



Maryland EMS News

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Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program Update

An update of the Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program (VAIP) soon will be available to EMS providers. Since 1981 when the voluntary program began, it has been reviewed periodically. The latest document was developed jointly by MIEMSS, the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA), and the Statewide EMS Advisory Council (SEMSAC).

The VAIP has been broadened to include criteria for ALS response units (ambulances, chase cars, and fire engines) and BLS first responder units. In addition, some of the criteria for BLS ambulances have been revised to reflect recent protocol changes (for example, an automated external defibrillator was required as of January 1, 2000). New ambulance seals of excellence decals for BLS and ALS units passing the voluntary inspection were also designed.

Each company successfully passing inspection receives a Certificate of Excellence to display in the station and two Certificates of Excellence decals for display on each certified unit. Certification is valid for two years.

The inspection includes checking the supplies inventory and equipment necessary to adequately care for patients in the prehospital phase. Prior to inspection, companies are required to complete a formal application, verify that the vehicle meets Department of Transportation inspection criteria, and certify certain minimum training and staffing standards for each ambulance.

(Contact your MIEMSS regional office to request an application form.)

Equipment, such as suction and oxygen delivery equipment, both portable and on-board systems, will be checked to ensure their proper and safe operation. Over a period, the calibration of gauges sometimes drifts. A problem like this, involving changes in flow rates and vacuum pressures can be difficult to detect without proper testing equipment. Each MIEMSS Regional Office has appropriate equipment to check for such changes. Often corrective adjustments can be made during the inspection. In addition, the Maryland EMS communications equipment will be checked for proper operation. The MIEMSS regional office staff do the voluntary inspections, often working with local EMS jurisdictional providers.

The VAIP serves to formally recognize those companies in Maryland that provide a high level of emergency ambulance service and to make this fact clearly apparent to the public.

MIEMSS Announces 3 Key Appointments

MIEMSS Executive Director Robert Bass, MD, recently announced several key appointments: two deputy directors for the agency, Patricia S. Gainer and Robert Dubansky, and ombudsman Philip Hurlock.

Ms. Gainer has been named Deputy Director, responsible for

policy and programs. Ms. Gainer will serve as the agency's legislative liaison, as Dr. Bass' chief advisor on program issues, and will oversee several key divisions of the agency including Education, Licensure, and Certification; Commercial Ambulance Licensing and Regulation; Hospital Programs; EMS for Children; and Program Development. Ms. Gainer has worked at MIEMSS since December 1996 as Director of Planning.



Mr. Dubansky was also named as Deputy Director, responsible for finance, personnel, and administrative functions of the agency. Mr. Dubansky will also oversee the departments of Communications, Information Technology, and Educational Support Services. Mr. Dubansky has worked with MIEMSS since 1984 in various capacities, most recently as Director of Administration.



Mr. Hurlock has joined MIEMSS as ombudsman. Mr. Hurlock will serve as the liaison to the fire and rescue community, advisor to the Executive Director of MIEMSS, and will be involved in testing and certification throughout the state. Mr. Hurlock is a former president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and was named to the first EMS Board.



◆ Robert Dubansky

Inside . . .
EMS Week Fact Sheet
Pages 3 & 4

Caroline County Chosen for Rural Showcase Presentation At National Meeting

The leadership group of the Caroline County EMS programs in Region IV presented its system as part of the 3rd Annual EMS Showcase at this year's meeting of the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) in Dana Point, California.

Each year since 1998, the nation's lead society of EMS physicians has included in its meeting curriculum "The Annual EMS Showcase," a venue available for systems across the nation to bring forth suggestions about design, deployment, administration, medical oversight, quality management, and other subsystems to a national audience.

