

Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Clinicians

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MIEMSS Promotes Influenza Vaccine for EMS Clinicians



▲ Dr. Ted Delbridge (left), MIEMSS Executive Director, administers the influenza vaccine to State EMS Medical Director Dr. Tim Chizmar.

WITH THE REGULAR INFLUENZA SEASON well underway and many states reporting an increasing number of COVID-19 infections, any and all preventive measures such as handwashing, social distancing, and the wearing of facemasks is critical to the collective efforts to inhibit the spread of both the novel coronavirus and the traditional flu and help stem the burden on our healthcare system.

Given the vital role Maryland’s EMS clinicians play on the front lines of the state’s health care system, MIEMSS has instituted a multipronged approach to

encouraging all clinicians to receive the annual influenza vaccine. These efforts thus far have included: a flu vaccine clinic hosted at MIEMSS headquarters on September 24, during which nearly a quarter of the MIEMSS staff were vaccinated; an ongoing messaging campaign on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram; and a digital survey of EMS clinicians designed to provide a better understanding of how many plan to be vaccinated, and why.

“While COVID-19 remains a persistent

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threat, so does the impending 2020-2021 influenza season,” said Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director. “Either illness, by itself, creates demands on the EMS and health care system. Overlapping, they could be overwhelming. MIEMSS encourages all EMS clinicians to receive the influenza vaccine.”

Although the flu vaccine is best received during the months of September and October, it is reasonable to receive the flu vaccine all the way until January. Despite some misconceptions, the flu vaccine cannot itself cause flu illness, as the virus it contains has either been inactivated or significantly weakened. Potential side effects are generally mild and short-lived, usually occurring soon after vaccination and lasting only a day or two, and even when

they do occur, the most common reactions to the vaccine are considerably less severe than the symptoms caused by the flu illness.

“Choosing to get sick with the flu rather than getting the flu vaccine is never the right answer,” said Delbridge, noting that the flu can cause serious complications especially among young children, older adults, and people with chronic health conditions, such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes. However, “any flu infection can carry a risk of serious complications, hospitalization, or death, even among otherwise healthy children and adults. Therefore, getting vaccinated is a safer choice than risking illness to obtain immune protection.”

Please follow MIEMSS on Facebook (@MarylandEMS), Twitter (@MarylandEMS), and Instagram (@maryland_ems) for the latest information on the response to influenza as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. ■

MIEMSS encourages all EMS clinicians to receive the influenza vaccine.

DR. TED DELBRIDGE
MIEMSS Executive Director



MIEMSS Presents Annual EMS Awards

MIEMSS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the recipients of the 2020 EMS awards. Normally presented at an in-person ceremony each May to coincide with EMS Week as well as EMS for Children Day, the annual Maryland Star of Life and Right Care When It Counts awards were presented in late September and early October, having been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's awards recognize actions taken between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019.

Nominated by peers or a member of the public, honorees were selected by a statewide committee of career, volunteer, and commercial EMS clinicians. Due to this year's extenuating circumstances, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge traversed the state to present the Star of Life and Right Care When It Counts awards, highlights from which will be featured in a compilation video made available to the public. During the presentations of the Right Care When It Counts Awards and EMS for Children Award, he was joined by Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics Dr. Jennifer Anders and Maryland EMS for Children Program Director Cynthia Wright-Johnson. EMS Board Chair Clay Stamp participated in the Maryland EMS Citizen Award presentation. MIEMSS congratulates this year's award recipients and salutes all of Maryland's outstanding EMS clinicians for their hard work and dedication.

■ SEAN POKOJ AND HALEY PUMPHREY | *THE MARYLAND EMS CITIZEN AWARD*



▲ Pictured from left: Sean Pokoj; Clay Stamp, Chair, EMS Board; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; nominator Paramedic Megan McLeod, Caroline County Department of Emergency Services; and Haley Pumphrey.

THE MARYLAND EMS CITIZEN AWARD recognizes citizen rescuers who have demonstrated quick thinking, fast action, and heroism. This year's recipients are **Sean Pokoj** and **Haley Pumphrey**.

On February 28, 2019, at approximately 19:00 hours, Mr. Pokoj and Ms. Pumphrey observed a vehicle on the side of Route 328 in Caroline County, as well as something sitting beside the road. The two good Samaritans turned around to see if the vehicle was in need of help.

