

EMS Week around the State: Caring Is What We Do Best

Maryland's 27,000 prehospital care providers are honored for their lifesaving work each year during EMS Week. The theme of the September 1987 observance was "Maryland EMS System: Caring Is What We Do Best."

Governor William Donald Schaefer proclaimed September 20-26 as Emergency Medical Services Week. Many county governing units also issued proclamations in honor of local EMS agencies and their service to their communities.

To increase the public's awareness of local EMS resources and their role in the statewide emergency system, various events sponsored by MIEMSS, regional councils, fire and rescue units, hospitals, and associations were held throughout the regions.

Region I

Thirteen agencies representing different aspects of emergency medical services in Region I participated in an exhibit at the Country Club Mall on September 12. Various types of ambulances were displayed; the winter rescue team described its EMS roles; Cumberland Memorial Hospital, the trauma center for the region, presented information about its capabilities; the poison control center for Sacred Heart Hospital offered public educational materials; and Frostburg Hospital personnel conducted health screenings.

Five-hundred students in the region witnessed the jolt of a 7-mph impact, as simulated by the Department of Transportation (DOT) seat belt Convincer. Al



The Thumper was demonstrated on a manikin at Region III's EMS Awareness Day.



The DNR hovercraft, exhibited during Region III's observance of EMS Week, now provides EMS services on the waterways near Baltimore and Annapolis.



Maryland EMS NEWS

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Ward, a CRT in the City of Cumberland Fire Department and a member of the Region I EMS Council, took the Convincer to eight schools during the week to emphasize the value of wearing a seat belt while riding in an automobile.

The Region I EMS Council hosted a dinner for the western Maryland delegation to the General Assembly and the county commissioners of Garrett and Allegany counties on September 21. This event provided the opportunity for EMS officials to inform the elected representatives from the area of current emergency medical activities and issues of concern.

The EMS Council also developed five public service messages for broadcast on local radio stations. The messages pertained to the use of motorcycle helmets, safety concerns with all-terrain vehicles, and the benefits of wearing seat belts.

Region II

A 30-minute program entitled "The Golden Hour" was produced and aired by WHAG-TV in Hagerstown. The documentary/commentary focused on the importance of a statewide trauma system. Speakers included Dick Mettetal, Region II administrator; John Marsh, MD, Region II medical director; and Lorna Christian, RN, Washington County Hospital Trauma Coordinator.

An EMS Providers Conference on September 22, attended by 40 people, offered an enlightening and educational program on aspects of the state's EMS system. Representatives from MIEMSS, the region's hospitals, the Maryland State Police, the region's two central alarms, and local fire and rescue associations

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addressed the group. William E. Clark, MIEMSS director of field operations, gave the opening address for the conference. Gene Bidun, MIEMSS director of communications, described the state-wide communications system that has been established in Maryland. The conference concluded with a presentation by State EMS Director Ameen I. Ramzy, MD (MIEMSS) advocating a "new agenda for trauma."

EMS Week displays at the Valley Mall in Hagerstown included information, equipment, and a mock trauma room. Organizational displays were sponsored by the Emergency Nurses Association, Crime Scene Search Team, Community Rescue Service, Washington County Hazardous Incident Response Team, Washington County Air Unit, Dogs East Search and Rescue, American Red Cross, MIEMSS, Appalachian Search and Rescue Council, Civil Air Patrol, Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD), and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). The DOT seat belt Convincer was also demonstrated. Four ambulances, two rescue boats, and two minipumpers/special units were taken into the mall for display to the public; larger fire and rescue vehicles were positioned outside the building. Mock trauma victims from two scenarios were brought to the trauma room within the mall. In the first event, a moulaged patient was brought to the treatment area by ambulance. The medical procedures administered to trauma patients were described to the audience by Randy Sue Ellis, MD, the emergency department director of Washington



The medical treatment given to the victim of a mock shooting incident, narrated by Region III Administrator John Donohue, demonstrated prehospital care procedures.

County Hospital. In the second scenario, a vehicular accident was staged on the mall's parking lot. The response included a demonstration of communications protocols, extrication procedures, transport to the "trauma room" in the mall, and treatment administered in the receiving hospital.

