

New Mobile-Friendly Tool Streamlines Benefits Access for Marylanders

GOVERNOR WES MOORE has announced the launch of Maryland's Unified Benefits Screener, a joint initiative between the Maryland Departments of Human Services, Health, and Information Technology designed to streamline benefit access. The new screener – the state's first interagency online tool developed with a person-centered and mobile-first design – allows Marylanders to quickly and easily check their eligibility for Medicaid; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Emergency Assis-

tance; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and Home Energy Assistance Program (OHEP) benefits.

"Our administration is committed to sweating the details of governing and implementing common sense solutions that make life better for Marylanders," said Moore. "In partnership, we are helping more families access essential services and building a government that serves the people."

This intuitive tool requires users to input only basic, non-identifying information, including household

size, basic income and expenses, and disability status. Based on input, the tool empowers users to identify potential benefits for which they or someone in their family may be eligible and encourages them to apply.

No documentation or account is required. The process takes approximately five minutes and can be completed on a laptop, library computer, or smartphone.

Maryland Department of Infor-

*See **BENEFITS** page 10*

MDH Urges Precautions for Avoiding Cold-related Illnesses Throughout the Winter Months

AS TEMPERATURES DROP across the state, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) urges residents to protect themselves from cold-related illnesses like frostbite and hypothermia.

"Marylanders are urged to take precautions to limit their exposure to cold," said Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman. "If you must go outside, wear multiple layers. If you need access to a shelter or warming center in your area, please contact your local health department for locations. Also, don't forget to check on elderly neigh-

bors and relatives who may be more susceptible to cold-related illnesses."

From November through March, the Department's Office of Preparedness and Response monitors temperature, weather conditions, and incidence of cold-related illnesses and deaths in the state. During the 2023-2024 winter weather season, MDH reported 72 cold-related deaths.

Cold-related illnesses include conditions like hypothermia and frostbite. Hypothermia occurs when the body's temperature falls below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Frostbite is the freezing

and destruction of body tissue that occurs when skin temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Body parts that are most likely to freeze include toes, fingers, ears, cheeks, and the tip of the nose.

Follow these safety tips to protect yourself:

■ Cover your head. You lose as much as 50% of your body heat through your head. Also, cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs from direct cold air, as well as your ears and

*See **PRECAUTIONS** page 12*

CALENDAR

January

■ **1/31–2/2:** *Winterfest EMS Conference.* Easton, MD.

February

■ **22–23:** *Maryland Weekend at the National Fire Academy.* Emmitsburg, MD.

■ **27–28:** *Mid-Atlantic Transport Conference.* Maritime Conference Center.

March

■ **2–7:** *National Fire Service Staff and Command Course.* Annapolis, MD.

■ **7–9:** *20th Annual Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar.* Rocky Gap Casino and Resort, Flintstone, MD.

May

■ **15–16:** *Point/Counterpoint Conference.* Baltimore, MD.

■ **18–24:** *National EMS Week.*

June

■ **14–19:** *133rd Maryland State Firefighters Association Annual Convention and Conference.* Ocean City, MD.

Be a Part of Maryland EMS History

Visit history.miemss.org to learn how you can contribute to the Maryland EMS Interactive History Timeline.

EMS News Digest

■ **Washington County DES, Meritus Medical Center Honor Six with Life Savers Awards** (*Washington County Government*). On November 19, 2024, Washington County DES, in partnership with Meritus Medical Center, honored area emergency personnel for their role in a witnessed cardiac arrest on July 18. Honorees included EMS Supervisor Casey McKnight; Medic 29 (Paramedic Colten Matheny, EMT Brad Green, EMT John Sharpe); and Williamsport Fire and EMS (Technician Steve Hurst, Jr., Technician Cody Boward). The Life Savers Award honors those who perform life-saving actions during cardiac arrest incidents, showcasing exceptional teamwork and skill, and provides an opportunity for first responders to reconnect with patients whose lives they've saved. Read more: <https://www.washco-md.net/news/washington-county-division->

