

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Clinicians

Vol. 50 No. 8

August 2024

## Maryland Department of Health Launches New Overdose Data Dashboard

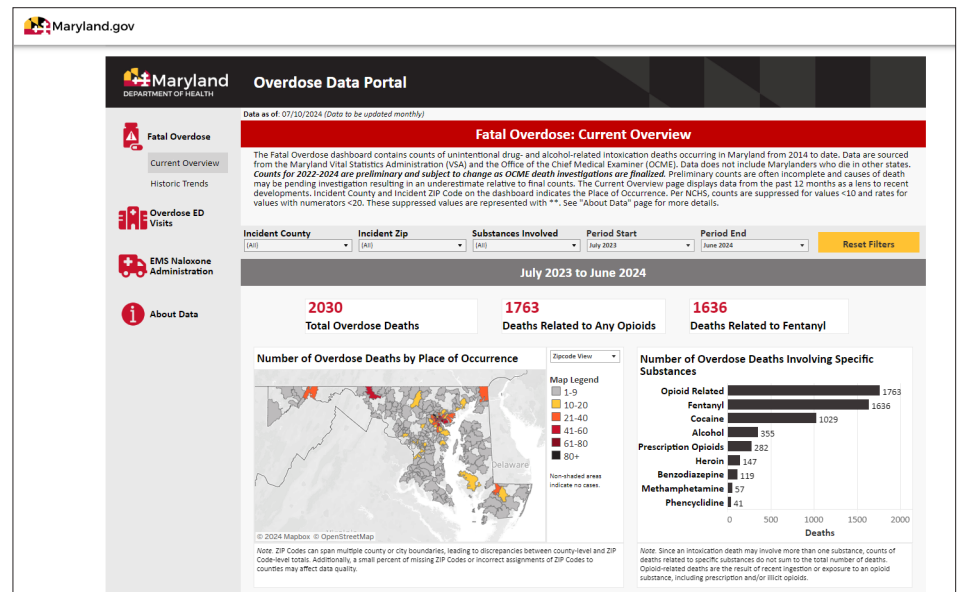
THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH) has launched a new tool for combating the overdose crisis: the Maryland Overdose Data Dashboard. The dashboard, which replaces the previous one at [StopOverdose.maryland.gov](https://stopoverdose.maryland.gov), provides a user-friendly and easy-to-understand visualization of overdose trends throughout the state.

“Overdoses have ripped apart families and left an empty seat at the dinner table for far too many Marylanders,” said Lt. Governor Aruna Miller. “For a targeted approach in the fight against this epidemic, we need data and the Maryland overdose dashboard will increase the ability of our partners across the state to reach communities most affected and connect people to the care they so desperately deserve. This is an effort that I’m truly passionate about and eager to champion on behalf of the Moore-Miller administration.”

The Maryland Overdose Data Dashboard includes the following features:

■ **Unified Data:** The dashboard combines data on fatal overdoses, non-fatal emergency department visits, and EMS naloxone administrations. Users can search this data by zip code.

■ **Timely Data Updates:** The dashboard provides the most current data available, reducing the data release



period from 90 to 30 days. This allows for more proactive monitoring and response.

■ **Historical Trend Analysis:** The dashboard provides historical data at the jurisdictional level, enabling the analysis of community trends over time.

■ **Demographic Insights:** The dashboard provides insights across age, race and gender for targeted overdose responses across jurisdictions.

“This dashboard will enable Marylanders who are at the forefront of the opioid and overdose crisis, along with the individuals and organizations supporting them, to have broader access to data and trends in

overdose, and will further aid in data-driven decision-making in response,” said Maryland Health Secretary Dr. Laura Herrera Scott.

“We have received extensive feedback from our local and community partners about their need for the data and visualization,” said Special Secretary of Overdose Response Emily Keller. “Community input played a crucial role in the development of this dashboard at every stage, and we are thrilled to provide Maryland residents with a new tool to assist our partners in responding more promptly to emerging trends.”

See **DASHBOARD** page 12

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

■ **20:** *Topics in Trauma.* Tidal-Health Peninsula Regional, Salisbury, MD.

