

Maryland EMS News



For All Emergency Medical Clinicians

Vol. 50 No. 1

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Commission to Advance and Strengthen Firefighting and EMS within Maryland Issues Final Report

LIKE MANY PROFESSIONS, Maryland's Fire and EMS service is facing crucial skilled labor shortages and major disruptions in hiring, training, and recruitment. While some of these disruptions can be traced to the effects of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and its lingering impacts on the American workforce, firefighting and EMS have separately seen long-term declines in overall recruitment and retention.

To address this concern to public safety, legislation passed during the 2023 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly created the Commission to Advance and Strengthen Firefighting and Emergency Medical Services within Maryland. Tasked with studying and making recommendations for enhancing recruitment and retention efforts to support both career and volunteer firefighting and EMS in Maryland, the Commission included representatives of MIEMSS, the Maryland State Firemen's Association, the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association, the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, the Maryland Association of Counties, and the Maryland Municipal League. Following several months of study, the Commission issued its final report with recommendations in December 2023.

Challenges for Fire and EMS in Maryland

In order to better understand the on-the-ground experience of Maryland's Fire and EMS service members, and as a means of testing some of the recommendations and assumptions put forward in other states' examinations of their workforces, the Commission developed and issued a state-wide digital survey to all current and former members of Maryland's Fire and EMS service. Strictly voluntary and anonymous, the 31-question survey covered respondent demographics, experiences with various aspects of the recruitment, training, and retention systems, and respondent perceptions of their career and the state's Fire and EMS service overall.

Volunteer Fire and EMS roles have long served as a critical pipeline for Maryland's Fire and EMS service. The Commission found that volunteer recruitment has not kept pace with attrition and retirement, and fewer younger people are choosing to become volunteer firefighters and EMS clinicians. Additionally, women and people of color remain underrepresented in the Maryland Fire and EMS service, while many people feel they cannot financially afford to volunteer or even work in Fire and EMS in Maryland.

At the organizational level, the

Commission found that many departments are under-equipped to conduct the level of recruitment required to overcome their staffing needs.

Recommendations

Building on its findings, the Commission developed three broad recommendation areas for programmatic reforms, legislative action, and additional investment in Maryland's systems: Training and Education, Wages and Working Condition Benefits, and Financial Sustainability. Each area includes a number of discrete recommendations aimed at improving and strengthening Maryland's Fire and EMS service.

■ **Training and Education:**

○ *Establish a tuition-free program for career and volunteer firefighters at Maryland's community colleges.* Higher education has become both increasingly expensive and a significant prerequisite for entry into nearly all professions. The Commission recommends extending tuition-free community college (possibly subject to a prescribed service obligation) to active career and volunteer firefighters and EMTs to incentivize participation in the field while also offering a valuable personal benefit.

See *COMMISSION* page 12

EMS News Digest

■ **States Trashing Troves of Pandemic PPE as Stockpiles Expire** (*Journal of Emergency Medical Services*). When the coronavirus pandemic took hold in an unprepared US, states scrambled for masks and other protective gear. Three years later, as the grips of the pandemic have loosened, many states are now trying to deal with an excess of protective gear, ditching their supplies in droves. Read more: <https://www.jems.com/equipment-gear/states-trashing-troves-of-pandemic-ppe-as-stockpiles-expire/>

■ **Leveraging DOT Grant Funds for EMS Crash Response Improvement** (*NHTSA Office of EMS*). NHTSA's Office of EMS will host a one-hour webinar on Leveraging Funds for EMS Crash Response Improvement at 1:00 p.m. (Eastern) on January 16, 2024. Panelists Paul Teicher (Senior Policy Analyst, DOT – Office of the Secretary) and Bruce Evans (MPA, CFO, NRP, SPO, Fire Chief, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District) will join Office of EMS Director Gam Wijetunge in sharing information and best practices to help

EMS agencies nationwide prepare to apply for the upcoming Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant program. Register online at https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9117037909052/WN_0QFNcFJpTwqVZpeyLRbR7g#/registration

■ **Cumberland's First Woman Firefighter Retires** (*Cumberland Times-News*). As the Cumberland Fire Department's (CFD) first female firefighter, Geena Kile built a 24-year career focused on service, skill, and compassion. Hailing from a long familial line of volunteer firefighters, Kile began her career with the Bedford Road VFD. In 1998, she joined CFD, where she rose to the rank of Lieutenant, became a Paramedic, and served as an EMS instructor. Read more: [https://](https://www.times-news.com/news/local-news/cumberlands-first-woman-firefighter-retires/article_c7869d82-953e-11ee-b365-4f8049ce3c5b.html)

www.times-news.com/news/local-news/cumberlands-first-woman-firefighter-retires/article_c7869d82-953e-11ee-b365-4f8049ce3c5b.html

