

Announcing *Pediatric Education and Advocacy Kit (PEAK): Sepsis*

PEDIATRIC SEPSIS is the leading cause of infection-related death among children worldwide, resulting in approximately 7,000 deaths each year in the United States alone. The *Pediatric Education and Advocacy Kit (PEAK): Sepsis* was developed to support hospital and prehospital clinicians, patients, and families by offering practical, evidence-based tools for the early identification and management of pediatric sepsis. These resources are designed to empower care teams to act swiftly and effectively, thus promoting system-wide improvements in pediatric sepsis outcomes.

The Emergency Medical Services for Children Innovation and Improvement Center recently developed a new *PEAK: Sepsis*. PEAKs are collections of educational resources to facilitate the delivery of high-quality emergency care and support for children. Designed with both emergency department and prehospital clinicians in mind, *PEAK: Sepsis* features learning modules on SIRS, sepsis, shock, IV and IO insertion videos, information on rapid fluid administration utilizing the push-pull technique, and more. All content is free and open access.

To access *PEAK: Sepsis*, or for

See *PEAK* page 12

MIEMSS Celebrates 3 EDs for Efforts to Improve Delivery of EMS ~ See Page 3



Governor Announces Streamlined Benefits Access Through Maryland Benefits One App

GOVERNOR WES MOORE recently announced the launch of the Maryland Benefits One Application, a new mobile-friendly tool that will help eligible Marylanders apply for vital benefits. The application – a joint effort between the Maryland Departments of Information Technology, Health, and Human Services – will make it easier for Marylanders to apply for Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Women, Infants, Children (WIC) programming, and energy assistance from a computer or smartphone.

To access the Maryland Benefits One Application, or for more information, visit MarylandBenefits.gov. ■

CALENDAR

August

■ **13–16:** *Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference.* Ocean City, MD.

October

■ **24:** *66th Annual Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference.* Double-Tree by Hilton Annapolis.

May 2026

■ **14–15:** *Point/Counterpoint Conference.* Baltimore, MD.

June 2026

■ **20–25:** *Maryland State Firefighters Association Annual Convention and Conference.* Ocean City, MD.

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

EMS News Digest

■ **City of Crisfield Seeks Input on Drone Medical Delivery Pilot Program** (*WBOC-TV*). The City of Crisfield, Maryland, has launched an online survey to gauge community interest in a drone medical delivery project operated by the University of Maryland. The program's primary focus is delivering life-saving medical supplies to isolated communities, such as Smith Island on the state's Lower Eastern Shore. Learn more: https://www.wboc.com/news/somerset-city-seeks-input-on-drone-medical-delivery-pilot-program/article_762f1e9d-19d7-4802-a595-508275dbf857.html

■ **From Sirens to Solutions: Guiding Paramedics to a Patient-centered Mindset** (*EMSI*). Sometimes, the most heroic thing you can do is listen. Community paramedicine demands a mindset shift – from crisis mode to continuity of care. Learn how EMS clinicians can build trust, treat root causes, and redefine what success looks like. Learn more: <https://www.emsl.com/community-paramedicine/>

[from-sirens-to-solutions-guiding-paramedics-to-a-patient-centered-mindset](#)

■ **Navigating Cannabis, Safety, and Compliance in the Workplace** (*Conduit Street*). As cannabis laws evolve, employers are facing new challenges in balancing safety, federal obligations, and employee rights. A new Minnesota law highlights a growing challenge for employers, especially in public safety, where cannabis use may be legal, but reliable tools to test for on-duty impairment are lacking. “Up in Smoke? Balancing Public Safety and Employee Rights in the Cannabis Era”, a panel discussion at the 2025 Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference (August 13-16), will explore challenges and opportunities on how to best balance public safety with evolving workplace rights. Learn more: <https://conduitstreet.md-counties.org/2025/07/07/navigating-cannabis-safety-and-compliance-in-the-workplace/> ■

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MIEMSS Recognizes Three Maryland EDs for Efforts to Improve Delivery of EMS in Maryland

DELIVERING HIGH-QUALITY EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE to the people of Maryland depends upon an effective, efficient working dynamic between EMS and emergency departments across the state. Dr. Ted Delbridge recently presented the Maryland Stars of Life Executive Director's Award to the emergency departments of three Maryland hospitals in recognition of their efforts to effectively improve the delivery of emergency medical services in the state. ■



LUMINIS HEALTH ANNE ARUNDEL MEDICAL CENTER
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) is the busiest emergency department in the state, caring for more than 87,000 patients (nearly one-third of which arrived by EMS) in 2024. In the three preceeding years, AAMC's EMS-to-ED transfer-of-care times were often more than twice the aspirational goal of no more than 35 minutes 90 percent of the time. However, over the past year, AAMC, working closely with EMS partners, has cut its average EMS turnaround time to approximately 37 minutes. "That means you're basically freeing up one-and-a-half ambulances for the community every 24 hours, enabling them to answer more emergencies in the field," said Dr. Delbridge.