This year, at NAEMSP 2000, meeting planners sought out a rural component for the Showcase to provide contrast with Los Angeles County and City, whose medical directors provided the suburban/urban components. The application for Caroline County by Dr. Roger M. Stone, Caroline's Jurisdictional Medical Director, was accepted and the leadership made the presentation on January 8, 2000. Several EMS physician members from Maryland, including Robert Bass (MIEMSS Executive Director), Douglas Flocarre (MIEMSS Aeromedical Director), Wade Gaasch (City of Baltimore EMS Medical Director), and Kevin Seaman (Howard County EMS Medical Director), attended and were given feedback that the talk was well received.

Caroline County's group created a five-part lecture, each part presented by appropriate directors from within the career and volunteer sections of the system. Dr. Stone opened the talk with discussions about the epidemiology and health needs of Caroline County, which generate the need for EMS service.

He also concluded the program with a discussion of medical direction and a synopsis of the monthly administrative day for which he commutes to Caroline County to fulfill tasks consistent with the Maryland Medical Director's Agreement. Robert L. Schoonover, EMT-P, director of the career providers, discussed the history, evolving design, daily operation, and funding of an EMS system that delivers optimal service given limited resources. Bryan C. Ebling, EMD, CEM, director of Emergency Management, described the functions and features of the Communications Center, which include enhanced 911 and Medical Priority Dispatch, as well as unique aspects of his agency in Caroline County, notably the responsibility for its risk management program. Finally, Lou Hayes, deputy chief of the Ridgely Fire Company and chair of the County Chiefs' and Ambulance Captains' Association, described the roles of volunteers and fire companies as the backbone of a multidisciplinary system, including

EMS transportation, BLS, suppression, rescue, and dive rescue functions.

Additional unique aspects of the Caroline County EMS system were stressed, including the countywide AED program operated by the sheriff's department, the first of its kind in Maryland. Given the host society's emphasis on medical direction, Dr. Stone discussed Caroline County's interest in procuring an EMS physician; it was the first county in Maryland to hire an EMS fellowship graduate as its jurisdictional medical director. This underscored the concept of systems nationwide (particularly rural) at least considering recruiting their EMS physicians regionally rather than strictly locally, especially in light of a shortage of physicians who are primarily interested in EMS.

On March 2, Dr. Stone, Mr. Schoonover, Mr. Ebling, and Mr. Hayes were invited to give an encore presentation to SEMSAC members at MIEMSS and to other interested parties. They welcome the open discussion of the concepts stimulated by this presentation among all EMS enthusiasts statewide.

◆ *Roger M. Stone, MD, MS, FACEP, FAAEM, contributed to this article.*



(L-r) Robert L. Schoonover, Dr. Roger Stone, Bryan Ebling, and Lou Hayes following their presentation to SEMSAC on Caroline County EMS.

FACT SHEET

Emergency Medical Services Week in Maryland

May 14 - 20, 2000



This year, EMS week will be celebrated May 14-20, nationally and statewide. The national theme "New Century, New Hope" celebrates the contributions of EMS providers throughout the country, reaching out to potential recruits and stressing the importance of strong public support for the EMS system.

EMS Week recognizes the accomplishments of the many men and women who dedicate themselves to saving the lives of others and educates the public about injury prevention, safety awareness, and how and when to use EMS services.

EMS Week Goals

- Educate the public about the Maryland EMS System and its appropriate use
- Educate the public about injury prevention and how to recognize and respond to a medical emergency
- Show appreciation for the contributions of every member comprising the EMS teams in Maryland

EMS Week Activities

At the statewide level, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), the state's coordinating agency for Maryland's EMS System, will honor EMS personnel for outstanding performance in delivering prehospital emergency care. Non-EMS



individuals will also be recognized for their roles in providing life-saving care. In addition, special awards will be given to the EMS provider of the year; the EMD provider of the year; the outstanding EMS program; the individual meeting the standards of the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS; and the individual demonstrating excellence in affecting EMS care for children in Maryland.