[of-emergency-services-celebrates-life-savers-award-honorees/](https://www.washco-md.net/news/washington-county-division-of-emergency-services-celebrates-life-savers-award-honorees/)

■ **St. Mary's County EMS Asst. Chief Reflects on Going "from Clinician to Patient"** (*Firehouse.com*). For more than 20 years, Todd Bowman rushed to help folks at the most terrible moments of their lives. As St. Mary's County EMS assistant chief, he was driving back to his office from an emergency call roughly 10 months ago when his vehicle traveled off the roadway, struck a tree, and burst into flames. Now, as he works to rebuild his body and life, the Flintstone native has a new and unique perspective of physical trauma. Read more: <https://www.firehouse.com/safety-health/news/55252161/st-marys-county-md-chief-reflects-on-going-from-clinician-to-patient>

■ **Ask a Simple Question During**

See EMS NEWS DIGEST page 10

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2025 MID-ATLANTIC TRANSPORT CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2025

MARITIME CONFERENCE CENTER
BALTIMORE, MD



For complete agenda and registration information, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-mid-atlantic-transport-conference-registration-1008400903247>, or scan the QR code above

The poster features a central image of a wooden pier extending into a body of water under a light blue sky. The year '2025' is prominently displayed in large, bold, black letters with a yellow outline at the top left. Below the pier image is a logo consisting of a black silhouette of a bird in flight, positioned above a stylized sunburst and blue waves. The text 'WINTERFEST' is written in large, bold, black serif font, with 'EMS CONFERENCE' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. The dates 'January 31st - February 2nd' and the location 'EASTON, MD' are listed in a black serif font. The email address 'winterfest@talbotdes.org' is at the bottom. The entire design is framed by a teal border and decorated with several light blue snowflake icons.

January 31 – February 2, 2025 | Easton, Maryland | winterfest@talbotdes.org

For complete agenda and registration information, go to <https://www.miemss.org/home/Public/Conferences-and-Events/Winterfest-Conference>, or scan the QR code

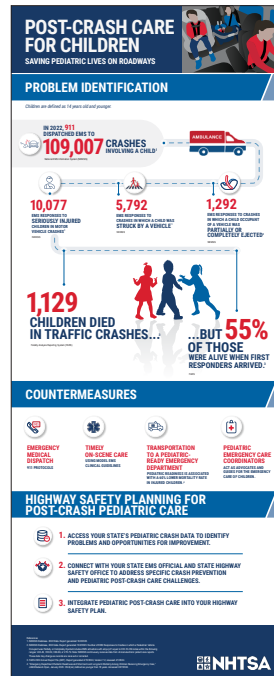


New Infographic: An Urgent Need for Pediatric Post-Crash Care

YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY SEEN the original infographic the Office of EMS (OEMS) released in 2023 detailing the national problem of death and disability from motor-vehicle crashes, as well as the opportunities for EMS, 9-1-1, and our colleagues in highway safety to do more. Not only has this post-crash care (PCC) infographic recently been updated with the latest statistics, but the OEMS just released a pediatric-specific version.

“There’s a clear and urgent opportunity to save more lives on our roadways – those of both adults and children,” said Gam Wijetunge, Director of NHTSA’s OEMS. “Our hope is that these infographics will offer a simple, quick way to communicate the problem of death and serious injury on our streets and highways, as well as specific countermeasures EMS and highway safety professionals can use as they work together to reduce these numbers.”

The numbers for children are indeed sobering: EMS responded to more than 109,000 motor-vehicle crashes involving a child in 2022. About 10,000 of those collisions



involved a serious injury, and more than 1,100 children lost their lives in a crash. But just as with adults, a significant percentage – 55% for children and 42% for adults – were still alive when responders arrived, but later died. “Effective, timely post-crash care saves lives,” said NHTSA Deputy Administrator Sophie Shulman, speaking at the Post-Crash Care Summit in August 2024. “Innovations in care could narrow that gap, potentially saving thousands of lives per year.”

