

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Clinicians

Vol. 50 No. 11

November 2024

## Governor Moore Announces \$1.7M in Federal Funding for Eastern Shore Drone Pilot Program

*Effort designed to improve access to health care resources for rural Eastern Shore communities*

**GOVERNOR WES MOORE** announced on October 8, 2024, that the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded the Maryland Department of Planning a \$1.76 million Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant to pilot the use of innovative aviation technology. The program will focus on improving access to healthcare resources in rural communities on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

"All Marylanders deserve equitable access to health care and health care resources," said Moore. "This funding will strengthen our capacity to support our rural communities and presents an important opportunity to learn more about how enhanced technology can be deployed to serve those in need."

Uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) are one of several means to help address poor health outcomes that are linked to lack of transportation for obtaining medical services. The systems can also help reduce the hours that healthcare provider staff absorb by travel to ensure that homebound patients are served. The Eastern

Shore pilot program will deliver medical packages between Crisfield and Smith Island, which is home to several hundred residents who are linked to the mainland only by commercially operated boat services.

"The Maryland Department of Planning is excited to partner on this project to advance the use of technology to support rural communities in need where access to critical services is limited," said Maryland Department of Planning Secretary Rebecca Flora, AICP. "This project

will not only advance new innovative approaches to providing support for ongoing needs, it will also advance how these technologies may be used in resiliency planning and reaching hard-to-reach places after disaster recovery."

SMART grants fund state, local, and Tribal governments to conduct demonstration projects. The projects are focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems

*See DRONES page 10*

## UM Breaks Ground for New Shore Regional Medical Center in Easton

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**, medical, civic, and business leaders, and community stakeholders gathered on October 22, 2024, in Easton to break ground for the construction of the University of Maryland Shore Regional Medical Center. The new state-of-the-art, 230-acre medical complex, part of University of Maryland Shore Regional Health (UM SRH), is anticipated to open in 2028.

The groundbreaking ceremony, held at the Talbot County Community Center, adjacent to the con-

struction site, featured remarks from guest speakers including Governor Wes Moore, US Senator Andy Harris, State Senator Johnny Mautz, and State Senator Steve Hershey. UMMS President and CEO Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA, and UM SRH President and CEO Ken Kozel, MBA, FACHE, hosted the event.

"We are all here because we each share a simple but powerful belief: everyone deserves access to health

*See EASTON page 10*

## CALENDAR

### November

- **17:** *21<sup>st</sup> Annual Maryland Remembers*. Annapolis, MD.

### January 2025

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

### February 2025

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

### March 2025

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

### ■ **Grant Helps Frederick County Officials Place Naloxone Vending Machine at Train Station** (*EMSI*).

The city of Brunswick, in collaboration with the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, will install the first of four vending machines that will dispense free naloxone to the public. The City Council voted unanimously to allow the vending machine to be installed in the MARC Brunswick Train Station. Read more: <https://www.emsl.com/ems-grant-center/grant-helps-md-county-officials-place-naloxone-vending-machine-at-train-station>

### ■ **CDC Says Maryland, and Most of the Nation, has had Fewer Overdose Deaths in 2024** (*Maryland Matters*).

The number of Marylanders dying from overdoses fell over the past year, mirroring a national trend, according to recent federal data. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 2,348 Marylanders died of an overdose between April 2023 and April 2024. That num-

ber reflects a 6.16% drop from 2,506 deaths the previous year. Overdose deaths in the U.S. during the same period fell 10%, according to current estimates. “There’s a lot to be hopeful for right now,” said Special Secretary of Overdose Response Emily Keller. Read more: <https://marylandmatters.org/2024/09/30/cdc-says-maryland-and-most-of-the-nation-has-had-fewer-overdose-deaths-in-2024/>

