

For All Emergency Medical Clinicians

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St. Mary's County Government Installs Publicly Accessible AED Cabinets at County Facilities

St. Mary's County Government

(SMCG) has announced a new public safety initiative to improve access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at SMCG parks and facilities. The St. Mary's County Department of Emergency Services has partnered with Recreation & Parks, Aging & Human Services, and Public Works & Transportation to install 13 secure AED cabinets across 12 county parks, as well as the Garvey Senior Activity Center.

This initiative comes as part of a broader effort to enhance the "chain of survival" for victims of sudden cardiac arrest, one of the leading causes of unexpected death in the United States. According to the American Heart Association, more than 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur each year, and nearly 90% are fatal. Local data from the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) shows that the second most frequent location for these events is public spaces, including sports fields and recreation areas.

"Citizens are often the first to respond in a cardiac emergency," said Jen Utz, Director of the St. Mary's County DES. "This program empowers our community to take immediate action when seconds matter most and emergency responders are on the way."



Public spaces, including sports fields and recreation areas, are the second most frequent locations for out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, according to local CARES data.

The new AED cabinets are designed to provide 24/7 access to lifesaving equipment. In the event of a cardiac emergency, residents should always call 9-1-1. The 9-1-1 dispatcher

will provide a secure access code to unlock the cabinet, allowing bystanders to retrieve and use the AED before emergency responders arrive.

Early defibrillation has been shown to increase survival rates by 50%–75% when an AED is available on-site. St. Mary's County EMS responds to an average of 217 cardiac arrest calls each year, and the enhanced accessibility of AEDs at these locations is expected to improve outcomes countywide.

The initiative replaces a previous model where AEDs were secured inside staffed park offices, limiting access to operating hours. Now, devices are available at any time, bridging the critical minutes before EMS arrival, which can average 8–10 minutes, depending on location and call volume.

"Our parks and recreation spaces welcome thousands of residents and visitors each week, and safety is always our top priority," said Ray Bivens, Director of St. Mary's County

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Melville Named Jurisdictional Medical Director for St. Mary's County EMS ~ Page 3

SAVE THE DATE

January 2026

■ **30–February 1:** *Winterfest EMS Conference*. Easton, MD.

March 2026

■ 13–14: *Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar*. Rocky Gap.

May 2026

- **14–15:** *Point/Counterpoint Conference.* Baltimore, MD.
- 17–23: National EMS Week.

June 2026

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

Be a Part of Maryland EMS History



Scan the QR code below or go to history.miemss.org to learn how you can contribute to the Maryland EMS Interactive
History Timeline:



EMS News Digest

- Maryland 9-1-1 Board Recognizes Excellence in Service Delivery (MDEM). State Senator Cheryl Kagan joined Maryland Department of Emergency Management Secretary Russ Strickland and the Maryland 9-1-1 Board in recognizing 21 public safety telecommunicators from across the state for delivering exception service during a special celebration held October 15 in Ocean City. "Our 9-1-1 Specialists and our entire emergency system might be the most invisible government employees, and among our most essential," Kagan said during her keynote address. "We must ensure that they are acknowledged, supported, and provided with the very best technology and training. I am proud to celebrate these courageous women and men through the Day of Celebration." Read more: https:// news.maryland.gov/mdem/2025/10/16/ maryland-9-1-1-board-recognizes-excellence-in-service-delivery/
- New Baltimore Bill Prohibits Restoration Crews, Contractors from Entering Emergency Scenes (WJZ-TV). On October 20, the Baltimore

City Council approved a bill that allows emergency responders to set up a perimeter around the scene to prohibit unauthorized people from entering an emergency scene, including fires. As with crime scenes, the intent is to keep first responders safe and protect victims from solicitation. The bill's sponsor, Councilwoman Odette Ramos, expects the Maryland General Assembly to take up a similar issue during the 2026 Legislative Session. Read more: https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/baltimore-bill-prohibits-restoration-crews-contractors-emergency-scenes/