The updated national PCC infographic highlights 2022 figures (the most current) from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), namely the updated statistics of 42,514 crash victims who died in 2022 and 42% who were alive when first responders arrived but later died.

To learn more about post-crash care and how you can help, and to download both infographics, visit ems.gov. You can also watch the Post-Crash Care Summit on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/live/r-KlyRPZ4sY?si=2x3SgLSMhChnxenX>. ■

PLEASE CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center (RACSTC) in our mission to teach every person in Maryland the potentially life-saving skills required to stop bleeding. Contact Stcstopthebleed@umm.edu if you are able to assist with teaching at any of our upcoming classes or are interested in signing up for an upcoming Train the Trainer class:

- **1/13/25:** Sparrows Point High School, Baltimore, MD, 0745-0915
- **1/15/25:** Baltimore County Fire Department (CRR) – Baltimore County Public, Catonsville, MD, 1800-1900
- **1/17/25:** Harlem Park Elementary/Middle School, Baltimore, MD, 1230-1330
- **1/18/25:** Kensington VFD – Public Class, Kensington, MD, 1000-1130
- **1/20/25:** Public Class, T1S11, 1000-1100
- **1/22/25:** Meadowvale Elementary School, Havre de



Grace, MD, 1600-1700

■ **1/23/25:** North Harford Elementary School, Pylesville, MD, 1530-1700

■ **1/27/25:** Westminster Senior High School, Westminster, MD, 0800-1500

■ **1/27/25:** CCPS – CASE Conference – 4 classes, Sykesville, MD, 0830-1430

■ **1/28/25:** Jarrettsville VFD – Public Class, Jarrettsville, MD, 1800-1900

■ **1/29/25:** Howard County Public Library – Savage Branch, Laurel, MD, 1730-1830

■ **1/29/25:** Baltimore County Public Library – Arbutus Branch, Arbutus, MD, 1830-1930

■ **1/30/25:** Baltimore County Public Schools, Timonium, MD, 1300-1400

For further information contact Rachel Itzoe, NREMT, at rachel.itzoe@umm.edu or Katie Myers, EMT-B, at kmeyers@umm.edu. ■



EMS FOR CHILDREN

Safety Campaign Encourages Passengers to "Speak Up"

HIGHWAY SAFETY interventions, recommendations, and social media typically focus on the driver. This is very important, as passenger safety highly correlates with driver behavior. For instance, drivers need to buckle up every ride and ensure that everyone in the vehicle is buckled, too; focus on the road; not be distracted or drowsy, and understand the rules of the road. However, drivers sometimes need the passengers to be the safety advocate.

In January 2024, We Save Lives and the National Road Safety Foundation – two non-profits focused on crash prevention and saving lives – launched the "Speak Up" campaign to emphasize the safety role of passengers. The campaign includes a toolkit of camera-ready graphics, a "Courage to Intervene Promise" for teens and adults to sign, and a "Parent Check List" of key questions and educational reminders for tweens and teens to consider before riding with any driver. The ultimate goal is to educate and empower passengers to save lives by calling out unsafe driving in a vehicle before a crash occurs. Driving risks include aggressive maneuvers; drowsy driving; speeding; impairment from alcohol, cannabis, or medications that alter attention; and medical conditions that alter decision-making. The checklist also includes the basic rules of the "Buckle Up Everyone on Every Ride" and "Follow the Rules of the Road" campaigns.

The Courage to Intervene Promise

I will stop my friends and loved ones from driving drugged, drunk, or distracted whenever possible.

I will not ride with anyone who is drugged, drunk, or distracted.

I will encourage others to do the same.

I will have the Courage to Intervene.

Because I Care.



#PassengersSpeakUp



According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's 2022 Fatality Facts and NHTSA's 2021 Occupant Protection Traffic Safety Report, unbelted passenger deaths increased between 2018 and 2021, with 45% not wearing a seat belt. Night-time travel increased that percentage to 57%. Passengers can help to reduce these fatalities and serious injuries by tak-

ing responsibility for their own safety and encouraging drivers to do the same. The goal is to make it acceptable – even expected – for passengers to speak up when confronted with an irresponsible or impaired driver.