However, when they did, the vehicle fled the scene. It was then that Mr. Pokoj and Ms. Pumphrey realized that

there was a little boy sitting on the side of the road. They called 9-1-1 and remained on scene, wrapping the little boy in a blanket and holding him in their warm car until police and EMS units arrived. During that time frame, the car returned, before fleeing for a second time, but not before Mr. Pokoj and Ms. Pumphrey were able to obtain vehicle identification to provide to the police. These two Maryland citizens were awarded for their actions in recognizing an emergency situation, stopping to assist, and contacting 9-1-1 which enabled a positive outcome to a dangerous situation. ■

Maryland EMS Awards...

■ EARLE (MARK) DUBEL | *THE LEON W. HAYES AWARD FOR LIFETIME EXCELLENCE IN EMS*



▲ Pictured from left: Anne Arundel County Fire Department Chief Trisha Wolford, Anne Arundel County Medical Director, Dr. John Wendell; Mark Dubel; and Dr. Ted Delbridge.

THE LEON W. HAYES AWARD FOR LIFETIME EXCELLENCE IN EMS honors an individual who has devoted a lifetime of dedication to excellence in patient care, compassion and respect for each patient, and commitment to continuous improvement of the Maryland EMS system through his/her professional and personal life. This year's recipient is retired **Anne Arundel County Fire Department Captain/Paramedic Earle (Mark) Dubel**.

Captain Dubel's public service career began in 1969, at the age of 16, as a volunteer for the Cape St. Claire Volunteer Fire Company in Anne Arundel County. On September 17, 1976, the Anne Arundel County Fire Department hired him as a member of Recruit Class #12. Through Captain Dubel's actions, leadership, and spirit, he has demonstrated a lifetime of commitment and dedication to the advancement of EMS that have characterized his combined 50-year career.

Captain Dubel consistently demonstrated a genuine interest in maintaining excellence in his profession. First becoming an EMT Ambulance clinician in 1976, he subsequently became a CRT in 1978, and achieved the level of Paramedic in 1987. Over the years, Captain Dubel has served on multiple committees, constantly growing his knowledge base by devoting countless hours of training, taking nearly 100 MFRI classes as shown on his three-page transcript. He continued to push forward training new clinicians by becoming an instructor – MFRI (1987), EMT – A (1988), and EMT – B (1996), as well as a CPR/ACLS instructor. He has been

and continues to be a mentor to countless clinicians throughout not only Anne Arundel County, but the entire state of Maryland.

During his career with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department, Captain Dubel advanced through the ranks, being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, in 1985, followed by Captain, in 2002, and he has been an EMS Supervisor for over 18 years. In his last assignment, as the Captain of EMS Quality Assurance and Improvement, Captain Dubel established and maintained a seamless working relationship with multiple jurisdictions and organizations, implemented multiple cutting-edge innovations for clinicians, and was pivotal in the Department's Rapid Sequence Intubation Pilot Program. Captain Dubel cultivated an industry-leading Quality Assurance and Improvement program for the Department that is revered by many.

Captain Dubel has always been an asset to his team, department, county, and the community which he so proudly served. His desire to serve without any expectation of honors or recognition clearly reflect his unselfish commitment to public safety and community service. He embodied the Anne Arundel County Fire Department's mission statement of committing to your safety through "excellence in service." Despite his retirement from the Department, Captain Dubel still says, "This is the best job in the world," and, "I'd do it all over again, if I could." Since retiring, he has continued to assist with instruction of EMT and CPR courses. ■

Maryland EMS Awards...

■ LEVI LITTLE | *THE MARYLAND STAR OF LIFE AWARD*



▲ Pictured from left: Dr. Ted Delbridge; FF/Paramedic Levi Little and his family (center); Chief Scott Goldstein, Fire Chief, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS); Chief Alan Butsch, Assistant Chief, MCFRS; Dr. Roger Stone, MCFRS Medical Director; along with personnel from Paramedic Little's shift at MCFRS Station 730 (Cabin John- Potomac).

THE MARYLAND STAR OF LIFE AWARD is given for an outstanding rescue under extreme circumstances. This year's recipient is **Firefighter/Paramedic Levi Little**.

On July 23, 2019, while off-duty, Paramedic Little was traveling with his family along the I-70 corridor through Washington County, Maryland, when they came upon a crash in which a tractor trailer had crossed the center media and come to rest on a guardrail on the westbound side of the interstate.

Paramedic Little pulled to side of the road and went to check on the truck's driver while his wife called 9-1-1, to notify authorities that her husband was checking the welfare of the driver.