### ■ **MSPAC Airlifts Kayakers Trapped on Potomac River** (*TMZ*).

A group of kayakers stranded in rough waters in Maryland needed a helicopter to swoop in and rescue them...and the daring mission is all on video. Footage of the October 6, 2024, incident shows a Maryland State Police Aviation Command (MSPAC) helicopter airlifting four kayakers to safety after they had become trapped in a rocky area of the Potomac River. Read more: <https://www.tMZ.com/2024/10/07/kayakers-rescued-helicopter-potomac-river-airlifted-video/>. ■

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## Potential Public Health Risk Among Individuals Ordering Counterfeit Prescription Medications from Online Pharmacies

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) is informing public health officials, clinicians, affected patients, their families, and caregivers about a potential public health risk among individuals ordering what they believe to be prescription medications from online pharmacies. On September 30, 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced an indictment against individuals running illegal online pharmacies. According to the DOJ, these individuals are advertising, selling, manufacturing, and shipping millions of unregulated counterfeit prescription pills to tens of thousands of individuals in the U.S. The counterfeit pills frequently contain fentanyl – a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine – and methamphetamine. Individuals who ordered drugs from these illegal pharmacies could be at risk for an overdose.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warns that there are online pharmacies that claim to sell prescription drugs at deeply discounted prices, often without requiring a prescription. These internet-based pharmacies often sell unapproved, counterfeit, or otherwise unsafe medicines outside the safeguards followed by licensed pharmacies. Individuals should only take medications prescribed by a licensed healthcare provider and dispensed by a licensed pharmacy.

According to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, nearly 95% of websites offering prescription-only drugs online operate illegally. If you or someone you know has purchased pills from an online pharmacy:

- Check to see if the pharmacy is U.S. state-licensed (<https://www.fda.gov/>

[drugs/besaferx-your-source-online-pharmacy-information/locate-state-licensed-online-pharmacy](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/besaferx-your-source-online-pharmacy-information/locate-state-licensed-online-pharmacy)). If you have obtained medications from a pharmacy that is not U.S. state-licensed, do not consume the medication.

- If you suspect you have counterfeit pills from an illegal online pharmacy, do not take them. Dispose of them safely. Beware of online pharmacies that:

- Do not require a doctor's prescription.
- Are not licensed in the U.S. and by your state Board of Pharmacy.
- Offer deep discounts or prices that seem too good to be true.

- Always have naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal drug, with you. Naloxone should be given immediately

in response to any person who shows signs of an opioid overdose. Always have someone nearby whenever you are ingesting any unknown substance or medication in case of emergency.

- In case of a poisoning emergency, call 9-1-1 and seek medical attention immediately.

- For questions about an unknown substance, contact Poison Control (call 1-800-222-1222 or visit <https://poisoncenters.org>).

FDA's BeSafeRx campaign helps consumers learn about how to safely buy prescription medicines online: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/besaferx-your-source-online-pharmacy-information/besaferx-resources-consumers>. ■



### Remembering Dr. R Adams Cowley 33 Years On

OCTOBER 27, 2024, marked the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Dr. R Adams Cowley's passing. Scan the QR code at right to watch MIEMSS' tribute to the man who devoted his life to immeasurably improving outcomes for the most seriously injured trauma patients – in Maryland, across the country, and around the world. ■





## 18th Annual Maryland EMSC Research Forum

**Date: November 6, 2024**

**Time: 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm**

**Location: MIEMSS Headquarters – Room 212**

Also available through **Go To Meeting** ([link below](#))