### OCTOBER

■ **26:** *R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center Celebration.* France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, Baltimore, MD.

## MIEMSS

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

## EMS News Digest

■ **Assessing Patients with Autism: Pitfalls and Communication Tips** (*EMSI*). Anytime EMS arrives on scene with blaring sirens and flashing lights can be exceedingly stressful on patients and families. This is especially true for patients with autism. Jennifer Dantzer, director of the Including Kids Autism Center, discusses how EMS can better care for and communicate with patients with autism. Read more: <https://www.emsl.com/special-needs-patients/assessing-patients-with-autism-pitfalls-and-communication-tips>

■ **Bridging Borders: Strengthening Maryland's Emergency Management Across Jurisdictions** (*Maryland Department of Emergency Management*). On July 18, Maryland Department of Emergency Management Secretary Russ Strickland kicked off a statewide tour intended to help strengthen partnerships that are critical to emergency management success in Maryland, and to learn about and participate in local innovative initiatives in emergency preparedness. Read more: <https://news.>

[maryland.gov/mdem/2024/07/18/bridging-borders-strengthening-marylands-emergency-management-across-jurisdictions/](https://maryland.gov/mdem/2024/07/18/bridging-borders-strengthening-marylands-emergency-management-across-jurisdictions/)

■ **A Deadline You Really Shouldn't Miss: Have You Applied Yet for SS4A Funds?** (*NHTSA Office of EMS*). By now you've probably heard about the once-in-a-generation funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. What you may not know is that this legislation and the resulting rule-making allow grant funding for EMS (and 9-1-1) system improvement related to reducing mortality on our roadways. More specifically, the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program funds local, regional and tribal initiatives that focus on prevention of roadway deaths and serious injuries. The final deadline for Planning and Demonstration grant applications is 5:00 p.m. (EDT) Thursday, August 29, 2024. Read more: <https://www.ems.gov/resources/newsletters/summer-2024/a-deadline-you-really-shouldn-t-miss-have-you-applied-yet-for-ss4a-funds/>. ■

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*R ADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER*

## Maryland EMS Clinicians Play Key Role in Stop the Bleed Instruction

**PLEASE CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH** the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center (RACSTC) in our mission to teach every person in Maryland the potentially lifesaving skills required to stop bleeding. We are constantly expanding our program and will soon be offering public classes in Baltimore County and Somerset County.

We are offering Train the Trainer classes to anyone who is interested in partnering with us to teach at RACSTC on August 5 and 23, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Please email [Stcstopthebleed@umm.edu](mailto:Stcstopthebleed@umm.edu) if you are able to assist with teaching at any of our upcoming classes listed below or are interested in signing up for a Train the Trainer class. For further information please contact:

■ **Rachel Itzoe, NREMT**

*Stop the Bleed Coordinator*

Center for Injury Prevention & Policy,  
UM R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma  
Center, University of Maryland Medical System

410-328-2035 | 410-328-0192

[rachel.itzoe@umm.edu](mailto:rachel.itzoe@umm.edu)

■ **Katie Meyers, EMT-B**

*Stop the Bleed Project Coordinator*

Center for Injury Prevention & Policy,  
R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center


(410) 328-4042(O) | (410) 935-9221(c)

[kmeyers@umm.edu](mailto:kmeyers@umm.edu)

Representatives of the Shock Trauma Go-Team and our EMS Liaison group are always available to provide education on a local level. Please reach out to [STCEMS@umm.edu](mailto:STCEMS@umm.edu) if you would like to schedule an educational presentation. ■



