

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Clinicians

Vol. 50 No. 9

September 2024

## MDEM Reminds Maryland that September is National and Maryland Preparedness Month

**SEPTEMBER MARKS NATIONAL AND MARYLAND PREPAREDNESS MONTH,** and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) is urging all Marylanders and visitors in the State to be prepared for all emergencies, to know where to go for information during an emergency, and to have multiple ways to receive emergency alerts.

“Preparedness Month is a time to make sure you and your family are ready for any emergency,” said Russ Strickland, MDEM’s Secretary. “Whether it’s power outages, tropical storms, floods, cyber attacks, or winter storms, it’s vital to stay vigilant, prepared, and MdReady for whatever comes our way.”

Preparing in advance of an emergency is one of the best ways to protect your family from the financial and emotional impacts of a disaster. Flooding is the most common hazard in Maryland, and tornadoes, severe storms, dangerous heat, and severe winter weather are also potential threats. The best financial protection is to be properly insured, whether you own or rent your home. Remember, flood damage is typically not covered by standard property insurance policies.

MDEM also reminds everyone how crucial it is for those who live near coastal areas, the Chesapeake Bay, or its tributaries, to understand

Maryland’s Know Your Zone hurricane evacuation program. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with peak activity typically occurring between mid-August and late October. To learn more about it and hurricane preparedness in Mary-

land, visit [KnowYourZoneMD.com](http://KnowYourZoneMD.com).

Throughout September, MDEM will share preparedness tips, emergency information, and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) across

*See MDEM page 12*

### Montgomery County Launches LTO+ Whole Blood Program

By Peter Dugan

**ON AUGUST 8, 2024,** Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services became the third jurisdiction in the state of Maryland to begin utilizing the LTO+ Whole Blood Administration (LWO+WB) protocol, following in the footsteps of Maryland State Police and Howard County Fire and Rescue. This program has been a collaborative effort between Montgomery County, INOVA Blood Donor Services, Suburban Hospital, and MIEMSS. Prehospital blood transfusions have shown to save the lives of critically ill and injured patients. It is estimated that 40 patients per year will be able to benefit from this life saving proce-

dure in Montgomery County.

Six units of LWO+WB are carried by the four EMS Supervisors, each of whom have gone through a robust training program and will remain with the patient throughout each transport. Within just eight hours of implementing the new protocol, an EMS Supervisor administered a unit of blood to a critically injured patient. The patient was transported to the hospital and remains in stable condition. There is no doubt that this life-saving treatment contributed to the positive outcome for the patient. ■

*Peter Dugan is Battalion Chief of EMIHS Operations for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services.*

## 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.

### NOVEMBER

■ **3-4:** *65<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference.* BWI Airport Marriott Hotel.

### JANUARY 2025

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

### MARCH 2025

■ **7-9:** *20<sup>th</sup> Annual Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar.* Rocky Gap Casino and Resort, Flintstone, MD.

### APRIL 2025

■ **TBD:** *State EMS Medical Directors Symposium.*

### MAY 2025

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

## EMS News Digest

■ **9/11 Books: First Responders Share Their Stories** (*EMSI*). Books about the catastrophic 9/11 attacks and the long return to normalcy are crucial to the historical record of those we lost and how we moved forward. But only a few of those books were written by, or primarily about, the firefighters, police officers, and paramedics who ran toward the danger. These books will reinforce your memories of heroism and replenish your faith in the willingness of first responders to go above and beyond, even in the face of unprecedented catastrophe. Read more: <https://www.emsl.com/9-11/9-11-books-first-responders-share-their-stories>

■ **Washington County DES Receives New Ambulances** (*Herald-Mail*). The Washington County Division of Emergency Services recently added three new ambulances to its fleet. The new units will serve the county and can be used as reserve ambulances by the volunteer emergency medical services

(EMS) corporations when needed. The new units, 2024 Ford F-550 (four-wheel drive) Horton ambulances, represent a significant upgrade in both functionality and safety for emergency response capabilities. Read more: <https://www.heraldmillmedia.com/story/news/local/2024/08/19/division-of-emergency-services-receives-new-ambulances/74816189007/>

■ **Where Should the Helpers Go for Help?** (*Journal of Emergency Medical Services*). Mental health resources have expanded in recent years. For first responders, however, the stigma surrounding utilization of these resources, and the inadequate training of professionals related to responder trauma, are vastly underutilized. Read more: <https://www.jems.com/mental-health-wellness/where-should-the-helpers-go-for-help/>