Shortly after the Maryland State Police Hagerstown Barrack received the transfer call from the 9-1-1 center, off-duty Master Trooper Henry Doll arrived on the scene and reported that CPR was in progress. TFC J. Bussard also soon arrived on the scene to handle the crash investigation. Though their investigation, Bussard and Doll ascertained that, after stopping to see if the truck driver had been injured or was in need of an ambulance, Mr. Little had climbed the steps of the truck to find the truck's driver unconscious and not breathing. Taking immediate action, he entered the truck, freed the lifeless driver from his seat belt, pulled him from the cab, and laid him on the shoulder of the highway. Having

quickly determined that the driver was in full cardiac arrest, Mr. Little began administering CPR on the unresponsive driver, and continued to do so for approximately 10 minutes, when help arrived.

During ambulance transport, the driver's pulse was restored, and he arrived at the hospital breathing on his own. The victim has since made a full recovery. It was later revealed that the victim had suffered a rare cardiac episode, going into complete cardiac arrest while driving his tractor trailer. Within minutes of the truck crossing the median and crashing into the westbound guardrail, Paramedic Little was on the scene assessing the driver's condition and taking critical lifesaving measures. Through his willingness to render assistance regardless of his duty status, he was able to rescue the victim from the truck and administer CPR, undoubtedly saving the driver's life. Had Paramedic Little not stopped to render care, this incident very likely would have had a much different ending. ■

Maryland EMS Awards...

■ ASHLEIGH SHANNON-FLEMION | *THE EMS CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD*



▲ Pictured from left: President Craig Harman, Odenton Volunteer Fire Company; Ashleigh Shannon-Flemion, EMT, Odenton Volunteer Fire Company; and Dr. Ted Delbridge.

THE EMS CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD recognizes a clinician who has made outstanding contributions in the past year to the continuous improvement of emergency medical services in Maryland. This year's recipient is **EMT Ashleigh-Shannon-Flemion**.

Ms. Shannon-Flemion joined the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company (VFC) in May 2018, after completing the Emergency Medical Technician course at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC). She completed other required training courses, including Hazardous Materials Operations and Emergency Vehicle Operations, in order to be cleared as an ambulance aid and driver. She is currently enrolled in AACC's Paramedic Program.

Ms. Shannon-Flemion is a regular member of Odenton VFC's Saturday night ambulance crew. She also regularly serves extra duty nights to ensure that the ambulance is staffed and ready to meet her community's needs. In 2019, she responded on 218 emergency medical calls. Ms. Shannon-Flemion is one of Odenton VFC's most dependable members, and as an active EMT regularly helps out to ensure that the ambulance is fully stocked with the necessary medical supplies and ready for the next response.

Ms. Shannon-Flemion was selected as one of the Fire Company's mentors to work with new EMT candidates to get the required ride-alongs and patient assessments to complete their EMT course qualifications. She also serves as a preceptor for new EMTs who are working on their riding clearance process. Ms. Shannon-Flemion never fails to pitch in when a work assignment is required, and is one of the first to volunteer for special assignments. ■

Maryland EMS Awards...

■ BITTINGER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT | *THE OUTSTANDING EMS PROGRAM AWARD*



▲ Pictured from left: Dr. Ted Delbridge; Chief Justin Orendorf; Wayne Tiemersma, Garrett County Emergency Services Chief; and Alex Kelly, MIEMSS Associate Administrator, Regions I and II.

THE OUTSTANDING EMS PROGRAM AWARD recognizes a program affiliated with an EMS system component, such as a hospital, educational facility, rescue squad, or EMS organization, that offers an innovative approach to reducing death and disability. This year's recipient is the **Bittinger Volunteer Fire Department (VFD)**.

Established in 1973, Bittinger VFD serves the Bittinger community and surrounding areas in Garrett County. In the late-1990s, Bittinger VFD began providing first response for EMS in the form of EMRs and EMTs, utilizing a BLS-certified first response unit. In 2011, the Department certified its first ALS clinician. They upgraded their BLS unit to an ALS unit to provide advanced life support to the Bittinger community, comprised of a very large rural area covering approximately 70 square miles.

In late 2015, the Department voted to proceed with the purchase of an ambulance. Since being placed into service in February 2016, the Department's advanced life support ambulance has handled nearly 2,000 incidents, all with a small group of dedicated volunteers. Prior to this, the nearest ambulance to the community was 10-15 miles away, in a neighboring town. The nearest local hospital is 20 miles away and the nearest specialty center 45 miles away. The addition of Bittinger VFD's ambulance has drastically cut the response times to citizens of the surrounding community. This service proved critical in the successful resuscitation of a cardiac arrest victim in early 2019.