At the local level, EMS providers are planning their own events. In the past, EMS Week events have been varied. Examples from previous years included:

Shopping Mall Displays. EMS providers answer questions; hand out printed materials or inexpensive give-aways; display ambulances, helicopters, rescue equipment; do free blood pressure or other health/safety checks.

Mock Medical Emergency. EMS providers stage a mock emergency, such as an auto or motorcycle crash, and show how the EMS System responds. Auto extrication and EMS equipment are demonstrated.

Adult Lectures & Classroom Talks. Home safety, medical tips, emergency care, CPR, choking and injury prevention —are only a few sample topics about which EMS providers talk.

Open Houses. In addition to showing off EMS ambulances and rescue units, many EMS providers also conduct free blood pressure screenings, hearing tests, safety checks for bikes or child safety seats, or teddy bear clinics.

EMS Provider Recognition Ceremonies. Local EMS "heroes" are often honored at award ceremonies or lunches and dinners.

EMS Poster Competitions for Children in Elementary & Middle School. Prizes are often awarded to winners in each age category.

Media Outreach. Local ambulance companies often invite reporters from print or electronic media to do "ride-alongs" or highlight various rescues or EMS providers.



Maryland EMS Statistics Fiscal Year 1999

Maryland-Certified Prehospital EMS Providers

• First Responders	11,291
• EMT-As	702
• EMT-Bs	13,793
• CRTs	732
• EMT-Ps	1,810
• EMDs	636
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> 28,964

Emergency Care Hospitals

- 46 Emergency Departments
- 9 Trauma Centers
- 20 Specialty Referral Centers

9-1-1 Centers

- In Baltimore City and each of Maryland's 23 counties
- More than 600,000 EMS calls in FY 1999

Transports in Maryland

• Emergency Injuries	31%
• Medical Emergencies	69%
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> 100%

Med-Evac Helicopter Program

- 12 helicopters
- 8 bases
- 44 flight paramedics
- 56 pilots
- 4,392 transports (87%) from scene of injury
- 661 interhospital transports (13%)

Commercial Ambulances

- 29 Licensed Services
- 113 Licensed ALS Ambulances
- 190 Licensed BLS Ambulances
- 6 Licensed Neonatal Ambulances

Maryland Poison Center Calls (Calendar Year 1998)

- 60,213 total calls
- 21,811 requests for information
- 38,402 calls regarding human exposure to poison

Age of Patients Exposed to Poison

Younger than 6 yrs.	55.5%
6-12 yrs.	7.7%
13-19 yrs.	7.3%
20-69 yrs.	26.7%
70 yrs. and older	2.2%
Unknown	0.6%
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> 100.0%

EMS Regional Offices in Maryland

REGION I

- Allegany and Garrett counties
- Region I Office in Grantsville, 301-895-5934

REGION II

- Frederick and Washington counties
- Region II Office in Hagerstown, 301-791-2366 or 301-416-7249

REGION III

- Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties
- Region III Office at MIEMSS in Baltimore, 410-706-3996

REGION IV

- Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties
- Region IV Office in Easton 410-822-1799 or 1-877-676-9617 (toll-free)

REGION V

- Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties
- Region V Office in College Park, 301-474-1485 or 1-877-498-5551 (toll-free)

Former MIEMSS Nurse on TV Show 'ER'

May 20 will mark the first anniversary of the airing of an episode of TV's popular show "ER" in which former MIEMSS nurse Margaret Widner-Kolberg appeared. Several months earlier, she had been named the 1999 Nursing Spectrum National Nurse of the Year. (*Nursing Spectrum* is a monthly publication for nurses, written by nurses.) Her prize, as Nurse of the Year was a trip to Los Angeles and a visit to the set of "ER."

Mrs. Widner-Kolberg spent a full day on the "ER" set. She appeared in three scenes and met five of the actors and actresses involved in the show, including Noah Wyle who plays Dr. John Carter (see photo). Ms. Widner-Kolberg was selected the National Nurse of the Year from a group of 20 finalists—five from each of *Nursing Spectrum's* four geographic divisions.