■ **Why We Catastrophize as First Responders (and How to Prevent It)** (*EMSI*). Catastrophizing can actually cause more catastrophic results to you physically and mentally than the actual catastrophe you imagined. Sam DiGiovanna, a 35-year fire service veteran in California, offers tips for identifying risk factors and coping strategies. Read more: <https://www.emsl.com/health-wellness/why-we-catastrophize-as-first-responders-and-how-to-prevent-it>. ■

BE PART OF MARYLAND EMS HISTORY



Scan the QR code at left to learn how you can contribute content to the Maryland EMS Interactive History Timeline, or go to history.miemss.org.

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~ MIEMSS wishes all Maryland EMS clinicians and their families, friends, and colleagues a happy and healthy new year! ~

 **2024**



WINTERFEST

EMS CONFERENCE

February 2nd - 4th | EASTON, MD

winterfest@talbotdes.org

PRE-CONFERENCE AGENDA

Registration required

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT – AN INTERACTIVE PEDIATRIC TRAUMA WORKSHOP

Fee: \$50

Date/Time: Friday, February 2, 2024 | 0800 – 1630

Location: Chesapeake College Health Professions and Athletics Center (HPAC), 1000 College Circle, Wye Mills, MD 21679

Credit(s): 7.5 T

Join the Maryland Pediatric EMS Champions and EMSC faculty for a series of five trauma-based simulations and scenarios where ALS and BLS clinicians will have the opportunity to practice their pediatric assessment and intervention skills. Each clinician will have the opportunity to be the “team lead” for at least one scenario in a simulated environment designed to be as close to “real life” as possible. This intense, hands-on workshop will allow ALS and BLS clinicians to enhance their pediatric skills and become more confident and comfortable in treating an injured child.

EMT 12-HOUR SKILLS REFRESHER

Fee: \$85

Lecture Portion: Thursday, January 18, 2024 | 1600 | Online via Zoom

Skills Portion: Friday, February 2, 2024 | 0800 – 1700 | Easton Elks Lodge #1622, 502 Dutchmans Lane, Easton, MD 21601

For EMTs; complete all your recertification needs with us at Winterfest 2024. The EMT refresher will have an online lecture portion via Zoom with an online exam. The skills portion will be at the Easton Elks Lodge #1622. Lunch is included.

Space is limited. Register early!

CONFERENCE AGENDA: DAY 1

Saturday, February 3, 2024
Easton High School, Easton, MD 21601

0730 – 0800 Registration

0800 – 0830 Welcome with Dr. Ted Delbridge

Ted Delbridge, MD, MPH, FACEP, Executive Director, MIEMSS

Dr. Delbridge will highlight some of the latest trends in EMS and share matters of interest to EMS clinicians from around the state.

0830 – 0930 Growing a Better Trauma Decision Tree: What You Need to Know to Make the Right Call/Decision (1 T)

Timothy Chizmar, MD, State EMS Medical Director, MIEMSS

Jennifer Anders, MD, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics, MIEMSS

The Trauma Decision Tree is both protocol and a practical quick reference for EMS clinicians making destination decisions for injured patients. Originally published in 1976 and revised every 10 years, the 2021 “National Guidelines for the Field Triage of Injured Patients” proposed changes in specific criteria based on input from 4,000 EMS, ED, and Trauma professionals. This presentation will highlight the 2023 changes that were incorporated into the Maryland “Trauma Tree” and discuss the evidence and expertise that led to these changes.

0930 – 0945 Break with the Exhibitors

0945 – 1045 Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking (1 M)

Shannon Temple, BSN, RN, CEN, FNE-A/P; SAFE Coordinator, UM Shore Regional Health

This presentation will discuss the basics of human trafficking. What is it? Who is being trafficked? What does human trafficking look like in your communities? What can you do to help combat human trafficking? How can you help the trafficked person in your healthcare role?