Dick Mettetal spoke to about 70 students at Smithsburg High School during EMS Week. His presentation on the teamwork that creates Maryland's EMS system was well received.

Region III

EMS Awareness Day '87 was held September 26 at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore. The hovercraft purchased by

the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in August was displayed to the public; it is the only hovercraft in the nation that will be devoted to search and rescue missions and emergency medical services. This 35-foot craft, which hovers on an air cushion just above the water surface, can travel at 40 knots over water and can break through ice 10 inches thick at 12 to 14 knots. The British-made vehicle will be stationed at Sandy Point so as to have easy access to the waters near Annapolis and the Inner Harbor.

Organizations sponsoring displays at EMS Awareness Day were the American Red Cross, the American Trauma Society, the Mathias National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency

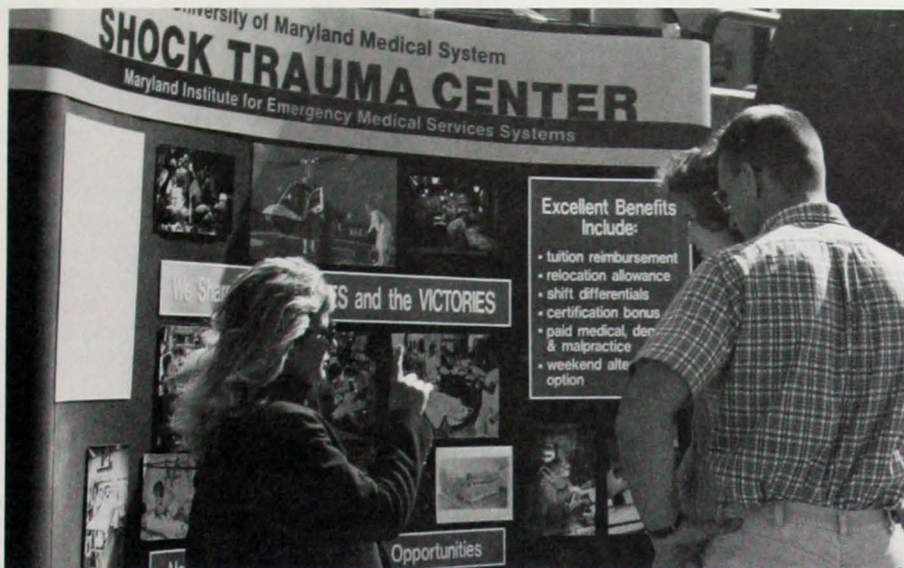
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Informational exhibits at the Valley Mall in Hagerstown during EMS Week included a booth sponsored by Dogs East, composed of search and rescue teams of dogs and their handlers.



The capabilities and confines of a MSP Med-Evac helicopter were of interest to many visitors at EMS Awareness Day.



Trish McCabe, MIEMSS nurse recruiter, described careers in nursing at the Shock Trauma Center during EMS Awareness Day.

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Medical Systems, MIEMSS, the Maryland chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and MIEMSS Nurse Recruitment. Balloons and Tommy Trauma coloring books (designed by the American Trauma Society) were distributed to children at the Inner Harbor displays. A medic unit and paramedic supervisor unit from Baltimore County, a medic unit from Baltimore City, and the Red Cross disaster response vehicle were stationed near the exhibit area and were open to visitors.

Two mock emergency responses, both with a public educational component about gaining access to the 9-1-1 system, were presented. One involved a heart attack and the use of CPR, and the other portrayed a shooting incident and the

procedures used to arrest bleeding.

Region IV

The Ocean City Paramedic Foundation sponsored a bike ride during Sun Fest '87. The 15 participants in the September 24th event raised \$2000, which will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore, a residence for families with children being treated for cancer.

The first ALS unit in Queen Anne County, Medic 19, was dedicated on September 22. The acquisition of this unit is the result of a cooperative effort between the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department and United Communities Fire Department, who have entered a mutual-aid agreement and pooled their cardiac



Children were enthusiastic about the balloons and coloring books distributed from information booths at the Inner Harbor.

rescue personnel to provide county ALS coverage.