### Research Forum Agenda

**Moderator: Jennifer Anders, MD, FAAP**

Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics

- 12:00**      **Networking Lunch with PEMAC (*In-person attendees*)**  
*RSVP attendance to Sue Catterton at [pepp@miemss.org](mailto:pepp@miemss.org)*
- 12:30**      **Welcome and Introduction**                      *Jennifer Anders, MD, FAAP*
- 12:30**      **Destination Matters: Pediatric ED Readiness Saves Lives**  
*Jennifer Anders MD FAAP                      MIEMSS EMSC*
- 12:50**                      ***Pediatric Interesting Article # 1 & # 2***
- 13:10**      **Measuring the Impact of EMS identification of Pediatric Sepsis**  
*Jack Christian, MS2, EMT-B                      Johns Hopkins University*
- 13:30**                      ***Pediatric Interesting Article # 3 & # 4***
- 13:50**      **Utilization of Prehospital Ultrasound to Improve Pediatric Care**  
*Steve White, MD                      Dorchester County EMS Medical Director*  
*MIEMSS Region IV Pediatric EMS Medical Director*
- 14:10**                      ***Pediatric Interesting Article # 5 & # 6***
- 14:30**      **Recent Research: Cervical Spine Assessment for Pediatric Patients**  
*Caleb Ward, MBB Ch, Children's National Hospital*
- 14:50**      **Concluding Remarks**                      *Jennifer Anders, MD, FAAP*
- 15:00**      **Feedback and Safe Travels**
- All are welcome to join us at MIEMSS in the Conference rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.  
**Required RSVP** to [pepp@miemss.org](mailto:pepp@miemss.org) to attend in person & join networking.

**Virtual access through Go To Meeting:**

[https://meet.goto.com/CynthiaWrightJohnson/maryland\\_emsc\\_november\\_research\\_forum](https://meet.goto.com/CynthiaWrightJohnson/maryland_emsc_november_research_forum)

For Additional Information please contact the EMSC Office @ 410-706-1758

**Save The Date: Wednesday November 5, 2025 (19<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum!)**

*R ADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER*

## Stop the Bleed Integrated into Carroll County High School Health 3 Curriculum

IN OCTOBER 2024, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center (RACSTC) provided education and curriculum support to introduce Stop the Bleed into the Carroll County High School Health 3 curriculum. RACSTC provided training limbs to be used at all high schools and will help incorporate each school into the curriculum over the next few months. This is an exciting step in the mission of expanding Stop the Bleed into high school curriculums statewide.



### Shock Trauma GO-TEAM

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

### Keeping Steady with Fall Prevention

Falls are a leading cause of death and disability in the United States. They may result in only minor bumps and bruises, but falls can also cause broken bones or injuries to the head and spine. A severe fall could result in a long hospital stay or even death, making fall prevention critically important.

Because falls are more common and more likely to be serious in our later years, the number of hospital admissions for injuries associated with falls is increasing as the population ages. In fact, falls are the leading cause of patients arriving at Shock Trauma.

Through our monthly class, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center (RACSTC) is committed to arming community members with the knowledge and resources needed for fall prevention. Fall prevention classes are offered on-site at Shock Trauma as well as in locations throughout our community. Classes teach how to avoid falls to those at risk of a serious fall and provide instruction to the caregivers and families of those at risk.

RACSTC works with the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation to offer a wealth of educational materials aimed at reducing falls and preventing traumatic injuries. Held in room T1R15 on the first floor of Shock

Trauma at noon on the first Friday of every month, our “Fall Prevention Class for Caregivers and Families” teaches attendees the essentials of fall prevention and offers tips for talking to their doctor, strategies for home modification, exercises, and more. You also can request a free course, which

we'll bring to your community, facility, group or organization. For more information about fall prevention, please visit <https://www.thinkfirst.org/falls-safety> or call 410-328-2035.

### Stop the Bleed

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.

Contact [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 an upcoming Train the Trainer class:

- **11/4/24:** *Baltimore City Health and PE Teachers*, Baltimore, MD, 1230-1500
- **11/4/24:** *Baltimore County Public Library – Arbutus Branch*, Arbutus, MD, 1830-1930
- **11/6/24:** *Public Class*, T1S11, 1000-1100
- **11/7/24:** *Baltimore County Public Library – Pikesville Branch*, Baltimore, MD, 1830-1930
- **11/11/24:** *Carroll County Public Schools – Sykesville Middle School*, Sykesville, MD, 1500-1700
- **11/12/24:** *Carroll County Public Schools – Carroll Career and Tech Center*, Westminster, MD, 1400-1530
- **11/12/24:** *Baltimore County Public Library – Woodlawn Branch*, Baltimore, MD, 1700-1800
- **11/13/24:** *UMM Philanthropy*, PPLC Room 4, 1030-1200
- **11/13/24:** *Carroll County Public Class – Exploration Commons*, Westminster, MD, 1600-1700
- **11/19/24:** *UMMS CNA Students*, PPLC Room 4, 1400-1500