■ **The Intersection of Emergency**

*See EMS NEWS DIGEST page 12*

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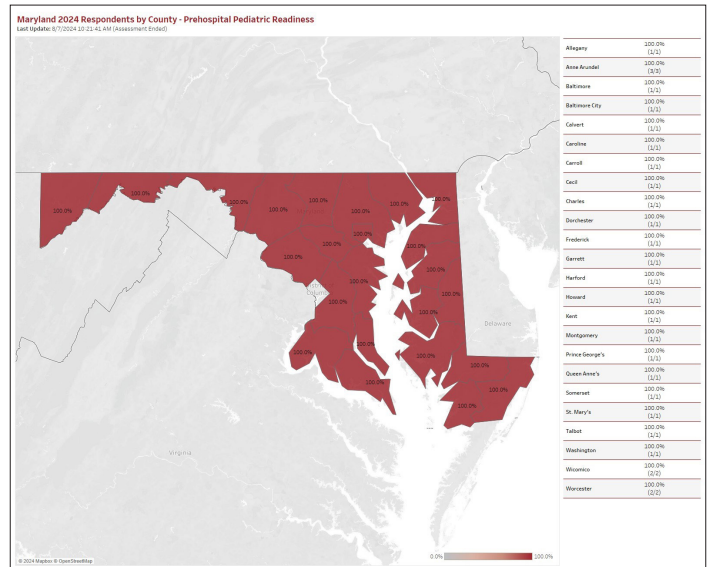
*EMS FOR CHILDREN*

# Maryland Achieves 100% Completion on National Prehospital Readiness Project Survey

**THE NATIONAL PREHOSPITAL PEDIATRIC READINESS PROJECT** (NPPRP) is a federally funded initiative led by the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program in partnership with more than 30 national organizations and stakeholders. The project is designed to empower all U.S. EMS agencies and Fire-Rescue services to evaluate and improve their “pediatric readiness”. Becoming “pediatric ready” means EMS and Fire-Rescue agencies are trained, equipped, and prepared to provide high-quality emergency care for acutely ill and injured children in accordance with national recommendations.

As part of the NPPRP, states were asked to complete a national assessment consisting of over 200 questions in seven focus areas. These areas included:

*See NPPRP page 12*



## Boost Your Child's Health: Be properly buckled!

Approximately 89% of children under age 13 in the U.S. ride in car seats, boosters or seat belts. But according to the 2021 National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats (NHTSA), the rates of children riding unrestrained in cars increases with each age group: <1% of children under age 1; 6% of children ages 1-3; **11% of children ages 4-7 years; and 13% of children ages 8-12 years**. Children at any age are far more likely to die or suffer injury in a car crash if unrestrained. Proper booster use decreases these risks by more than 45% over seat belt use alone. Parents report being confused with transitions between car seats, boosters, and seat belts.

The Child Passenger Safety and Occupant Healthcare Project at MIEMSS, with funding from the Maryland Highway Safety Office, just released some new educational materials to help parents and healthcare providers determine the safest times to transition from a harnessed seat to a booster and then to a seat belt, while maximizing safety. The new FREE materials include:

- A 8.5" x 11" two page color flyer (in English or Spanish)
- A 11" x 17" color, laminated poster (English on one side and Spanish on the reverse)

You can download these materials from [www.miemss.org/home/emsc/cps](http://www.miemss.org/home/emsc/cps), email ([cps@miemss.org](mailto:cps@miemss.org)), or call (410-706-8647) to request some by mail.

The image displays educational materials for child car seat safety. On the left is a flyer titled "Boost your child's safety Ages 4-10" with a Spanish translation "Aumente la seguridad de su hijo Edades de 8 en adelante". It includes instructions on using harness car seats until weight or height limits are reached, and types of booster seats (high-backed and backless). On the right is a poster titled "PROPERLY BUCKLED" showing the transition from a harness seat at age 4, to a booster seat at age 6, and to a seat belt at age 8. It includes a 5-step seat belt test and notes that Maryland law requires a child to use a car seat or booster until age 8, unless they are 4' 9" or taller. A QR code and contact information for zerodeathsmd.gov are also present.



# COTS AND CRASHES:

the essentials to reduce risks for patients and providers

## Webinar for EMS Clinicians

Monday, September 16, 2024  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

**REGISTER NOW**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/79208158986240604>



### SPEAKER:

Jim Green, Safety Engineer, NASEMSO

Earn 1-Hour of continuing education credit from

**MIEMSS**



**ZERO DEATHS  
MARYLAND**  
— Highway Safety Office —





## 2024 Child Passenger Safety Award for an EMS Clinician

**THE 2024 RECIPIENT** of MIEMSS' award for an EMS clinician delivering exemplary service in Child Passenger Safety is Cherish (Harding) Lukas, RN, NRP, Paramedic, of the Allegany County Department of Emergency Services.