# STOP THE BLEED®

STOP THE BLEED Public Courses			
Group/Organization	Location	Date	Time
			
		<b>JULY</b>	<b>JULY 2024</b>
Public Class	Carroll County Public Library - Eldersbug Branch	7/25/2024	1530-1730
Public Class	Howard County Public Library - Glen wood Branch	7/30/2024	1530-1730
Public Class	T1S11	7/31/2024	1000-1100
		<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>AUGUST 2024</b>
Public Class	Havre De Grace Ambulance Corp - Harford County	8/1/2024	1700-1830
Train the Trainer	P1G01	8/5/2024	0800-0900
Public Class	T1S11	8/6/2024	1300-1400
Train the Trainer	P1G01	8/23/2024	0800-0900
Public Class	Howard County Public Library - Elkridge Branch	8/27/2024	1600-1730
Public Class	T1S11	8/28/2024	1300-1400
		<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 2024</b>
Public Class	T1S11	9/10/2024	1000-1100
Public Class	T1S11	9/25/2024	1300-1400
		<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>OCTOBER 2024</b>
Public Class	T1S11	10/8/2024	1000-1100
Public Class	T1S11	10/22/2024	1300-1400
Public Class	Aberdeen Fire Dept. - Harford County	10/28/2024	1700-1830
		<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 2024</b>
Public Class	T1S11	11/6/2024	1000-1100
Public Class	T1S11	11/20/2024	1300-1400
		<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>DECEMBER 2024</b>
Public Class	T1S11	12/5/2024	1300-1400
Public Class	T1S11	12/17/2024	1300-1400
UPDATED: 7/23/2024 RBI			

## MIEMSS Inducts Four into Region I EMS Hall of Fame

July 18, 2024 | Garrett College Performing Arts Center | McHenry, MD

**MIEMSS HONORED FOUR 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 during a ceremony held July 18, 2024, at Garrett College Performing Arts Center in McHenry, Maryland. The honorees included Patricia Bowser (posthumously), Edward Douglass (posthumously), David Moon, and Elizabeth Wooster. ■



**PATRICIA BOWSER** was a homemaker and a professional volunteer for the State of Maryland Fire Rescue Services and Maryland Emergency Services. She was a life member of the Friendsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, where she served as Secretary and Assistant Chief. She also served as a charter member and Secretary of the Friendsville Firemen's Auxiliary, and served as representative to both Garrett and Allegany Counties. Patricia was a life member of Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad, where she served as Board Chair, Secretary, and Crew Chief, and was a Firefighter/EMT for 37 years. She served as President, Secretary, and Fire Prevention Committee Chair to both the Allegany and Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and the Garrett County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, and was named "Firefighter of the Year" (1998) and "EMS Person of the Year" (2005, 2012). She also served on the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA) Volunteer Company Assistance Fund Board and held the position of Secretary. Patricia was inducted into the Garrett County Commission for Women Hall of Fame (2002); the MSFA Hall of Flame (2012); and received the Region I Stellar Service Award in 2013 for her contributions to EMS. [Pictured, from left: Region I EMS Council Chair Alison Robinson; Rodney Bowser, Patricia's spouse; and Regions I/II Coordinator Wayne Tiemersma.] ■



**EDWARD DOUGLAS** began his lifetime of caring for others in the 1960s when he became a lifeguard, swimming instructor, and a CPR instructor (for both the American Heart Association and American Red Cross). Feeling a sense of duty to serve his country, Ed joined the Maryland National Guard in 1967. In the 1970s, he joined the Midland Volunteer Fire Department as well as the Frostburg Area Ambulance Service (where he would go on to serve as Captain, as well as a member of the board), and he soon became an EMT. Ed was a founding member of the George's Creek Ambulance Service. He transferred from the Maryland National Guard to the West Virginia Air Guard, where he served as a flight medic out of Martinsburg (in 1998, AGVFRA named Ed "EMS Clinician of the Year"). In 1986, he joined MFRI as an EMT instructor, amassing an astonishing 6,537 hours of classroom instruction and touching thousands of lives. [Pictured, from left: Region I EMS Council Chair Alison Robinson; State EMS Medical Director Dr. Timothy Chizmar; Mike Cook, Ed's son-in-law; Noah Cook, Ed's grandson; Anne Cook, Ed's daughter; Frostburg City Police Officer Jordan Cook, Ed's grandson; Diana Douglas, Ed's spouse; and Regions I/II Associate Coordinator Alex Kelly.] ■