Since the launch of its ambulance service, Bittinger VFD has obtained crucial, much-needed equipment, such as a LUCAS device, an LP15 to replace the aging LP12, and a power load cot. In addition to the ambulance, the Department purchased a 2014 Ford Explorer, which also has been outfitted with ALS equipment. In late-2019, the Department replaced the aging, used ambulance it had purchased in 2016 with a brand-new ambulance. Largely through community support, the ambulance has become a huge asset to not only Bittinger but the entire county. ■

Maryland EMS Awards...

■ RAJAGOPALA RAO TRIPURANENI, MD | *THE MIEMSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD*



▲ Pictured from left: Dr. Tim Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director; nominator Linda Dousa; Dr. Rajagopala Rao Tripuraneni; nominator Bill Dousa; and Dr. Ted Delbridge.

THE MIEMSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD is presented for outstanding service and contributions to Maryland's EMS System. This year's recipient is **Rajagopala Rao Tripuraneni, MD**.

For 32 years, Dr. Rao, as he is affectionately known, led Harford County's EMS from a basic life support transport service to a modern advanced life support pre-hospital care system. He began his career at the University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital in the late-1970s, where he was one of the early physicians to specialize in emergency services and took a special interest in prehospital care.

In 1982, Dr. Rao met with the leaders of emergency medical services of the Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS Association to discuss formalizing the various aspects of prehospital care in Harford County. His assistance in developing and supporting the administrative guidelines for both the intravenous therapy program (EMT-IV) and the emergency medical technician – paramedic (EMT-P) functionalities enable Harford County to become the first all-volunteer county to function with EMT-Ps, starting in early 1989.

Dr. Rao formally became the first EMS Medical Director for Harford County in 1982, a position he held for the next 32

years. In addition to faithfully performing all of his duties and responsibilities as Medical Director, he frequently interfaced with EMS clinicians as they delivered patients to Harford Memorial Hospital, providing them with teaching points on the patients they transported. Dr. Rao also spent countless hours assisting in the administration of the EMS program, as well as attending Medical Advisory Board meetings and court cases involving EMS. In addition to his local duties, he also participated in the Region III EMS Council and Medical Director's Committee, and worked with all of the current and past State EMS Medical Directors.

In 2014, Dr. Rao formally turned over his position of Medical Director to now-State EMS Medical Director Dr. Timothy Chizmar. In June 2013, the Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS Association honored Dr. Rao with its prestigious Charlie Riley Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedicated service. Additionally when Dr. Rao retired from the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Hospital in January 2020, the Association presented him with a citation for guiding Harford County's EMS service from being a rudimentary patient transport to one that provides outstanding lifesaving pre-hospital care. ■

Maryland EMS Awards...

■ RICHARD LICHENSTEIN, MD | *THE MARYLAND EMS FOR CHILDREN AWARD*



▲ Pictured from left: Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Dr. Richard Lichenstein; Cynthia Wright-Johnson, Maryland EMS for Children Program Director; and Dr. Ted Delbridge.

THE MARYLAND EMS FOR CHILDREN AWARD is given for an adult or program that has demonstrated ongoing dedication and commitment to improving the care for children and for promoting family-centered care in a Maryland EMS program or hospital. This year's award recipient is **Richard Lichenstein, MD**.

Dr. Lichenstein is a passionate advocate and champion for the care of children in Maryland. Dr. Lichenstein's exemplary leadership and contributions are evident in his work not only in the Pediatric Emergency Department at the University of Maryland and at MIEMSS, but several statewide committees focused on injury prevention and quality of care for pediatric patients in the pre-hospital setting. He is a past president of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and remains chair of numerous committees for the chapter. He currently serves as the Chair of the State Child Fatality Team and has been an integral member of the multidisciplinary team for many years. Dr. Lichenstein is on the board of the interagency Partnership for a Safer Maryland and has served on the national AAP Council on Injury Violence and Poison Prevention. He helped to develop a Safe Teen Driving

Program in conjunction with Howard County Public Schools and continues to facilitate their countywide teen safe driver task force.

Dr. Lichenstein also has been a visible advocate for "safe sleeping" for babies in our state with his participation in the widely published Safe Sleep Videos. He participated in the initial development of computer based Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) training for residents at the University of Maryland, served as a medical director for the EMS Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) Courses since 2000, and faculty for the physician APLS courses since 2014. He has taught pediatric emergency care in every EMS region in Maryland over the past two decades and often speaks at physician and nursing conferences.

Dr. Lichenstein has published his research on pedestrian injuries related to use of headphones, technology use in prevention education, pediatric emergency care, and co-authored with AAP, Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN). Dr. Richard Lichenstein continues to make outstanding contributions to the care of children in Maryland. ■

The Right Care When It Counts Awards

FOR 17 YEARS, the Maryland EMS for Children Program has recognized children and youth from across Maryland who have learned about prevention and how to act when they see someone in need of help. This year, four young heroes received Right Care When It Counts awards for bravely taking action to help someone in need.