FREDERICK HEALTH HOSPITAL
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

According to the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission, in 2024, the emergency department at Frederick Health Hospital cared for more than 69,000 patients, more than a third of which arrived by EMS, a higher percentage than most Maryland hospitals. "That makes you the fourth busiest emergency department in the state, and Maryland's second busiest EMS receiving center," said Dr. Delbridge, who praised the facility's ability to receive newly arriving EMS-delivered patients in less than 22 minutes 90 percent of the time.



MERITUS MEDICAL CENTER
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

In 2024, the emergency department at Meritus Medical Center cared for more than 60,000 patients, making it the fifth busiest ED in the state. The 32 percent of its patients who arrived by EMS (slightly higher than the statewide average of 27 percent) make optimized EMS-to-ED transfer-of-care times that much more critical to the effective deployment of EMS resources. Dr. Delbridge praised the facility's average turnaround of 19 minutes 90 percent of the time, noting that such efficiency effectively provides "almost an entire extra ambulance" to answer the area's emergency medical services needs on a daily basis.

Young Survivor Reunites with MSPAC Crew Who Cared for Her After Nearly Drowning



JUST OVER TWO YEARS AGO, Emerson suffered a near-drowning at her house. Her father was able to resuscitate her with CPR, and paramedics from Clear Spring rushed her to Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown. In urgent need of more intensive care at a pediatric center, Maryland State Police Aviation Command (MSPAC) Trooper 3, with M/Ts Lance Shank and Corey Green aboard, helped stabilize Emerson and flew her to Children's National Hospital. After two weeks, Emerson was released and made a full recovery.

Recently, Emerson had a chance to visit the hangar and meet the crew that cared for her on that day.

Every year, MSPAC and first responders across the state respond to multiple pediatric water emergencies. Ensuring pool and bath safety, along with knowing CPR and first-aid, are absolutely essential! *[Photos: Maryland State Police Aviation Command]*



Ocean City Fire Department Responds to Mayday Distress with Serious Boating Injury

JUST BEFORE 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, July 13, 2025, the Ocean City Fire Department responded to a distress call on VHF Channel 16 from a boat reporting that a person had been struck by a vessel and its propeller in the North Sinepuxent Bay speed zone.

Ocean City Fire Boat 1 – already underway and busy conducting training nearby – arrived within minutes. Upon arrival, Fire Boat 1 crews located a Good Samaritan vessel that had pulled the injured individual from the water and begun first aid. Fire Department EMTs and paramedics on board Fire Boat 1 quickly transferred the patient to Fire Boat 1 and initiated advanced life-saving procedures while maintaining position with the vessel involved in the incident. Maryland Natural Resources Police and United States Coast Guard also were on scene.

Maryland State Police Aviation Command Trooper 4 was requested to respond. Fire Boat 1 transported the patient to U.S. Coast Guard Station Ocean City, where the patient was transferred to an awaiting Ocean City ambulance for continued care until the arrival of Trooper 4.

“This is one of several serious trauma calls our Fire Boat has intercepted recently while out training,” said Lieutenant Jeff Apperance, Fire Boat Commander. “Our personnel train continuously to ensure that our visitors receive high-quality care, no matter the type of emergency, on land or on the water.”

The incident remains under investigation by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police. *[Photos: Ocean City Fire Department]* ■



MIEMSS Inducts Two into Region I EMS Hall of Fame

July 10, 2025 | Garrett College Career Technology Training Center | Accident, MD

MIEMSS HONORED TWO INDIVIDUALS whose hard work and dedication have significantly improved emergency medical care systems in Allegany and Garrett Counties before an audience of colleagues, family, and friends on July 10, 2025, at Garrett College Career Technology Training Center in Accident, Maryland. This year's Region I EMS Hall of Fame inductees included Douglas Beitzel and Bernard "Bernie" Zlomek.



Back row, from left: Wayne Tiemersma, Regions I & II Coordinator; Dr. Timothy Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director; Dr. Rameen Shafiei, Jurisdictional Medical Director; Alex Kelly, Associate Regions I & II Coordinator; and Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director. Front row, left to right: Tammy Beitzel; Douglas Beitzel; James Koon; and Debbie Koon.

