue delivering world-class emergency care to all who call Maryland home!



Send press releases, agency/departmental announcements, and other EMS-related news to ptandy@miemss.org for possible inclusion in a future issue of *Maryland EMS News*.

Transporting Our Smallest Patients

Have you ever wondered who is responsible for transporting the smallest of our patients?

AN ENTIRE SECTION OF COMAR is dedicated to the Neonatal Commercial Ambulance Service (30.09.12). It defines a neonatal patient as any patient who is younger than 28 days. In Maryland, seven commercial ambulance services are licensed to transport neonatal patients. These services have specialized equipment designed specifically for the transport of neonates.

The State Office of Commercial Ambulance Licensing and Regulation (SOCALR), in conjunction with the Office of Care Integration (OCI) at MIEMSS, inspects these services on a biennial basis to ensure compliance with the regulations. These inspections include both ambulance readiness and the hospital-maintained equipment, medication, and personnel that are required to facilitate these neonatal transports. In September 2025, the team completed neonatal equipment inspections for several commercial ambulance services, including Nemours Children’s Hospital; ChristianaCare; Hart to Heart Transportation; Lifestar Response of Maryland; and Butler Medical Transport. (OCI redesignated both of Maryland’s Level IV Perinatal and Neonatal Referral Centers, The Johns Hopkins Hospital and University of Maryland Medical Center, in 2025; learn more about the state’s perinatal and neonatal systems at <https://www.miemss.org/home/hospitals/perinatal-programs> or scan the QR code below.)

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) transport teams are essential partners in safely moving patients between facilities. These skilled nurses, respiratory therapists, and physicians work alongside commercial ambulance services to ensure seamless care.

Every transport is a team effort, and every inspection ensures we are ready when the smallest Marylanders need us most!



Scan to Learn More

Abby Butler, Director of Perinatal and Neonatal Referral Centers at MIEMSS, conducts a neonatal transport inspection of a ChristianaCare ambulance on September 24, 2025.



Neonatal transport equipment awaits inspection by MIEMSS on September 24, 2025, at Nemours Children’s Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware.



Butler Medical Transport conducts a neonatal transport simulation with Holy Cross Hospital on September 18, 2025, in Silver Spring.

Ensuring Safe Passage for the State’s Most Fragile Patients—One Inspection at a Time



Butler Medical Transport conducts a neonatal transport simulation with Holy Cross Hospital on September 18, 2025, in Silver Spring.



Abby Butler, Director of Perinatal and Neonatal Referral Centers at MIEMSS, conducts a neonatal transport inspection on September 24, 2025, at Nemours Children’s Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware.



The Office of Care Integration and the State Office of Commercial Ambulance Licensing and Regulation work together closely to ensure that Maryland’s smallest EMS patients receive both safe transport and high-quality prehospital care. Abby Butler, MSN, RNC-OB, Director of Perinatal and Neonatal Referral Centers at MIEMSS, offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse into Neonatal Transport Equipment Inspections.

Watch the full video at <https://youtu.be/SUS3SYzFHGE> or scan the QR code.



EMS Preparing for the Unexpected: All-in-One Car Seats for Non-Emergency Transport of Children

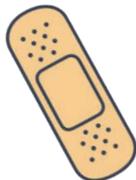
SOMETIMES, an emergency leaves a healthy child unable to travel with their usual caregiver, and they must find transport to a secondary caregiver in the safest, least stressful way for both the child and first responder.

In 2022, MIEMSS' Child Passenger Safety and Occupant Protection Project (funded by the Maryland Highway Safety Office) began offering Maryland EMS Operational Programs some "all-in-one" car seats and training for supervisors. These car seats were selected due to their ability to be used rear-facing for infants and young children, forward-facing for older toddlers and preschoolers, and as a booster seat

for elementary school children. To date, 15 agencies have participated in the program.

Each agency documents actual use of the car seats through a brief survey accessed via a QR code attached to each seat, as well as through annual survey. Survey results indicate that about half of the participating agencies have used the seats to transport a healthy child to a different location during an emergency situation at least on at least 11 unique occasions. All of the participating agencies have reported using the seats to train other EMS clinicians on pediatric safe transport.

Over the past year, the program has opened up the opportunity to obtain an all-in-one car seat for non-emergency transport to individual companies and EMS training programs. Current participants include Hoopers Island Volunteer Fire Company as well as the EMT training programs in Howard, Charles, Worcester, Wicomico, and Washington Counties. However, some all-in-one seats remain available for interested EMS companies or training programs. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, Project Coordinator, at cps@miemss.org.



Save the Date



Pediatric Ready 2026: Emerging Trends and Critical Thinking in Pediatric Emergency Care



February 25, 2026

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

M.I.T.A.G.S Conference Center
Linthicum, MD



Topics include:

When TikTok Trends Turn Toxic

Managing Family Presence During Resuscitation

The Accidental High: Pediatric Cannabis Poisonings

Not Just Small Adults: Pediatric Priorities in Disaster Care

Plus Hands-On Skills Stations



EMS, Nursing, and Physician CE's pending.



For more information, visit

<https://www.miemss.org/home/EMS-for-Children/Pediatric-Readiness>

BWI Tests Emergency Response Capabilities with Full-Scale Exercise



BWI THURGOOD MARSHALL AIRPORT recently completed its Emergency Planning Exercise (EPLEX) to meet its tri-annual FAA requirement. The full-scale exercise is designed to test the emergency response capabilities of the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Fire and Rescue Department in the event a mass casualty incident. Participating mutual-aid jurisdictions included Annapolis City Fire Department, Anne Arundel County Fire Department, Baltimore City Fire Department, Baltimore County Fire Department, Fort Meade Fire Department, Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, and Prince George’s County Fire/EMS De-