Radio and television stations in the region aired public service announcements on using 9-1-1 and administering emergency care to victims of heart attacks. The *Daily Banner* in Cambridge published an article about the Dorchester County 9-1-1 Center.

Memorial Hospital at Easton and Kent and Queen Anne Hospital sponsored ads in local newspapers to thank prehospital care providers for their service to their communities.

Several fire and rescue companies sponsored open houses during EMS Week '87, offering tours of the facilities as well as blood pressure screenings.

On September 12, Peninsula General Hospital celebrated two anniversaries: the 90th year since the founding of the hospital and the 10th year since its designation as a trauma center. A full-day program encompassed a 5-kilometer health walk/run; informational booths from hospital departments and community groups; health screenings; and demonstrations by prehospital care providers on gaining access to 9-1-1, performing CPR, and helping a person who is choking. Activities for children included a "hands-on experience" with items such as stethoscopes, casts, and hospital gowns.

Following EMS Week, Dorchester General Hospital held its "healtharama." A MPS Med-Evac helicopter was flown to this event, and prehospital care providers described Med-Evac procedures.

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The Williamsport Volunteer Fire Department has acquired equipment to prepare them to respond to incidents on the Potomac River and other bodies of water in Washington County.

39 Honored at EMS Awards Banquet

Thirty-nine people were honored at a statewide EMS awards luncheon on September 23. All were instrumental in serving the emergency medical needs of their community and were recognized for their performance beyond the call of duty or for their years of dedicated service.

Recognized Achievements

Ameen Ramzy, MD, state EMS director and state medical director, presented them plaques. He noted that the EMS awards banquet "recognizes positive achievements. But it is in no way a compensation, for you cannot compensate people who do so much . . . It's not a compensation, but a brief moment to say 'thank you' and to give recognition." (Photos of Dr. Ramzy and the award recipients appear on pages 4-7.)

Shives Honored

Unable to attend the awards banquet and thus missing from the photos is Evonne Shives, a Howard County communications dispatcher. Dispatcher Shives gave step-by-step instructions to a 14-year-old girl and her younger brother, via the phone, to control the hemorrhaging of the children's mother before EMS personnel arrived.

Others honored who were not able to attend the awards banquet are noted in the photo captions.



Don Usher accepted a certificate of outstanding contribution on behalf of the U.S. Park Police for their cooperation and dedication in providing life-saving mutual-aid Med-Evac transports to the Maryland EMS system.



Raymond M. Curtis, MD, was applauded for foresight and leadership which led to the founding of the Raymond M. Curtis Hand Center at Union Memorial Hospital. Known throughout the world for its excellence, the Hand Center has had a significant impact on the state's civic and industrial communities by reducing the morbidity due to hand and extremity injuries and increasing the productivity of individuals with such injuries.



C. Kingsley Poole was recognized for his leadership and years of volunteer service in improving EMS in Washington County.



Phil Houck received a certificate of outstanding contribution on behalf of the Ocean City Paramedic Foundation, in recognition of its efforts to improve Ocean City EMS by raising funds for paramedic training and equipment.



(Left-right) Sgt. James Miller, Region V Medical Director Joseph Colella, MD, and Fire Chief M.H. (Jim) Estep were recognized for their contributions to the development and implementation of and their ongoing work in the Prince Georges County advanced life support program. Both Sgt. Miller and Chief Estep are with the Prince Georges County Fire Department.



An 18-year-veteran of the Baltimore County Fire Department, Harry L. Wallett was recognized for his dedicated work as EMS supervisor of field medic units, BLS training coordinator, EMT instructor, and CRT.



(Left-right) Emergency physicians Andrew Sumner, MD, Daniel Morhaim, MD, Robert Adkins, MD, and Peter Fahrney, MD. Dr. Sumner accepted a certificate of outstanding contribution on behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). Dr. Sumner is president of the ACEP's Maryland Chapter.