See *RACSTC* page 12



*EMS FOR CHILDREN*

## Safe Sleep and SIDS Awareness Month

SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE hosted a Safe Sleep Summit October 18-19, 2024, in Baltimore, bringing together multidisciplinary partners from academic research programs, manufacturers, healthcare professionals, and community advocates as part of Safe Sleep and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month. This and other initiatives, including community education events, open houses during Fire Prevention Week, social media, and print and radio interviews, delivered targeted outreach focused on educating families and caretakers of infants under 1 year of age.

Over the past three years, Maryland EMSC and the Family Advisory Network council have distributed over 49 Safe Sleep displays to Pediatric EMS Champions, Safe Kids Coalition and Community Partners, and Maryland ENA Chapters. These displays include Maryland-specific data on SIDS and sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) occurrence and demonstrate a “safe sleep environment” to deliver the same message to everyone involved in an infant’s care: Safe Sleep = ABC.

■ **Alone:** Keep baby’s sleep area separate from your own sleep area in the same room where you sleep. Room-sharing is known to reduce the risk of SUID and SIDS. Bed-sharing, couch-sharing, and arm chair-sharing when both adult and infant are asleep create high risk for SUID, which may result from suffocation, entrapment, overlay, wedging, or strangulation.

■ **Back** (or “supine”, in EMS lingo): Ensure the infant sleeps on their back for every nap and every night. This position protects their airway; babies



are able to clear fluids when they are on their backs, when the trachea lies on top of the esophagus.

■ **Crib** (*firm, flat, fitted, and empty*): All of the following items are safe if they meet current Consumer Product Safety Standards (CPSS): crib, bassinet, portable crib (“pack n play”, and, when needed, a strong box that is not in the way of foot traffic, or a drawer removed from a dresser and situated in a cleared area of the floor. The key is:

- ❑ **Firm:** mattress with tightly fitted sheet.
- ❑ **Flat:** no pillows, blankets, toys.
- ❑ **Empty:** nothing in the “crib” other than the infant, sleep sack, and pacifier.

Each of the Maryland EMSC Safe Kids display kits includes a portable crib (life-size or toy-size), infant doll, metal display signs with stands, and handouts to be copied. The handouts include talking points from Safe Kids

Worldwide, recent Maryland Department of Health data, National Institutes of Health Safe to Sleep campaign infographics, and checklists for the home environment. Many of the displays also contain examples of what is safe and what is not safe to put into a crib with an infant (i.e., no toys, bumpers, hats, blankets or bottles).

If you have a Safe Sleep display and used it in October (or at any time), please let Maryland EMSC know by completing a short event form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5fa69e235c4675a2989c18ebd299c0>, or scan the QR code below. ■





## MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM

# MDERS Supports MoCo Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Exercise Series

**INTERDISCIPLINARY COORDINATION** is paramount to position a jurisdiction to effectively mitigate, plan, respond to, and recover from various emergencies. As a pivotal cog in this process, the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) has organized a series of exercises to evaluate Montgomery County agencies and departments' ability to cohesively fulfill their responsibilities during disasters. To support this initiative, the Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System (MDERS) has assisted OEMHS in the creation and implementation of this exercise series. The proactive steps from Montgomery County leadership and OEMHS, with the support from MDERS, will enhance the jurisdiction's ability to collectively manage emergencies.

To prepare for emergencies, it is critical for localities to continuously evaluate their ability to effectuate the identified requirements in their plans, policies, and procedures. As the complexity of a disaster expands, it requires more departments to assume an active role in response efforts. The convergence of these distinct departments demands a high-level of coordination to identify individual and shared responsibilities in disaster situations. OEMHS convened Montgomery County's Emergency Management Group (EMG) to examine their plans, identify corrective actions, and clearly delineate responsibilities during emergencies.