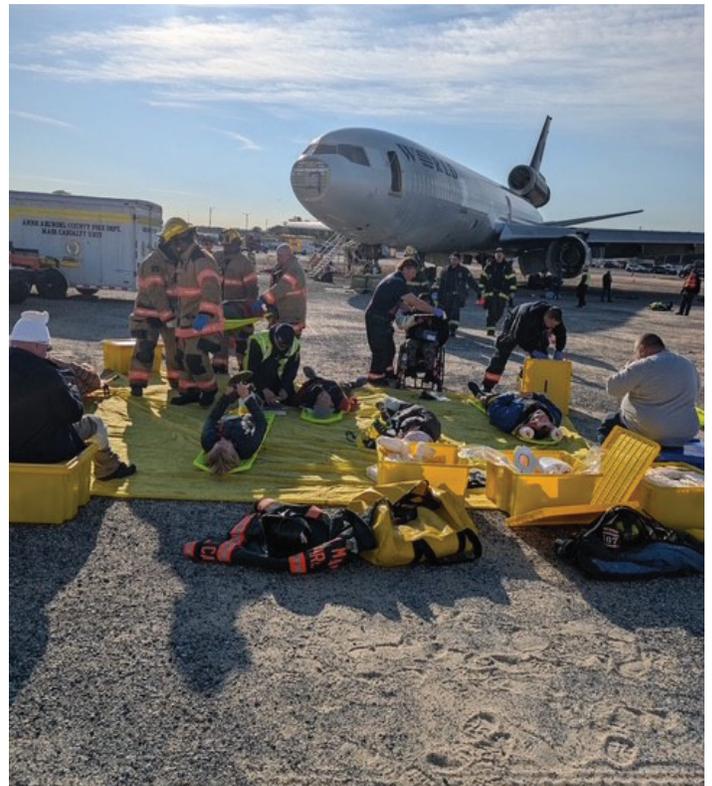
partment. Partnering agencies contributed EMS transport units, fire suppression pieces, and supervisory personnel as part of the exercise, while more than 200 individuals role-played as moulaged victims, family members, and various other members of the public.

“EPLEX requires substantial coordination,” said Fire Captain Ethan Freyman of the BWI Fire and Rescue Department EMS Division, “and it could not take place without the cooperation of both our mutual-aid partners, as well as our internal components such as Airport Operations/Emergency Planning and the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Department.”

Make History with MIEMSS

We are currently accepting contributions — past, present, and future. To contribute Events, Pictures, Documents, and/or Videos, visit the website below or scan the QR code and log in with your organizational/official e-mail address.

Maryland EMS History Timeline
(history.miemss.org)



Fire, EMS, and other emergency personnel test BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport's emergency response capabilities during a full-scale emergency planning exercise, fall 2025. [Photos: Linas Saurusaitis]



2026 EMSC Pre-Conferences S.T.A.B.L.E. Program

Course Overview:

When newborn infants become ill and require specialized care, each member of the healthcare team must know what to do in a timely and effective manner. S.T.A.B.L.E. is a neonatal education program focusing exclusively on the post-resuscitation/pre-transport stabilization care of sick infants. This early transitional care affects not only the infant’s immediate health, but the long-term outcome as well. Education in stabilization beyond resuscitation is critical to the mission of reducing infant mortality and morbidity.



Target Audience:

This course is designed for Healthcare Clinicians who care for newly born infants in the pre-hospital environment, Emergency Department and locations other than the NICU.

What is S.T.A.B.L.E.?

Based on a mnemonic to optimize learning, retention and recall of information, **S.T.A.B.L.E.** stands for the six assessment and care modules in the program: **S**ugar, **T**emperature, **A**irway, **B**lood pressure, **L**ab work, and **E**motional support. A 7th module, Quality Improvement, stresses communication and teamwork as well as the professional responsibility of evaluating care provided to sick infants, with the ultimate goal of improving future care.

Cost: will be set by the hosting EMS Regional Conference (Pre-Registration is required). Course cost includes conference location with breakfast & lunch. EMS for Children State Partnership Grant will provide the S.T.A.B.L.E. Program Learner Manual, 7th edition, access to S.T.A.B.L.E. Foundations Module (online pre course work) and handouts.

NEW with 7th edition: Each learner needs to complete the 2-hour S.T.A.B.L.E. foundations course prior to the in-person class day. In order to attend the in-person class, you must have completed the Foundations portion 72 hours prior and bring the certificate hard copy to the course. Cost will also be covered by MD EMSC.

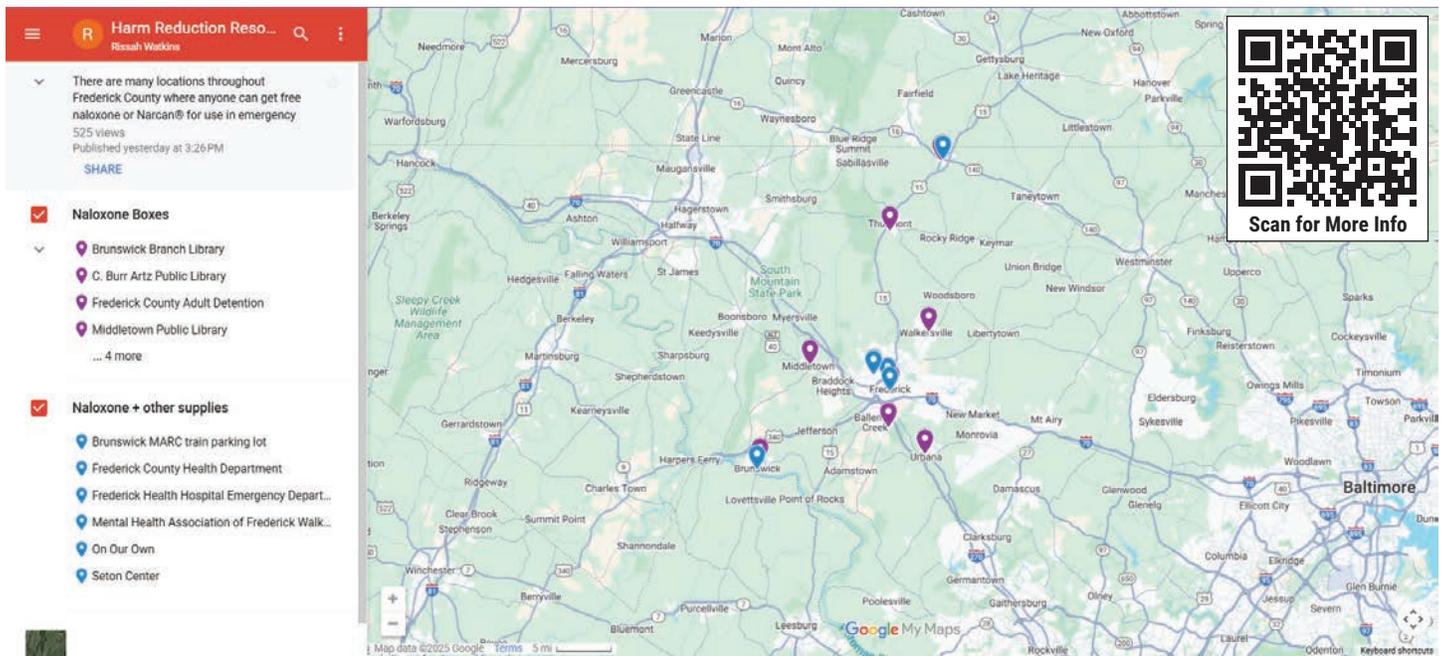
**This workshop will have limited enrollment on a first come basis. REGISTER EARLY!
Conference Registration should open in December 2025**

<p>Winterfest EMS Conference 2026 Date: Friday- January 30, 2026 Time: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Location: Chesapeake College (Wye Mills Maryland)</p>	<p>Miltenberger Trauma & EMS Conference 2026 Date: Friday- March 13, 2026 Time: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Location: Rocky Gap Conference Center (Flintstone Maryland)</p>
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	<p>This program is supported in part by the Maryland EMSC State Partnership Grant from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and by MIEMSS EMSC Department. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.</p>
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Frederick County Celebrates 10 Years of FDA-Approved Naloxone with New Map



IN NOVEMBER 2015, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first over-the-counter naloxone spray, a lifesaving medication that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. Since then, naloxone – also known by the trade name Narcan – has been offered to communities across the country as a powerful, ground-level tool for combatting the opioid crisis.