DOUGLAS BEITZEL has been involved in the Fire/EMS community for almost 30 years. He first obtained his Maryland EMT certification in 1999, as a member of the Grantsville VFD. Doug launched his aramedic career with the Cumberland Fire Department in 2001, where he currently serves at the rank of Captain. He is one of two aramedics who helped start Cumberland's Tactical Medic program, responding with Cumberland's SWAT team on high-risk warrants and situations. Doug also served as a flight paramedic from 2005-2015 with STAT Medevac and Air Methods.

Doug has been involved in teaching since 2007, and has served as the program coordinator of the paramedic program at Garrett College for over 14 years. During this time, the program has attained national recognition. Under his leadership, it has grown to include a degree option offering educa-

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Back row, from left: Wayne Tiemersma, Regions I & II Coordinator; Dr. Timothy Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director; Dr. Rameen Shafiei, Jurisdictional Medical Director; Alex Kelly, Associate Regions I & II Coordinator; and Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director. Front row, left to right: Linda Zlomek; Bernard Zlomek; and Laura Zlomek.

BERNARD "BERNIE" ZLOMEK first trained as an EMT under instructor Bob Sincell in Oakland, MD, in 1972. Within a month, he was on the first-ever call for Southern Garrett Rescue Squad (of which he was not only the founder but also its first president).

In 1974, Bernie became a CRT. A promotion within his position at the Maryland Forest Service brought him from Oakland to Cumberland, where he joined LaVale Rescue Squad (and served for several years as its president). He also joined Frostburg Ambulance Service, serving as its president until 1986. In 1984, he assisted TFC Carl Skidmore in forming the Crime Scene Search Team, which used volunteer area rescue squads and fire personnel along with law enforcement to search for missing persons or criminal evidence.

See **ZLOMEK** page 12

Washington County Division of Emergency Services Acquires Four New Hamilton T1 Ventilators



WASHINGTON COUNTY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

recently purchased and placed into service four new Hamilton T1 ventilators. The vents are currently deployed on four supervisor units geographically: EMS1811 (serving western Washington County), EMS1812 (serving southern Washington County), EMS1814 (serving eastern Washington County), and Duty 75 (serving central and northern Washington County). One unit is maintained centrally, as a spare for rapid deployment if needed. All supervisors who are RSI-qualified have been trained on the ventilators. Future training will focus on expanding trained personnel and the use of the vents for the BiPap Optional Supplemental Protocol. The ventilators are rugged and specifically designed for austere EMS / transport / field usage. Community Rescue Service in Hagerstown also purchased one unit. ■

[At left: Community Rescue Service personel pictured with the Hamilton T1 ventilator. Photo: Washington County Division of Emergency Services]

University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center Updates

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND R ADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER (RACSTC) continues to expand lifesaving Stop the Bleed® training across Maryland.

■ **June 14 – Ocean City.** The Ocean City Fire Department hosted a public class for 12 participants. Thanks to Battalion Chief Robert Magee for securing classroom space. Attendees earned certificates and received individual bleeding-control kits.

■ **June 16–17 – MSFA Annual Conference and Convention.** Fire/EMS personnel completed Stop the Bleed® training with hands-on practice and certification on the first day of the MSFA Annual Conference in Ocean City. Twenty-one returned the next day for the Train-the-Trainer course, becoming certified instructors ready to teach in their communities.

■ **June 19 – Lower Somerset.** Lower Somerset Ambulance and Rescue Squad hosted a class arranged by Som-

erset County's Environmental Compliance Safety Officer, Christopher Parks. Twenty-three Fire/EMS personnel and citizens participated, earning certificates, Stop the Bleed® kits, and MIEMSS Continuing Education Credits.

Why does Stop the Bleed® matter? It empowers participants with simple, proven techniques that save lives, including applying pressure, wound packing, and proper tourniquet use. RACSTC is committed to growing these efforts. If you would like to host a class or provide space for public training, please email Stcstopthebleed@umm.edu. Participants receive certification, individual kits, and Continuing Education Credits for Fire/EMS. RACSTC will also conduct Train-the-Trainer courses for its Fire and EMS colleagues who want to become certified instructors and bring Stop the Bleed® training to their own communities.