■ PHOEBE PRESTON



DESPITE BEING BITTEN during a dog attack, 12-year-old Queen Anne's County resident **Phoebe Preston** remained calm and contacted 9-1-1. Phoebe provided the dispatcher with all of the required information and listened to their instructions, remaining on the phone until the EMS clinicians arrived. Both the Emergency Medicine Dispatcher and the EMS team that provided care and transport for Phoebe were very impressed with her composure, ensuring that she received the emergency care she needed. Phoebe received her award for "making the right call" to 9-1-1 and for remaining calm and in control. ■

◀ Pictured from left: Dr. Jennifer Anders; Phoebe Preston; Cynthia Wright-Johnson; and Dr. Ted Delbridge.

■ BRYCEN RITCHIE

ON FEBRUARY 27, 2019, 13-year-old **Brycen Ritchie** was eating lunch with some of his band friends in the cafeteria of Fort Hill High School in Cumberland, Maryland, in Allegany County. Brycen and his friends had been practicing for the next evening's All-County Honor Band Concert. They had almost finished eating when Brycen noticed that his friend seated across from him began choking, turning colors, and gasping for air. Recognizing what was happening; Brycen stood up, walked around the table, and performed an abdominal thrust on his friend. His quick action forced the airway obstruction – a Fruit Roll-Up® - from his friend's mouth. Brycen is a Junior Firefighter at Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company in Allegany County. Thanks to a CPR class he had taken at Goodwill, two years earlier, Brycen was able to save his friend by applying this lifesaving technique. ■



▲ Pictured from left: Dr. Jennifer Anders; Jennifer Ritchie; Brycen Ritchie; Liam, his friend; Chief Bobby Ritchie; Dr. Ted Delbridge; and Cynthia Wright-Johnson.

The Right Care When It Counts Awards

■ SETH TAYMAN

SALISBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT CADET

Seth Tayman had been riding on calls with Salisbury Fire Department when they were called to respond for a heroin overdose. The experience of witnessing the effects of Narcan® firsthand convinced 16-year-old Seth of how more widespread training in the use of Narcan® could benefit his community. When Seth expressed interest in creating a program for educating faculty at Parkside High School, where he is enrolled in the health occupations program in the school's career and vocational technical program, in the use of Narcan®, his teacher encouraged him to take the initiative.

Seth's subsequent research into existing public access Narcan® education programs led him to Peninsula Regional Medical Center Pharmacist Dr. Patrick Dougherty and Jessica Taylor of the Wicomico County Health Department. Seth further honed his plan by enrolling in a Narcan® training himself. Ultimately, through the assistance of Dougherty and Taylor, as well as that of Parkside High School's



▲ Pictured from left: Dr. Jennifer Anders; Seth Tayman; Cynthia Wright-Johnson; and Dr. Ted Delbridge.

Wicomico Goes Purple advisors Danielle Amey and Allison Zaczkwicz, the school designated January 21, 2020, a professional development day for teachers, with 17 teachers attending the debut Narcan® staff training.

"It was an amazing experience," Seth said of the fruits of his efforts. "I really appreciate how willing all of these

amazing people were to help me get this set up. But it's just the beginning – I intend on trying to reach more teachers in the area and getting them trained within the next few months." Seth received his award for taking the initiative to develop this training program to ensure teachers are prepared to provide the Right Care When It Counts. ■

■ CAROLINE HAZUDA



▲ Pictured from left: Scott Haas, Director, Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services; Kevin Brenner of Keep the Beat CPR; Dr. Jennifer Anders; Caroline Hazuda; Lori Morris, Assistant Chief Special Operations, Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services; Dr. Joseph Ciotola, Queen Anne's County Health Officer and Department of Emergency Services Medical Director; Dr. Ted Delbridge; and Cynthia Wright-Johnson.