Now, Frederick County is marking the 10th anniversary of FDA-approved naloxone spray by making the drug more accessible than ever. The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) and the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) have developed a new map of all the locations around Frederick County where members of the community can easily get naloxone for free.

Over the last decade, FCHD has made naloxone spray widely available

throughout the county by placing boxes in most Frederick County Public Library locations, while DFRS has also placed boxes containing naloxone and other free supplies at multiple locations. Community members do not need to present any form of identification, do not have to speak to anyone, and do not have to verify their age or fill out any application to obtain naloxone.

“Our community has come so far in the last 10 years,” said Jessica Ellis, FCHD Harm Reduction and Diversion Programs Manager. “Thanks to the widespread availability of naloxone and other local efforts, overdose deaths in Frederick County have dropped dramatically. We lost 55 people to overdose deaths in 2018, and so far in 2025, we have three confirmed overdose deaths. Naloxone is making a difference, and this map will help people easily find the closest place to get it.”

“We’re grateful for the many partners across our community who host these resource-vending machines and naloxone boxes, and our strong collaboration with the Health Department as we work to reduce harm from substance use,” said DFRS Community Paramedic Matthew Burgan. “This map represents the collective effort of many dedicated people who designed it to be meaningful and accessible for those we serve.”

FCHD has trained over 16,500 people on how to use naloxone to save someone’s life during an overdose. The health department holds weekly in-person and virtual trainings on naloxone use every Friday at 1:00 p.m. It also provides group trainings for organizations and businesses. To schedule a training for your organization, call 301-600-1777. To view the map, or for more information on naloxone boxes or trainings, visit Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ORT.



Kent County EMS Celebrates Opening of New Headquarters

KENT COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

has ushered in a new era of prehospital care for the county's residents and visitors with the opening of the Robert B. Rust, Jr., Emergency Medical Services Headquarters. Kent County EMS officially dedicated its new home on November 21, 2025, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by local leaders, members of the community, partner agencies, and media representatives.

Named in honor of the county's first Director of Emergency Services, the state-of-the-art facility - Located at 102 Vickers Drive in Chestertown, Maryland – represents a major milestone in the county's ongoing commitment to strengthening emergency medical response, supporting frontline EMS clinicians, and enhancing service to the community. Bringing together essential EMS operations under one roof, it features modernized spaces designed to improve efficiency, training, collaboration, and overall readiness. Highlights include upgraded crew quarters, expanding training and education areas, dedicated administrative offices, and improved apparatus bays that support both current and future service needs.

The transition to the new facility reflects Kent County's



Emergency response vehicle bays at Robert B. Rust, Jr., Kent County Emergency Medical Services Headquarters. [Photo: SG Atkinson / Shoretobefun Photographs]

“For an EMS clinician, a station is far more than four walls, bunks, and bays. It's where we learn and grow. It's where we sharpen our craft. It's where camaraderie is built...”

TOP: Façade of Robert B. Rust, Jr., Kent County Emergency Medical Services Headquarters. [Photo: SG Atkinson/ Shoretobefun Photographs]

recognition of and response to the growing countywide demands on EMS. Expanded training capabilities and improved response infrastructure will support continued growth, recruitment, and systemwide improvements.

“For an EMS clinician, a station is far more than four walls, bunks, and bays,” said Kent County EMS Chief Logan Quinn. “It’s where we learn and grow. It’s where we sharpen our craft. It’s where camaraderie is built, where culture is shaped, and where the kitchen table becomes the unofficial headquarters of storytelling, problem-solving, and gearing up for whatever comes next. It’s where we celebrate our wins, support each other through our losses, and occasionally indulge in some well-deserved venting – including about the chief. More than anything, it’s our home away from home.”

The new building replaces the former Kent County EMS Headquarters located in Lynch (Worton), Maryland, which had housed county EMS since the early 2000s.



From left: Mark Sheridan, Director of Emergency Services for Caroline County; KJ Marvel, EMS Division Chief for Caroline County Emergency Services; Logan Quinn, EMS Chief for Kent County Emergency Services; Zach Yerkie, Assistant EMS Chief for Queen Anne’s County Emergency Services; and Scott Haas, Director of Emergency Services for Queen Anne’s County. [Photo: Will Bontrager / Kent County News]



Local leaders join Kent County Emergency Medical Services for the ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the Robert B. Rust, Jr., Emergency Medical Services Headquarters on November 21, 2025, in Chestertown, Maryland. From left: Logan Quinn, EMS Chief for Kent County Emergency Services; Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator; contractor Dick Davis; Daniel F. Mattson, Director of Public Works; Ron Fithian, County Commissioner; Danny Rust; Robert B. Rust, Jr.; John Price, County Commissioner; Albert Nickerson, County Commissioner; and Walter F. “Pete” Landon, Director of Emergency Services. [Photo: SG Atkinson / Shoretobefun Photographs]

Maryland Remembers Lives Lost on State's Roadways



State officials, safety advocates, crash victim families, and more gathered on November 17, 2025, to remember the victims of fatal crashes on state roadways in 2025. To learn more about the Highway Safety Office and the Zero Deaths Maryland initiative, visit ZeroDeathsMD.gov.

STATE OFFICIALS, transportation leaders, and safety advocates joined crash victims' families and law enforcement officers on November 17, 2025, in Annapolis for the 22nd Annual Maryland Remembers Ceremony, an event honoring Marylanders who lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes and reaffirming the state's commitment to achieving zero roadway fatalities.