To begin the exercise series, rep-



[Photo: MDERS]

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**AS THE COMPLEXITY**  
*of a disaster expands,*  
*it requires more*  
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*an active role in*  
*response efforts.*

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representatives from OEMHS hosted a summit in August that provided general information about emergency management to department representatives. The summit transitioned into a workshop setting with departments outlining their expected actions during different emergency scenarios. This discussion provided a foundation for departments to understand the unique roles their peers have within the County.

The next phase of the exercise series was a Senior Policy Group (SPG) workshop. The SPG is responsible for macrolevel decisions that deal with life safety, government operations, funding, and legal issues. This group is comprised of agency leadership from the following departments:

- Office of the County Executive
- Office of the County Attorney
- Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Fire and Rescue Service
- Department of General Services
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Permitting Services
- Department of Police
- Office of Public Information
- Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions

See *MDERS* page 12



Asking whether my patient had been pregnant in the last year may have helped save her life.

Life-threatening complications can happen up to a year after pregnancy. Most pregnancy-related deaths are preventable.

**Ask whether your patient is pregnant or was pregnant in the last year.**

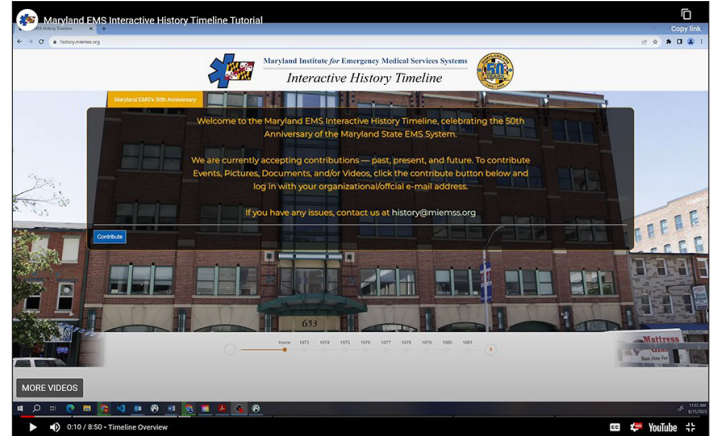
Connect her to the care she needs right away.



Learn more at [cdc.gov/HearHer](https://cdc.gov/HearHer)



## Be a Part of Maryland EMS History



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



## Making a Difference Together

**Oct. 7 - Dec. 13, 2024**

[mcc.maryland.gov](https://mcc.maryland.gov)

THE MARYLAND CHARITY CAMPAIGN (MCC) is more than a charitable giving campaign – it's the collective effort of thousands of individuals who give back and inspire hope in communities near and far. When we give together, we succeed together. When we combine our generosity, we bring hope to those who need it most. Thanks to the collective generosity of Maryland State Employees and Retirees who donated through the 2023 MCC, nearly \$2 million has been helping charities this year.

Join us October 7 – December 13, 2024, to continue Making a Difference Together! ■



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.*

### Be the Make a Plan Driver

This holiday season don't push your luck. Whether you're enjoying drinks at the bar or a night out with friends, remember that impaired driving is never the right choice.

Be the MAKE A PLAN Driver and ensure your ride home is planned *before* you drink. Never allow friends or family to drive if they have been using alcohol or drugs.

Visit [ZeroDeathsMD.gov/Impaired](https://ZeroDeathsMD.gov/Impaired) for more information and resources on keeping yourself and others safe on the road.



### Emphasis Area Team Meetings

Looking to become more involved in local road safety? MHSO welcomes participation from the EMS community for all emphasis areas. Mark your calendar for the upcoming meetings:

- **Speed & Aggressive Driving:** November 21, 2024 (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- **Impaired Driving:** November 19, 2024 (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- **Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety:** December 12, 2024 (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Visit [zerodeathsmd.gov/events](https://zerodeathsmd.gov/events) for more info.

### Travel Safely this Holiday Season

Vehicle travel is a hallmark of the holiday season. Preparing in advance of travel plans and ensuring you are prepared for potential roadside emergencies is critical to ensuring that you and your loved ones reach your destination — and return home safely.