■ Washington County DES Expands Reserve Fleet to Strengthen Community Response (Washington County Division of Emergency Services). Washington County's Board of Commissioners recently approved the purchase of a new engine and ambulance, which will be added to the County's reserve fleet.. Read more: https://www.washco-md.net/news/washington-county-division-of-emergency-services-expands-reserve-fleet-to-strengthen-community-response/

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Showalter, Scheulen Retire from State EMS Board



From left: Major Michael Tagliaferri (Maryland State Police Aviation Command); Dr. Ted Delbridge (MIEMSS Executive Director; Jeff Hobbs (Emergency Medical Services Nurse); Dr. Thomas Scalea (University of Maryland Baltimore Designee); Eric Smothers (State EMS Advisory Council Chairman); Sally Showalter; Clay B. Stamp (State EMS Board Chairman); James Scheulen; Fire Chief Trisha Wolford (Career Firefighter); Yonnia Waggoner (Public at Large <175,000); Stephan Cox (Volunteer Firefighter); Michael Cox (Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute); and Dr. Kristie Snedeker (R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center).

THE STATE EMS BOARD honored two retiring members for their longtime service at its October 14, 2025, meeting in Annapolis. Sally Showalter, RN, former head nurse at Calvert Memorial Hospital (now CalvertHealth, of which she is a third-generation board member), joined the State EMS

Board in 2005, representing the general public in a county of less than 175,000. James Scheulen, PA, MBA, chief administrative officer for emergency medicine and capacity management for Johns Hopkins Medicine and president of Johns Hopkins Emergency Medical Services, joined the State

EMS Board in 2018, representing hospital administrators. State EMS Board Chairman Clay B. Stamp praised Showalter and Scheulen for their commitment to serving their fellow Marylanders and the EMS community.

See Board page 10

Melville Appointed Jurisdictional Medical Director for St. Mary's County EMS



Dr. Kraig Melville

THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY have announced the appointment of Kraig Melville, MD, BMSc, FACEP, FAAEM, as Jurisdictional Mledical Director for St. Mary's County, effective October 27, 2025.

The Jurisdictional Medical Director provides medical oversight for the County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Operational Program, ensuring the highest standards of patient care, safety, and clinical quality. In his new role, Dr. Mel-

ville will advise on EMS protocols, training, operations, and quality improvement initiatives across the county's emergency response system.

"On behalf of the Commissioners, I would like to welcome Dr. Melville as our new Jurisdictional Medical Director," said Commissioner President Randy Guy. "His extensive experience will further strengthen local emergency medical services and

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2025 TidalHealth Topics in Trauma Conference





The 35TH ANNUAL TOPICS IN TRAUMA CONFERENCE, held September 19, 2025, at TidalHealth Peninsula Regional in Salisbury, Maryland, continued the tradition of drawing EMS, ED, Critical Care, and Transport clinicians interested in learning about current best practices in trauma care for patients of all ages. Conference participants included the EMS for Children (EMSC) program at MIEMSS. The *Child Passenger Safety Project*, led by Susanne Ogaitis Jones, MSPH, CPST-I, provides information on safe transport of children in both passenger vehicles and ambulances to professionals while recruiting healthcare staff to become CPS Technicians to help families always travel safely. The *Pediatric Readiness Project* focuses on providing tools and education to EMS and ED Staff team members; Mary Ellen Wilson leads the ED Pediatric Nurse Champions across Maryland, providing quick reference tools (cards and posters) and encouraging hospitals to participate in the Pediatric Facility Recognition Program (launched in April 2025). Both displays will be at the Mid-Maryland ENA Annual Educational conference on November 7, 2025 at Holy Cross Hospital. ■

Maryland EMS for Children Honors Robison for Child Passenger Safety Efforts

THE MARYLAND EMS FOR CHILDREN (EMSC) program at MIEMSS presented its 4th annual EMS for Children Award to Dove Robison of the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department on October 11, 2025. Each year, EMSC presents the award to an EMS clinician who has provided exemplary service in Child Passenger Safety.

