

Maryland

EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Services Clinicians

Vol. 52 No. 3

March 2026



When the Ice Sets In, FCDFRS Steps Up

Plus:
Mumps – What You Need to Know
Bittering VFD Firehouse Project
Washington County Life Savers
Raising the Bar for Rescue
Legislative Update
Upcoming Events



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ON THE COVER: *Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services (FCDFRS) Swiftwater Rescue Team take advantage of the icy conditions to sharpen critical ice rescue skills. [Photo: Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services]*

Maryland EMS News
MIEMSS
 653 W. Pratt St.
 Baltimore, MD 21201-1536



Governor Wes Moore
Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

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MIEMSS Clinical / Medical Alert



State of Maryland

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

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Chairman, EMS Board

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director

To: EMS Clinicians

From: Timothy Chizmar, MD
State EMS Medical Director

Date: February 18, 2026

Re: **Mumps: What You Need to Know**

Recently, the Maryland Department of Health has noted an increase in mumps cases. There have been 14 cases reported in Maryland thus far in 2026, compared to 4 cases in all of 2025. These recent cases have been occurring primarily in adults in the Baltimore metropolitan area. However, mumps can occur in any age group, and cases may increase throughout the state.

Since we do not encounter mumps frequently, here are a few reminders about its clinical presentation and associated precautions:

- **Signs and Symptoms:** Mumps is a viral illness that usually involves fever as well as pain, tenderness, and swelling in the salivary glands of the cheek (parotitis) and jaw area. Swelling may occur on one side of the face or both sides, and usually lasts 3-7 days, though it can last up to 10 days.
- **Mode of Transmission:** Mumps is spread through direct contact with saliva or respiratory droplets from the mouth, nose or throat. Patients are considered to be infectious 2 days before, and up to 5 days after, the onset of parotitis. The period of time from exposure to development of symptoms (incubation period) may be as long as 2-3 weeks.
- **Potential complications:** Mumps complications include: meningitis, encephalitis, pancreatitis, hearing loss, and swelling of the testicles, ovaries or breasts. Complications are less frequent in vaccinated patients.
- **Precautions:** If you encounter a patient with suspected mumps, please take droplet and standard precautions. All EMS clinicians should use a surgical mask, gown, gloves, and eye protection. The patient should be asked to wear a surgical mask.
- **Vaccination:** Vaccination is the most effective way to protect against mumps. The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is important to prevent measles as well. Adults who have never received the MMR vaccine and were born after 1957 should receive 2 doses, 4 weeks apart. Children should receive the MMR through their pediatrician according to the childhood immunization schedule.

If you believe that you have been exposed to a patient with mumps, please contact your department infection control officer or leadership for further guidance.

For more information, please see: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/IDEHSharedDocuments/MDH-Mumps-Guidelines.pdf>. Please contact the Office of the Medical Director (410-706-0880; tchizmar@miemss.org) if you have any questions regarding this memo.

Office of Government Affairs

MIEMSS Legislative Update – March 2026

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY is more than halfway through the 2026 legislative session in Annapolis. This year, 1,997 bills have been introduced in the House of Delegates alongside the 1,383 bills that have been filed in the Senate.

MIEMSS introduced one departmental bill this session, House Bill 276 / Senate Bill 24, which is a “cross-filed” bill, meaning that mirror images of it were introduced and heard in both chambers. This departmental bill 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. More specifically, this legislation: eliminates obsolete provisions (references to “regional council AED committee” and the like); adds 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); adds 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; includes grocery stores and restaurants subject to 21-330.3 of the Health—General Article in the definition of “entities” (since they register as such in the State’s AED Registry, thereby harmonizing state law with current practice); and makes other technical and clarifying changes. As of

this writing, the House cross-file overwhelmingly passed in the full House and the Senate cross-file has received a favorable report from the committee to which it was assigned.