CAROLINE HAZUDA literally holds a special place in the hearts of the residents of Centreville, Maryland, thanks to her fundraising efforts. During her senior year in high school, Caroline pursued her Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest rank in Girl Scouting. She raised funds to purchase and install two automated external defibrillator (AEDs). This project was called "The Centreville Heartbeat Initiative" and the locations were selected based upon their seven-day-a-week programming with participants of all ages. On March 17, 2019, Caroline presented Queen Anne's County with the two AEDs that were placed at White Marsh Park and St. Paul's Church. The Gold Award service project also requires an educational component so Caroline organized a Friends and Family CPR workshop for both locations. Through Caroline's fund raising efforts and CPR workshop, Centreville is now better prepared in case of a cardiac emergency. ■

Dr. Pamela B. doCarmo, 50-Year Member of LVRS, Passes Away

DR. PAMELA B. doCarmo, a 50-year member of the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS), recently passed away. Pam became one of the first EMT instructors in Maryland in 1969, just before joining the LVRS in 1970. In 1972, she taught the Squad's first class of EMTs, successfully graduating 38 members. Pam enjoyed teaching EMTs and paramedics, as well as volunteering. She received her National Registry EMT in 1982. She was a trendsetter for women, in what was a male dominated fire service. She, along with a small band of women, were the first women to serve overnight duty. Previously women had to leave the building at 2300 hours. She wrote two textbooks "First Aid Principles and Practices" and one on basic skills for the EMT. She was also an associate professor of EMS technology at Northern Virginia Community College where she taught EMT and paramedic students from across the Mid-Atlantic region.

"Dr. Pam" as she was known, held many positions over the years and served as LVRS treasurer from 1998 until 2018. She was voted a life member of LVRS in 1990, having served a total of 3,792 calls. In May 2008, Pam received the



▲ Dr. Pamela B. doCarmo (center), is pictured with Dr. Robert Bass, former MIEMSS Executive Director (left) and Donald L. DeVries, former EMS Board Chair, during the 2008 EMS Award ceremony when receiving the Leon. W. Hayes Award.

MIEMSS Star of Life Leon W. Hayes Award for Lifetime Excellence in EMS. She was recognized for devoting a lifetime of compassion and dedication to patient care as well as her commitment to continuous improvement of the Maryland EMS system. Her encouraging smile and

occasionally a gentle push to stand up and take leadership roles will be missed by many in Laurel and in Prince George's county. Three generations of women in EMS and Fire at LVRS credit Pam for their own decisions to advance in public safety career and volunteer service. ■

Dr. Todd Recognized as Outstanding Rural Health Volunteer



WILLIAM TODD, MD, EMS Medical Director for Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Counties, recently received the Outstanding Rural Health Volunteer Award from the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) during their virtual Maryland Rural Health Conference. MRHA, a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and advocate for the optimal health and wellness of rural communities and their residents, is comprised of members from local health departments, hospitals, community health centers, area health education centers, health professionals, nonprofits, and community members throughout Maryland.

Dr. Todd was recognized for his unique role within the State of Maryland

as a jurisdictional medical director, as he serves three separate EMS jurisdictions without financial compensation. The three lower counties of Maryland Eastern Shore have long been among the State's most medically underserved and have relied heavily on the emergency medical services system for access to health care. Through Dr. Todd's selfless service to the community, these services have been provided to the community. He has dedicated his time and energy to ensuring this vital medical service is available in all three counties. Dr. Todd's efforts have meant the difference between life and death for countless residents and visitors stricken with a critical injury or illness on the Lower Eastern Shore. ■

MARYLAND HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

~ *Be the Driver who saves lives!* ~

MDOT MVA'S HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE launched an overarching safety campaign called Be the Driver. It will address areas of highway safety concerns as Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), including Occupant Protection, Aggressive Driving, Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, Motorcycle Safety, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety, and will focus on the common contributing factors of fatal crashes.



BOYCOTT BLACKOUT WEDNESDAY

(impaired driving prevention)

November 25, 2020

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/boycott-blackout-wednesday> to get your campaign materials



2020 PRE-HOLIDAY SEASON IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION

November 30 - December 15, 2020

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/pre-holiday-season> to get your campaign materials

GENERAL

EVERYONE SA PEDESTRIAN

**A TRAFFIC-RELATED
PEDESTRIAN DEATH
OCCURS EVERY 84 MINUTES.**



October was National Pedestrian Safety Month. Maryland agencies celebrated "Walktober" with a Series of "Walktober Walkinars". The Maryland Department of Transportation, in coordination with several state agencies and other partners, sponsored a series of webinars, or Walkinars. Panelists identified key resources to build and sustain partnerships and share new technologies used across the country to identify and plan for pedestrian-accessible routes.

- **Walkinar #1: *What Can We Do to Advance Walking and Walkability?***
- **Walkinar #2: *Pedestrian Infrastructure, Safety and Health***
- **Walkinar #3: *New Trends and Technologies to Support Walkability and Walking***
- **Walkinar #4: *Maryland Community Walk Initiatives: "Walking the Walk of Maryland's Pedestrian Agenda"***

These were recorded and may be found at:

<http://smartgrowth.org/maryland-celebrates-walk-month-with-a-series-of-walktober-walkinars/>

Prevent a Turkey Fryer Fire



Did you know?