"Every decision we make behind the wheel can change a life forever," said Maryland Motor Vehicle Administrator (MVA) Chrissy Nizer, who serves as Governor Wes Moore's Highway Safety Representative. "We honor the lives of those lost by committing to safe driving behaviors, slowing down, buckling up, staying alert, and never driving impaired. Each of us has the power to make a difference." Other notable attendees included Lt. Governor Aruna K. Miller, Acting Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Samantha J. Biddle, and Maryland State Police Acting Superintendent Col. Michael A. Jackson, as well as representatives from the MVA Highway Safety Office, Maryland Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Washing-

ton Regional Alcohol Program, and law enforcement agencies from across the state.

Nizer presented the 2025 Kevin Quinlan Award for Outstanding Leadership in Highway Safety to Sergeant Patrick Kepp of the Montgomery County Police Department, who has been instrumental in advancing impaired driving enforcement and education across the state.

So far this year, 422 people have been killed in crashes on Maryland roadways. While this represents a signif-

icant decrease from 582 fatalities in 2024, this number remains a sobering reminder of the work ahead. The MVA's Highway Safety Office continues to partner with state and local law enforcement agencies through targeted enforcement and education initiatives, including enhanced impaired driving patrols throughout the holiday season, to protect Marylanders on the road. To learn more about the Highway Safety Office and the Zero Deaths Maryland initiative, visit ZeroDeathsMD.gov.



"Every decision we make behind the wheel can change a life forever," said Maryland Motor Vehicle Administrator (MVA) Chrissy Nizer, who serves as Governor Wes Moore's Highway Safety Representative.

2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 30-FEB 01

WINTERFEST EMS CONFERENCE (Easton, MD)
<https://miemss.org/home/Public/Conferences-and-Events/Winterfest-Conference>

FEB 01

DEADLINE FOR MARYLAND STARS OF LIFE, RIGHT CARE WHEN IT COUNTS AWARD NOMINEES
<https://miemss.org/home/Public/Awards>

MAR 13-14

MILTENBERGER EMERGENCY SERVICES SEMINAR (Rocky Gap Casino Resort)
<https://www.miltengerseminar.com/>

MAY 07-08

POINT/COUNTERPOINT CONFERENCE (Baltimore, MD)
<https://mdcot.com/point-counterpoint-2026/>

MAY 17-23

NATIONAL EMS WEEK
<https://www.naemt.org/initiatives/ems-week>

JUNE 20-25

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION AND CONFERENCE (Ocean City, MD)
<https://convention.msfa.org/>

Send EMS-related calendar events to ptandy@miemss.org for possible inclusion in a future issue of *Maryland EMS News*.



Harford County DES, Shock Trauma Go T

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND R ADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER GO TEAM and the Harford County Department of Emergency Services Technical Rescue Team (TRT) hosted their annual joint training on September 18, 2025. Participants included Go Team physician members (including Harford County EMS Medical Director Dr. Doug Sward), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA), TRT special operations members, DES Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians, a volunteer crew from Abingdon Volunteer Fire Company, and Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company's Tower 3.

Baltimore County EMS Medical Director and Go Team physician Dr. Jeffrey Nusbaum opened the program at the Harford County Emergency Operations Center with a presentation on medically directed rescue. Participants then moved outdoors to a simulated high-angle rescue involving a pinned and injured window washer – a SimMan operated by Shock Trauma Center Training and Simulation Lab Manager Benjamin Neustein. The simulation consisted of one evolution aloft followed by a second one on the ground. After that, attendees practiced limb amputation techniques on four adult cadaver legs, provided by the Shock Trauma Center, which were pinned beneath large cement Jersey barriers.

The exercise represented the fourth such collaboration between TRT and the Go Team. Previous simulations focused on a trench rescue, confined space rescue, and rescue following a collapse.



Team Host High-Angle Rescue Simulation

[Photos: Harford County DES]



Harford County DES, Shock Trauma Simulation Center Team Up for Hi-Fi Anaphylaxis Simulation



THE HARFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT of Emergency Services partnered with the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Training and Simulation Lab in hosting a high-fidelity simulation on October 13, 2025, at Level Volunteer Fire Company in Havre de Grace. Part of Harford County DES's monthly series of training sessions, the program drew 34 Harford emergency medical responders (EMR), emergency medical technicians (EMT), and paramedics.

The training gave emergency personnel in attendance an opportunity to work through a simulated patient with multiple bee stings succumbing to a new onset of severe allergic reaction. Backed up by their paramedic colleagues, responding EMRs and EMTs assessed the patient and initiated BLS care. Shock Trauma Center Training and Simulation Lab Manager Benjamin Neustein conducted the hands-on training session. Training officer Rachel Cockerham worked with the Simulation Center to develop the simulation based on recent DES calls involving anaphylaxis.

The course continued with a transfer of care to an ALS transporting unit, as well as a debriefing that included education on this specific type of distributive shock and how epinephrine is used to treat the patient, while all participants were encouraged to practice their airway skills.



[Photos: R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center]

Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS App for iOS & Android

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

NAVIGATE INDIVIDUAL PROTOCOLS WITH COLLAPSIBLE CATEGORIES

ALWAYS HAVE THE MOST UP TO DATE PROTOCOLS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

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GET IT ON Google Play



Wisp Resort Ski Patrol Instructor Receives National Honors

EACH YEAR, thousands of Garrett County residents and visitors bank on things going downhill quickly at Maryland’s only four-season ski resort. But when they take an unexpected turn for the worse, Wisp Resort Ski Patrol is standing by to answer the call.

Helping to ensure that the state’s only official EMS ski patrol unit remains always at the ready is Garret County Emergency Services Lieutenant Vicki Whitacre, a Nationally Registered Paramedic who serves as National Ski Patrol (NSP) Senior Instructor for Wisp. NSP recently recognized Whitacre with three prestigious awards for ski patrol medical instruction: the Western Appalachian Region Ken Schweinsburg Outstanding Instructor Award; National Outstanding Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) Instructor; and the NSP Gold Merit Star 2025 National Outstanding OEC Instructor Award.

“It was an honor to receive the Regional award; when I was presented with the Division and National awards, I was astonished,” admits Whitacre, who credits her recognition to “the backing of leadership and the help of many other instructors at Wisp to help get my visions off the ground and

continue to strive to make improvements.”

According to Whitacre, delivering emergency medical services in such an exposed setting presents all of the same challenges of traditional EMS – and then some.

“While thinking about all of the ‘normal’ EMS things – assessments, treatment, best destination for the patient, aviation – ski patrollers must be working on a plan to safely get the patient off the ski trail, out of the woods, or out of any of the other precarious positions that people find themselves in,” she explains. Often, that means first transporting the patient off the mountain in a toboggan to an awaiting first aid station, ambulance, or helicopter.