Maryland’s Public Access AED Program was established in 1999. Since that time, the General Assembly has required that all public schools, county and municipal swimming pools, grocery stores, restaurants, and certain libraries have a registered AED on premises. This session, Delegate Gary Simmons of Anne Arundel County introduced legislation (House Bill 32) that, if passed, would require that all local law enforcement vehicles also carry an AED.

Beyond the legislation related to the State’s AED laws, MIEMSS is weighing in on a number of other bills that impact Maryland’s EMS system – namely, the Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act (HB 420 / Senate Bill 242) and its companion bill (HB 1120 / Senate Bill 418), which would authorize active service members, Foreign Service members, and their spouses, under certain circumstances, to practice in the State based on an occupational or professional license issued in another jurisdiction. MIEMSS is concerned that these bills could inadvertently limit the State EMS Board’s authority to take disciplinary action against EMS clinicians practicing under the auspices of an out-of-state license when such cli-

nicians have been found to engage in prohibited conduct under § 13-516 (h) of the Education Article as the relevant state law defines an “emergency medical services provider” as “an individual **licensed** or certified by the EMS Board.” [emphasis added]

MIEMSS is also monitoring legislation that would require each county board of education to establish a policy to obtain at least one airway clearing device per school and to authorize school nurses and other school personnel to use such a device on an individual experiencing a choking emergency (House Bill 117 / Senate Bill 219); legislation that would prohibit an employer from taking certain discriminatory employment actions against a fire and rescue public safety employee based on the employee’s use of medical cannabis (subject to certain conditions) as well as require an employer to report an incident of a fire and rescue public safety employee reporting for work while impaired by cannabis to the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board (House Bill 797 / Senate Bill 439); and legislation that would increase annual MEMSOF revenue by an estimated \$949,000 by increasing motor vehicle registrations through enforcement actions targeting vehicles improperly registered in Virginia (HB 212).

A full report regarding the status of the aforementioned bills will appear in the April issue of *Maryland EMS News*.

Visit **EMS News Online** at **MIEMSS.org**

MSFA Legislative Reception

ON FEBRUARY 10, 2026, the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA) hosted its annual Legislative Reception at Governor Calvert House in Annapolis. The event provides MSFA and its emergency services partners (including MIEMSS) an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to Fire, EMS, and other emergency services with lawmakers and government officials as the legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly gets underway.



Follow the 2026 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly in real time.
Visit mgaleg.maryland.gov



Location: Bridge of Life | 14 S. Potomac Street | Hagerstown, Maryland

Friday, April 24, 2026: Doors 8:00 AM | Training 8:45 AM – 5:30 PM

Saturday, April 25, 2026: Doors 8:00 AM | Training 8:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Friday Evening Social Hour – 5:45 PM

Antietam Brewery | 140 Western Maryland Parkway | Hagerstown, MD

Food Sponsored by Hagerstown Professional Fire Fighters IAFF Local 1605

Registration: Limited to 600 attendees. Please register only if attending both days.

Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EAF2FA2FAC07-61548597-western>

Questions: Officer Tim Cramer | tcramer@hagerstownpd.org



Featured Presenters:

Erica Gaines – TacMobility

Karlee Davis, LICSW – Begin Counseling

Travis Howze

Thin Line Service Dogs ...and more

Registration is open! The training is FREE.



South County EMS Service Making a Difference

Since launching on December 1 at Boonsboro Fire Station #8, the new South County ambulance has already made a strong impact on emergency response in our community.