1045 – 1100 Break with the Exhibitors

1100 – 1200 Alcohol and Withdrawal (1 M)

Kevin Pearl, MD, Base Station Medical Director, UM Shore Regional Health; Adjunct Instructor, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Alcohol is one of the most commonly encountered drugs of abuse in the prehospital environment. An understanding of its effects, and the ways in which intoxicated or alcohol addicted patients tend to come in contact with EMS, will aid the EMS clinician in diagnosing and treating these patients. Dr. Pearl will discuss the importance of maintaining a high level of suspicion for significant illness and injury in this vulnerable patient population. He will review a number of important pathophysiologic states, such as alcohol withdrawal, and discuss their treatment in the field.

1200 – 1300 Lunch (included with registration)

1300 – 1430 Breakout Sessions

1430 – 1500 Break with the Exhibitors

1500 – 1630 Breakout Sessions (repeated)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

A ABCs of Pediatric Burns: Causes, Assessment, Triage, and Transport (1.5 T)

Cindy Colson, DNP, CPNP-AC/PC, NRP, Nurse Practitioner; Child & Adolescent Protection/Emergency Department, Children's National Hospital

This workshop will focus on the current trends in burn care for both children and teens. The most common types of burns vary by age, but the initial assessment, triage and stabilization follow the ABCs. Determining hospital destination is based upon severity, percentage and other risk factors. Ms. Colson will present interactive case studies.

B Left Ventricular Assist Devices: What the EMS Clinician Needs to Know (1.5 M)

Kimberly A. Boswell, MD, FACEP Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Dr. Boswell will present pertinent and lifesaving information regarding LVADs, the patient population receiving them, their components and, how they function. The presentation will highlight specific issues that can lead to a malfunction and will review treatment strategies for malfunctioning LVADs.

C Beyond the Golden Hour (1.5 T)

*Wayne Tiemersma, NRP, Region I/II Coordinator, MIEMSS
Andrew Robertson, BS, NRP, Region V Coordinator, MIEMSS*

Surviving the initial injury is just the first step of a long journey toward recovery. EMS plays an important role for the long-term success in this journey. Wayne and Andrew will share their personal journeys in the recovery of loved ones who experienced traumatic brain injuries.

D Soft, Slow, Steady, and Simple: Assessing the Autistic Patient (1.5 M)

*Dwayne Kitis, BS, NRP, Director, Mission Support, MIEMSS
Garrett Kitis*

This session will present an overview of Garrett and his life with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). We will discuss how children and adults with ASD receive, translate, and respond to different types of external stimulation. Participants will be shown ways to assess autistic individuals, including how to gather identifiable health and other pertinent information. Students will interact with Garrett in an attempt to assess the patient's health utilizing the techniques presented.

E Well, Well, Well...: Pursuit of the Ever-Elusive EMS Clinician Wellness (1.5 M)

Thomas Chiccone, MD, Region IV EMS Medical Director, MIEMSS, Talbot County EMS Medical Director

Wellness is integral to the mental health and physical well-being of EMS clinicians. Yet despite its recognized importance, it remains an elusive goal. Why? The presentation will explore what makes wellness so hard to attain and promote, and the devastating consequences of failure to do so.

F Vehicle Crash Scene Cues: Scene Size-Up Through the Eyes of a Mechanical Engineer (1.5 T)

Janet Bahouth, D. Sc., Director, Crash CORE

Automotive vehicles and roadways are different today, yet crashes continue to occur. If you know what to look for at the scene, your patient assessment will be well informed. This workshop will provide a "new look" at a crash scene "size up" to include what the vehicle can tell you if you know where to look. Key factors to look for and the essential data elements to document will be highlighted through crash examples to help EMS and Trauma Centers provide the best care for victims of crashes.

G Pelvic Injuries (1.5 T)

Sandip Tarpada, MD, Orthopaedic Trauma Fellow, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center

The presentation will discuss the evaluation, work up, and acute management of pelvic ring injuries and polytraumatized patients.

H Grandma's Medicine Cabinet (1.5 M)

Mary Alice Vanhoy, RN, MSN, CEN, CPEN, NRP, FAEN, University of Maryland Shore Medical Center

When you had a cold, did your grandma or neighbor bring you a special tea or a poultice for a cut? Did they help? Traditional or folk medication is rooted in an understanding of the body, spirit, healing, and culture. Modern medicine focuses on treating specific diseases and evidence-based practice. Caring for those who live in both worlds presents challenges and opportunities for understanding.

I Demystifying the MAP: Mean Arterial Pressure for the EMS Clinician (1.5 M)

Mustafa Sidik, BS, NRP, Region III Associate Coordinator, MIEMSS

Mr. Sidik will discuss the physiological components of the mean arterial pressure, and how to utilize the MAP and pulse pressure to differentiate source and severity of shock.