Cherish became a Child Passenger Safety Technician in 2017 while working at the Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad and at the emergency department at WVU Medicine Garrett Regional Medical Center. At those locations, she ensured that child passenger safety (CPS) information was accurate and available for patients and staff, and helped at local car seat check-up events.

Since joining the staff at the Allegany County Department of Emergency Services, Cherish has served as the CPS liaison for the County, working closely with Maryland Kids in Safety Seats to arrange dates, locations, and events on CPS throughout western Maryland. Concurrent with checking car seats at scheduled events, Cherish helps families in her community with education and one-on-one car seat inspections, often on her own time. Paramedic and Allegany County Pediatric EMS Champion Sue Clark-Cecil says on hearing that Cherish will receive this annual award, "She is so passionate about this cause and is so proactive with children and safety. She very well deserves it."



*Claire Myer (left) of Maryland Kids in Safety Seats and Susanne Ogaitis-Jones of MIEMSS (center) present Allegany County DES Paramedic Cherish (Harding) Lukas, RN, NRP, with MIEMSS' annual EMS Award for Exemplary Service in Child Passenger Safety (CPS) during a seat check held August 7, 2024, at Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department in Garrett County. Myer and Ogaitis-Jones nominated Lukas for the award in recognition of her advocacy for CPS throughout Western Maryland.*

That commitment to safety has extended to Cherish volunteering her expertise by reviewing new training

materials on occupant protection developed for EMS and emergency clinicians by MIEMSS. ■



**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.



*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.

Please email [Stcstopthebleed@umm.edu](mailto:Stcstopthebleed@umm.edu) if you are able to assist with teaching at any of our upcoming classes 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**

UM R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center  
University of Maryland Medical System  
(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®**

Calvary Lutheran Church	Baltimore, MD 21214	9/4/2024   1200–1400
Victory Packaging	Jessup, MD 20794	9/5/2024   1600–1700
Beth Shalom Congregation	Columbia, MD 21044	9/8/2024   1230–1330
BSA Scouting America	Halethorpe, MD 21227	9/12/2024   1900–2030
Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)	6910 Cooper Ave. Ft. Meade, MD 20755	9/13/2024   1330–1530
Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)	6910 Cooper Ave. Ft. Meade, MD 20755	9/16/2024   1330–1530
Baltimore Co. Public Library – White Marsh Branch	8133 Sandpiper Circle Baltimore, MD 21236	9/16/2024   1830–1930
Caroline Center	Baltimore, MD 21202	9/18/2024   1030–1200
Coppin State Univeristy – Athletic Department	2523 Gwynns Falls Pkwy. Baltimore, MD 21216	9/19/2024   0930–1030
Baltimore Co. Public Library – Rosedale Branch	6105 Kenwood Avenue Rosedale, MD 21237	9/23/2024   1800–1900
Baltimore Co. Public Library – Towson Branch	320 York Road Towson, MD 21204	9/24/2024   1830–1930
Public Class	T1S11	9/25/2024   1300–1400
Workforce & Technology Center Div. of Rehabilitation	Baltimore, MD 21218	9/27/2024   0830–1000
Harford Community College	Bel Air, MD 21015	9/27/2024   1400–1630
St. Francis Xavier Church	Baltimore, MD 21213	9/29/2024   1215–1315



# RACSTC, Howard County Partner to Expand and Support Stop the Bleed® Programming in Howard County Schools

August 19, 2024 | Howard County Public School System

**ON AUGUST 19, 2024**, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball announced an exciting expansion of the current Stop the Bleed® (STB) programming in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), and across the county, in partnership with the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center (RACSTC) team. This partnership is equipping all HCPSS buildings with bleeding-control stations as well as providing training limbs for all high schools. The move comes a year after Howard County Fire and Rescue (HCFRS) assisted HCPSS in implementing bleeding-control principles into the Health Curriculum. RACSTC, along with HCFRS, is helping to expand this by offering STB certification to all students who complete the lesson and offering additional trainings for staff, including school nurses. On August 18, over 200 HCPSS educators and nurses were certified and trained in Stop the Bleed®. Shock Trauma has also expanded public Stop the Bleed® class offerings across Howard County and will be equipping all attendees with personal STB kits. For more information on these classes, visit [www.umm.edu/stopthebleed](http://www.umm.edu/stopthebleed). ■