Whitacre’s career path has been a lifetime in the making. “I was lucky enough to start skiing at a very young age, and was able to hold a part-time job as a ski instructor through high school,” she explains. That experience delivered her first taste of what

would become a lifelong passion: teaching. Whitacre introduced EMS into the equation during her senior year, when she began volunteering with Northern Garrett Rescue Squad. “At that point, I had no intention of making it a career; I thought of it as more of an avocation,” she notes.

“...ski patrollers must be working on a plan to safely get the patient off the ski trail, out of the woods, or out of any of the other precarious positions that people find themselves in...”

However, the experience “sparked” a love for paramedicine that complemented Whitacre’s passion for helping others. She soon switched to ski patrol, became a paramedic, and ultimately pursued a career with Garrett County Emergency Services.

“Ski patrol combines the things I love – skiing, helping people, and teaching,” says Whitacre, who has parlayed her passion and expertise into a secondary career as a Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute instructor.

“I take pride in instructing all of the topics that I am afforded the opportunity to,” she says. “My hope is that other ski resorts, as well as EMS services, see what Wisp Ski Patrol has been able to accomplish over the years, grow their own programs, and encourage further education of their employees and volunteers.”



Wisp Ski Patrol Prepares for Ski Season

The Wisp Resort Ski Patrol welcomed new members on November 15-16 as they tested for their National Ski Patrol Outdoor Emergency Care Certification, the first step toward becoming a patroller and working toward their Maryland EMR certification. Comprised of both BLS and ALS Clinicians, the WISP Resort Ski Patrol is an officially recognized department within the Garrett County EMS system. In serving Maryland’s only ski resort, they represent a valuable link in prehospital patient care.

Recognition of Vicki’s Awards

Vicki Schlosnagle-Whitacre - Ski Patroller
Rob Voorhees, Director of Ski Patrol

Vicki Schlosnagle-Whitacre, a dedicated member of Wisp Resort Ski Patrol, has been honored with three prestigious **National Ski Patrol (NSP) Medical Teaching Awards** for her outstanding contributions to education in the field of ski patrol and emergency medical response. This recognition is a testament to her commitment to both the professional development of ski patrollers and the safety of those who enjoy the slopes.

The first award, The Schweinsburg outstanding Instructor award for the Western Appalachian Region, is given to the best instructor in the western division. This award alone is a great honor for anyone to receive. The second award received was the Eastern Division Outstanding Instructor award which covers the entire eastern region. Once again, this award is very prestigious and given with great consideration. The third award Vicki received was the National Ski Patrol OEC outstanding Instructor award that is given to one person annually in the nation.



Peter Buss, Regional Director, to Vicki’s left and Bill Cline, Eastern Division Adviser, on the right.

This award is given to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional skill in teaching and mentoring within the field of ski patrol, with a focus on medical training. This award honors those who have gone above and beyond in imparting their knowledge to others, ensuring that the patrol community is well-equipped to handle the most challenging and potentially life-threatening situations on the mountain. *Continued page 3*



The Right Care When It Counts Maryland EMSC 2026

The Maryland EMS for Children program is seeking nominations of children and youth in Maryland who have demonstrated The Right Care When It Counts. Actions taking place January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, are eligible for nomination. We will be recognizing children and youth who acted so that others would receive “The Right Care When It Counts.” Each nominee will receive a patch and certificate and be eligible for a state award at a ceremony during EMS Week 2026.

Children and youth who have met one or more of the following criteria are eligible for Right Care Awards:

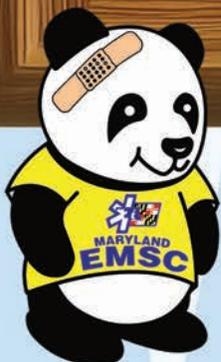
Calls or texts emergency response by calling 9-1-1, 9-8-8, or Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) in an emergency.

Provides their or their family's emergency phone numbers, address, health history (allergies, medications, special needs) and contacts to the emergency dispatcher and/ or emergency responders.

Teaches others the importance of having a written emergency plan and practices this plan at home including a disaster preparedness plan.

Applies knowledge learned in a class or training, performs CPR and/or uses an AED during a sudden emergency in the community while not on duty as a first responder.

Implements a unique program in Community Risk Reduction that provides education in the community.



Nominations are open, and close on February 1st of the next year.

Scan the QR code or visit miemss.org/home/emsc/right-care

For more information or nominations
Email FAN@miemss.org



The Maryland Institute for
Emergency Medical Services Systems



MARYLAND EMS
STARS OF LIFE AWARDS

Citizen Star of Life:

Nominated by EMS personnel, a citizen bystander who responded promptly with appropriate actions to attempt to save a life and facilitate the next phase of care by EMS personnel. This can include trained health care individuals who are “bystanders.”

EMS Star of Life:

Star of life awards are nominated by EMS or hospital personnel. An EMS clinician at any level who exemplifies excellence in the moment by employing state-of-the-art knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide technically outstanding and empathetic care. Individuals nominated for this award must have provided care and taken actions that demonstrate technical excellence.

EMS Clinicians of the Year:

Individuals are nominated by EMS and Hospital personnel. An EMS clinician at any level who exemplifies excellence through technical competence, empathy, leadership, mentorship, commitment to his/her community, and contributions to the advancement and improvement of the EMS system.

Maryland EMS-Children Award:

This award is presented to an individual or program that has demonstrated ongoing dedication and commitment to improving the care for children and promoted family-centered care in a Maryland EMS program or hospital.

Leon Hayes Award for Lifetime Excellence in EMS:

Nominated by EMS personnel, this award is given to an individual who has dedicated him/herself to advancing the EMS system on a broad scale with consistent leadership as a champion of excellence. Akin to recognition of lifetime achievement.

EMS Program Innovation of the Year

The EMS Program Innovation of the Year is presented to EMS operational program for implementation or improvement of an innovation to advance the quality of care or the system to deliver it.



Nominations for the current calendar year are open and
will close on February 1st of the next calendar year.

Nomination forms are available at [HTTP://www.miemss.org/Home/Awards/](http://www.miemss.org/Home/Awards/)

66th Annual Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference

IN 1959, GOVERNOR J. MILLARD TAWES, a past president of the Maryland State Firefighters Association, convened Maryland’s first statewide conference on fire prevention. Since then, the Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference (MALSC) has grown into one of the foremost annual events of its kind in the nation. Today, MALSC’s stable of experienced subject matter experts deliver an expanded array of keynote presentations and educational programming that encompasses emergency medical services, emergency management, first responder health and safety, and community risk reduction. MALSC participants return to their jurisdictions prepared to implement new information and strategies designed to enhance life safety on many fronts. The 66th Annual Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference, held October 24, 2025, at the Doubletree Annapolis, carried on this rich tradition.