SINCE LAUNCHING ON DECEMBER 1, 2025, at Boonsboro Fire Station #8, Washington County’s new South County ambulance has already made a strong impact on emergency response in our community. In its first six weeks, the ambulance responded to nearly 70 emergency calls, including 50 calls in December, with many resulting in patient transports. This added unit has helped reduce demand on other county ambulances and improve overall coverage. Most importantly, the new service is significantly reducing response times – often by 10-14 minutes per call—with some high-priority patients reached in as little as six minutes. Faster response times mean better care and better outcomes. The feedback from residents and community leaders has been overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing the importance of this long-needed service in South County. *[Photo: Washington County Division of Emergency Services]*

In its first six weeks, the ambulance responded to nearly 70 emergency calls, including 50 calls in December

MSFA CONVENTION

2026



PARADE • PARTY • CONVENTION



PARADE IN BERLIN!
SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH



PARTY AT OCEAN DOWNS!
SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH



CONVENTION IN OCEAN CITY! JUNE 21ST - JUNE 24TH



**FROM THE STREETS OF BERLIN TO THE LIGHTS
OF OCEAN CITY, LET THE 2026 CONVENTION BEGIN!**



 **SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH | PARADE IN BERLIN**

10 AM: Staging Areas Open

Staging Areas

- Worcester Preparatory School
- Worcester County Athletic Complex off Buckingham Road
- Tripoli and Burley Streets
- Lot for bands, marching units, antique vehicles.
- Easy access to staging areas and post-parade to Route 50.
- Shuttles available from staging areas to Downtown Berlin

Apparatus Prep: Wash stations will be available at Berlin Fire HQ and Station 3 for pre-parade preparation.

2 PM: Parade Start Time

Parking: Conveniently available within walking distance to Downtown from the Intermediate School, Berlin Fire HQ and West St.

Shuttle Service: An optional shuttle will run from the local intermediate school for added accessibility.

Shopping & Dining: Local shops and restaurants in Berlin will be open for you to enjoy prior, during and after the parade.

Lodging: Discounted lodging rates for Friday and Saturday nights available at participating hotels in Salisbury.

 **SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH | KICKOFF PARTY AT OCEAN DOWNS**

2:30 PM: Post-Parade Festivities Begin

- Parade participants are invited to kick-off the 2026 MSFA Convention with music, food and beverages prior to the award presentations.
- Official Convention T-shirts will be available for purchase on-site.

6:00 PM: Award Ceremonies Begin

- Parade participants are invited to attend the updated 2026 Parade Award Presentations.

 **SUNDAY JUNE 21ST | CONVENTION BEGINS**

8:00 AM: Convention Begins

Roland E. Powell Convention Center • 4001 Coastal Hwy • Ocean City • MD • 21842

Visit the Convention website for a complete list of 2026 Events:

<https://convention.msfa.org/calendar/category/convention-events/list/>

**SCAN THE 2026 PARADE PARTICIPANT
REGISTRATION QR CODE OR USE THE LINK BELOW:
[HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/JREIL/2026MSFAPARADE](https://form.jotform.com/JREIL/2026MSFAPARADE)**



Please note: Events and times are subject to change.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



The future home of Bittinger Volunteer Fire Department.

Bittinger Volunteer Fire Department's New Firehouse Project

IN 2022, after identifying a property for sale in the Bittinger area of Garrett County, the Bittinger Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) proactively approached local and state government leaders to seek support for a long-term facility solution. BVFD met with its local senator, delegate, and the Garrett County Commissioners to outline the project and discuss plans to erect a new firehouse in the Bittinger area, and the benefits it would bring to emergency services and the community.

With resounding support from local and state leadership, the department successfully secured a \$1,000,000 capital grant through the State of Maryland to purchase and renovate a new facility. The building and property, purchased from Beitzel Corporation, consist of a 10,000-plus square-foot facility and five acres that were previously used for fleet maintenance. This space will enable BVFD to store all of its apparatus under one roof, supporting improved maintenance and equipment readiness, while also providing better access to Route 495 for faster response times and the ability for the department to expand services as necessary. The project reached a critical milestone in 2024, when the department officially closed on the property after a lengthy planning and

approval process.

Now, the next phase is underway. A contractor has been selected, and renovations to convert the facility into BVFD's new firehouse have begun. Current projects include, but are not limited to, installation of an emergency generator, lighting upgrades, improvements to office and administrative space, the addition of crew quarters (such as bunk rooms, bathrooms, and showers), and additional access points to improve response times and operational efficiency.