## MIEMSS Inducts Four into Region I EMS Hall of Fame

July 18, 2024 | Garrett College Performing Arts Center | McHenry, MD

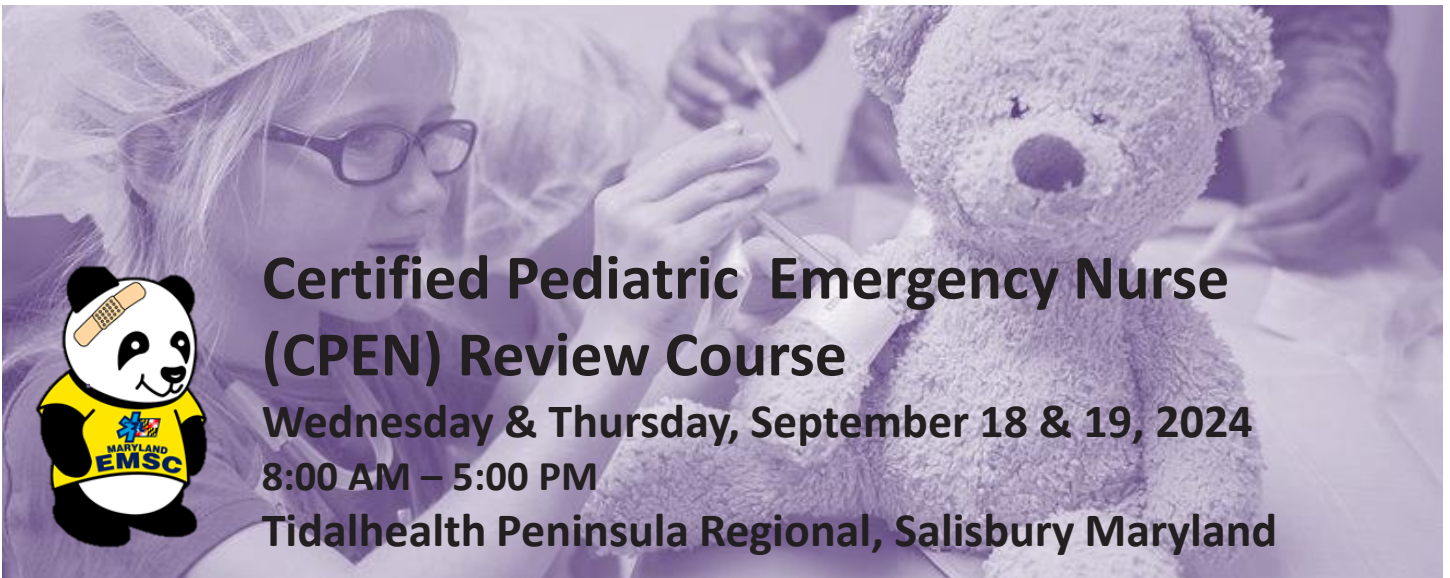


**DAVID MOON** was traveling through southern Garrett County when he came upon an MVC that had just occurred. He immediately went to render aid to those involved. However, upon realizing the severity of their injuries, Dave began to feel inadequate with his knowledge on how to provide assistance. Thus inspired, in 1988, he joined the Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad (SGCRS) and enrolled in an EMT class (several family members, at Dave's encouragement, followed suit and remain in service today). On January 1, 1989, EMT David Moon responded to his first call – an MVC in Red House – bringing him full circle. For 23 years, Dave served SGCRS in a variety of roles, including Lieutenant, Chief, President, Board Member, and Chaplain, though he is best remembered as a mentor to his EMS colleagues. Dave was instrumental in identifying the need for the new SGCRS hall on Route 135 in Mountain Lake Park and chaired the committee that oversaw its design and construction. David received a Governor's Citation and was selected as Garrett County's "Most Beautiful Person" in 2004. Beyond his EMS career, David was Pastor of the Fairview Church of the Brethren, where he served 42 of his 50 years in ministry. [Pictured, from left: Bob Teter, Dave's son; Leora Teter, Dave's spouse; Dave Teter, Dave's son.] ■