CONFERENCE AGENDA: DAY 2

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Easton High School, Easton, MD 21601

0800 – 0815 Registration

0815 – 0830 Welcome

0830 – 0930 Unusual Pediatric and Adult Trauma Cases – Injuries Disproportionate to Mechanism (1 T)

Elizabeth Wooster, PhD, RN Director, Trauma & Injury Specialty Care Programs, Office of Care Integration, MIEMSS

This lecture will follow two case studies where the injury was extensive and unexpected from the mechanism. Focus will be on triage, initial assessment and stabilization, reassessment, hospital course, under/over triage, and patient outcome.

0930 – 0945 Break with the Exhibitors

0945 – 1045 Healthy-ish EMS (1 L)

Megan Lautz, MS, RD, CSCS, TSAC-F, Medocracy Inc., on behalf of Fairfax County Fire and Police

“Healthy-ish Eating for EMS” will dispel the illusion that there is a “perfect diet” for all first responders. First responders face a variety of challenges when it comes to eating well. Many dietitians will talk at an ideal level that does not resonate with this population. This EMS provider-specific approach will zone in on challenges and common gaps in nutrition discovered after seven years of experience and hundreds of station visits. Understand the physiology behind hydration and healthy eating with realistic strategies for implementation for both first responders and patients. Discover tips and tricks for eating well on a 24-hour shift or when volunteering. Learn how to make healthier choices when packaged food or fast food are the only options available. The key to eating well in this career is understanding that there is a range of healthy eating, and consistently making the best effort is what counts.

1045 – 1100 Break with the Exhibitors**1100 – 1200 Wet, Wobbly, and Wacky - Other Causes of Altered Mental Status (1 M)**

Zachary Tillett, MD, Johns Hopkins EMS Fellow

This course will discuss a mix of common and uncommon causes of altered mental status, patient assessment, and findings with causes, with a focus on level of responsiveness for three diagnoses.

1200 – 1300 Lunch (included with registration)**1300 – 1430 The Go Team: Bringing the Shock Trauma Center to the Field (1.5 T)**

Rishi Kundi, MD Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Maryland School of Medicine Chief, Endovascular Trauma Surgery, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center

Dr. Kundi will discuss the history, mission, and capabilities of the Shock Trauma Center Go Team and how these have changed and evolved over its 40-year history. From beyond field amputation, the Go Team can be thought of as the means to start resuscitation and trauma surgical care in the field, from anesthesia and whole blood to REBOA. The Go Team's focus on collaborative care and being a resource within the ICS is emphasized, as well as the Go Team's intention to be a training resource for Maryland's first responders and the Team's desire to train with local and regional rescue services.

1430 – 1445 Break**1445 – 1615 Fire Rehabilitation Science (1.5 T)**

Matt Levy, DO, MSc, FAEMS, FACEP, Medical Director, Howard County Fire & Rescue/ MIEMSS Region III Medical Director

This session will review common emergencies encountered on the fire ground as well as important considerations for EMS clinicians when evaluating firefighters on the scene of working incidents.

~ WHY ATTEND WINTERFEST? ~



*"Winterfest EMS keeps me
at the top of my game."*

DR. THOMAS CHICCONE

*MIEMSS REGION IV EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR
TALBOT COUNTY DES MEDICAL DIRECTOR
LONGTIME WINTERFEST EMS FACULTY MEMBER*



Scan the QR code for more reasons to attend Winterfest EMS 2024

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Location

Easton High School, 723 Mecklenburg Avenue, Easton, MD 21601

Winterfest EMS will be held at Easton High School, Easton, MD 21601. The EMT Skills Refresher Pre-Conference will be held at the Elks Lodge #1622, 502 Dutchmans Lane, Easton, MD 21601. Practice Makes Perfect - An Interactive Pediatric Trauma Workshop will be held at Chesapeake College Health Professions and Athletic Center (HPAC), 1000 College Circle, Wye Mills, MD 21679.

Payment and Cancellation Policy

Preregistration is required. We request that registrations be submitted by **Friday, January 12, 2024**. Walk-in registrations will not be allowed. **In the event that payment is not readily available from the registrant's department, registration forms must be submitted with a letter of intent to pay on department letterhead.** Otherwise, payment of all fees must be included with preregistration. All students must be paid in full prior to Winterfest. There is a \$25 fee for returned checks. Any student with an outstanding balance from any previous Winterfest will not be allowed to participate until their account is paid in full. All requests for cancellations must be made in writing and either emailed to winterfest@talbotdes.org or mailed to:

Winterfest EMS
C/O Talbot County DES
605 Port Street
Easton, MD 21601

There is a \$10.00 processing fee for refunds. Speakers and topics are subject to change.