Dove was first certified as a Child Passenger Safety Technician in 2007. Her current duties at Laurel VFD (as well as in her pre-retirement position with the Prince George's County Police Department) have included promoting child passenger safety (CPS) events; serving as a technician at more than five countywide events each year; conducting individual car seat checks, helping to coordinate locations for technician trainings conducted by Maryland Kids in Safety Seats; and staffing interactive displays during Fire Prevent Week. Dove has been and continues to be an extraordinary role model for her colleagues, as well as a champion for CPS in her community.

Learn more about the Child Passenger Safety and Occupant Protection Health Care Project at MIEMSS at https://miemss.org/home/emsc/cps. ■



Orendorf Named Garrett County Fire & Rescue Association EMS Clinician of the Year



THE GARRETT COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION (GCFRA) has named EMS Lieutenant Anna Orendorf of the Bittinger Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) its 2025 EMS Clinician of the Year in recognition of her dedication, professionalism, compassionate care, and leadership in the community.

Orendorf obtained her EMT license shortly after joining BVFD in 2022. She soon enrolled in paramedic school while holding down a full-time job, devoting what little spare time she had to volunteering for the department.

In 2023, Orendorf was promoted to EMS Lieutenant, readily taking on newer and greater responsibilities, including organizing and leading EMS training sessions, managing ambulance coverage, recruiting and mentoring new members, and actively assisting the auxiliary with fundraising efforts and community events.

"Anna's willingness to go above and beyond, even when balancing many responsibilities, is a true reflection of her dedication and passion to serving others through emergency medical services," said BVFD President and Assistant Chief Dennis Yoder. "We truly appreciate her years of volunteer service and are fortunate to have her as a part of our team."

[Pictured: Anna Orendorf (right) with 2024 GCFRA EMS Clinician of the Year Malia Martin. Photo: BVFD.]

Ball Declares Howard a "Stroke Smart" County

Howard County Medical Center (HCMC) in celebrating the grand opening of the hospital's newly relocated Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Center on October 6, 2025, in Columbia, Maryland. The relocation paves the way for construction of a new 29-bed Observation Unit that will enhance HCMC's ability to help more patients recover, rebuild, and thrive following cardiac events. Ball marked the occasion by issuing a proclamation declaring Howard County a "Stroke Smart" county in alignment with Stroke Smart Maryland, a statewide initiative designed to promote stroke awareness. Learn to identify the symptoms of a stroke, react effectively, and more by visiting the Stroke Smart Resource Center online at https://www.miemss.org/home/hospitals/stroke-resources.

[Pictured: Howard County Executive Calvin Ball (left) with Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center President Dr. Mohammed Shafeeq Ahmed. Photo: HCMC.]





The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems



MARYLAND EMS STARS OF LIFE AWARDS

Citizen Star of Life:

Nominated by EMS personnel, a citizen bystander who responded promptly with appropriate actions to attempt to save a life and facilitate the next phase of care by EMS personnel. This can include trained health care individuals who are "bystanders."

EMS Star of Life:

Star of life awards are nominated by EMS or hospital personnel. An EMS clinician at any level who exemplifies excellence in the moment by employing state-of-the-art knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide technically outstanding and empathetic care. Individuals nominated for this award must have provided care and taken actions that demonstrate technical excellence.

EMS Clinicians of the Year:

Individuals are nominated by EMS and Hospital personnel. An EMS clinician at any level who exemplifies excellence through technical competence, empathy, leadership, mentorship, commitment to his/her community, and contributions to the advancement and improvement of the EMS system.

Maryland EMS-Children Award:

This award is presented to an individual or program that has demonstrated ongoing dedication and commitment to improving the care for children and promoted family-centered care in a Maryland EMS program or hospital.

Leon Hayes Award for Lifetime Excellence in EMS:

Nominated by EMS personnel, this award is given to an individual who has dedicated him/herself to advancing the EMS system on a broad scale with consistent leadership as a champion of excellence. Akin to recognition of lifetime achievement.