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.

When you fry foods, you increase the risk of a cooking fire.

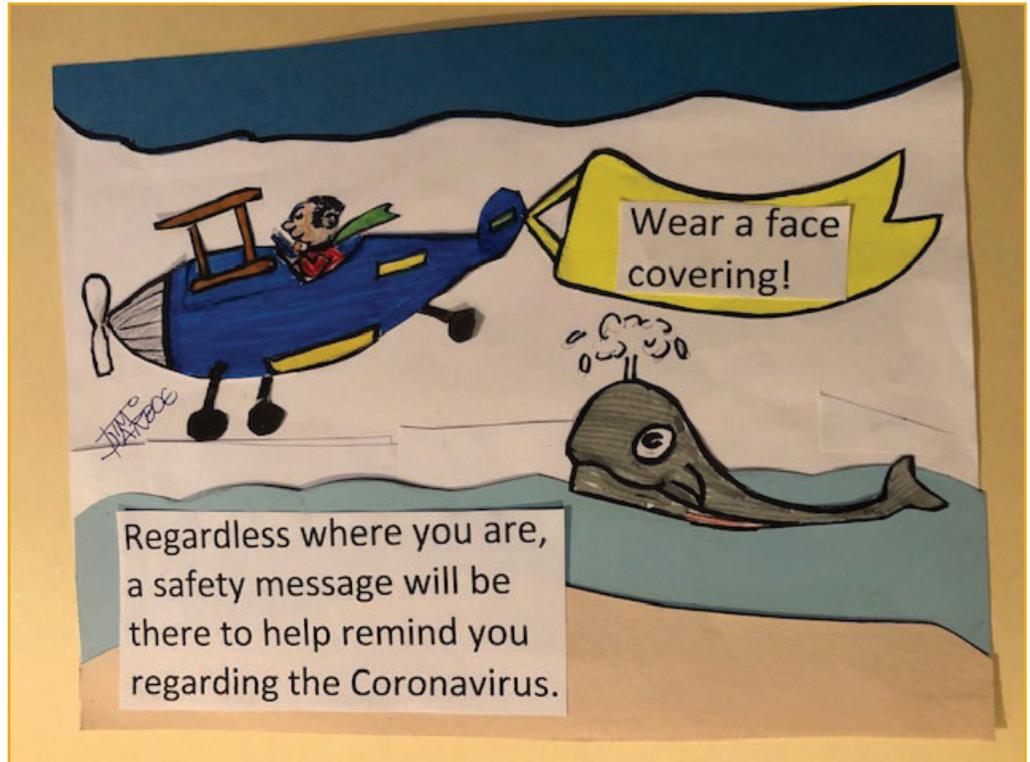
Keep in mind the potential dangers of deep frying a turkey:

- ▶ Turkey fryers can easily tip over spilling hot oil across a large area. Use your turkey fryer only outdoors on a sturdy, level surface well away from things that can burn. Make sure to have a “3-foot kid- and pet-free zone” around your turkey fryer to protect against burn injuries.
- ▶ An overfilled cooking pot will cause oil to spill over when the turkey is placed inside. Determine the correct amount of oil needed by first placing the turkey in the pot with water.
- ▶ A partially frozen turkey will cause hot oil to splatter. Make sure your turkey is completely thawed before you fry it.
- ▶ Turkey fryers can easily overheat and start a fire. Check the temperature often with a cooking thermometer so the oil won't overheat.
- ▶ The pot, lid and handles of a turkey fryer can get dangerously hot and cause burn injuries. Use long cooking gloves that protect hands and arms when you handle these items.

