

## Infectious Disease Update Coming

A special "update" on infectious diseases will be distributed at the end of December. This publication, an update of the August 1987 newsletter, "AIDS: A Guide for EMS," describes the mechanisms by which infectious agents spread and can be controlled in the prehospital environment. Detailed information is presented about two diseases of particular interest to prehospital care providers—hepatitis B and AIDS. In addition to a discussion about the chain of infection, the "update" includes specific recommendations about disinfectants that are effective against the viruses that cause hepatitis B and AIDS, Maryland's current law requiring notification of prehospital personnel if they transport patients with

certain diagnoses, and a bibliography of supplemental sources of information.

The text is based on MIEMSS recently developed training/recertification module entitled "Infectious Disease Information for Prehospital Care Providers." The program is available in slide/tape and videotape formats, with continuing education credits. Additional credits are available if a trained instructor presents the program. Utilization of the program will allow for incorporation of further infectious disease training into all levels of initial and recertification training. For further information regarding program materials and scheduling, contact your MIEMSS regional administrator.



## Celebrating Maryland EMS Week



State Senator John Bambacus and State EMS Director Ameen Ramzy, MD, at the 15th anniversary of the Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad.



Dressed as Manikin Larry, Joy Apple (an ED nurse at Cumberland Memorial Hospital) tells two youngsters at the Country Club Mall why they should "buckle up."

During EMS Week, September 18-24, many activities were held across the state to recognize and publicize the work of EMS providers. Synopses of these events are provided in this article.

### Region I

The Regional EMS Council, Cumberland Memorial Hospital, and numerous ambulance companies presented displays and programs at the Country Club Mall throughout EMS Week. The council's display focused on EMT recruitment, and a trauma center set-up was sponsored by the hospital. A Med-Evac helicopter from Section 5 was also on site for viewing by the public. Programs were held each evening and involved ambulances from LaVale Volunteer Rescue Squad, Frostburg Area Ambulance Service, Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad, Tri-Towns Ambulance Service, and Cresaptown Fire Department. A demonstration emphasize-

ing the importance of wearing seat belts featured manikins Vince and Larry.

Proclamations of the observance of EMS Week were issued by the county commissioners of Garrett and Allegany counties.

On September 18, Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad sponsored an open house. The LaVale Volunteer Rescue Squad conducted ambulance tours and offered blood pressure screenings on September 24.

At the Frostburg Mall, ambulance tours and blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol screenings were provided on September 20.

Sacred Heart Hospital sponsored a dinner in honor of the area's prehospital care providers. More than 200 people attended the event, which included an educational program for prehospital care providers.

In celebration of the 15th anniversary of Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad, a banquet was held at the McHenry House, with Ameen Ramzy,

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EMS Week activities at the Country Club Mall included blood pressure screenings and an ambulance display by Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad.



Joe McDaniel (coordinator, MFRI's Western Maryland Regional Office) was available to demonstrate equipment on MFRI's rescue-training vehicle at Valley Mall.



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MD, state EMS director, as the keynote speaker.

During halftimes at local football games during EMS Week, announcements were made over the public address systems to acknowledge the ambulance companies on site and thank them for their services to the community.

Public service announcements were aired by WFRB in recognition of EMS week and the hard work of volunteers within the emergency medical system. Region I Administrator Dave Ramsey was a guest on radio stations WCBC and WAIL, discussing the variety of activities planned for the week.

A half-page article in the *Cumberland Times-News*, written by Diane Lee, described the prehospital care provided by volunteers in the region and the 15 years of growth of EMS in Region I.

## Region II

The kick-off event of EMS Week in Region II was a picnic given by the Washington County Hospital on September 18 in recognition of the service of EMS providers in the county. More than 300 prehospital care providers, emergency department nurses, members of the Maryland State Police (MSP) Aviation Division, and other EMS personnel attended the event at the Williamsport American Legion Picnic Grounds. Also attending were Delegate Peter G. Callas and John Slaysman, mayor of Williamsport.

On September 24, numerous activities were conducted at the Valley Mall in Washington County to focus public attention on EMS services. Two transport/treatment scenarios were created. In one, a patient was transported from an MSP Med-Evac helicopter from Section 3, stationed on the mall parking lot, to a "trauma center," complete with staff and technical support, set up inside the mall by Washington County Hospital personnel. In the second mock emergency, an automobile crash was simulated outside the mall, and members of Community Rescue Service transported a "victim" to the "trauma center." Fire suppression units at the mock crash scene were provided by Maugansville Goodwill Volunteer Fire Department. WHAG-TV broadcast footage of the demonstrations. Day-long exhibits in the mall were sponsored by Washington County Civil Defense (Company 28), Clear Spring Ambulance Club (Company 49), Smithsburg Emergency Medical Services (Company 79),



MSP Helicopter Pilot Ed Hanna and MSP Medic Chris Mazaika (EMT-P, ATT) explain Trooper 5 to a crowd outside of the Country Club Mall.