John M. Sheehan, of the Howard County Fire Department, worked under perilous conditions to successfully rescue a worker trapped in a cave-in.



William E. Hathaway has contributed to Maryland's EMS system for the past 13 years. Currently an emergency health services faculty member at UMBC and formerly a MIEMSS administrator, Mr. Hathaway was instrumental in the development of the present regional EMS system and of the statewide 911 access system and in the revision of the Good Samaritan Law.



Mrs. Helen Saylor Eaves accepted the certificate of outstanding contribution on behalf of her daughter, Mrs. Winona L. Crum. A firefighter and first responder, Mrs. Crum was thrown from a fire engine last April while responding to an automobile accident. A Frederick County resident, she was the first female firefighter in Maryland to lose her life in the line of duty.



When he saw a Waldorf Rescue Squad ambulance parked and on fire at the emergency department entrance of the Southern Maryland Hospital Center, Rick Cleveland quickly jumped into it and coasted it away from the emergency department entrance, thereby safeguarding hospital patients and staff.



The swift and efficient actions of TFC Louis J. (Jim) Bonneville were cited as saving the life of a victim trapped in an auto wreck in Frederick County.



Chief Martin LePore and Commander Donald Howell accepted a certificate of outstanding contribution on behalf of the Howard County Fire Department, which was honored for its outstanding EMS response to a mass-casualty incident on I-95 last June. Sixteen injured people were triaged, treated, and transported according to system protocols.



Chief Paul H. Reincke, chief of the Baltimore County Fire Department since 1975, has made major contributions to the Maryland EMS system, and the EMS division of his department is now considered the foremost in the nation.



The ambulance first lieutenant of the Kingsville Volunteer Fire Company, CRT Rosemary Chapman was recognized for her leadership and 11 years of service to the Baltimore County EMS system.



A dispatcher with Garrett Central Alarm, EMT Edward Livengood recently gave step-by-step instructions over the phone to 911 callers, which saved the lives of two children.



James Wilburn was recognized for his leadership in the development of the Department of Natural Resources Winter Rescue Team which serves Allegany/Garrett counties.



A 15-year-veteran of the Baltimore County Fire Department, Lt. Clifford L. Ritterpusch was honored for his years of service to EMS as a CRT, an EMT instructor, and a BLS training coordinator.



A U.S. postal letter carrier with the Cambridge post office, Joseph Turner, while on his postal route, noticed smoke coming from a house that caught fire and without hesitating rescued a child who was inside.



Capt. Richard Riley, a volunteer with Rescue Squad 27 (Morningside), risked his life to try to rescue a man trapped 25 feet underground in a 2- by 2-foot well.

“... the EMS award banquet recognizes positive achievement.”



Robert T. Adkins, MD, was recognized for his work as Region IV medical director and his leadership in the region's advanced life support program.



(Left-right) George Lander, CRT Paul Parish, EMT John Roby, and CRT Merel Chaney, Jr. (all of the City of Cumberland Fire Dept.) were honored for their life-saving actions in rescuing a seventh-grade student from the Allegany County Community College pool last April. (Missing from the photo is Edward Andrews, a teacher at Northern Garrett County Middle School.)



Nurse anaesthetist Norma Bowman-Bell and John Stene, MD, PhD, of the MIEMSS anesthesia department, provide supervision in the practice of endotracheal intubation to prehospital care providers in two paramedic training programs. Many other hospitals are now following their example.



CRT Charles Barton was recognized for his outstanding service and contributions to Ocean City EMS in training hundreds of citizens and prehospital care providers in emergency medical skills.



Thomas Reutershan, emergency coordinator of the U.S. Public Health Service, was honored for his support to the State of Maryland to enhance its ability to respond effectively as part of a nationwide network of hospitals and EMS providers to care for casualties of a catastrophic medical emergency.



Peter Fahrney, MD, was recognized for his leadership and contributions to EMS in Montgomery County and Region V.



A dispatcher with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department, Lt. Eric Reckner (shown here) and Firefighter-Paramedic David A. Hoy (missing from the photo), who is a "lifeline operator," were instrumental in the successful resuscitation of an 18-month-old girl who had nearly drowned.