Many Marylanders will remember Ms. Widner-Kolberg as a MIEMSS nurse specializing in pediatric trauma and pediatric injury prevention who lectured both statewide and nationally. Some may have also realized that she had severe hearing loss that first appeared at age 24 as a result of an autoimmune disease. Since leaving MIEMSS, she has received a cochlear implant and regained some of her hearing.



Margaret Widner-Kolberg with TV actor Noah Wyle who plays Dr. John Carter on "ER."

Appearing on the set of "ER," Mrs. Widner-Kolberg had an unexpected opportunity to educate everyone there about dealing with profound hearing loss and cochlear implants. In the rush and excitement of getting to the set, she left the back-up batteries for her cochlear implant in the room of her California hotel. Shortly after she arrived at the "ER" set, the batteries in her speech processor went dead, leaving her completely deaf. Although earlier that year the actors worked on a script that focused on Dr. Peter Benton (Eriq La Salle) coming to terms with the realization that his infant son is deaf, they could now experience how a "real" person copes with hearing loss. Following the arrival of a back-up battery for her, Ms. Widner-Kolberg was able to go on with the taping. After arriving home, she sent information on cochlear implants to the writers with the hope that they might incorporate more information into a future script.

For Ms. Widner-Kolberg, advocating for patients and for those with disabilities is an integral part of her life. In Baltimore County where she lives, she educates cochlear implant candidates frequently referred to her by Johns Hopkins Hospital. She has served on the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities and is involved in Self-Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. After leaving MIEMSS, she worked as a pediatric emergency department nurse, worked at Children's Hospital in Washington, DC on a Department of Defense grant for pediatric emergencies, and is now a school nurse at St. Louis Catholic School. She is also a member of the Neonatal and Pediatric Special Interest Group of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

No matter where she is, she continues to be sensitive to people's needs and passionate about educating others, especially on such topics as injury prevention and coping positively with disabilities.

Guidelines for Increasing Personal Communication with Hard of Hearing People

1. Get their attention first.
2. Face the person directly.
3. Don't shout.
4. Instead speak slowly and clearly.
5. Avoid noisy environments.
6. Ask them how to help you communicate.
7. Don't cover your mouth.
8. Use facial expressions.
9. Stay positive and relaxed.
10. Offer respect.

Buckle Up America: May 22-29

May 22-29 is Buckle Up America! Week. During this week, more than 7,000 law enforcement agencies across the country will be stepping up enforcement of child passenger safety laws as part of the "Operation ABC—Mobilizing America to Buckle Up Children" campaign.

Traffic crashes are the number one cause of death and injury for children. In 1998, more than 2,000 children under 16 years of age died in car crashes. More than half of these children were unrestrained.

(Continued on page 6)

Protocol Implementation Guide Update

There has been some confusion related to the Protocol Implementation Guide placed in the front of the 2000 Protocol Update. Several errors have been discovered in the Implementation Guide. **In all cases the actual protocol itself is CORRECT.**

The changes on these pages consist of grammar and punctuation and do not affect the delivery of patient care. If you have any questions, contact Eric Chaney at 410-706-0880.

AHA Award

MIEMSS Executive Director Robert R. Bass, MD, received the 1999 Public Official of the Year Award from the American Heart Association during the annual "Surviving the Session: Risk Factors Assessments and Super Wellness Strategies" Health Fair in Annapolis on February 1. The award was presented in recognition of efforts to help pass the Automated External Defibrillation (AED) legislation during the 1999 session of the Maryland General Assembly. Maryland Senator Paula Hollinger also received an award for her support of the legislation.

AEDs are an important link in the "chain of survival," the sequence of medical treatment events that must occur when a person suffers from cardiac arrest. The use of a small, computerized defibrillator (AED) can automatically analyze a cardiac rhythm of a person having a heart attack, determine whether defibrillation is needed, and deliver an appropriate level of shock to restore a normal heart beat. The bill that Dr. Bass supported authorizes Maryland organizations to take advantage of the use of AEDs, while maintaining standards to ensure their safe and effective use.