Members of Northern and Southern Garrett County Rescue Squads receive the EMS Week proclamation from Garrett County commissioners.



A rescue hovercraft was displayed at the Valley Mall in Hagerstown.



Members of MADD passed out literature at Valley Mall during EMS Week.



Checking out the MSP Med-Evac helicopter at the Baltimore County Fire Expo.



MIEMSS and Harford Memorial Hospital exhibited at the Harford County Fire Expo.

the western Maryland regional office of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and MIEMSS. Community Rescue Service demonstrated its EMS equipment, and a rescue hovercraft was displayed by its manufacturer.

Randy Sue Ellis, MD, director of the emergency department of the Washington County Hospital, and Patricia Hicks, NREMT-P, ALS coordinator in Region II, were guests on WHAG-AM on Sep-

tember 13. Their discussion focused on volunteer recognition and covered the local and statewide EMS programs and the role of the county's hospital as an areawide trauma center. Dr. Ellis wrote and recorded 14 public service announcements on topics such as pediatric trauma, the use of motorcycle helmets and seat belts, and drunk driving, which received extensive play on Hagerstown radio stations. Dr. Ellis appeared on

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Community Rescue Service personnel finish moulaging EMT-P Randy Spies as the "victim" in a mock trauma accident.



The Washington County Hospital trauma team receive Mr. Spies in their mock operating room at Valley Mall.



The "Traveling Teddy Bear Emergency Department" gave children the opportunity to learn about emergency medical procedures and ambulances.



A mock crash of a school bus loaded with students hit by a pick-up truck during Harford County's disaster drill.



Initial rescue efforts during Harford County's disaster drill.



The secondary triage area of the disaster drill at the Magnolia Middle School in Harford County.

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WHAG-TV's "Morning in the Valley" and Dick Mettetal, Region II administrator, was interviewed for the station's evening news broadcast. A 30-second videotape titled "Don't Guess, Call EMS," produced by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for use by EMS systems, was distributed to and aired on cable television in Frederick and Hagerstown and on WHAG-TV. A Sunday edition of the *Herald Mail* carried a

half-page ad by Washington County Hospital, saluting emergency care providers.

### Region III

In a September 24th disaster drill at the Magnolia Middle School in Harford County, rescue workers treated and transported 30 children and 2 adults from the scene of a mock vehicular crash. A school bus loaded with students hit a pick-up truck carrying a hazardous

chemical in this scenario. Members of the Joppa/Magnolia, Abingdon, Kingsville, and Cowenton Volunteer Fire Companies treated and triaged victims at the scene and transported them to Franklin Square Hospital, Harford Memorial Hospital, and Fallston General Hospital. The 2-hour drill also included a mock Med-Evac transport to the MIEMSS Shock Trauma Center.

Carroll County General Hospital  
(Continued on page 4)





The secondary triage area of the disaster drill at the Magnolia Middle School in Harford County.



The EMS communications officer during Harford County's disaster drill.



Blood pressure screenings were offered to the public at Southern Maryland Hospital Center. (Photo courtesy of SMHC)



Southern Maryland Hospital Center honored its ED employees at a "recognition luncheon." (Photo courtesy of SMHC)

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and Westminster Volunteer Fire Department sponsored a Traveling Teddy Bear Emergency Department at the hospital on September 18 and 23 and at the Westminster Fall Festival on September 24 and 25. Teddy bears were used to teach children about emergency medical procedures such as casting, suturing, and obtaining x-ray films.

On September 20, Franklin Square Hospital presented awards to the Baltimore County Fire Department, the Harford County Fire Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department, and the MIEMSS Region III office. Each prehospital care provider from the fire and ambulance companies that transport patients to Franklin Square Hospital on a regular

basis received a certificate of appreciation.

An ambulance from the Howard County Fire Department was displayed at the county office building in Ellicott City on September 24.

A five-part series of 2-minute public service announcements was broadcast on radio station WPOC. Featured speakers were John Donohue, Region III administrator; Lt. John McNally, a paramedic from Anne Arundel County; Ameen Ramzy, MD, state EMS director and several other Shock Trauma Center staff members. In an interview on radio station WJHU, Dr. Ramzy discussed the importance of EMS Week and the services provided by the state's EMS system. He was also a guest on the noon news broadcast on WMAR-TV on September 20.

## Region IV

The new Cecil County Advanced Life Support program was dedicated on September 18 in the County Office Building. On the same day, the EMS section of the Cecil County Medical Management Agency held an open house.

Michael Joyce, MD, chief of emergency medical services at Dorchester General Hospital, was the guest on a radio talk show on WCEM. The topic was the significance of EMS Week.