*Members of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Team, HCFRS Chief Louis Winston, HCFRS Medical Director Dr. Matthew Levy, HCPSS Superintendent William Barnes, RACSTC Vice President Dr. Kristie Snedeker, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball, and HCPSS Health and Physical Education Staff. [Photo Credit: Howard County Government]*

# Let's Boost Child Car Safety!

By Joy Piotrowski, MD

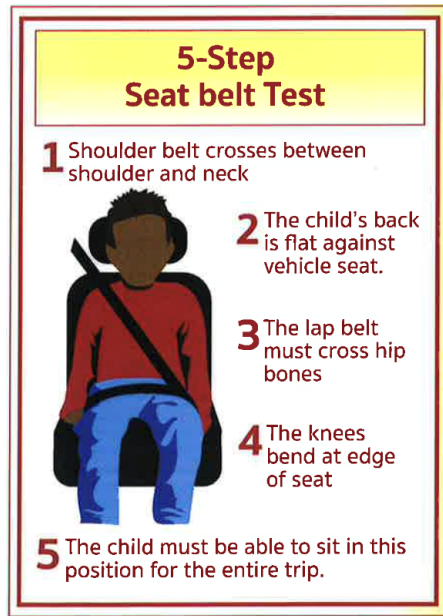
**WHEN WORKING IN THE PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY ROOM**, if I hear the words “seatbelt sign” on a box call, a lot of things run through my mind – *How fast was the car going? Did the airbags deploy? What’s the abdominal exam like? What were the vitals again?*

As I begin preparing for the child to roll into the trauma bay, I’ll be looking for the telltale bruising across the patient’s chest and abdomen, which can indicate serious injury to chest and abdomen and could hint at potential internal bleeding. But what if the seatbelt sign isn’t across the chest (from shoulder down to flank), but instead across the neck? If I see a purple, reddish belt mark across a child’s neck, my own heart rate skyrockets, and I begin thinking differently – *How quickly can we get the child to CT? Do we need to go*

## FAST FACTS:

■ *Maryland State Law requires that children under 8-years-old must ride in an appropriate car safety seat (either a harness seat or booster seat) until they are 4’9” (57 inches tall)*

■ *The average child reaches 4’9” at age 8-years-old, but all children are unique. Many children will not safely be able to transition out of a booster seat until 10-12-years-old*



*A child must pass all five steps in order to transition out of a booster seat!*

*straight to the OR? Why wasn't the child in a booster seat?*

Booster seats are the forgotten eldest child of the car safety seat family. We all know the youngest child – the sweet rear-facing car seat that newborns are so proudly placed in by their parents, fresh at the hospital. The middle child car seats, which are used rear *or* forward-facing, also get a lot of recognition, having all kinds of fancy options like cup holders, comfy head rests and even swivel functions. But what about booster seats? The last step before riding in a car with just a seatbelt often gets overlooked, but it is a vitally important one.

Belt-positioning booster seats decrease the risk of injury to children by 61%, and can reduce the risk of death in children in motor vehicle accidents.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, in children ages 4-7 years, booster seat use is low, even in states which require booster seats by law (such as Maryland).<sup>2</sup>

Since booster seats are less bulky, some families may think the booster isn't doing much to protect their children in the car, but the importance of the booster is to ensure that the life-saving seatbelt is positioned correctly on the child.

Caregivers may find the transition from a forward-facing car seat to a booster seat to be confusing, as the timing is dependent on the height and weight limit of each child's individual car seat, plus the child's behavioral maturity to stay in a booster. Most boosters list age 4-5 years-old as a minimum start, but keeping a child in a harnessed seat to its limits provides more protection in a crash.

The 5-Step Seat Belt Test states the criteria to safely transition to using a regular seat belt (see inset image, at left). If a child is using a seat belt without a booster seat before they can pass this test, the shoulder belt can ride up across their neck; in a crash, the belt on their neck can severely damage their cervical spine or even rupture their carotid artery. In a child too small for a seat belt alone, the lap belt may be over their abdomen instead of their hips, resulting in severe abdominal injuries in a crash.

With a patient in serious condition, we sometimes de-prioritize asking the questions about the scene. When responding to a motor vehicle crash, I want to urge us all to ask: was the child *appropriately* restrained? If a child is between the ages of 4 and 12 years-old – ask if they were in a car seat or booster seat. And if they weren't, when the patient is stabilized, let's think to ask, *why* weren't they?