**ELIZABETH WOOSTER** began her lifelong career of caring for others in the early 1980s as a volunteer for the Waldorf Ambulance Service, where her preceptors included Maryland EMS legends Leon Hayes and Marty Stinnett. After graduating with Maryland's first NRP cohort in 1983, Elizabeth worked as an emergency room technician at Physicians Memorial Hospital (PMH) in La Plata. In 1984, she graduated nursing school at Charles Community College with a double-major in Nursing and Business. Elizabeth worked full-time while attending school. She became one of the first "new graduate" nurses at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center (RACSTC) in Baltimore, in the Neurotrauma Unit, while still working full-time in the ED at PMH. After earning her BSN from the University of Maryland, in 1988, Elizabeth moved to Accident, where she began working full-time at the West Virginia University (WVU) Department of Emergency Medicine while continuing to work weekends at RACSTC. At WVU, she successfully introduced the TNCC course, formulated a continuing education curriculum for ED and ICU nurses, and played a key role of the working group that helped it to achieve ACS Level I Trauma status. Her numerous roles included both Adult and Pediatric Trauma Program Coordinator, Trauma Research lead, and Injury Prevention specialist. Through the "Trauma Nurses Talk Tough" program, Elizabeth helped to provide educational outreach to adolescents about decision-making and life-changing injuries. In addition, Elizabeth developed core competencies for aeromedical clinicians. A lifelong advocate for education, Elizabeth holds multiple master's degrees in the sciences, as well as a PhD from Oxford. In 2007, she became the Clinical Operations and Education Manager for the

See **WOOSTER** page 12



## Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse (CPEN) Review Course

Wednesday & Thursday, September 18 & 19, 2024

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tidalhealth Peninsula Regional, Salisbury Maryland

This course will provide a comprehensive review based on the detailed CPEN content established by the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN®). This course is presented in a manner that is easy to understand and would also be an excellent review for any nurse interested in increasing his or her knowledge and comfort level in managing pediatric emergencies.

Through the use of lectures, graphics, videos and practice questions, the course will review many of the areas that are tested on the CPEN examination. This course will provide not only a knowledge base for successfully completing the exam, but also a foundation for further study as the participant works towards emergency nursing certification.



### Topics Covered Include:

- Review of Exam
- Pediatric Pathophysiology
- Pediatric Assessments
- Triage of the Pediatric Patient
- Medical Emergencies
- Special Considerations in Medical Emergencies
- Pediatric Trauma
- Pediatric Surgical Emergencies
- Procedural Sedation
- Psychological and Social Emergencies
- Legal and Professional Issues
- Pediatric Interventions

This course cannot guarantee that all participants will pass the CPEN certification exam. It is the responsibility of the emergency nurse to take the necessary time to study & gain mastery of the required topics.

Faculty: Kara Bauman, MN, RN, CEN, CPEN, TCRN  
Solheim Enterprises®

For more information, contact 410-706-1758 or email [pedsready@miemss.org](mailto:pedsready@miemss.org)

The Maryland EMS for Children State Partnership Grant (federal HRSA/MCHB/EMSC) is providing the course materials and faculty for the course.

### Who Should Attend:

- Nurses preparing for CPEN Exam
- Nurses seeking Pediatric Emergency Nursing review
- Nurses with CPEN who need CE to recertify

### Registration - \$150.00

#### What's Included?

Included in your registration fee are LIVE instruction, interactive discussions, self assessment questions, educational materials, and **24.75 hours of CE** for those who participate both days.

#### What's NOT Included?

Travel and overnight lodging are the responsibility of the participants.

Register online: <https://eecreg3.wufoo.com/forms/cpen-review-course-september-2024/>



*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.

### JUSTIN ROTH, NRP

*Frederick County Pediatric EMS Champion*



**JUSTIN ROTH, NRP**, a firefighter/paramedic with the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, is the Pediatric EMS Champion for Frederick County. In addition to pediatrics, Justin is also interested in cardiology and whole blood transfusions, and he enjoys both learning and teaching. One of his goals as a Pediatric EMS Champion is to help others become more comfortable with caring for pediatric patients, especially when their experience in doing so is limited. Justin loves being a paramedic – especially for those critical calls where EMS treatment turns someone around and makes a difference.

Outside of work, Justin is a regular at a local Cross-Fit gym, where the membership includes a large number of first responders and other healthcare providers as is a great way to decompress from work. Justin also enjoys cooking and exploring new restaurants.