Jennifer Williams of the UL Research Institute Fire Safety Research Institute helped participants to translate fire dynamics research and operational experience into clear, evidence-based public safety messages for their constituents.

Advancing a Legacy of Leadership in Fire Prevention and Life Safety



Opening ceremonies included the presentation of colors by the Anne Arundel County Fire Department Honor Guard.



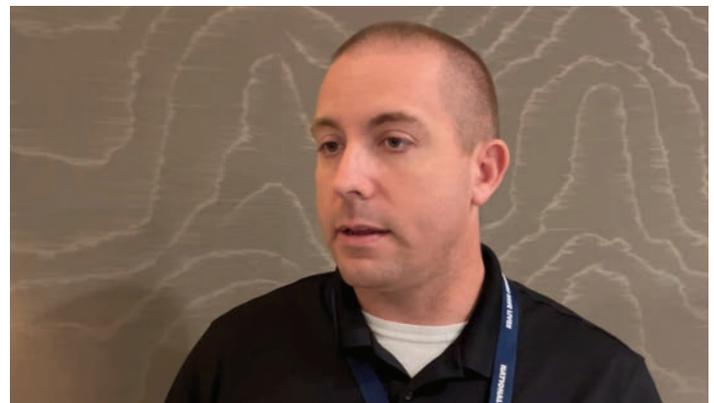
The Fire Chief James E. Jarboe Public Safety Lifetime Achievement Award embraces the importance of advocacy and leadership on behalf of all firefighters and emergency services personnel. Anne Arundel County Fire Department Lt. John Bennett received this year's Jarboe Award in recognition of his dedication to protecting and educating the citizens of Anne Arundel County through his 19-year career with the department.



Each year, the John C. Spiker, Sr. Excellence in Life Safety Educator of the Year Award honors advocates for fire prevention educational programs. This year's Spiker Award recognized two individuals – Rhonda Hinch, for her work with the Level Volunteer Fire Department's annual safety camp, and Jessica Snyder, for the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary's fire prevention initiatives.



During his keynote address, District of Columbia Fire and EMS Chief John A. Donnelly, Sr., delivered an incident command perspective of the coordinated emergency response to the January 29, 2025, plane crash in the Potomac River.



"The goal is to bring everyone in the Fire Service together in one place to learn new things, new techniques from all over the country, and to mingle and network...that's a huge part of this conference." — JOE WALTERS, Chair, Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference

MDERS Supports the Inaugural NEFPOP Event

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Emergency Response System (MDERS) collaborated with regional partners to plan and execute the inaugural National Executive Forum on Public Order Policing (NEFPOP). This gathering aimed to provide attendees with valuable insights into the complexities of public order policing and to offer departmental leadership crucial guidance on essential techniques and tactics in this field. Global subject matter experts (SMEs) shared their perspectives throughout the three-day event by presenting relevant case studies on public order deployments. The forum excelled in presenting key information to attendees in this ever-important field and highlighted the benefits of regional cooperation among emergency response entities.

Public order policing is defined as “the policing of protestors, campaigners and other large gatherings of people, at events that may be either planned or spontaneous in nature” (Wakefield & Fleming, 2009). The intricate and fast-evolving nature of this field requires continued refinement and training for law enforcement to hone their skills. The layers of challenges these events pose were the impetus for this engaging event, which informed attendees about the appropriate standards in public order policing.

A workgroup of regional partners was established in November 2024 to begin planning for this event. The workgroup had representation from:

- » MDERS
- » Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- » Northern Virginia Emergency Response System
- » United States Federal Protective Service
- » United States Secret Service
- » Montgomery County Police Department
- » Metropolitan Police Department
- » Virginia State Police



Inaugural National Executive Forum on Public Order Policing, November 4-6, 2025, National Law Enforcement Museum, Washington, DC. [Photo: MDERS]

Over the course of a year, the workgroup orchestrated and planned every aspect of this event. Meticulous planning and adaptability, particularly in overcoming unforeseen problems such as a last-minute venue change and a prolonged government shutdown, led to a highly successful event.

The forum was held at the National Law Enforcement Museum from November 4–6, 2025. Over three days, speakers from across the United States and Europe presented on a wide range of topics related to public order policing. The event was designed to initially share a foundation of essential techniques and gradually expand on core functions, helping attendees grasp the complexities of public order policing. Direct engagement between speakers and attendees created an immersive, educational experience for all participants.

This event underscores the commitment and dedication of strong regional partnerships to enhance first responders’ knowledge in vital response areas. MDERS will continue to leverage these relationships to enhance our stakeholders’ capabilities.

Source

Wakefield, A., & Fleming, J. (2009). *Public order*. In *The SAGE Dictionary of Policing*. SAGE Publications. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446269053>

Public order policing is defined as “the policing of protestors, campaigners and other large gatherings of people, at events that may be either planned or spontaneous in nature”

Station 44 Designed to Serve BWI's Unique EMS Needs



Fully electric TOURE-V emergency response vehicles parked outside EMS Station 44 at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. [Photo: Ethan Freyman]

THE GOAL OF STATION 44 is to decrease response times throughout BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport in the event of a medical emergency. Specially trained personnel deploy on emergency response vehicles (ERVs) throughout the airport campus, decreasing response times by as much as 50%. Two personnel – a medical duty officer and either a Paramedic/Firefighter or EMT/Firefighter – staff Station 44 throughout the day and during peak travel times. ERV crews carry a full set of ALS equipment, including a monitor/defibrillator, video laryngoscopy, a mechanical CPR device, and a full complement of ALS medications. In the event of a medical emergency, the fully electric ERVs (manufactured by TOURE-V) enable response to most areas of the terminal in less than four minutes. The ERVs are capable of navigating through doorways and most elevators, making BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport one of the safest places in the State of Maryland to suffer a cardiac event.

Stroke QIC Announces 2026-2028 Leadership

THE MARYLAND STROKE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (STROKE QIC) has announced its 2026-2028 leadership. Ellen Deibert, MD, FAHA, will serve as Stroke QIC Chair, while Robert E. Reif, MD, will serve as Vice Chair.

The Stroke QIC focuses on ongoing initiatives for improving stroke care across the state. Comprised of stroke coordinators and stroke program medical directors from all Maryland stroke programs, the committee serves as an advisory body to MIEMSS.



Dr. Deibert has served as Division Chief of the Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) Center for Neurology and Medical Director of the GBMC Primary Stroke Center since April 2021. She is a board-certified neurologist, with subspecialty board-certifications

in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry and Brain Injury Medicine. Dr. Deibert has a longstanding interest in the management of patients with complications from cerebral vascular disease and traumatic brain injuries and is a strong advocate for their access to care. She works to build collaborative relations with health systems and the community to create effective networks that can deliver subspecialized care at the local level.