To obtain these free campaign materials, go to <https://nationalpassenger-safety.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/npsc-PARENT-checklist.pdf>. ■



THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN (EMSC) Program at MIEMSS addresses the unique needs of children within the EMS system, providing a focal point for statewide resources and networking on emergency care for children and their families. Learn more at <https://miemss.org/home/emsc>, or scan or click on the QR code at right.





EMS FOR CHILDREN

Meet the Pediatric EMS Champions

MARYLAND'S EMS SYSTEM is comprised of 29 EMS operational programs divided into five regions. In this month's article, we will highlight some members of Maryland's Pediatric EMS Champion Team from across the State.

VICKI WHITACRE, NRP

Garrett County Pediatric EMS Champion



VICKI WHITACRE, NRP, is the Pediatric EMS Champion for Garrett County. She is a Lieutenant with Garrett County Emergency Services and also serves as a paramedic for Wisp Ski Patrol.

Lt. Whitacre started her journey as an EMS clinician during high school. She was drawn to EMS by her friends' parents, who were firefighters and EMTs. Numerous "horrid" pediatric calls early on in her career drew her to joining the Maryland EMS for Children team.

As a child, Lt. Whitacre enjoyed being outdoors – biking and skiing with family and friends as well as playing in the woods and creek "looking for critters." Her favorite subject in school was science – specifically biology.

Lt. Whitacre still turns to the outdoors as a means to relax and decompress. When not at work, she enjoys skiing, rafting, hiking, and biking. The best advice she ever received was to "make the most out of today – tomorrow isn't promised." ■

JENNIFER LARMORE

Wicomico County Pediatric EMS Champion



JENNIFER LARMORE, NRP, is the Pediatric EMS Champion for Wicomico County. She is a firefighter/paramedic with the Willards Volunteer Fire Company, Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Fruitland Fire Company, and the Salisbury Fire Department.

"In a field that is constantly evolving and advancing," Jennifer loves to

be there to help people, even on their worst days. She has always been an active person. When she was growing up, Jennifer loved participating in softball and cheerleading.

In her free time, Jennifer enjoys traveling, wine tastings, making crafts, and painting with her friends. Her favorite holiday is Halloween. Her first job was as a paper carrier for *The Daily Times*. If she came with a warning label, it would read, "I am not as mean as I look." The best advice she ever received? "If you didn't write it, it didn't happen." ■

All-in-One Car Seats for Non-Emergency Transport of Children Available

2022-2025 EMSC CPS Project



MIEMSS' pilot project for EMS Operational Programs (EMSOP) to get "All-in-One" car seats to use in a supervisor's vehicle for transporting children who do not require ambulance transport is wrapping up. As of December 1, 2024, 42 Graco Slimfit car seats were given to fourteen EMSOPs along with training, so now 89 EMS clinicians know how to use them. Statewide, there have been at least 6 uses of these seats.

MIEMSS' Child Passenger Safety Healthcare Project has a few of these Graco Slimfit all-in-one car seats still available, and we would like to offer them to a few volunteer EMS companies on a first-come, first-served basis.

If your company is interested in obtaining one and willing to have the 90 minutes training and report on the seat's use 2-4 times a year, please contact the project coordinator, Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, at cps@miemss.org. In your email, include the supervisor's name, email, phone number, EMS company, address, and 1-2 sentences of how/where you'd keep this seat to be ready for use in transporting children in non-emergency situations.



The project is funded from the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office to MIEMSS' EMS for Children program.



**ZERO
DEATHS
MARYLAND**



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 October to December, 2024, as a result of prohibited conduct. For more information, email Lisa Chervon, Chief of the MIEMSS Office of Integrity, at lchervon@miemss.org or call (410) 706-2339. Additionally, MIEMSS maintains a searchable database of all EMS Board decisions online at <https://www.miemss.org/home/public>, under “Public Orders Report” in the left-hand column.