Accommodations

WINTERFEST EMS WILL NOT BE TAKING ANY RESERVATIONS.

All reservations must be made by the student. Please contact any hotel directly to reserve and pay for your room. All hotels listed include a hot breakfast and free Wifi. Ask for the Winterfest rate from the suggested local lodging:

Fairfield by Marriott - \$99/night
(410) 822-0050

Holiday Inn Express - \$99/night
(410) 819-6500

Weather Cancellation

The Conference Planning Committee will make a decision about cancellation of Winterfest EMS due to severe weather by **Wednesday, January 31**. Call Talbot County DES at (410) 770-8161 for details. Written requests for refunds will be accepted within 30 days of cancellation.

For additional information or registration confirmations, call Talbot County DES at (410) 770-8161, email us at winterfest@talbotdes.org, or contact us through Facebook. The Winterfest EMS Committee is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in the conference. If you require additional assistance, please call the Winterfest EMS Committee.





2024 REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

*** Clinician Number: _____

Email (*required*): _____

Primary Affiliation: _____

Certification/Licensure (*circle*): EMR EMD EMT CRT PM LPN RN NP PA MD/DO

Pre-Conferences (*select only one*)

___ EMT Skills Refresher (\$85)

___ Pediatric Skills & Scenarios: Interactive Pediatric Trauma Workshop (\$50)

Weekend Registration Fees

Single-day Registration – \$100 (*select only one*)

Saturday – general sessions and breakouts

Sunday

Two-day Registration – \$175 (*Saturday and Sunday*)

Saturday Afternoon Breakout Sessions (*circle one for each session*)

First Session: A B C D E F G H I

Second Session: A B C D E F G H I

Pre-Conference Fees + Conference Fees = **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:** _____

Make checks payable to Winterfest EMS. Reservations are **due by Friday, January 12, 2024**. Send check along with this form to Winterfest EMS, C/O Talbot Co. DES, 605 Port Street., Easton, MD 21601. *If payment is not readily available from the registrant's department, registration forms must be submitted with a letter of intent to pay on department letterhead.*

***** Clinician Number is REQUIRED to Receive Continuing Education Credits *****

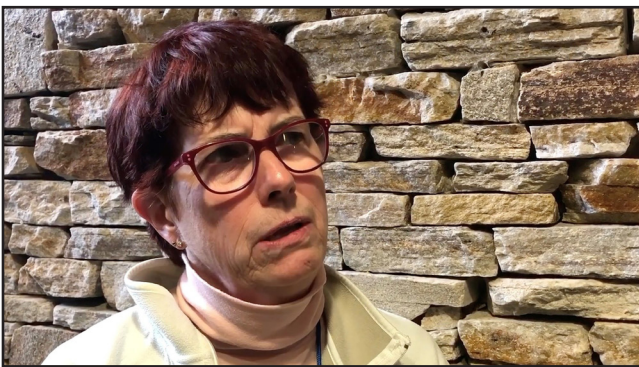
~ *SAVE THE DATE* ~

MILTENBERGER EMERGENCY SERVICES SEMINAR

~ *MARCH 7-9, 2024* ~

Further details coming soon!

~ *WHY ATTEND MILTENBERGER?* ~



"I have found that there's always something new you can learn."

SUSAN MOTT

*CARROLL COUNTY PEDIATRIC
EMS CHAMPION*

"Miltenberger makes you feel like you're really part of the family of the Maryland EMS system."

DR. RAMEEN SHAFIEI

*UPMC WESTERN MARYLAND
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE
ALLEGANY COUNTY EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR*



Scan the QR code for more reasons to attend the 2024 Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar



COMMISSION...

(Continued from page 1)

○ *Broaden scholarship and loan forgiveness resources that are currently open to police officers to firefighters and EMTs.* In recent years, the General Assembly has created several programs to incentivize employment in law enforcement. From scholarships to loan assistance and forgiveness, the Commission recommends extending to Fire and EMS personnel the same educational incentives enjoyed by law enforcement.