Finally, Justin shares that he does not have a favorite holiday. He says it does not matter as long as there is a big group of people, either at work or home, enjoying a great meal. The best piece of advice he has ever received? "Ears open, mouth closed." ■

### BONNIE SKINNER, NREMT, MSN, CEN, EdD

*St. Mary's County Pediatric EMS Champion*



**BONNIE SKINNER, NREMT, MSN, CEN, EdD**, is one of the Pediatric EMS Champions for St. Mary's County. In addition to serving as an EMT and QA Officer with Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad, Bonnie is an emergency department nurse at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital and a teacher for the Academy of Health Professions at the

Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center. An underlying theme in all of her jobs is teaching – whether it be her students, colleagues, patients and the community. Bonnie loves caring for patients and making a difference.

As a means to relax, Bonnie loves to run, scuba dive, go to the beach, and read. She also enjoys spending time with her grandkids. Bonnie's choice of superpowers would be the ability to teleport so that she could both spend more time doing the things she loves and decrease the travel time to the various scuba locations. She reminds others that you must take care of yourself before you can take care of others, and encourages others to live like you were dying.

Some additional fun facts about Bonnie: she and her husband were high school sweethearts who have "survived" 30 years of military service during their marriage. She has had the opportunity to visit all 50 states. She also lived in Iceland, which she loved, and her bucket list includes visiting Greece. ■

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.***

### Slow Down and Give Speeding a Brake

We all have places to be this summer — whether heading to work, on a road trip, or anywhere in between — we want you to arrive safely.

Speeding is estimated to be a contributing factor in more than one-third of all fatal crashes nationwide, causing on average more than 90 deaths and over 3,600 injuries per year in Maryland over the past five years.

Remember, you can't control traffic but can control your reaction to it. Leave early, and allow additional time to get to your destination at a safe speed. Be courteous to other drivers, motorcyclists, pedestrians and bicyclists. Your behavior behind the wheel could mean the difference between life and death for yourself or other road users.

For additional information on road safety, including speeding, and aggressive driving, please visit [ZeroDeathsMD.gov/Aggressive](http://ZeroDeathsMD.gov/Aggressive). Together we can all get there safely.



### Summer Traffic Safety Tips

#### 1. Always Wear a Seat Belt

Even if you're just driving a few blocks over to a friend's house for a barbecue, fasten your seatbelt. Most car crashes happen close to home, so buckle up. [Every seat, every ride.](#)

#### 2. Follow Posted Speed Limits

You might be in a hurry, but the reality is that [speeding is dangerous](#) and it's unlikely that your additional speed will actually save much time. Speed limits are set for ideal circumstances, so always remember to adjust your speed during inclement weather.

#### 3. Keep Your Eyes (and Attention) on the Road

We all know that phones are a distraction in the car, but the reality is that phones are far from the only thing taking our focus off the road. Anything that takes your eyes or focus off the road is a [distraction](#)—from other passengers, adjusting the radio, applying makeup and even daydreaming. While it's unrealistic to eliminate *all* distractions, do your best to minimize them while driving, this includes making sure your phone is safely away while you drive.

#### 4. Slow Down in Work Zones

Every day across Maryland, there are workers on our roads making repairs and improvements to make road travel safer for all of us — especially during the summer. When you see a work zone approaching, do your part — stay alert, slow down and be prepared to change lanes if necessary for the safety of our workers. Let's make sure everyone gets home safely.

#### 5. Be the SOBER Driver or Be the MAKE A PLAN Driver

Remember, the only safe Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) for driving is 0.0 as impairment can occur after only one drink. When visiting with friends or family for a celebration that involves alcohol, plan to stay the night or find a sober ride home with a designated sober driver, public transit or a rideshare.