■ **IRC23-034** (EMT) *October 15, 2024*. In March 2024, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of offensive touching, for an incident that occurred on February 26, 2024. The EMT was subsequently issued court-monitored probation before judgment for a period of eleven (11) months. As a result of the conviction, the EMT entered into a consent agreement with the Fire Prevention Commission of the State of Delaware, pursuant to which, the EMT admitted to having engaged in unprofessional conduct, and the EMT’s certification in the jurisdiction was placed on probation for a period of ten (10) months. As a result, the EMT’s certification was placed on probation for one (1) year from the date of the Final Decision.

■ **IRC23-043** (Paramedic) *December 12, 2024*. In December 2023, the Board issued a Noncompliance Notice to the Paramedic, which proposed revocation of the Paramedic’s license for

failure to meet applicable protocols or standards of care, relating to an incident in which a patient was restrained following administration of a sedative agent. Following an evidentiary hearing, and by means of a Final Decision and Order, the Paramedic’s license was revoked.

■ **IRC24-021** (Paramedic) *October 15, 2024*. In March 2024, the Paramedic pled guilty to the crime of second-degree assault, for an incident of domestic violence in 2023. The Paramedic was subsequently issued supervised probation before judgment for a period of one (1) year, followed by one (1) year of unsupervised probation. The Paramedic was also ordered to complete the CASA abuser intervention program. As a result, the Paramedic’s license was placed on probation for two (2) years, with the condition that the Paramedic complete the CASA abuser intervention program.

■ **IRC24-030** (Paramedic) *October 15, 2024*. In May 2024, the Paramedic underwent for-cause breathalyzer testing, collected while on duty, which produced results positive for alcohol. The Paramedic was suspended from the jurisdiction without pay. As a result, the Paramedic’s license was placed on probation for two (2) years, with the condition that the Paramedic undergo random drug and alcohol testing, through the Paramedic’s EMSOP or at the Paramedic’s expense, with results reported to MIEMSS.

■ **IRC24-001** (EMT) *December 10, 2024*. The EMS Board found the EMT tested positive for oxycodone without a valid prescription. The EMT was routinely tested as a part of an after-

care contract with the EMT’s EMSOP. As a result, the EMT’s certificate was placed on probation for two (2) years, with the condition that the EMT continue treatment and random drug testing, through the EMT’s EMS operational program, a treatment program, or otherwise at the EMT’s expense, with results reported to MIEMSS.

■ **IRC24-019** (Applicant) *November 12, 2024*. The EMS Board found that, in March 2024, the Applicant pled guilty to the crime of second-degree assault and was sentenced to two (2) years in jail with all suspended, and was issued two (2) years of unsupervised probation. The Applicant’s application for initial BLS certification was approved, but as a result of the above findings, the Applicant will be placed on probation for two (2) years, with the conditions of completion of an anger management class as approved by MIEMSS and reporting any new criminal charges or convictions within thirty (30) days of occurrence.

■ **IRC24-026** (EMT) *November 12, 2024*. The EMS Board found that, in October 2023, the EMT was suspected to be under the influence while on duty with a commercial ambulance service, and admitted to the use of kratom and Suboxone without a valid prescription. As a result of the above findings, the EMT’s certification was placed on probation for two (2) years, with the condition that the EMT undergo random drug testing at the EMT’s expense or through an EMSOP.

■ **IRC24-050** (Paramedic) *November 12, 2024*. The EMS Board found

BENEFITS...

(Continued from page 1)

mation Technology Secretary Katie Savage called the Unified Benefits Screener “a testament to statewide partnership, engineering, and human-centered design.”

“As we consolidate more in-house technical expertise and deepen partnerships between state agencies, we’ll see even more Marylanders served through intuitive, human-centered solutions like this,” said Savage.

The Unified Benefits Screener marks a significant milestone in the state’s journey toward a comprehensive, unified benefits application that is scheduled for release in 2025. The application-in-progress will allow Marylanders to apply for all benefits using a single application rather than spending time applying for each benefit individually. The enhanced technology will better serve Marylanders by simplifying the benefits application process, ultimately making it easier for Marylanders to access, apply for, and manage their benefits.