See RACSTC page 12

2025 MSFA Annual Convention and Conference



Photo: MSFA

THE 2025 MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION (MSFA) Annual Convention and Conference – held June 15–18 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City – was a remarkable gathering of over 2,000 fire, rescue, and emergency medical services professionals from across the state. The Memorial Service was a particularly moving tribute, with over 1,400 attendees coming together to honor and remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. The Opening Ceremonies, attended by approximately 750 participants, set an inspiring tone for the event, highlighting the dedication and commitment that define Maryland’s volunteer fire service community.

MSFA offers heartfelt congratulations to Past President Skip Carey for his exemplary leadership and service throughout his tenure. We also warmly welcome Incoming President Charlie Simpson, whose vision and passion will guide the MSFA into the future. MSFA remains steadfast in its mission: *to serve, promote, advocate for, and represent the interests of Maryland’s volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services*. Together, we continue to strengthen our communities through training, support, and unwavering dedication to public safety. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this convention a memorable and impactful event. Learn more about MSFA at <https://msfa.org/>. ■



2025 MSFA Annual Convention and Conference



Photo: MSFA

MSFA Convention & Conference | June 20-25, 2026

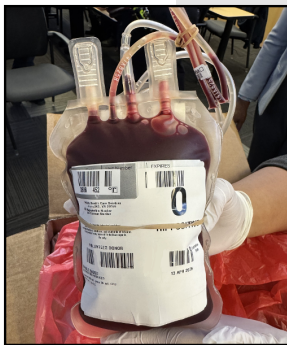
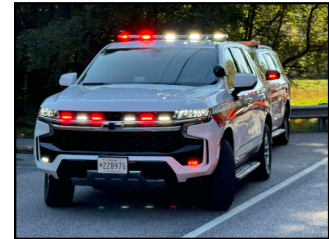


Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS Launches Life-Saving Whole Blood Program

Beginning May 9, 2025, the Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS (DFEMS) will place Low-Titer O Positive Whole Blood (LTO+WB) into service aboard three Advanced Life Support (ALS) Chase Cars, marking a significant advancement in the county's pre-hospital trauma and medical emergency care capabilities.

This initiative is fully funded by the Board of County Commissioners and implemented in accordance with Maryland State EMS Protocols, in partnership with Inova Blood Donor Services.



Why Whole Blood Matters

LTO+WB has emerged as a gold standard in emergency medical therapy. Whole blood delivers oxygen-carrying cells, clotting factors, and volume in a single, rapid infusion—providing the most effective resuscitation for patients in hemorrhagic shock.

Clinical studies show up to a 34% reduction in 30-day mortality when whole blood is administered in the field.

Whether the cause is trauma, gastrointestinal bleeding, obstetric emergency, or other catastrophic blood loss, early whole blood transfusion can mean the difference between life and death.

About the Blood Product

About the Blood Product

- Low-Titer O+ Whole Blood **contains low levels of antibodies**, making it **safe for transfusion** in nearly all patients regardless of blood type.
- **O+ (Positive) is significantly more available** than O Negative, supporting a more sustainable and scalable program.
- Whole blood is stored under precise temperature controls and is **shelf-stable for rapid deployment in emergency response vehicles**.

Specialize Equipment in each Chase Car

To ensure safe and effective field administration, each unit is outfitted with:

- **LifeFlow Plus Rapid Infuser** with specialized filtered tubing for controlled high-speed delivery
- **QinFlow Warrior Lite Blood Warmer** to ensure blood is administered at safe body temperature
- **Delta 2L Cold Storage Cooler** for strict temperature regulation and safe transport
- Premade adjunct kits, including:
 - **TXA (Tranexamic Acid)** for clot stabilization
 - **Reaction management supplies** for safe transfusion monitoring

All EMS clinicians operating these units have received targeted training in transfusion procedures and management of critical blood loss.

A Milestone in Emergency Care

"This program reflects our commitment to progressive, evidence-based care," said DFEMS Chief Michael Robinson. "By putting whole blood directly in the hands of our medics, we're giving patients a fighting chance before they ever reach the hospital."

The Whole Blood Program represents a forward-thinking investment in survivability, system readiness, and clinical excellence, reinforcing Carroll County's pursuit to be a leader in modern EMS delivery.





MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM

Lessons in Action: MDERS 2025 Symposium

ON MAY 22, 2025, the Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System (MDERS) hosted its ninth annual symposium, marking the first in-person event in six years. Held at The Hotel at the University of Maryland in College Park, this year's symposium – themed “Lessons in Action” – brought together public safety and homeland security professionals from across the country to examine critical incidents, identify best practices, and explore how organizations can adapt in the face of adversity.