#### Before Departure:

- **Have your vehicle serviced.** Have a mechanic check and top off vehicle fluids, check tires, and investigate potential vehicle concerns.
- **Prepare a vehicle emergency supply kit.** Include a properly serviced and inflated spare tire, jumper cables, a multi-purpose tool, flashlight with batteries, reflective triangle/road flares, reflective vest, first aid kit, non-perishable snacks and water.

#### During Travel:

- **Ensure all passengers are safely secured in seat belts or car seats.** In a crash, your seat belt is your first, and best, line of defense.
- **Obey posted speed limits and local traffic laws.** Speeding and aggressive driving will not save you significant time, but they can put your safety in jeopardy *and* cost you hefty fines.
- **Drive only if you are alert.** Driving long distances can cause fatigue. It's best to split lengthy drives with a companion, but also to make regular stops. Avoid driving tired — if you're struggling to stay awake, stop in a safe location and sleep.



## EASTON...

*(Continued from page 1)*

care,” said Moore. “We will not stop until that future is a reality for the 456,000 Marylanders who call the Shore home – and the millions more who live all across our state. Together, we will leave no one behind.”

A member organization of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), UM SRH includes

UM Shore Medical Center at Chestertown; UM Shore Medical Center at Easton; UM Shore Emergency Center at Cambridge; UM Shore Emergency Center at Queenstown; and outpatient care facilities and services located throughout Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties.

The new UM Shore Regional Medical Center, designed to replace

the current hospital in Easton, will provide greater access to hospital services for residents of Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties. In partnership with UMMS, it will serve as a vital asset to recruit and retain physicians, advanced practice professionals, and the clinical and support staff needed to provide high-quality, clinically advanced medical care to the Eastern Shore.

“Expanding access to healthcare across our 2,000 square-mile region – with the goal of providing the ‘right care at the right place at right time’ – has required us to think of innovative ways for transforming rural health care,” said Kozel. “Our medical pavilions, freestanding emergency care centers, and programs designed to achieve equity in health care access for our diverse communities have enabled us to dramatically expand access to preventive care and chronic disease management outside the walls of the hospital.”

“Our System and UM Shore Regional Health together have pioneered innovative solutions for the challenges of rural health care and we look forward to the new Regional Medical Center opening to continue meeting the needs of residents across the region,” said Suntha. “Health care has come a long way since Emergency Hospital opened its doors in 1907, in Easton, and 117 years later we are committed to giving residents of the region served by Shore Regional Health the state-of-the-art hospital that they deserve.”

Learn more about the new UM Shore Regional Medical Center at <https://www.umms.org/shore/news/2024/um-shore-regional-medical-center-groundbreaking>. ■

## DRONES...

*(Continued from page 1)*

to improve transportation efficiency and safety.

The program is structured in two stages. Applicants first seek Stage 1 planning and prototyping grants. Select projects are then eligible to apply for Stage 2 implementation grants. Stage 1 grants are capped at \$2 million and an 18-month period and Stage 2 grants are anticipated to be up to \$15 million and 36 months.

The Maryland Department of Planning will serve as the grant manager; the University of Maryland UAS Research and Operations Center will serve as project manager and technical lead; and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Aviation Science Program and School of Pharmacy will be partners in the project.

“The UMD UAS Research and Operations Center looks forward to

using drones to improve health outcomes,” said UAS Research and Operations Center Director John Slaughter. “Pioneering the use of UAS for medical deliveries in Maryland, we will set the stage for expansion as new FAA rules come into place that

will facilitate regionalizing these services not only within the state but even across state lines.”

A commercial drone services provider will be selected to participate in all aspects of technical preparation, to obtain necessary Federal Aviation Administration per-

missions, and to perform flight operations. A local health care provider will assist in coordinating the medical and pharmaceutical delivery support. Preliminary work, including outreach to Smith Island residents and procurement of drones, is now underway.