“Time and again, we saw Marylanders – hardworking families, parents, and individuals – getting caught in a system that felt overwhelming and complicated. That’s not how it should be,” said Dr. Laura Herrera Scott, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health. “The Unified Benefits Screener is a simple idea that people shouldn’t have to jump through hoops to get the help they need. We are excited about the opportunity for customers to have a more comprehensive understanding of what benefits they are eligible for and readily apply.”

**"THE UNIFIED
Benefits Screener is a
simple idea that people
shouldn't have to jump
through hoops to get the
help they need."**

Dr. Laura Herrera Scott
MDH Secretary

Interagency collaboration has led to other significant technology-based improvements over the past year focusing on expanding access, scalability, and flexibility of state benefit services. Key enhancements include optimizing eligibility and enrollment processes and improving the customer experience on the public consumer portal.

“Through strategic collaboration, innovative technology and a commitment to serving our communities,

we are breaking down the barriers to benefit access,” said MD THINK Executive Director Pat McLoughlin. “Together with our partners, we’re creating streamlined, equitable solutions for Marylanders.”

Through these advancements, Maryland continues to lead in ensuring accessible, efficient, and impactful services for families across the state.

“This work is only the latest in successful state and community-based partnerships we have modeled by intentionally listening to the people we have the honor of serving,” said Maryland Department of Human Services Rafael López. “Similar collaboration this summer saw the dramatic success of the Maryland SUN Bucks program, which expanded summer nutritional benefits to over 594,000 children – a historic 6.5-fold increase compared to previous years. This achievement highlights the state’s commitment to leveraging technology and interagency cooperation to deliver meaningful results for Marylanders.” ■

EMS NEWS DIGEST...

(Continued from page 3)

an In-between Moment (EMSI). A single question can unlock memories that will distract your patient from their current pain. Most times, a single question is enough to unlock a treasure trove of memories that will

fill your day and distract the patient from their current pain or misery. Read more: <https://www.emsl.com/ems-products/epcr-electronic-patient-care-reporting/articles/ask-a-simple-question-during-an-in-between-moment-KXXxT9BQgWqU6lGq/>. ■

**MIEMSS wishes all of Maryland's EMS clinicians, their colleagues,
friends, and families a happy, healthy, and safe new year!**

Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's (MDOT MVA)

Maryland Highway Safety Office

The MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office (MHSO) is dedicated to saving lives and working with many partners across the State to reduce the number of crashes each year. In addition, the MHSO looks for ways to reduce crash severity and ways to treat crash victims easier and faster.

Maryland aims to reduce the number of crashes, and the resulting deaths and injuries, to zero by 2030.

Remembering the Lives of Traffic Crash Victims

On Monday, December 16, the Maryland Highway Safety Office hosted the 21st annual Maryland Remembers ceremony. Maryland Remembers honors all Marylanders who have tragically lost their lives in traffic crashes. In 2023, there were 621 fatalities on our roads.

This year's ceremony was highlighted by victim impact speaker Nigel Samaroo, an avid bicyclist who has been struck twice by a vehicle while riding his bicycle and who witnessed the death of a friend during one of these crashes. Nigel spoke of the impact these preventable crashes have had not only on his life but also the broad impact that these crashes have on the lives of victims' families. Each of these crash victims is a valued loved one who never made it home. Their loss leaves a hole that can never be filled, regardless of the passage of time or punishment of the driver.



During the ceremony, MVA Administrator Chrissy Nizer presented Debbie Kirkpatrick Jennings with the annual Kevin Quinlan Award for her dedication to highway safety. Jennings' career spans 25 years, and she has been a leader in cannabis-impaired driver detection training and the statewide mock crash program. She also served on Governor Wes Moore's Work Zone Work Group. The award is named for the late Kevin Quinlan, a longtime traffic safety professional with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Maryland Remembers Memorial

MARYLAND REMEMBERS MEMORIAL

Every life that is lost on Maryland roadways is a life taken too soon. Honor your loved one with a our virtual memorial.