Dr. Reif is a neurohospitalist at MedStar Harbor Hospital in Baltimore. A Maryland native, Dr. Reif worked for more than a decade at WellSpan Neurology in Pennsylvania in both inpatient and outpatient settings before settling into a neurohospitalist role. He returned to

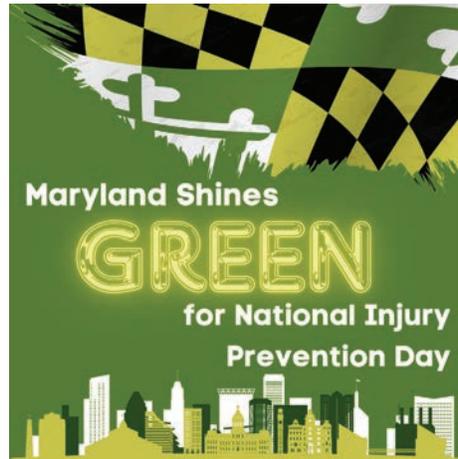
Maryland in 2019, and worked in a private practice setting in Glen Burnie until 2022, when he returned to inpatient neurology at MedStar.

Send press releases, agency/departmental announcements, and other EMS-related news to ptandy@miemss.org for possible inclusion in a future issue of *Maryland EMS News*.

Maryland Shines Green for National Injury Prevention Day

FROM COLORFUL LIGHT DISPLAYS to personal attire, Maryland shone green for National Injury Prevention Day on November 18, 2025. The state's trauma, burn, and injury specialty centers joined the Maryland Injury Prevention Taskforce, businesses, organizations, and communities across Maryland and nationwide in raising awareness of preventable injuries through various events, social media campaigns, and educational initiatives.

Learn more about National Injury Prevention Day at <https://nationalinjurypreventionday.org/resources>.

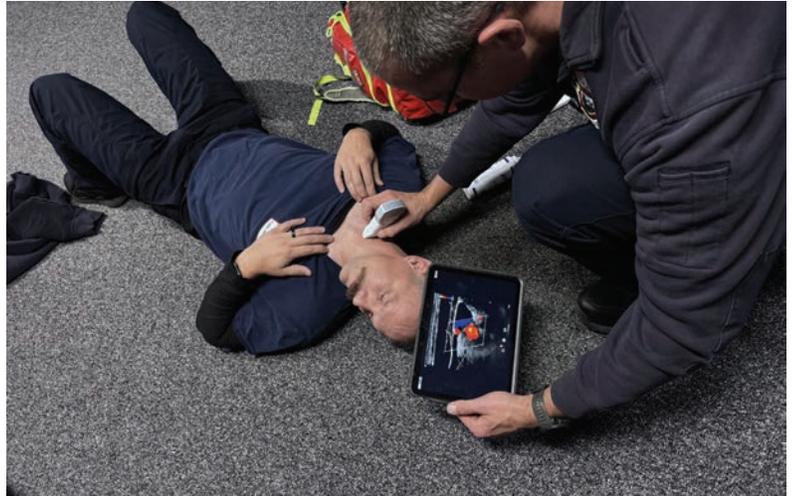


Clockwise from top left: CFG Bank Arena, Baltimore [Photo: Maryland TraumaNet]; Government House, Annapolis [Photo: Office of the Governor]; The Johns Hopkins Dome, Baltimore [Photo: Maryland TraumaNet]; The Oriole Park Warehouse at Camden Yards, Baltimore [Photo: Maryland Stadium Authority]; M&T Bank Stadium, Baltimore [Photo: Maryland Stadium Authority]; The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland, Baltimore [Photo: Maryland TraumaNet]

Frederick County Deploys New Diagnostic Tool for Cardiac Arrests

In July 2025, the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) began utilizing Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) as part of its emergency medical services. Deployed by EMS Supervisors, POCUS is used during cardiac arrest incidents to assess cardiac activity and detect vital blood flow. This real-time diagnostic tool supports crews in making informed decisions about additional treatment options and transport priorities.

To evaluate and refine the use of POCUS, Frederick County DFRS is actively collecting data from all applicable cases through its Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) office. This data-driven approach will help guide future enhancements in the deployment and effectiveness of POCUS in the field.



Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) personnel demonstrate the use of point of care ultrasound technology to assess cardiac activity and detect vital blood flow. [Photo: Frederick County DFRS]

National Fire Service Staff & Command Course

Aiming to advance your fire career? Register today!

Join fellow senior administrative personnel, chief officers, and senior company-level officers for Staff & Command, March 1-6, 2026, in Annapolis, Maryland.

Over five days, the nation’s top emergency services experts will address current and emerging issues facing first responder leadership. Drawing participants from across the country, the Staff & Command Course also fosters an invaluable opportunity for networking with fellow fire colleagues.

Register at www.mfri.org/sac or scan the QR code.



Scan Me to Register

EMS Compliance Update

The EMS Board is authorized to take disciplinary action against clinicians who engage in prohibited conduct to safeguard the integrity of the EMS system. COMAR 30.02.04.01 lists conduct which is prohibited. Below is a sample of actions the EMS Board has taken from August to October 2025 as a result of prohibited conduct. For more information, contact Lisa Chervon, Chief of the MIEMSS Office of Integrity at Ichervon@miemss.org or (410) 706-2339. Additionally, MIEMSS maintains a searchable database of all EMS Board decisions at <https://www.miemss.org/home/public>, which can be found under Public Orders Report in the left-hand column.

IRC25-018 (EMT Applicant) September 2025. In 2021, the Applicant was issued a Final Decision by the Maryland EMS Board in case #IRC21-033, which revoked the Applicant's provisional EMT certification and denied the Applicant's previous application for full certification as an EMT. Case #IRC21-033 originated as a result of an incident in which the Applicant was entered a guilty plea to felony theft in 2016, and failed to disclose this conviction upon Application for Provisional EMT Certification in 2020. The Applicant was previously issued a Final Decision from the EMS Board in 2004, which placed the Applicant's EMT certificate on probation as a result of two previous theft convictions. The Applicant reapplied in 2025, the application was approved, and the Applicant's certification will be placed on probation for three (3) years, with the requirement that the Applicant take four (4) hours of ethics and professionalism training within 90 days of final approval of the application. The training must be pre-approved by MIEMSS and the Applicant must provide documentation to MIEMSS of training completion.