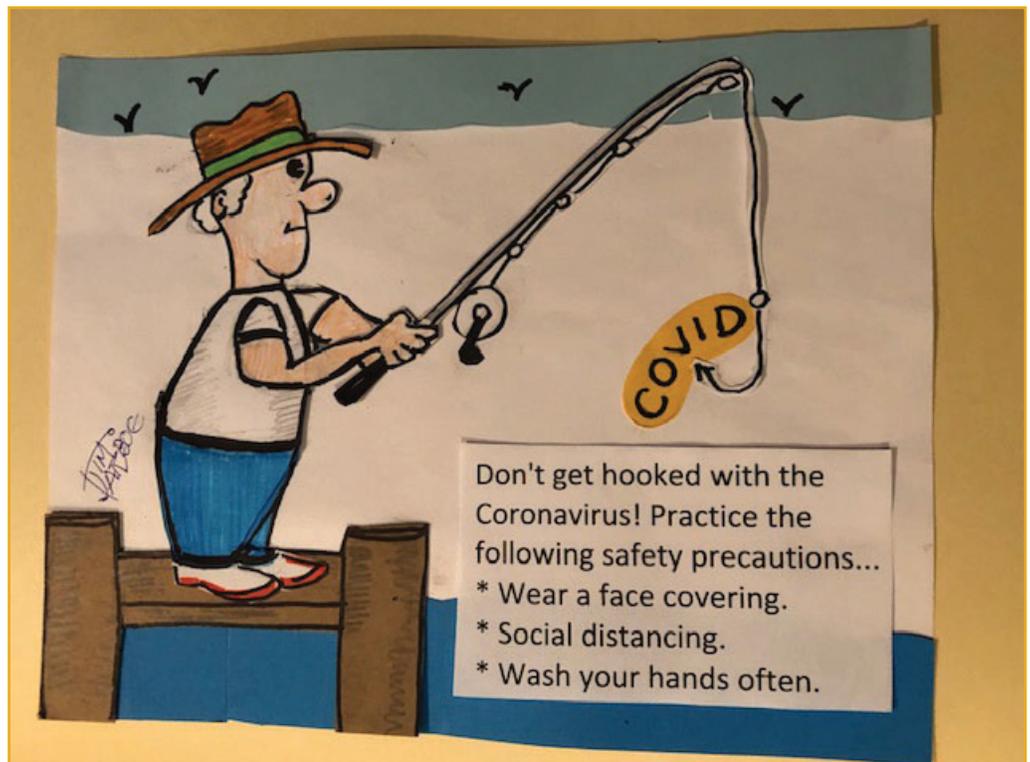
For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit

www.usfa.fema.gov





HERE, **MARYLAND EMS NEWS IS PLEASED TO PRESENT** recent examples of the public health and safety-focused artwork of Jim Jarboe, a retired Montgomery County career firefighter and member for close to 65 years of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, where he continues to volunteer. Read more about Jarboe and his community-minded "doodles" (*Maryland EMS News*, June 2020, Vol. 46, No. 2), as well as other state and local EMS news, in our newsletter archive at www.miemss.org. ■





Safe Kids Maryland "Walktober" reminders and resources.

The first Wednesday of October is typically International Walk to School Day. This year due to the pandemic, some students may still be walking to and from school while others might just be walking around their neighborhoods. Either way, this is a great time to talk reinforce for everyone in the family how to walk safely.

1. Be a good role model. Set a good example by putting your phone, headphones and devices down when crossing the street (AT the crosswalk) and walking around cars
2. It's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths and cross at street corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
3. Teach kids at an early age to look left, right and left again before crossing the street.
4. Teach kids to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
5. Children under 10 years of age lack the ability to accurately judge speed and distance – cross with an adult.
6. When it's dark out, wear reflective clothing, carry a light and make sure everyone is visible to drivers.

Safe Kids worldwide released a new Child Pedestrian Safety Report in September 2020. The full document is located at:

<https://www.safekids.org/research-report/child-pedestrian-safety-us-trends-and-implications-prevention>



Maryland Risk Watch online resources for October (& year round) Fire Prevention.

The Maryland Risk Watch team in partnership with the MSFA Fire & Injury Prevention Life Safety Committee continue to focus on home fire safety, 365 days a year.

You know how important it is to have working smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, escape plans, and a designated meeting place in case of a fire.

But did you know that closing your doors in your home is also important for your safety?

Closed doors reduce fire growth, limit damage to your home, keep temperatures down, and save your life if you become trapped. A picture is worth a thousand words and a close door changes both the temperature and the amount of Carbon Monoxide.



For more information visit: www.closeyourdoor.org

Hospital Name Changes

PLEASE BE ADVISED of the following changes regarding the names of hospitals in our region:

- *Peninsula Regional Medical Center* (PRMC) has become **TidalHealth Peninsula**
- *Nanticoke Memorial Hospital* has become **TidalHealth Nanticoke**
- *McCready Hospital* has become **TidalHealth McCready**
- Effective June 2021, *Prince George's Hospital Center* will be known as **University of Maryland Capital Regional Medical Center**
- *Anne Arundel Medical Center* and *Doctors Community Hospital* have become the **Luminus Health System**; however, both facilities will retain their current names
- *Western Maryland Regional Medical Center* has become **University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Western Maryland**
- *Frederick Memorial Hospital* has become **Frederick Health Hospital**
- *Sinai Hospital* has become **Sinai Hospital of Baltimore** ■

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Governor Larry Hogan
Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford

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