(L-r) State Senator Paula Hollinger, Steven V. Sklar (Chairman, Maryland Public Policy and Advocacy Committee of the AHA), and Dr. Robert Bass.

The Baltimore Orioles Present

Firefighters & Paramedics Night at Camden Yards

Thursday, May 11, 2000 • 7:05 pm
Baltimore Orioles vs Boston Red Sox



Kevin Tighe & Randolph Mantooth

For each ticket sold,
\$5 will be donated to the
Fallen Firefighters Fund,
Worcester, Massachusetts

SPECIAL FIRST PITCH CEREMONY FEATURING EMERGENCY! STARS*:

**Randolph Mantooth ("Johnny Gage")
Kevin Tighe ("Roy DeSoto") and
The Original Squad 51!**

Firefighters/Paramedics Night is sponsored by the Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore City Firefighters Local 734, The International Association of Firefighters, and The Baltimore City Fire Department.

**Celebrity appearances subject to change.*

For more information, call
410-547-6066 or e-mail at goahead51@oriolepark.com

Buckle Up America

(Continued from page 5)

Stepped up enforcement without publicity has little effect except on the individuals ticketed. But highly publicized enforcement campaigns are shown to work! As a result of the 1998 Mobilizations, 19 million more Americans buckled up.

The goals of Buckle Up America are to increase seat belt use to 90 percent by 2005 and reduce child (age 0-4) passenger fatalities by 25

percent from 653 in 1996 to 490 by 2005.

MIEMSS urges you to show your support by always wearing your own seat belt and buckling up your family, especially ensuring that your children are properly restrained in child seats and seat belts. In addition, you can make your voice heard by writing letters of support to newspapers, government officials, and law enforcement agencies, and taking part in media events focusing on child passenger safety.

EHS in the Netherlands

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County's (UMBC) Department of Emergency Health Services Continuing Education Program recently traveled to Den Haag, Netherlands to provide an Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course March 2-3. Members of the medical staff for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) participated in the two-day ACLS course at the OPCW world headquarters in Den Haag.

OPCW is the primary organization responsible for the elimination of chemical weapons throughout the world. The medical staff of the OPCW includes physicians, physician-assistants, nurses, and paramedics from around the world who are responsible for the medical care and safety of OPCW inspectors.

The cadre of UMBC instructors included: Patti Hicks (Continuing Education Coordinator), Dawn Pecora (ACLS Coordinator), Dwight Polk (Paramedic Coordinator), Zack Royston (Faculty), and Bill Seifarth (MIEMSS).

Urgent Drug Recall

The following was received from the US Fire Administration of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, after being issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The Clinipad Corporation is voluntarily recalling all Povidone Iodine, Tincture of Iodine, Benzoin Tincture, Acetone Alcohol, and Alcohol Antiseptic products (swabsticks, prep pads, towelettes, and pouches), as well as Cliniguard Protective Dressing labeled as "sterile" that were manufactured over the last three years. The reason for this recall is that the company has confirmed microbial contamination in some lots of its sterile products, including one lot with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*, and



(Back row, left to right) Dwight Polk (Instructor); Peter Kara (New Zealand, Military Paramedic); Michael Gerts (The Netherlands, Physician); Moritz Dekker (The Netherlands, RN/Paramedic); Stephen Neault (Canada, Military PA/Paramedic); Michael Brass (New Zealand, Military Paramedic); Bill Seifarth (Instructor); Damien Adams (Australia; Paramedic/OPCW Medical Education Coordinator). (Front row, left to right) Dawn Pecora (Instructor); Rebecca van Wezel (Australia, RN); Sam Shafer (USA, Paramedic); Justin Ross (New Zealand, Military Paramedic); Miroslaw Miklasz (Poland, Physician); Zack Royston (Instructor); Patti Hicks (Instructor).