○ *Create State incentives for subsidized EMS courses.* Students attending fire department training academies or commercial ambulance service programs are generally employees of those entities and are compensated for their time spent in education and training. By contrast, students pursuing entry-level EMT training at community colleges are responsible for their tuition and class-related costs. The Commission recommends the implementation of compensatory programs such as 2022's grant-funded MIEMSS EMT Stipend Program, created to acknowledge students' sacrifices of time and effort while incentivizing successful completion of the NREMT examination.

○ *Broaden grants for Registered Apprenticeship programs that are currently open to police officers to firefighters and EMTs.* Maryland has a number of public workforce development programs utilized across all sectors or public and private industry. One of the leading models for workforce development is Registered Apprenticeship, a structured approach to employment and training that offers full-time employment, paid

training, and direct mentorship and supervision by a qualified worker. HB 793 – Community Safety and Strengthening Act created a non-lapsing fund for police cadet Registered Apprenticeship programs. The Commission recommends legislative expansion of that fund to include Fire and EMS departments as eligible recipients.

○ *Incorporate the needs of the Fire and EMS service in career readiness reforms created under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and opportunities created under Maryland's new public service programs.* The Blueprint for Maryland's Future educational reform law is creating unprecedented investment in Maryland's education systems, including a District 28 focus on college and career readiness and work-based learning. The Commission recommends that the Maryland State Department of Education, Blueprint Accountability and Implementation Board, and Career and Technical Education Committee all consider Fire and EMS to be an in-demand career field for the purposes of designating school-based CTE resources.

■ **Wages and Working Condition Benefits:**

○ *Offer healthcare to volunteer firefighters and EMTs through state programs.* The lack of healthcare benefits is one of the biggest obstacles to recruiting volunteer firefighters and EMTs. In many jurisdictions, volunteer companies struggle to find adequate staff during certain hours because most of the labor pool is at work. Potential volunteers are hesitant to commit more hours because they do not want to conflict with their employment – the source of their health-

care benefits. To better incentivize volunteerism, the Commission recommends that the State offer volunteer firefighters and EMTs the ability to purchase health insurance as if they were a state employee or provide a subsidy for volunteers who purchase their own health insurance plans.

○ *Establish a healthcare benefit assistance program for career and volunteer firefighters through a co-pay subsidy.* Besides the hurdle of accessing quality healthcare, another challenge to many firefighters and EMTs is overcoming co-pay burdens. Depending on the plan and household income, a co-pay from a visit to the emergency department may mean a decision between eating that week or paying for medical care. Addressing this burden would provide a significant incentive for recruitment and retention. The Commission recommends that the State consider partnering with counties to create an opt-in co-pay assistance program for firefighters and EMTs.

○ *Establish State subsidies to offset the cost of childcare.* Childcare is a significant barrier for parents looking to advance their careers and/or to become more active in their communities. In all corners of the State, parents are struggling with the scarcity and cost burdens of quality childcare, leaving fewer firefighters and EMTs able to answer the call. If Maryland does not act to support first responder parents, the State risks its ability to provide adequate response times and emergency care. The strongest tool in addressing the childcare crunch is to provide direct financial assistance to Fire and EMS workers.

See *COMMISSION* page 16



MDERS Staff Provide PATC Training at the USG Campus

IN OCTOBER 2023, the Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System (MDERS) led two Public Access Trauma Care (PATC) training events at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG). The trainings provided instruction on identifying severe medical injuries and applying the proper treatment for those injuries. Hosting these training opportunities provided participants with invaluable experience in practicing the basic PATC skills, empowering them to provide immediate aid to an injured victim.

Prior to instruction on medical aid, the course began with an overview of key aspects to consider before rendering care to a victim. First, participants learned how to communicate effectively with 9-1-1 dispatchers by directly calling 9-1-1 or commanding another bystander to do so. Participants were urged to be proactive and not assume someone has already called 9-1-1. Articulating clear information and responding to dispatchers' questions will help them allocate the appropriate resources to the correct location to respond to the emergency properly. Second, participants learned about the importance of maintaining situational awareness to ensure their safety. Emergency scenes are often dynamic, and threats may evolve as they transpire. If in an emergency, participants were taught to use all their senses to remain vigilant to any factor that could jeopardize their or the victim's safety.

The course then transitioned to basic medical education. Participants were taught about indicators of severe blood loss and the ramifications of major, life-threatening bleeding. Potential signs of life-threatening bleed-

ing include but are not limited to blood spurting from the wound, blood pooling on the ground, and clothes soaked with blood. A victim exhibiting any of these symptoms needs immediate medical care.