Over the past five years, nearly 3,000 people have lost their lives in crashes on Maryland Roads. While we work to reduce and eliminate serious injuries and fatalities on our roads, we also remember the lives of those who have tragically perished. Their memory reaffirms our commitment to the work of traffic safety and serves as a solemn reminder that these victims were cherished friends and loved ones. Every driver on our roads must understand that their behavior behind the wheel impacts whether someone makes it home.

Maryland Remembers honors all Marylanders who have tragically lost their lives in traffic crashes. If you have lost a loved one to a motor vehicle crash, we encourage you to submit your loved one to the virtual memorial wall here:

<https://zerodeathsmd.gov/memorial/>



PRECAUTIONS...

(Continued from page 1)

lower part of your face.

■ Wear several layers of lightweight, loose-fitting clothing. The air between the layers acts as insulation to keep you warmer.

■ Wear mittens rather than fingered gloves. The close contact of fingers helps keep your hands warm.

■ Wear warm leg coverings and heavy socks or two pairs of lightweight socks.

■ Wear waterproof boots or sturdy shoes to keep your feet warm and dry.

■ Be alert to such common winter hazards as carbon monoxide poisoning, fires, and injuries from heat sources.

□ Carbon monoxide is produced by small gasoline engines, stoves, gas furnaces, generators, lanterns, and gas ranges or by the burning of charcoal and wood.

□ This colorless, odorless gas

can cause severe illness and death. Heating sources can also cause fires, electrical injuries, and burns if not correctly installed, operated, and maintained.

□ Place a CO detector and smoke alarm on every level of your home, especially near bedrooms. Many local fire departments have programs to help residents obtain and install smoke detectors.

■ Review your family emergency communications plan and emergency supply kits for homes and vehicles.

□ Each family member should know what to do and how to contact others in an emergency. The home emergency supply kit should include unexpired food items, medical supplies, and batteries.

□ Vehicles should contain such items as heavy blankets, water, nonperishable food, a flashlight, gloves, an extra jacket, and a snow

shovel. More information on emergency preparedness is available at https://health.maryland.gov/preparedness/Pages/resources_general.aspx.

Residents in need of warming centers are encouraged to contact their local health department or call 2-1-1 and provide their county location and zip code to get information about warming center locations, hours of operation, and available accommodations.

More resources to help stay safe in cold weather — including cold-related illness surveillance reports, information about how to prevent cold-related illnesses, how to safely heat your home, and how to drive safely in winter weather — are available on the Office of Preparedness and Response Extreme Cold Resources page: health.maryland.gov/preparedness/Pages/Resources_cold.aspx. ■

Maryland EMS News

MIEMSS

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Governor Wes Moore

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

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(unless noted otherwise)

COMPLIANCE...

(Continued from page 9)

that, in 2023, the Paramedic pled not guilty with an agreed statement of facts to the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol per se, and was issued one (1) year of supervised probation before judgment. In 2024, the Paramedic submitted an Application for Renewal of Paramedic Licensure to MIEMSS and failed to disclose the aforementioned disposition. As a result of the above findings, the Paramedic's license was placed on probation for one (1) year, and the Paramedic was reprimanded for failure to disclose the disposition.

■ **IRC24-052** (EMT) *November 12, 2024*. The EMS Board found that the EMT provided emergency medical

services beyond the EMT's authorized scope of practice by performing endotracheal intubation on a patient in cardiac arrest. The EMT is not credentialed to practice ALS in Maryland but is licensed as a Paramedic in Pennsylvania. Based on the above findings, the Board issued a reprimand to the EMT.

■ **IRC24-053** (EMT) *December 10, 2024*. The EMS Board found that, in 2024, the EMT pled not guilty with an agreed statement of facts to the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol per se, and was issued unsupervised probation before judgment for a period of eighteen (18) months. As a result of the above findings, the EMT's certificate was placed on probation for a period of one (1) year. ■