This location and facility will, without a doubt, allow the department to take its operations to the next level and will provide an excellent, functional firehouse to support the department and its members well into the future.

Continued Use of the Current Firehouse

While BVFD looks ahead to this new facility, the department remains committed to maintaining its current firehouse as an important part of the Bittinger community. The existing firehouse will continue to be utilized as a community facility available for rentals and for local meetings, gatherings, and community events. In addition, the social hall at the current firehouse will remain a key venue for the de-

partment’s annual fundraising activities, which are vital to supporting its operations and volunteer members. This approach allows the department to expand and modernize its emergency response capabilities while preserving a familiar and well-used community space for years to come.

This project would not have been possible without the strong support of local leadership and the community that BVFD serves. This new firehouse represents a major investment in public safety and a lasting commitment to serving the Bittinger area. BVFD look forward to sharing continued updates as renovations progress and this important project moves closer to completion.

[Photos: Bittinger Volunteer Fire Department]



The interior of the future home of Bittinger Volunteer Fire Department, currently an empty warehouse building.

HOT CARS ARE DEADLY

ACT! Never leave a child alone in a vehicle

Avoid Heatstroke - Check the backseat whenever you leave a vehicle. Keep your car locked when you are not inside of it.

Create reminders - When the child is in the car, keep a stuffed animal in the front seat or secure your phone in the back when riding with a child.

Take Action - If you see a child alone in a car, call 9-1-1 and follow their directions.

ZERO DEATHS MARYLAND

— Highway Safety Office —

Pediatric Vehicular Heatstroke

- Most deaths occur when a child is forgotten inside of a hot car.
- 1 in 4 deaths happen when a child gets inside a car and cannot get out.
- The inside of a car can heat up to 20 degrees in 10 minutes; children’s bodies heat up 3-5 times faster than adults.
- Lowering a window a little does not stop the temperature rising.
- Heatstroke can happen anywhere and anytime of year.

In 2025, 30 U.S. children died in a hot car; two of them occurred in Maryland.

Help prevent these deaths by:

- Posting this new 11” x 17” poster (Spanish on reverse side). Email cps@miemss.org to order it.
- Conducting a display on how quickly vehicles heat up to dangerous temperatures. Click on the QR code to borrow one of the outdoor temperature display kits located around Maryland.

Cold Weather, Critical Training: FCDFRS Teams Hone Ice Rescue Skills

RIGHT: Swiftwater rescue team members receive instructions during a training exercise on a snowy day in February 2026.



BELOW: Several swiftwater rescue team members ready to assist fellow team members during training exercise.



RIGHT: A swiftwater rescue team member during a February 2026 training exercise.

Mother Nature delivered the cold – and the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services (FCDFRS) Swiftwater Rescue Team delivered the training. Over three days in early February 2026, 48 members of the FCDFRS Swiftwater Rescue Team took advantage of the icy conditions to sharpen critical ice rescue skills, practicing multiple rescue methods designed for real-world incidents where seconds matter. The team also had the opportunity to train with the new ASR155 All-Surface Rescue Raft, engineered for operations on ice, mud, surface/swiftwater, and dam environments. The ASR155 is housed on the Water Rescue Support Trailer at Point of Rocks Fire Station #28, strengthening FCDFRS' countywide water rescue capabilities.



ABOVE: Swiftwater rescue team members pose with the new ASR155 All-Surface Rescue Raft.



LEFT: A swiftwater rescue team member stands by ready to assist another team member submerged in the frozen water.

Want to do more to keep children safe?

Become a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (“CPST”)!

As a CPST you could:

- Check child safety seats for proper use.
- Educate and help parents install their safety seats.
- Provide community education & training on child passenger safety.
- Attend free periodic update courses & training opportunities.