To treat these significant injuries, participants were instructed about the medical techniques and equipment associated with the PATC program, as detailed below:

- Direct pressure can be used to treat wounds anywhere on the body. An emergency trauma dressing should be used to provide constant pressure to provide initial hemorrhage control.
- Tourniquets should be applied to major wounds on the arm or leg. The tourniquet should be placed as high as possible on the injured limb and tightened to ensure that the bleeding stops.
- Wound packing is used to treat an injury in a junctional area of the body, such as the armpit. Compressed gauze should be formed into a small ball that can be inserted into the wound cavity to help minimize blood loss.

Beyond addressing life-threatening bleeding, course participants learned about early care to treat a pneumothorax. This medical condition occurs when excess air enters the chest cavity, which causes additional pressure on the lung that can lead to shortness of breath and a collapsed lung. A PATC kit contains a chest seal that can be placed over a wound on the chest, torso, or back to limit extra air in the chest cavity.

Lastly, after medical care has been administered, participants were encouraged to place a victim into the recovery position. This helps with a

victim's breathing cycle and is an easy position to cover a victim with a mylar blanket to lessen the risk of hypothermia.

A benefit of this training was it also allowed participants to practice all these skills with all the required medical equipment. MDERS has a training cache with surplus supplies that are identical to the equipment in an individual PATC kit. This allowed participants to get a positive experience with the PATC equipment and be prepared to help a victim suffering from a medical emergency.

Bystander intervention in the immediate aftermath of a major injury is paramount to help prevent a significant medical complication and possibly death. MDERS will continue its outreach to the public for educational opportunities and support our partners with additional training and equipment acquisition to grow the PATC program in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. More information about the PATC program can be found by visiting our website, viewing the PATC training videos on YouTube, or downloading the PATC mobile app. If you have any questions about the PATC program, please contact MDERS at mders.training@maryland.gov.

The success of the PATC program is due in large part to the work of our partners. MDERS would like to thank Michael Wahl and Phillip Tou for their help coordinating the logistics of hosting the PATC trainings at USG. Also, MDERS would like to extend their gratitude to Montgomery County Police Department Sgt. Lyndon Jones for providing his medical expertise to

See MDERS page 16



The Right Care When It Counts Maryland EMSC 2024 Program



The Maryland EMS for Children program is In Search Of children and youth in Maryland who have demonstrated Steps to Take in an Emergency or Ways to be Better Prepared for an Emergency. Actions taking place January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, 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 2024. Questions? Email awards@miemss.org

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

1. Activates the Emergency Response System by calling 9-1-1 in an emergency
2. Calls the Poison Control Center in an emergency (1-800-222-1222)
3. Provides family emergency phone numbers, address, and contacts to emergency responders
4. Knows and practices an emergency plan at home
5. Applies knowledge learned in a first aid class
6. Performs CPR and/or uses an AED effectively
7. Knows his or her medical history (allergies, medications, special needs, etc.) and shares this information with emergency care professionals
8. Participates in fire and injury prevention education in the community
9. Prepares, with his or her family, to respond to a disaster
10. Provides emergency assistance in the community

Nominations for 2024 Awards are DUE by March 29, 2024 (Friday).
Submit through the online link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/dc5605d40ced4ae4b77d62cca788ea8b>

For more information about the 2024 Maryland EMS Awards, or to submit nominations, visit www.MIEMSS.org, or scan this QR code:





MARYLAND STARS OF LIFE AWARDS

Each year, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) celebrates EMS Week by honoring men and women across Maryland who have contributed to the EMS system. The eight categories for awards relate to specific incidents occurring from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

For further information, call 410-706-3994, or email awards@miemss.org.

MARYLAND STAR OF LIFE AWARD

This award may be given to an individual, multiple individuals, or teams on the same incident for an outstanding rescue under extreme circumstances by EMS personnel.

MARYLAND EMS CITIZEN AWARD

This award is intended for citizen rescuers who have demonstrated quick thinking, fast action, and heroism.

EMS CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes a clinician who has made outstanding contributions in the past year to the continuous improvement of emergency medical services in Maryland (for example, in the areas of quality assurance, public or EMS education, prevention, delivery of EMS services, and new technology).

EMD CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR

This award is given for extraordinary efforts in assisting the public through dispatch in this vital portion of the Chain of Survival.

OUTSTANDING EMS PROGRAM

This award recognizes a program that offers an innovative approach to reducing death and disability. The program must be affiliated with an EMS system component, such as a hospital, educational facility, rescue squad, or EMS organization.