EMS Program Innovation of the Year

The EMS Program Innovation of the Year is presented to EMS operational program for implementation or improvement of an innovation to advance the quality of care or the system to deliver it.

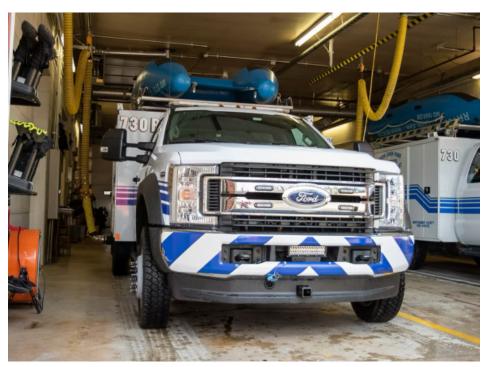
Nominations for the current calendar year are open and will close on Febuary 1st of the next calendar year.

Nomination forms are available at HTTP://www.miemss.org/Home/Awards/

RESPONSE SOLVER

Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System

MDERS-funded Training Translates to MCFRS Rescue



[Photos: MDERS]

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (MCFRS), in partnership with the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, is home to a talented Swift Water Rescue team. Fire stations 10, 30, and 14, which border the Potomac River, host Swift Water Rescue equipment, including boats, specialized response vehicles, and specially trained personnel. To support local responders and bolster their response capabilities, the Maryland National Capital Region Emergency Response System (MDERS) provided funding for six MCFRS members to attend the Rescue from Vehicles in Floodwater Course, geared towards improving Swift Water Rescue skills and techniques. This additional funding support from MDERS enhanced Swift Water Rescue responses within Montgomery County and the National Capital Region (NCR). The skills taught in the training proved their value in a successful incident outcome on July 31, 2025.

According to the MCFRS Incident Response Policy (2019), swift water is defined as "water that moves faster than an average person can comfortably walk, and flat water is moving more slowly than the average person can comfortably walk." Per MCFRS Response Data, in Calendar Year 2024, Swift Water Rescue units from Stations 10, 30, and 14 responded to a total of 333 calls for service with 34 additional responses from non-swift water assets such as flatwater boats (MCFRS, 2024). These Swift Water Rescue teams respond to both water rescues as well as trail



rescues along the Potomac River, where patient access or movement to an ambulance staging area is best done via boat. These invaluable skills are utilized throughout the NCR and can be deployed nationally as emergencies arise.

The Rescue from Vehicles in Floodwater Course is operated by Rescue3 International in western Maryland. According to Rescue3 International, the course directly explores scenarios with vehicles in floodwater, including but not limited

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The Right Care When It Counts Maryland EMSC 2026

The Maryland EMS for Children program is seeking nominations of children and youth in Maryland who have demonstrated The Right Care When It Counts. Actions taking place January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, 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 2026.

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



Harford County Pediatric EMS Champion in Action

Pediatric skill station, simulation scenarios available to Maryland Pediatric EMS Champions





IN SEPTEMBER 2025, Harford County Pediatric EMS Champion Chrystie Dillon, NRP, CSPT, led an evening drill at Level Volunteer Fire Department. Combining her Pediatric Training and Child Passenger Safety Technician training, Chrystie focused on high-priority clinical situations in Pediatrics.

First up was the safe transport of children in ambulances. "Children are not small adults" - so goes the mantra of EMS for Children (EMSC). Rather, they come in all different sizes and need equipment that is specific to their development, including ambulance cots/stretchers. In this case, the training focused on use of the Pedi-Mate or a car seat, including securing the device to the stretcher according to manufacturer's directions, then securing the child to the device, and ensuring that the correct straps are in the correct places (and tightened to the correct extent) - in other words, the "Right Care When It Counts." Most importantly, a child should never ride on a stretcher in an adult's lap; arms

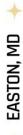
See **DILLON** page 10





winterfest@talbotdes.org

Maryland's longest running EMS conference returns! Follow Winterfest EMS on Facebook (@WinterfestEMS) for further details as they become available.