The daylong event featured a dynamic keynote address, an in-depth panel discussion, and two presentations, each offering unique insights into response, resilience, and operational evolution. Guiding the day's conversation was moderator Jonathon Monken, a seasoned national security and emergency management expert. The day's events are outlined below.

■ **Keynote: Nick Lavery.** The symposium opened with a compelling keynote by Nick Lavery, an active-duty Green Beret and the first above-the-knee amputee to return to active service. Lavery shared his personal journey of injury, recovery, and return to duty, emphasizing the importance of mental resilience, relentless training, and the will to overcome. His story set a powerful tone for the day, underscoring the human element behind operational excellence.

■ **Panel Discussion: Political Extremism in Context.** The symposium's panel discussion, “Political Extremism in Context: History, Law, and National Implications”, featured Dr. Michael Jensen, Dr. John Horgan, and Michael Vesely, alongside event



[Photo: MDERS]

moderator Jonathon Monken. The panelists explored the motivations and tactics behind political extremism, the legal challenges of prosecuting home-grown terrorism, and the importance of data-driven research in shaping public understanding and policy.

■ **Charlottesville: A Case Study in Organizational Trauma.** Emily Pelliccia, Deputy Chief of Community Risk and Resilience for Albermarle County Fire Rescue, shared a deeply personal and professional account of her experience during the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Her presentation focused on the lasting organizational trauma endured by local government agencies and how they have since worked to rebuild trust, revise policies, and foster long-term resilience.

■ **Beyond Borders: Lessons Learned from the Surfside Collapse.** Captain David Nunez and Firefighter James Dobson of Florida Task Force II's Urban Search and Rescue

(USAR) team recounted their experience responding to the 2021 Surfside condominium collapse. Their session highlighted the innovative search techniques employed during the mission and the subsequent changes in training protocols to better reflect real-world conditions.

The 2025 MDERS Symposium was met with overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, who praised both the content and structure of the event. One participant shared, “The entire event was great, and I found many things applicable to my personal life and to my practice.” Another remarked, “The symposium this year offered speakers from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives related to public safety. This was wonderful, as they each brought unique knowledge to those in attendance.” This broad range of insights contributed to a dynamic and engaging experience.

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BEITZEL...*(Continued from page 6)*

tional recognition to clinicians both local and beyond the immediate area. His professional affiliations include: American Trauma Society, Maryland Division Board of Directors; Maryland State EMS Advisory Council; Region I Emergency Services Advisory Council; Region I Emergency Services Education Council; Garrett County Local Emergency Planning Committee; Garrett County Public Schools Health Professions Advisory Committee; and the Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar Planning Committee.

Doug Beitzel continues to play a vital role in shaping advanced-level paramedic training and care in Western Maryland. He is not just an instructor – he is a community builder, educational innovator, and mentor to aspiring EMS professionals around the region and across the state. ■

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(unless noted otherwise)**PEAK...***(Continued from page 1)*

further information, go to <https://em-scimprovement.center/education-and-resources/peak/>, or scan the QR code at right. ■

**RACSTC...***(Continued from page 7)***Shock Trauma Go-Team**

Representatives of the Shock Trauma Go-Team and RACSTC's EMS Liaison group are always available to provide education on a local level. Please reach out to STCEMS@umm.edu if you would like to schedule an educational presentation.

Other Programs

On June 14–15, 2025, the RACSTC Center for Critical Care and Trauma Education Simulation Center worked with local Scouting America Leadership to train eight people to be first responders in Wilderness First Aid at local and national high-adventure programs such as backpacking, shooting sports, and aquatic activities inclusive of paddling and sailing. Scouting groups will utilize these

responders when they are out in the wilderness. The 16-hour certification course includes CPR, epinephrine auto-injector, naloxone, and Stop the Bleed® training. ■

MDERS...*(Continued from page 11)*

rience for all involved.

The 2025 MDERS Symposium provided a valuable forum for reflection, learning, and connection. By sharing lessons from the field, whether from regional tragedies or large-scale national incidents, attendees left with a deeper understanding of what it takes to build resilient systems and communities prepared to respond to the unexpected. ■

ZLOMEK...*(Continued from page 6)*

In 2024, Bernie celebrated his 50th anniversary as a CPR instructor. Today, at 78, he continues to teach CPR, Basic Life Support, and Heart Saver classes at Allegany College, with no

hint of retiring from that job. For more than a half-century, Bernie Zlomek has been and remains a valuable asset to EMS in Region I. ■

Visit MIEMSS online at www.miemss.org