IRC25-008 (EMT) September 11, 2025. In February 2025, MIEMSS was notified that the EMT's credentials were suspended by the Harford County EMS Medical Director. The suspension was due to allegations that the EMT made unauthorized purchases using the credit card of the Fallston Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Company (Fallston), where the EMT was currently serving as the elected Chief of the Department. The EMT was subsequently indicted in the Circuit Court for the crimes of theft and embezzlement/misappropriation of funds. At the time of indictment, the EMT was alleged to have misappropriated an amount approaching \$100,000. In June 2025, the Board issued a Noncompliance Notice proposing to revoke the EMT's certification. In response to the Noncompliance Notice, the EMT submitted a letter to surrender their EMT certificate in the State of Maryland on July 22, 2025. The EMS Board accepted the surrender on September 10, 2025.

IRC24-016 (EMT) September 15, 2025. In March 2025, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol per se. The EMT was issued unsupervised probation before judgment for a period of one (1) year, and ordered to complete integrated counseling. As a result, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for one year.

IRC24-015 (EMT) September 15, 2025. In February 2025, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of conspiracy to commit alteration and falsification of records in federal investigations, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia. The EMT was sentenced to serve sixteen (16) months in federal prison, beginning in April 2025. As a result, the EMT's certification was revoked.

IRC25-009 (EMT) September 15, 2025. In June 2024, the EMT stole a debit card belonging to a patient they were transporting, and subsequently used the debit card to make purchases totaling \$691.06. As a result, the EMT's certification was revoked.

IRC24-011 (Applicant) September 15, 2025. In September 2019, the Applicant was found guilty of homicide/negligent manslaughter with a vehicle in Sarasota County, Florida. The Applicant entered into a settlement agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Services, which was approved by a Final Order, issued in 2021 (the "Settlement Agreement"). Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Applicant's EMT and Paramedic certifications in Florida were suspended until the Applicant submitted to a drug and alcohol evaluation and the Applicant was determined to be safe to practice as a Paramedic. The Settlement Agreement also provided that the Applicant received a reprimand against their EMT Paramedic certificates, and they were required to pay a \$2,000 administrative fine. On December 11, 2024, the State of Florida, Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight issued an administrative complaint to the Applicant, in which it alleged that the Applicant violated the Settlement Agreement. Prior to resolution of the administrative complaint, the Applicant surrendered their Paramedic certification in Florida. As a result, the application for licensure as a Paramedic in Maryland was denied.

IRC24-061 (EMT) September 15, 2025. In September 2024, the EMT was witnessed by law enforcement operating a commercial ambulance in a reckless manner while transporting a patient in the back of the ambulance in Charles County, Maryland. These events were also captured on video surveillance via dash-cam footage. The EMT was arrested while driving the ambulance and charged with

numerous driving offenses as well as possession of a controlled dangerous substance without a valid prescription. The EMT's certification was summarily suspended in Maryland, pursuant to an order issued on October 28, 2024. As a result of the above, the EMT's certification was revoked.

IRC25-017 (EMT) September 15, 2025. In April 2025, the EMT pled not guilty with agreed statement of facts to the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol per se. The EMT was issued supervised probation before judgment for a period of eighteen (18) months. As a result of the above, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for one year.

IRC25-014 (Applicant) September 15, 2025. In May 2023, a reasonable-suspicion testing sample produced by the Applicant while on duty produced results positive for alcohol. The Applicant was suspended from the EMS Operational Program (EMSOP) without pay and ultimately terminated. The Applicant had previously produced a positive reasonable-suspicion breath alcohol test while on duty in August 2022 and consequently entered into an After Care Contract with the same EMSOP that same year. As a result of the above, the application was approved, and the Applicant's certification was placed on probation for two years, with the condition that the Applicant undergo random drug and alcohol testing at their expense or through an EMSOP. All results of random drug and alcohol testing must be reported to MIEMSS.

IRC25-020 (EMT) September 15, 2025. In April 2025, a random-testing sample produced by the EMT while on duty produced results positive for cocaine metabolites. Consequently, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for two years, with the condition that the EMT must undergo random testing at the clinician's expense or through an EMS Operational Program, with all test results reported to MIEMSS.

IRC25-013 (EMT) September 15, 2025. In January 2025, the EMT was using a cell phone while operating an ambulance on US Rt. 50 at a high rate of speed, resulting in a motor vehicle crash. The EMT's employment was subsequently terminated from the commercial ambulance service, due to having violated the service's code of conduct. Consequently, the EMT's certification was suspended for one week. Following the suspension, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for one year.

IRC25-021 (EMT) September 15, 2025. In September 2024, the EMT performed the insertion of an intraosseous needle into a patient at the scene of a medical emergency after telling an on-scene ALS clinician that she was able to do so because she was currently enrolled in a Paramedic training program. Investigation revealed that the EMT was not enrolled in a Paramedic training at the time of the inci-

dent. Consequently, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for three (3) years.

IRC24-031 (EMD) October 20, 2025. In June 2023, the EMD pled guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. The EMD was subsequently issued probation before judgment. On October 4, 2024, the EMD submitted an EMD renewal application to MIEMSS and failed to disclose the above-mentioned disposition. Consequently, the EMD's license was placed on probation for one year, and the EMD was reprimanded for a failure to disclose the aforementioned disposition.

IRC25-023 (EMT) October 20, 2025. In May 2025, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol per se. The EMT was sentenced to twelve (12) months of unsupervised probation before judgment. Consequently, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for one year.

IRC25-012 (CRT) October 20, 2025. In March 2025, the CRT pled not guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol. The CRT was issued probation before judgment for a period of one (1) year. Consequently, the CRT's license was placed on probation for one year.

IRC25-022 (EMT) October 20, 2025. In March 2025, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol. The EMT was found guilty and sentenced to three (3) days in jail, two (2) years of supervised probation, and was ordered to complete a rehabilitation program within six (6) months of the guilty finding. On April 22, 2025, the EMT submitted a New Service Affiliation application to MIEMSS and failed to disclose the aforementioned disposition. As a result, the EMT is reprimanded, and the EMT's certification was placed on probation for one year.

IRC25-025 (EMT) October 20, 2025. In January 2025, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol per se. The EMT was subsequently issued three (3) years of unsupervised probation before judgment. As a result, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for one year.

IRC25-010 (EMT) October 20, 2025. In September 2024, the EMT tested positive for oxycodone and oxymorphone during post-accident testing through the EMT's EMS Operational Program. The EMT was unable to produce a prescription to show a valid medical indication for the test results or to show that the test results were not in excess of therapeutic amounts. As a result, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for two years, with the conditions that the EMT undergo an evaluation for substance use disorder, engage in drug treatment, and undergo random testing.