SAVE-THE-DATE

American College of Surgeons

Point Counterpoint Conference XLIII

May 7 & 8, 2026

Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel

202 East Pratt Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202

For information please contact: <u>cleidy@som.umaryland.edu</u> or

pshinnick@som.umaryland.edu

Board...

(Continued from page 3)

The EMS Board also marked the addition of several new members, including: Jeff Hobbs, BSN, RN, Trauma Program Manager, UPMC Western Maryland (Emergency Services Nurse); Yonnia Waggoner, MSN, RN, Director of Emergency Services, Calvert Health Medical Center (General Public in a County of Less Than 175,00); Trisha Wolford, NRP, Fire Chief, Anne Arundel County Fire Department (Career Firefighter); and Meg Sullivan, MD, MPH, Deputy Secretary of Public Health Services (Secretary of Health Designee).

The 11-member, Governor-appointed State EMS Board governs the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), the independent, executive-level agency responsible for the coordination of all emergency medical services in the State of Maryland. Learn more about the Maryland EMS system and its leadership at https://miemss.org/home/MIEMSS/Leadership.

MELVILLE...

(Continued from page 3)

support the dedicated EMS professionals who serve on the front lines every day."

Dr. Melville trained in Emergency Medicine at the University of Cincinnati. He has practiced as an Emergency Medicine physician for more than three decades and chaired two emergency departments. His professional interests span EMS, cardiology, toxicology, and pediatrics. Over the course of his career, Dr. Melville has authored several professional publications and demonstrated a commitment to improving patient outcomes through clinician training.

"I'm honored to join this talented group of EMS professionals," said Dr. Melville. "Together, we'll continue advancing emergency care and making a real difference for the people of St. Mary's County."

Dr. Melville resides in Anne Arundel County with his wife, also an Emergency Medicine physician, along with their two daughters, two dogs, and four cats. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, fishing, exploring National Parks, and watching football.

DILLON...

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are not a substitute for correct restraints.

The drill also focused on pediatric infant and child high-performance CPR, a skill that, while used infrequently, is essential for achieving return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) for infants and children. Using QCPR manikins from the EMSC State Partnership grant program, instructors and participants receive real-time feedback on compression depth and recoil, compression rate (120 per minute), and hand positioning, as well as quality and depth of ventilation. High-quality CPR delivery – for infants, children, and adults – is best achieved through quarterly hands-on skill practice.

Chrystie also included information on special populations, medication calculation using the county's Handtevy app, and pediatric assessment. Congratulations to Harford County, Level VFD, and Chrystie Dillion for a successful evening of skills, simulations, and smiles.



Meet the Pediatric EMS Champions

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



Scott Wheatley

Scott Wheatley, NRP, is the Pediatric EMS Champion for Worcester County. Scott retired from the Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services as an As-

sistant Chief, and presently serves as a Firefighter/Paramedic for Ocean Pines Fire Department in Berlin, Maryland. EMS, he says, is all that he has ever wanted to do. Scott loves being part of something larger than himself and, with each call, helping someone during what they consider to be the worst moment of their life.

Scott finds challenging pediatric cases and educating others especially rewarding. Working with the Maryland EMS for Children program offers opportunities for him to share information that could positively affect – or even save – a child's life. Acknowledging that calls involving children can be particularly stressful for EMS clinicians, Scott shares personal techniques and tips with his colleagues to help them remain calm and in control whether on scene or en route.

Outside of EMS, Scott enjoys bike riding, visiting the beach to watch and listen to the ocean, and, when his knees allow for it, hiking. Growing up, he enjoyed playing Uno, building with LEGO® bricks, and constructing forts. Thanksgiving is Scott's favorite holiday, as he considers it a special time that allows families to slow

down, come together, and focus on what they are thankful for, without the rush or materialism of other holidays.