About the CPST certification course:

- usually 4 – 4 ½ days long
- combines classroom instruction, hands-on work with car seats and vehicles
- has a community safety seat check-up event at the end
- includes open-book quizzes and skills tests
- costs \$95 to register **
- confers CPST status for 2 years

2026 Maryland Courses:

Montgomery County:	March 9, 10, 16, 19
Prince Georges County:	March 27, 30, 31, April 1, 2
Charles County:	May 8, 11, 12, 13, 14
Montgomery County:	May 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
Washington County:	May 27, 29, June 1, 2, 3
Harford County:	June 10, 12, 16, 18, 20
Carroll County:	Sept 3, 4, 8, 9
Wicomico County:	Sept 14, 15, 17, 18, 19

For details and registration, go to cert.safekids.org, click on “Become a Tech,” and search on State: “MD,” though this national course can be taken anywhere.

A limited number of **free registrations are available for qualifying Maryland healthcare/EMS personnel; contact cps@miemss.org.



CPS for Children

Maryland Child Passenger Safety Hospital Project

Maryland Poison Center Celebrates National Poison Prevention Week 2026

By Emily Paterson, MPH, CHES®, and Caroline Rodriguez, BS

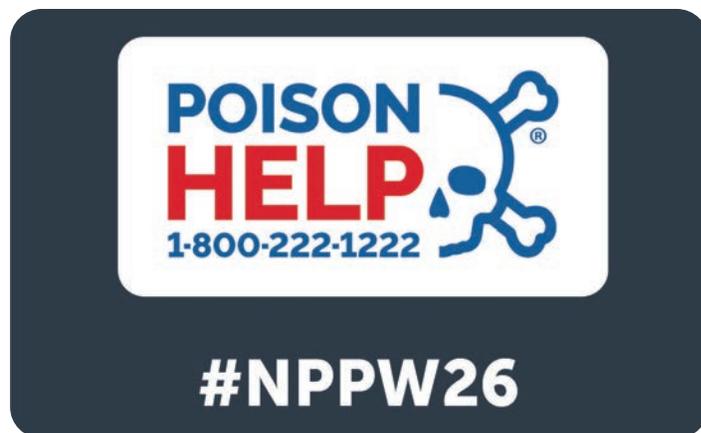
SINCE 1962, National Poison Prevention Week has been celebrated across the country by presidential decree during the third full week of March. This year, National Poison Prevention Week is observed March 15-21. The theme is “When the unexpected happens, we’re here for you 24/7.”

The Maryland Poison Center (MPC) is a 24-hour telephone service that offers free, fast, and confidential expert advice about poisonings and overdoses. It has provided poisoning treatment advice, education, and prevention services since 1972, and is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) as a regional Poison Center.

In April 2025, the MPC expanded its service area to now cover all 26 jurisdictions in Maryland, as well as the District of Columbia.

Each year, over 2 million human exposures are reported to the nation’s 53 Poison Centers. The MPC managed 47,000 of those human exposure cases in 2025. A majority of these cases could have been avoided. Although approximately one-third of the calls received by the MPC involve children younger than 6-years-old, teens, adults, and older adults are also at risk for poisoning.

Although Poison Center education and poison prevention efforts occur 365 days a year, National Poison Prevention



Week is a time to raise awareness about the dangers of poisonings and highlight the steps everyone can take to prevent them.

Join the MPC in using this week to encourage the public to take steps to prevent poisonings and to be prepared if a poisoning occurs:

- » Program the Poison Center phone number in your mobile phone. Your local Poison Center can be reached anywhere in the United States by dialing 1-800-222-1222.
- » Store poisons up, away, and out of sight.
- » Read and follow directions on the label before using medicines and household products.
- » Keep all household products and medicines in their original labeled containers. Never put chemicals or cleaning products in empty food or drink containers.