LEON W. HAYES AWARD FOR LIFETIME EXCELLENCE IN EMS

This award is given to an individual who has devoted a lifetime of dedication to excellence in patient care, compassion and respect for each patient, and commitment to continuous improvement of the Maryland EMS system through his/her professional and personal life.

MARYLAND EMS-CHILDREN (EMS-C) AWARD

This award is given to an adult or program that has demonstrated ongoing dedication and commitment to improving the care for children and for promoting Family-Centered Care in a Maryland EMS program or hospital.

MARYLAND EMS-GERIATRIC (EMS-G) AWARD

This award is given to an individual or program that has demonstrated ongoing dedication and commitment to improving the EMS care of the elderly in Maryland.

Nominations for 2024 Awards are DUE by FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024.

Submit through the online link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8bbe19fab5914734a84acc67beff8a7f>

For more information about the 2024 Maryland EMS Awards, or to submit nominations, visit www.MIEMSS.org, or scan this QR code:



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2024

- **2-4:** *Winterfest EMS*. Easton, MD.

MARCH 2024

- **7-9:** *Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar*. Rocky Gap.
- **29:** *Deadline for Maryland Stars of Life and Right Care When It Counts Awards nominations*.

MAY 2024

- **13:** *Maryland Highway Safety Summit*.
- **19-25:** *National EMS Week*.

JUNE 2024

- **2:** *Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Annual Memorial Service*. Annapolis, MD.
- **15-20:** *132nd Maryland State Firemen's Association Annual Convention & Conference*. Ocean City, MD.

Maryland EMS News

MIEMSS

653 W. Pratt St.

Baltimore, MD 21201-1536

Governor Wes Moore

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

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Institute for Emergency Medical
Services Systems
653 W. Pratt St.
Baltimore, MD 21201-1536
www.miemss.org

Chairman, EMS Board:

Clay B. Stamp, NRP

Executive Director, MIEMSS:

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH

Managing Editor:

Patrick Tandy (ptandy@miemss.org)

Design & Layout:

Patrick Tandy

Photography:

MIEMSS Media Services
(unless noted otherwise)



COMMISSION...

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■ **Financial Sustainability:**

○ *Allocate revenue from fees on speed camera tickets in construction zones.* Construction site speed camera fines on Maryland's state highways are out of sync with neighboring jurisdictions and can provide an additional revenue without tax increases. To adequately fund the Fire and EMS recruitment and retention incentives, the General Assembly could add an additional \$35 assessment to speed camera tickets on state highways. This would bring Maryland's total fine to \$75, and still be within the bottom range of what other states are assessing. This would generate between \$9 to \$16 million dollars each year.

○ *Review existing State revenues and investments that support Fire and EMS operations.* Section 13-954 of the Transportation Article authorizes a vehicle registration fee surcharge in Maryland, which provides crucial funding for a number of emergency medical services via the Maryland Emergency Medical Services Operations Fund (MEM-SOF). In light of rising costs and other priorities identified in this report, the Commission recommends

that the General Assembly reassess the revenues and investments that support these critical operational funds, and determine if the State's current and projected investment is sufficiently meeting Maryland's operational needs.

○ *Implement an insurance premiums tax allocation.* In neighboring Delaware, the state government was able to levy a 2 percent fee on insurance premiums at the insurance company level and direct that revenue toward investment in firefighting and EMS infrastructure. This revenue has been central in Delaware's ability to fund state-of-the-art facilities as well as provide recruitment and retention incentives. The General Assembly should explore allocating Maryland's tax on insurance premiums to local volunteer Fire and EMS companies as a means of establishing an additional source of formula-assessed revenue to support Fire and EMS services.

For more information, read the complete final report of the Commission to Advance and Strengthen Firefighting and Emergency Medical Services in Maryland at <https://conduitstreet.mdcounties.org/wp-content/uploads/SB414-Report.pdf>. ■

MDERS...

(Continued from page 13)

support the PATC program.

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■ Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. (2021, May 21). *Pneumothorax*. Mayo Clinic. [https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/pneumothorax/symptoms-causes/syc-20350367#:~:text=A%20pneumothorax%20\(noo%2Dmoe%2D,a%20portion%20of%20the%20lung](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/pneumothorax/symptoms-causes/syc-20350367#:~:text=A%20pneumothorax%20(noo%2Dmoe%2D,a%20portion%20of%20the%20lung). ■