Nicole Hoffman

Nicole Hoffman, NRP, is the Pediatric EMS Champion for Cecil County. She is a Captain with the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services. Captain

Hoffman considers "being someone's calm in their time of need" the most rewarding aspect of her EMS career.

As a child, Captain Hoffman was always active; spending time outdoors and horseback riding were among her favorite pastimes. In school, art was her favorite subject, and she got her start in the working world bussing tables at a local restaurant.

When it's time to decompress after a shift, Captain Hoffman finds peace in the garden or hits the gym to lift some weights. Her most-used emojis? The classic facepalm and laughing face – a perfect combination for navigating the ups and downs of daily life.

Christmas, with its lights and the warm, festive spirit that they bring, is Captain Hoffman's favorite holiday. The best advice she's ever received? "When you are done, you'll know. Until then, I am here for you." And if she came with a warning label, it might read: "Compassion with strength, kindness without weakness."

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



MIEMSS' Child Passenger Safety Healthcare Project STILL has a few of these Graco Slimfit all-in-one car seats available for use in a supervisor's vehicle for transporting children who do not require ambulance transport.

If your volunteer EMS company is interested, contact Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, at cps@miemss.org as soon as possible.



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



MDERS...

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to education on vehicle movement when in water, to vehicle access, and victim extrication (Rescue3 International, N.D.). To create a fully immersive and realistic training environment, the class takes place in a purpose-built whitewater rafting facility, complete with real, donated vehicles. MCFRS has noted the challenges with vehicle and floodwater rescue training, specifically access to realistic scenario settings. MCFRS Captain Mechlin commented:

"The Rescue from Vehicles in Floodwaters Course is conducted in an environment that is the closest to real life I have experienced. The specific skill of a tethered swimmer jumping to a flooded car, removing a victim from the car, and being ferried to shore was the highlight for me. I have simulated those skills or performed

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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)

them in a natural environment, but never with a real car in moving water. The removal of victims from the car was performed in multiple ways, such as from the roof, sliding door, or window.

Additionally, the students are used as victims during the class. I have been a first responder on flooding incidents, but fortunately, never the victim. This gave me a unique perspective that I have never had before and will be able to use in flooding incidents in the future."

The principles from this course and the existing training provided to MCFRS personnel were on display during a recent response.

On July 31, 2025, MCFRS assets responded to Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda, Maryland, for a reported vehicle stuck in floodwater following a thunderstorm. Upon arriving on scene, Swift Water Rescue assets found a vehicle swept off the roadway, nearly fully submerged in flood water, and on top of that vehicle clung an 8-year-old child (Montgomery County Fire Rescue, 2025). On the day of the incident, Montgomery County was experiencing a series of strong thunderstorms that necessitated multiple responses from Swift Water Rescue units across Montgomery County to calls such as vehicles stuck in floodwaters. As a result, MCFRS units were already on the road and ready for deployment, further contributing to the successful outcome of this incident. Upon arriving on the scene, first responders quickly deployed resources to rescue the stranded child as well as stabilize the vehicle from moving and potentially jeopardizing the rescue effort. The tactics deployed during this response effort were trained upon during the course. The opportunities presented to the MCFRS Swift Water team during the Rescue from Vehicles in Floodwater Course allowed for realistic scenario-based training, which contributed to the successful outcome of this incident.

MDERS is always willing to assist with the development and improvement of capabilities and technical skills across all stakeholder disciplines. This is exemplified by the successful MCFRS rescue operation on Bradley Boulevard.

AEDs...

(Continued from page 1)

Recreation & Parks. "Publicly accessible AEDs at our parks ensure that lifesaving tools are available when they're needed most in the event of a cardiac emergency."

For more information about the St. Mary's County AED initiative or CPR training opportunities, contact the Department of Emergency Services at emergencyservices@stmaryscountymd.gov.



Send press releases, agency/departmental announcements, and other EMS-related news to ptandy@miemss.org for possible inclusion in a future issue of *Maryland EMS News*