Visit the MPC’s website at mdpoison.com for more information regarding National Poison Prevention Week and find information on ordering educational materials and accessing downloadable information. Up-to-date information and poison prevention tips can also be found on the MPC’s social media accounts: Facebook (@MarylandPoisonCenter), X (@MDPoisonCtr), and Instagram (@MDPoisonCenter).

Each year, over 2 million human exposures are reported to the nation’s 53 Poison Centers. The MPC managed 47,000 of those human exposure cases in 2025. A majority of these cases could have been avoided.



Maryland Vaccine Program

Free immunizations for Marylanders who:

- ✓ Are underinsured or uninsured
- ✓ Are age 19 or older
- ✓ Reside in Maryland

Reach out to your local health department:

health.maryland.gov/vaccines



Raising the Bar for Rescue: MCFRS Tests New ALS Training in High-Angle Scenarios

TRAINING IS A CRITICAL FUNCTION that enables organizations to evolve, adapt, and prepare for a wide range of emergencies. The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) recently identified the need for enhanced training to evaluate the department's capability to administer advanced life support (ALS) during technical rescue (TR) incidents. The unique factors in this field necessitate specialized equipment to replicate realistic scenarios. As part of this pilot course, MCFRS used a manikin that was procured by the Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System (MDERS). The integration of the advanced manikin into an innovative training program underscores strong collaboration and a shared desire to improve response capabilities between MDERS and its partners.

Technical rescue is a branch of fire/rescue operations that pertains to four areas: trench, confined space, rope, and structural collapse (MCFRS, 2019). This discipline has characteristics that include low-frequency events that normal personnel are not fully accustomed to and may lack the requisite skills to respond effectively to incidents, involve more extreme dynamics at greater heights and depths, and often require the use of complex mechanical systems (MCFRS, 2019). These unique factors require additional and specialized training to prepare a cadre of personnel in this field.

MDERS closely coordinates with all stakeholders to identify training and equipment to enhance each organization's operational capabilities. MCFRS identified the need for additional manikins to support internal training initiatives. These manikins replicate an individual's height and weight and allow practitioners to practice ALS skills on a simulated patient.

MCFRS is in the initial phase of developing an advanced TR course designed to apply ALS skills in difficult and austere environments. This phase challenged TR paramedics' ability to administer ALS care during a high-angle rope rescue operation. Participants went through classroom instruction and practiced their skills during the hands-on portion of the training. Each participant delivered patient care and executed techniques that included airway management, medication administration, hemorrhage control, and the use of treatment and diagnostic equipment, all while suspended in the air.

This training initiative highlights MCFRS's dedication to hone their skills in unique and challenging situations and the



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) members employ a manikin to replicate realistic advanced life support scenarios. [Photo: Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System]

commitment of MDERS to support their stakeholders with the necessary equipment and training.

Source

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS). (2019). *Incident Response Policy Appendix J Initial Actions for Technical Rescue Incidents*. https://www.montgomery-county.md.gov/frs-ql/resources/files/swsj/policyprocedures/admin/IRP_Appendix_J_Technical%20Rescue.pdf



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*.

2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 19-21

LIFESAVERS CONFERENCE ON ROADWAY SAFETY
(Baltimore, MD)
<https://lifesaversconference.org/>

MAY 7-8

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

MAY 17-23

NATIONAL EMS WEEK
<https://emsweek.org>

MAY 26-29

MARYLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND
HOMELAND SECURITY SYMPOSIUM (Ocean City, MD)
<https://www.marylandema.org/2026-symposium.php>

JUNE 20-25

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

SEPT 15

MID-ATLANTIC LIFE SAFETY CONFERENCE
(Annapolis, MD)
<https://www.midatlanticlifesafetyconference.com/>

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



NEXT STEP?

PARAMEDIC

**Prepare now
and start training
in September!**

The paramedic program at Harford Community College prepares current EMTs to sit for the National Registry Exam and become certified paramedics.

Register to take the entrance exam.