Let's all do our best to boost child car seat safety, and make sure not to

*See BOOST page 12*



## 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:

■ **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-seat-belts>

■ **Pedestrian Safety Month** (October 2024). At some point in the day, everyone is a pedestrian, which is why pedestrian safety is an essential part of every highway safety communications plan. Below, you’ll find messaging on how drivers can keep pedestrians safe and how pedestrians can stay safe. Some assets are available in English and Spanish. Share this information with partner organizations to help spread the message across all communities. Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/pedestrian-safety>

■ **Teen Driver Safety Week** (October 20-26, 2024). A teen’s inexperience behind the wheel makes them more susceptible to crashes, so includ-

**MAKE SURE  
THEY'RE  
IN THE RIGHT  
CAR SEAT**

**NHSTA.gov/TheRightSeat**

ad COUNCIL NHTSA

ing teen safety messaging in a traffic safety communication plan is important. Specific risk factors for teens behind the wheel include: alcohol and drug use, not wearing a seat belt, distracted driving, additional passengers, speeding, and drowsy driving. Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/teen-driver-safety>

■ **National School Bus Safety Week** (October 21-25, 2024). Millions of children across the nation ride on a school bus every day – that’s why

school bus safety is important in every community. Use this material to educate the public about bus stop safety, including illegal school bus passing. Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/school-bus-safety>

■ **Halloween** (October 25-31, 2024). Halloween-themed materials encourage people to not get behind the wheel. Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/halloween>. ■

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

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.*

### Get Up to Speed on School Bus Safety

It's that time of year again, kids are headed back to school, which means additional traffic — vehicle, bike, and pedestrian — on our streets and roadways. It's important to ensure you know Maryland law regarding stopping for school buses. Failure to obey the law may result in a costly ticket at best and at worse, the injury or death of a child.

#### When to Stop for a School Bus:

Once the bus driver has activated the flashing red lights and stop signal, all vehicles sharing the roadway with the school bus **must** stop a minimum of 20 feet from the bus, regardless of the direction of travel if either of these conditions are met:

- **You are traveling in the same direction as the school bus.** This is true whether the road has one lane, multiple lanes or a central turning lane.
- **You are traveling in the opposite direction and the road does not have a dirt, grass or barrier median.** In other words, if there is no physical median, you **must** stop even if the bus is on the other side of the road.\*
- **You are turning left onto a street, and you notice a school bus stopped in the opposite direction and must decide whether to stop in oncoming traffic or pass the bus.** In this case, you must still stop and not pass the stopped school bus.

\*In Maryland, if the roadway is separated by a physical median — such as dirt, grass, or barrier — you are not required to stop, but you should proceed with caution. (Note: In some states, you must stop for school buses even on a divided highway.)

Check out our [back-to-school blog posts](#) for additional information on keeping children safe on their way to and from school as well as additional safety tips for drivers. Together we can ensure a safe and happy school year for all Maryland children.

**KNOW WHEN TO STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES. IT'S MARYLAND STATE LAW!**

**TWO LANES**  
Vehicles traveling in both directions must stop.

**TWO LANES WITH CENTER TURN LANE**  
Vehicles traveling in both directions must stop.

**MULTI-LANES**  
Vehicles traveling in both directions must stop.

**DIVIDED HIGHWAY (WITH DIRT, GRASS OR BARRIER MEDIAN)**  
-Vehicles traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.  
-Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction may proceed with caution.

**School Bus Violations Can Be Expensive — and Deadly**

#### School Bus Stop-Arm Cameras:

Many school buses across the state are now equipped with automated enforcement technology that captures the vehicle and license plate information of drivers who commit a stop-arm violation. These infractions carry a penalty of \$250 for each violation. Violators who are stopped by a police officer face a fine of up to \$570 and three points on their driver's license.

Learn more:  
[ZeroDeathsMD.gov/  
SchoolBus](https://ZeroDeathsMD.gov/SchoolBus)





## *MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM*

# MDERS Presents at National Homeland Security Conference: A Focus on Emerging Drone Technologies

**BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS** of our presentations at the Maryland Emergency Management Association (MDEMA) Symposium earlier this year, the Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System (MDERS) continued to showcase our stakeholder's cutting-edge initiatives on a national stage. Last month, MDERS and the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) had the privilege of presenting at the National Homeland Security Conference (NHSC) in Miami, Florida, one of the most significant gatherings of homeland security professionals in the country.