## Prevention

THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA) has prepared materials for use by law enforcement and public safety personnel for the following upcoming public safety and prevention campaigns:

■ **Vehicular Heatstroke Prevention** (May 1 – September 30, 2024). Nearly every state in the United States has been affected by a pediatric vehicular heatstroke death. NHTSA has released an updated call to action for this campaign: "Once You Park, Stop. Look. Lock." Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/child-safety/vehicular-heatstroke-prevention>

■ **Summer Driving Tips** (May 22 – September 2, 2024). Summertime usually means vacations and summer road trips. Now is a good time to review these summer driving safety tips. A little planning and some safety checks might spare you from dealing with the consequences of a breakdown — or worse, a highway crash. Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/vehicle-safety>

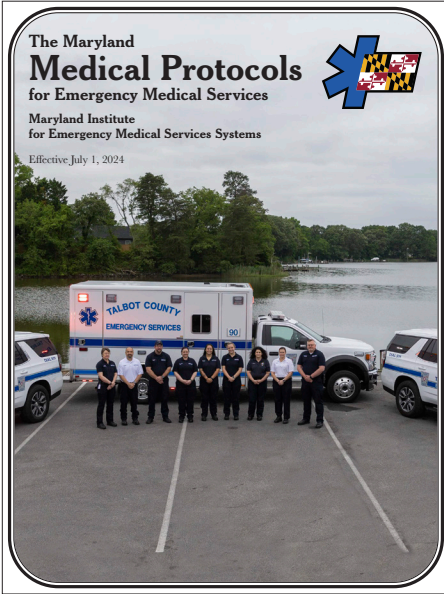
■ **National Mobilization: August/Labor Day** (August 14 – September 2, 2024). "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" is a national high-visibility enforcement campaign that focuses on the consequences of drunk driving and is supported by increased law enforcement. Download materials:

[ing.gov/safety-topics/drunk-driving/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over/august-labor-day](https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/drunk-driving/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over/august-labor-day)

■ **Child Passenger Safety Week & National Seat Check Saturday** (September 15 – September 21, 2024). Keeping children safe while traveling is a top priority for parents and caregivers, and often parents seek out information regarding car seat safety.

These campaign materials cover topics every step of the way — from purchasing the correct car seat according to a child's weight and height, to properly installing it, and when to move them to the next type of seat. Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/child-safety/car-seats-boosters-seatbelts>. ■

Visit MIEMSS online at [www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)



**MIEMSS IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE** the release of *The Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services App*. We have developed an iOS and Android app designed for use on smartphones and tablets, serving as a replacement for the pocket protocol book. The app is compatible with iOS 15 and above, supporting devices as far back as the iPhone 6S (2012), and Android v5.0 (2017) or newer. The iOS version is now available on the App Store, while the Android version is accessible from the Google Play Store.

These apps put the Maryland EMS Protocols in the palm of your hand, allowing you to navigate and view all protocols with no internet connection required, as all protocol information is built into the application upon installation.

For convenient access to the app and details about its current features and upcoming versions, scan the QR code at right, or visit <https://www.miemss.org/home/Clinicians/Protocols-App>. Additionally, the web page provides answers to frequently asked questions and email links for support. ■



# TraumaNet



## Maryland Trauma Center Network

### **RN/EMS Clinician Award Nomination Form**

Please scan the QR code on this form to nominate an exemplary Nurse or EMS Clinician committed to the care of injured or burned patients

Nominations will be accepted for cases **occurring in calendar year 2024**

**Submissions will be accepted through January 15, 2025**

Awards will be distributed at the *Maryland Committee on Trauma's Point/Counterpoint Conference* May 15-16, 2025 in Baltimore, Maryland

**Criteria for EMS Clinician Award:**

Please nominate any practicing EMS clinician in good standing from the state of Maryland. The award recognizes a clinician for acts above and beyond the standard of care for any trauma or burn patient(s).

**Criteria for RN Award:**

Please nominate any practicing staff nurse in good standing from the state of Maryland. The award recognizes a single staff nurse who provided care above and beyond the accepted standard of care for any trauma or burn patient(s).



## MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM

# Enhancing Patrol Scenario Training: A New Era of Law Enforcement Testing



[Photos: MDERS]



**SINCE OCTOBER 2023**, the Maryland-National Capital Emergency Response System (MDERS) has collaborated with the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) to enhance their Patrol Scenario Training (PST) program. This joint effort aims to modernize the training methods used at the police academy, ensuring new officers are better prepared to serve their communities and keep themselves, colleagues, and members of the public safe.