Coagulase Negative Staphylococcus.

For more information, please see the FDA web site at:
<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2000/safety00.htm#clinip>.

EMSC Award

Mary Alice VanHoy, RN, CEN, BS, NREMT-P, received a Region IV EMSC Award at the Winterfest 2000 Conference in Tilghman Island. This EMSC Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Ms. VanHoy for "making a difference in the life of children on the Eastern Shore and for her leadership in pediatric education."

Ms. VanHoy has been instrumental in coordinating Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Pediatric Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) in the Mid-Shore counties. She presented a poster session at the Second National EMS for Children Congress in Baltimore on March 27, 2000 that described the Pediatric BLS Trauma and Medical Skill Scenarios Project of Regions IV and V. Ms. VanHoy is also a member of the Statewide EMS Advisory Council (SEMSAC).

Call SOCLAR Toll Free

The State Office of Commercial Ambulance Licensing and Regulation (SOCLAR) may now also be reached by calling 888-200-5015.



(L-r) Mary Alice VanHoy receives a Region IV EMSC Award from Cyndy Wright-Johnson, MIEMSS EMS Program Director.



Governor Parris N. Glendening

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DATED MATERIAL

Calendar of Events

April 27-30, 2000

EMS Care at the Holiday Inn, Timonium, MD. For information call MIEMSS Region III Office, 410-706-3996.

May 7-14, 2000

Nurses' Week

May 11, 2000

7:05 pm - **Firefighters & Paramedics Night at Camden Yards** (Boston Red Sox Vs Baltimore Orioles) featuring Squad 51 and actors from EMERGENCY. For each ticket sold, \$5 will be donated to the Fallen Firefighters Fund, Worcester, MA. Sponsored by the Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore City Firefighters Local 734, International Association of Firefighters, and the Baltimore City Fire Department. For information call 547-6066 or e-mail at goahead 51@oriolepark.com

May 12-13, 2000

Mid-Atlantic Air and Surface Transport Conference hosted by the Maryland Chapter of the National Flight Paramedics Association and the Surface to Air Response Team for Critical Incident Stress Management at the

Maritime Institute & Conference Center in Baltimore. For information call Eric Smothers or Donnie Lehman at 301-774-8012.

May 13, 2000

8:00 am - 2:00 pm - **EMS Olympics & Bike Medic Rodeo** in Region III. Sponsored by the Region III EMS Advisory Council & the Emergency Education Council of Region III. For information call 410-396-3090.

May 13, 2000

10:00 am - 5:00 pm - **Calvert County EMS Week Expo**, Calvert Industrial Park. For more information call 310-474-1485.

May 14-20, 2000

EMS Week. National theme is "New Century, New Hope."

May 17, 2000

11:00 am - 1:00 pm - **EMS Week Demonstration** at McKeldin Square by the Inner Harbor in Baltimore. Sponsored by the Region III EMS Advisory Council & the Emergency Education Council of Region III. For information call 410-396-3090.

May 18, 2000

8:00 am - **EMS Golf Tournament** at Mt. Pleasant Golf Course in Baltimore. Sponsored by the Region III EMS Advisory Council & the Emergency Education Council of Region III. For information call 410-396-3090.

May 19, 2000

9:00 pm - 1:00 am - **EMS Millennium Celebration** at Tiffany's East in Baltimore. Sponsored by the Region III EMS Advisory Council & the Emergency Education Council of Region III. For information call 410-396-3090.

May 21, 2000

Second Annual Prevention Parade & Festival in Baltimore. Sponsored by the Region III EMS Advisory Council & the Emergency Education Council of Region III. For information call 410-396-3090.

May 22-29, 2000

Buckle Up America! Week

September 8-12, 2000

Pyramid 2000. Presented by the Emergency Education Council of Region V, Inc., and MIEMSS. For information call 301-474-1485.