The NHSC brings together professionals from various sectors, including homeland security, law enforcement, fire, and emergency management. Participants range from federal agency officials and nonprofit representatives to business owners, academic leaders, and key decision-makers. This conference serves as a crucial platform for sharing insights into emerging trends and technologies in the field of homeland security.

At this year's conference, MDERS and MCPD proudly presented within the Emerging Technologies track, focusing on integrating drones into emergency response operations. Our presentation, which built upon the foundation laid at the MDEMA Symposium, emphasized the innovative ways drones are utilized to enhance situational awareness, improve decision-making, and, ultimately, save lives during critical incidents.



[Photo: MDERS]

"Presenting at the National Homeland Security Conference was an exceptional experience," said Hannah Thomas, Deputy Director of Operational Support. "We had the opportunity to engage with sUAS operators from across the country, exchanging knowledge and best practices. The connections we made are truly invaluable resources."

The presentation resonated with a broader and more diverse audience, sparking meaningful discussions on the future of drone technology in emergency management and the wider field of public safety. Attendees were particularly interested in the practical applications of drones for real-time incident assessment, search and rescue operations, and support during large-scale emergencies. The

session highlighted how drones can be integrated into existing emergency response frameworks, demonstrating their potential to transform traditional approaches to public safety.

Participating at the NHSC was an invaluable experience, allowing MDERS and MCPD to contribute to the national conversation on emerging technologies in homeland security. MDERS looks forward to continuing our work in this area, exploring new ways to leverage technology for the safety and security of our communities. ■



## MDEM...

(Continued from page 1)

its digital and social media platforms. These resources are designed to help Marylanders stay informed and prepare for emergencies. Make sure to follow MDEM on its social media channels (MDEM Facebook, MDEM X [formerly Twitter], MDEM LinkedIn, MDEM YouTube, and MDEM NextDoor), and visit the MDEM website regularly for the latest updates and guidance on how to keep you and your loved ones safe.

For more information on how to be prepared for any hazard, you can also visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service, or the American Red Cross. To receive alerts, tips, and resources related to threats and hazards that may affect Maryland, text "MdReady" to 211-631 or text "MdListo" for Spanish. ■

### Maryland EMS News

#### MIEMSS

653 W. Pratt St.

Baltimore, MD 21201-1536

Governor Wes Moore

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

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## EMS NEWS DIGEST...

(Continued from page 2)

**Medical Services: A Human Right, Public Good, and an Essential Service** (*Journal of Emergency Medical Services*). Emergency medical services (EMS) stand at the crossroads of public health, public safety, and human rights, offering a critical lens through which to examine the obligations of governments and communities towards their citizens. In the broadest sense, EMS

encompasses a range of urgent and non-urgent medical services provided in response to accidents, disasters and acute health episodes. As the demand for immediate medical attention continues to escalate globally, the role of EMS as a human right, a public good and an essential service merits a thorough examination. Read more: <https://www.jems.com/patient-care/ems-human-right-public-good-essential-service/>. ■

## NPPRP...

(Continued from page 3)

- Education & Competencies for Providers
- Equipment & Supplies
- Patient & Medication Safety
- Patient & Family-Centered Care in EMS
- Policies, Procedures, & Protocols (including Medical Oversight)
- Quality Improvement / Performance Improvement
- Interaction with Systems of Care

Maryland's Pediatric EMS Champions were tasked with completing this survey in conjunction with jurisdic-

tional leadership. Thanks to their efforts, *Maryland was able to achieve 100% survey completion.*

Moving forward, the Maryland EMSC Department will work with the Pediatric EMS Champions to identify key trends from the gap analysis reports, allowing future projects and educational efforts to be focused on the needs of the State's EMS clinicians.

For more information on the National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project, please visit <https://ems-pedsready.org/>. Please email [pepp@miemss.org](mailto:pepp@miemss.org) for any Maryland-specific questions. ■

## BOOST...

(Continued from page 8)

forget about injury-preventing, life-saving, booster seats! ■

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<sup>1</sup> Durbin, Dennis R. "Belt-Positioning Booster Seats and Reduction in Risk of Injury Among Children in Vehicle Crashes." *JAMA*, vol. 289, no. 21, 2003, p. 2835., doi:10.1001/jama.289.21.2835.

<sup>2</sup> Weaver, Nancy L., et al. "Promoting Correct Car Seat Use in Parents of Young Children." *Health Promotion Practice*, vol. 14, no. 2, 2012, pp. 301-307., doi:10.1177/1524839912457567.

## CITATIONS