PSTs are the final step in the PGPD Training Academy that evaluates student officers' ability to demonstrate mastery of the skills learned throughout the nine-month program. These scenario-based assessments test student officers' proficiency in meeting the Maryland Police and

Corrections Training Commission's (MPCTC) required objectives. PSTs simulate real-life situations that officers are likely to encounter in the field such as domestic violence, disorderly persons, citizen and business robberies, and many more. This provides a practical, hands-on assessment of their skills and decision-making abilities.

Recognizing the need for a more efficient and objective evaluation process, PGPD partnered with MDERS to update various aspects of the PST program. The key initiatives included:

- **Increasing Objectivity in Grading:** The new system aims to standardize the grading process, ensuring that all student officers are assessed fairly and consistently.

- **Reducing Evaluation Time:**

Streamlining the evaluation process will allow instructors to spend less time on assessments and more time on training and development.

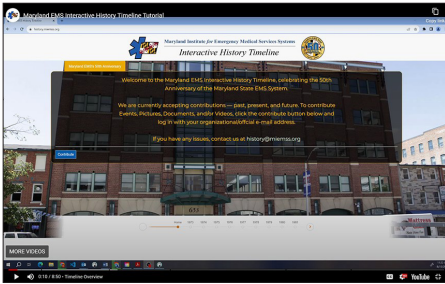
- **Creating an Easy-to-Use System:** The revamped PST program is designed to be user-friendly, enabling academy staff to easily implement and use it while effectively tracking all met and unmet objectives.

- **System Storage and Accessibility:** The new system saves all evaluations on a shared folder, enhancing accessibility and organization.

- **Changing, Removing, and Creating New Scenarios:** The new program provides different scenarios than the last several years of testing. This allowed for a greater focus on

*See MDERS page 12*

## Be a Part of Maryland EMS History



Scan the QR code below or go to [history.miemss.org](http://history.miemss.org) to learn how you can contribute to the Maryland EMS Interactive History Timeline:



### Maryland EMS News

MIEMSS

653 W. Pratt St.

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Governor Wes Moore

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

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## DASHBOARD...

(Continued from page 1)

Based on initial data, fatal overdoses in Maryland have been on the decline in recent years. In 2023, there were 2,513 fatal overdoses in the state, marking a 2.5 percent decrease from the 2,578 fatal overdoses recorded in 2022. The latest data from the dashboard, which currently includes information up to May of this year, indicates that the decrease in fatal overdoses has continued in 2024.

The Maryland Overdose Data Dashboard is accessible at [bit.ly/OverdoseData](http://bit.ly/OverdoseData), or scan the QR code below. ■



## MDERS...

(Continued from page 11)

de-escalation tactics and the ability of student officers to provide medical care to role players.

The collaboration between MDERS and PGPD represents a significant step forward in police training methodology. By incorporating these improvements, the PST program becomes more efficient and effective in preparing student officers for the complexities of their roles. Enhanced objectivity ensures that evaluations are fair, while reduced evaluation times and ease of use allow for a more focused training environment. Additionally, MDERS and PGPD staff had the opportunity to present this new program during the 2024 Maryland Emergency Management Association (MDEMA) Annual Symposium in May, providing an overview of the challenges faced and problems solved.

As the revamped PST program is fully implemented, PGPD and MDERS will continue to monitor its effectiveness and make any necessary adjustments. This commitment to continuous improvement underscores

the dedication of both organizations to providing the highest standard of training for law enforcement officers. By focusing on objectivity, efficiency, and usability, this initiative promises to better prepare new officers to serve and protect their communities safely and effectively. ■

## WOOSTER...

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EDs at Sacred Heart and Cumberland Memorial. After serving as Trauma Program Manager at UPMC Western Maryland from 2013 to 2021, Elizabeth joined MIEMSS as Director of Trauma and Injury Specialty Care Programs, where she continues her selfless commitment to patients and clinicians alike. [Pictured page 5, from left: State EMS Medical Director Dr. Timothy Chizmar, Region I EMS Council Chair Alison Robinson; MIEMSS Trauma & Injury Specialty Care Program Director Elizabeth Wooster; and Regions I/II Associate Coordinator Alex Kelly.] ■