Choose the date most convenient for you:

MAR 6, 13, 20
APR 4, 11

Exam time is 9 AM-1 PM. | \$25 registration fee

REQUIREMENTS:

- 18+ years of age with high school diploma or GED®
- Current EMT certification
- One year of experience as an EMT and 150 calls with direct patient contact
- Successful completion of entrance exam
- Completed program application
- Letter of recommendation
- Current health assessment from a licensed physician required before clinical
- Clinical facilities require background and drug test to be paid for by student.



Register
ce.harford.edu

For more information:
EMS@harford.edu | 443.412.2554

**Invest in
yourself.**

harford.edu

The Harford Community College Paramedic Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, upon recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions, (CoA EMSP) and is in good standing.

Three Hagerstown EMS Clinicians Among Recipients of Washington County Life Savers Awards

ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2025, Community Rescue Service Paramedic Rachel Buck (752), EMT Sarah Nichols (752), and Captain Dennis Browne (D75) utilized a new Maryland protocol, Dual Sequential Defibrillation, which contributed to the successful resuscitation of the patient. The Washington County Division of Emergency Services, in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Office and Meritus Medical Center, recognized this and several other emergency incidents in which coordinated efforts between dispatchers, bystanders, EMS clinicians, firefighters, and hospital staff led to patients surviving life-threatening medical emergencies and being discharged from the hospital neurologically intact during presentation of the Life Savers Awards on March 6 in Hagerstown. For more information on this year's honorees, go to <https://www.washco-md.net/news/washington-county-division-of-emergency-services-honors-life-saving-first-responders-with-life-savers-awards/> or scan the QR Code.



Community Rescue Service EMT Sarah Nichols, Paramedic Rachel Buck, and Captain Dennis Browne. [Photo: Community Rescue Service, Inc.]

SCAN ME!



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

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS Association Honors Donna Laird with Linda Dousa Lifetime Achievement Award

THE HARFORD COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND EMS ASSOCIATION (HCVFEMSA) has honored Donna Laird of the Abingdon Fire Company with the Linda Dousa Lifetime Achievement Award. HCVFEMSA EMS Committee Chair Dr. Paul Chizmar and Co-Chair Greg Dietrich presented the award during the association’s Annual Banquet and Installation of Officers on February 21, 2026.

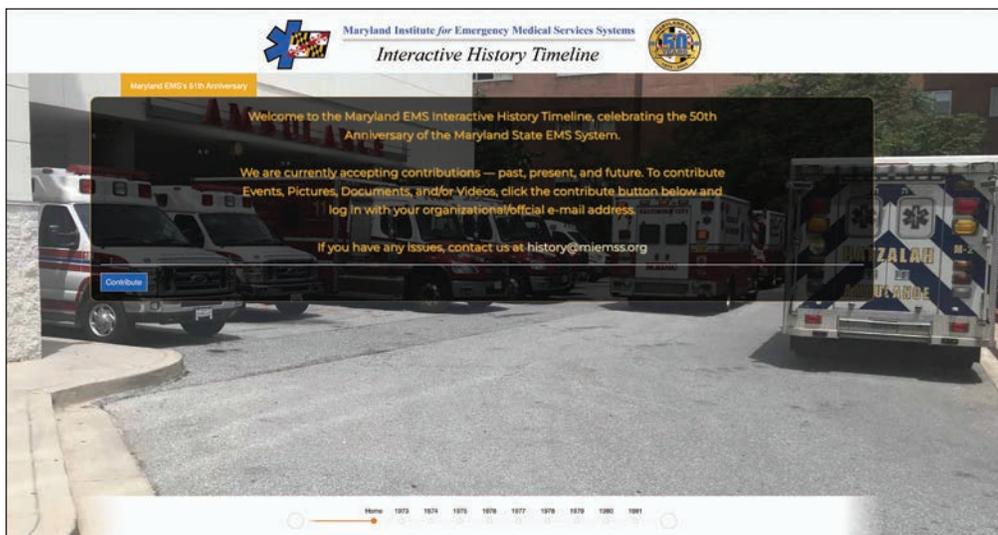
The Linda Dousa Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a volunteer EMS clinician who has demonstrated a lifetime of leadership in volunteer service to their community, both within the EMS field and beyond. Eligible clinicians must have at least 10 years of active volunteer EMS service in Harford County, a minimum of five years in EMS leadership, and have a demonstrated record of mentorship and instruction, as well as a record of service to their community outside of EMS. The award is not presented annually, but rather given only when someone has risen to the level of clinical excellence, integrity, mentorship, and service as exhibited by its namesake.