Information on applying for USDOT SMART grants is available at [transportation.gov/grants/SMART](https://transportation.gov/grants/SMART). ■

**UNCREWED AIRCRAFT**  
*systems help reduce the hours that healthcare provider staff absorb by travel to ensure that homebound patients are served.*

## 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:

■ **Winter Driving Tips** (November 11, 2024 – February 14, 2025). Driving safely in winter weather takes extra precaution. Share information about snow plows, emergency supply kits and tires, and remind drivers of the importance of being prepared in case of an emergency. Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/vehicle-safety>

■ **Thanksgiving: Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.** (November 23 – December 1, 2024). Use these resources to bolster your seat belt safety messaging during the Thanksgiving holiday. Many assets are available in English and Spanish. Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/seat-belt-safety/buckle-every-trip-every-time>

■ **Pre-Holidays Campaign: Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving** (December 1 – 10, 2024). Relevant, timely, and seasonal messaging can help boost your traffic safety communication efforts. These themed materials encourage people to not get behind the wheel after drinking and to plan for a safe, sober ride home. Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/pre-holidays-winter>

■ **Pre-Holidays Campaign: If You Feel Different, You Drive Different**



**Drug-Impaired Driving** (December 1 – 10, 2024). Relevant, timely messaging is an important addition to any communication plan, as it creates an opportunity for engagement with the community. These themed materials remind drivers that “If You Feel Different, You Drive Different”, and that it’s dangerous and illegal to drive impaired. Download materials: [https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/drug-impaired-driving/if-you-feel-different-you-drive-differ-](https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/drug-impaired-driving/if-you-feel-different-you-drive-differ-ent/pre-holidays-winter)

[ent/pre-holidays-winter](https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/older-driver-safety)

■ **Older Driver Safety Awareness Week** (December 2 – 6, 2024). Older drivers face unique safety concerns including vision, reflexes, and physical fitness. This campaign offers materials to help guide the discussion with older drivers, and children and caregivers of aging adults. Download materials: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/older-driver-safety>. ■

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

## MDERS...

*(Continued from page 7)*

### ■ Department of Transportation

The workshop engaged representatives to progressively navigate the County's response effort to a tornado that caused tremendous devastation. The scenario necessitated a large-scale response with the SPG collectively discussing logistics and supply-chain management, operational communications, operational coordination, and public information and warning. The workshop was well received by all participants as the SPG continues to evolve and adapt to the threats Montgomery County may encounter.

MDERS staff were vital in the creation and execution of the SPG workshop. Deputy Director Hannah Thomas and Emergency Response Specialist Katie Weber jointly created

the scenario with OEMHS Emergency Management Specialist Zachary Estess. Additionally, Deputy Director Thomas served as a co-facilitator during the workshop, Specialist Weber served as the logistics lead for the workshop, and Senior Emergency Response Specialist Peter McCullough served as the evaluation lead.

The exercise series will continue to test the response efforts of the Montgomery County EMG through additional discussion and operations-based exercises. MDERS will continue to collaborate with OEMHS throughout this process to enhance the cohesive emergency preparedness of Montgomery County. ■

## RACSTC...

*(Continued from page 5)*

■ **11/20/24:** *Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency*, Fort Meade, MD, 0930-1030

■ **11/20/24:** *Public Class*, T1S11, 1300-1400

For further information contact Rachel Itzoe, NREMT, at [rachel.itzoe@umm.edu](mailto:rachel.itzoe@umm.edu) or Katie Myers, EMT-B, at [kmeyers@umm.edu](mailto:kmeyers@umm.edu). ■

### Maryland EMS News

MIEMSS

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Honoring the lives of  
Marylanders killed in crashes

**TO HONOR THE MORE THAN 550 LIVES LOST** each year in preventable crashes, the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office will host its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Maryland Remembers event on Sunday, November 17, 2024 – World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Family and friends of loved ones killed are invited to attend the free event, which begins at 4:00 p.m. at The Westin Annapolis, 100 Westgate Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401. Register at <https://zerodeathsmd.gov/maryland-remembers/>, or scan the QR code at right.