Marge Epperson-SeBour was honored for her leadership and work in developing and implementing the statewide Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Program which helps to accelerate the recovery of people with symptoms of posttraumatic stress.



Cpl. Jeffrey LeDonne of the Maryland State Police was honored for his EMS work in Southern Maryland as aviation trauma technician, Med-Evac pilot, volunteer CRT, and moving force behind the development of Med-Evac Section 7 in Southern Maryland.



Gery and Bob Marrone accepted the certificate of outstanding contribution on behalf of their father, Dr. James "Jack" Marrone. Dr. Marrone, who died last July, was honored for his lifelong devotion to EMS development in Frederick County.

**“ . . . a brief moment to say ‘thank you’
and to give recognition.”**

Prehospital Care Data Linkage

Data linkage between prehospital care providers, the Maryland State Police, and emergency department (ED) and in-hospital records is being requested to provide valuable information about the EMS system and ultimately to deliver more effective care to vehicular trauma victims in Maryland.

Prehospital care data provided by

ambulance runsheets are already important in the emergency services rendered in the Maryland system, and are already linked with police accident reports. But at present, they are not linked with ED and in-hospital records.

The crucial link will be the preprinted number on the ambulance runsheet providing information about the vehicular accident victim. This number, in the lower right-hand corner in the "Comments" section, should be given to the investigating police officer for inclusion in the police accident (MAARS) report; it will also be included in the ED and in-hospital records. This number is unique — no other number but the preprinted number should be used for this purpose.

The cooperation of all prehospital care providers is requested for this linkage, which has been officially endorsed by MIEMSS, the Maryland Hospital Association, the American College of Emergency Physicians (Maryland chapter), and the Maryland State Police. Information made available through these data may eventually impact on education for prehospital, ED, and in-hospital personnel; quality of patient care rendered; vehicular and highway design; traffic patterns; and legislation pertaining to EMS.

EMS Week

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Region V


The seat belt Convincer was demonstrated at the Charles County Fair and the St. Mary's County Fair. Displays of EMS information and equipment were also presented at those two events.

Physicians Memorial Hospital, Suburban Hospital, AMI Doctors Hospital, Eugene Leland Memorial Hospital, and St. Mary's County Hospital offered open houses, displays on EMS, teddy bear clinics, and special programs.

Ambulance/rescue companies in Montgomery County gave away coloring books, presented slide/tape shows, and distributed a county information brochure. A special outreach was made with these materials to children, the elderly, and ethnic groups.

The Charles County EMS Association showed a film from the Traffic Accident and Trauma (TAT) program in county schools. The TAT Program for Parents was presented in Prince Georges County.

The Prince Georges County Fire Department continued its EMS outreach program of visiting civic associations to introduce EMS personnel and concepts and to encourage participation in CPR programs.



**4TH NATIONAL
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SYMPOSIUM**
The Neglected Disease

March 24 - 25, 1988
*Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems
Shock Trauma Center — Montebello Rehabilitation Hospital
University of Maryland at Baltimore*

"So you saved my life...What now?"
This increasingly frequent question from survivors of brain injury will be addressed at this national conference. An outstanding nationally recognized faculty of research and clinical experts will address recent research findings, innovative rehabilitation techniques, and medical, surgical, and psychological repercussions of head injury. Featured speakers include:

Leonard LaPointe, Ph.D.	Audrey Holland, Ph.D.
Roberta Chasen, Ph.D.	Mark Thibauer, M.A.
Ronald Rull, Ph.D.	Carlene Keating, Ph.D.

and more than fifty other prominent presenters from around the country.


The conference, located at the University of Maryland Medical School Teaching Facility, is sponsored by the Speech-Communication Disorders Program of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, a leader in the medical and rehabilitative care of trauma patients. In addition, the 1988 Shock Trauma Speech Communication Disorders Program Research Award will be presented.

For information on conference registration, transportation, and accommodations, call Andrew K. Gruen, CCC-SLP at (301) 328-6101 or write:

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SPEECH-COMMUNICATION DISORDERS PROGRAM
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