The EMS Committee unanimously nominated Laird for the award. Since joining the Abingdon Fire Company in 1995, she has served as a clinician, officer, president, vice president and, most recently, Chair of the Board of Directors. In the course of her career, Laird has responded to over 6,000 EMS calls for service – 3,400 at Abingdon alone – while simultaneously mentoring new members, serving as and in-



From left: Dr. Paul Chizmar, Donna Laird, and Greg Dietrich. [Photo: Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS Association.]

structor and preceptor, and providing leadership at the company, county, and state levels. Laird has served as a delegate with the Maryland State Firefighters Association, worked with the Harford County EMS Foundation, and continues to volunteer post-retirement. Additionally, she actively serves in the ladies auxiliary of the American Legion, as well as at her community church.



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)



ACS Maryland Committee on Trauma Point Counterpoint XLIII 2026

Don't miss the annual
Point/Counterpoint conference!



May 7-8, 2026



Renaissance Baltimore
Harborplace Hotel
202 East Pratt Street

Discover the latest breakthroughs in trauma, emergency general surgery, and acute care at this dynamic two-day event!

- **Engaging Format:** Pro/con debates, panel discussions, and interactive breakout sessions
- **Cutting-Edge Topics:** Explore state-of-the-art management strategies and tackle today's most controversial issues
- **Tailored Content:** Afternoon breakout sessions on trending topics designed for nurses, APPs, and physicians

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with experts, challenge your thinking, and enhance your skills!

Keynote Speakers



Ellen MacKenzie, PhD
Charles C. Wolferth, Jr., MD,
Memorial Lecture
"Ensuring a Quality Recovery Post-Trauma"



Adil H. Haider, MD, MPH, FACS
Sharon M. Henry Maryland
COT State-of-the-Art Lecture
"AI as a Force for Good: Our Moment to Lead as Acute Care Surgeons"



To register scan or visit:
mdcot.com

EMT Levels Up to Emergency Nurse



LEVEL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY congratulates Christine Deckard on becoming a Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN). A Registered Nurse (RN) at University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center – Aberdeen, Deckard also serves Level as an active EMT. CEN is the foundational nursing specialty certification for RNs working in the emergency department and across the emergency spectrum. Nurses with a CEN are lifelong learners who demonstrate expertise in clinical practice, and are better prepared for professional development and overall career success.

Left: Christine Deckard. [Photo: Level VFD]

Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center Blood Drive



AMID A NATIONWIDE BLOOD SHORTAGE, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center (HCMC) exceeded its goal during its March 5, 2026, blood drive, collecting 39 units. Here’s what that means:

- » One unit can save up to three lives; the March 5 drive could impact 117 lives
- » 39 percent of donors were first-time donors

If you missed this event, join HCMC for its next blood drive on Friday, June 26, 2026. For more information, go to hopkins.org/jhhcmc-blood-drive26 or scan the QR Code. [Photo: Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center]

HELP CHILDREN STAY SAFE ON ROADS!

Promote the 2026 Safety Seat Check-Up Events in Your Community



Refer caregivers to **MDKiss.org** or scan the QR Code to view a list of Maryland Car Seat Check-Up Events and to register.

Contact cps@miemss.org to obtain the seat check flyer for your region.