Several county governments proclaimed EMS Week. The municipal government in Salisbury also issued a proclamation in observance of the event.

On September 24, Dorchester General Hospital and numerous EMS

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William Joseph, MD (chief of emergency medicine/shock trauma) with the trauma team at Southern Maryland Hospital Center. The public was invited to tour the area-wide trauma center during EMS Week. (Photo courtesy of SMHC)



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prehospital care providers set up displays at the Shoal Creek Mall. Blood pressure screenings were conducted, and CPR and the use of Hurst tools were demonstrated. The activities also included tours of ambulances and a blood alcohol testing van and "appearances" by crash test dummies Vince and Larry.

EMS Week in Region IV culminated in a 2-day continuing education conference at Memorial Hospital at Easton on October 1 and 2, which was attended by approximately 100 prehospital care providers.

## Region V

An EMS Week reception, sponsored by the Region V EMS Advisory Council, was held on September 23. The council announced a petition drive that will gather signatures in support of stricter state laws regarding motorcycle helmet use. Additional petitions for the continuing Region V EMS Advisory Council project can be obtained from Marie Warner-Crosson, Region V administrator.

Montgomery County Executive Sidney Kramer issued a proclamation of EMS Week, which was displayed at Suburban Hospital Areawide Trauma Center. The Montgomery County Fire department initiated a series of CPR training programs for county employees and other citizens during EMS Week and presented displays and demonstrations of EMS activities at the county fair.

Parris Glendenning, Prince Georges County Executive, issued a proclamation of EMS Week. The Prince Georges County Fire Department hosted displays at a senior citizens' program on September 17, which was attended by 1500 people. EMS displays were also presented at the Prince Georges Volunteer Fire Association Convention, September 18-21, and at the county fair.

Southern Maryland Hospital Center had lobby displays on EMS during the week. A series of lectures was presented for the public on the topics of diabetes, pediatric poisoning, and trauma service in the community. Blood pressure screening and blood typing were offered to the public in the hospital lobby on September 22. On September 23, the hospi-

tal held a recognition luncheon for the emergency department staff. That afternoon, the public was invited to tour the trauma center.

Physicians Memorial Hospital in LaPlata had a lobby display on EMS services throughout September. A teddy bear clinic was held at the hospital on September 21, and on September 22, an open house was held in the emergency department to express appreciation to the rescue squads in Charles County and to show the emergency department to other hospital staff members. Members of the Charles County rescue squads visited county schools to make presentations on teens and trauma during the week.

The St. Marys County Fire Department sponsored displays at the county fair, which was held September 22 through 25. Tours of ambulances, a slide show about the EMS system, and blood pressure screenings were offered.

Throughout EMS Week, numerous rescue squads and fire departments invited the public to open houses at their facilities.

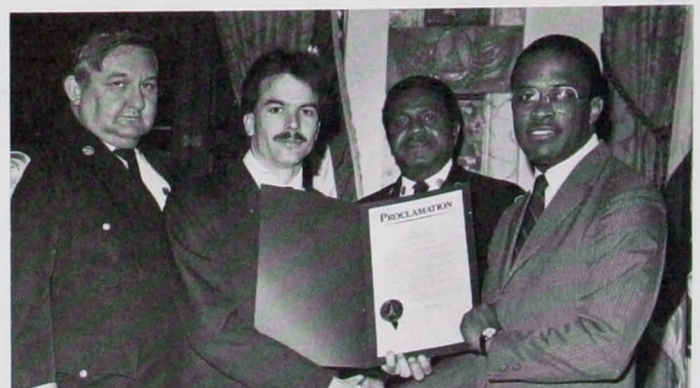
—Linda Kesselring



MIEMSS director R Adams Cowley, MD, displays proclamation issued by Gov. William Donald Schaefer designating September 18-24 Emergency Medical Services Week. Witnessing the proclamation ceremony were representatives of the state's 27,000 prehospital care providers. Shown are (l-r) Drew Sheally, dispatcher with Garrett County Central Alarm; JoAnn Bosworth, EMT from Calvert County; Dr. Cowley; John Gilmer of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police; Gov. Schaefer; Terry Shook, CRT from Frederick County; Corp. Jeffrey LeDonne, Med-Evac helicopter pilot from Southern Maryland; Cathy O'Neill, representing the Maryland Nurses Association; and State EMS Director Ameen I. Ramzy, MD.



State EMS Director Ameen Ramzy, MD, addresses those attending the continuing education conference at Memorial Hospital at Easton.



(L-r) Battalion Chief Michael Jachelski, MIEMSS Region III Administrator John Donohue, Deputy Chief Henry Fowlkes, and Baltimore City's Mayor Kurt Schmoke with the EMS Week proclamation for Baltimore City.



# 23 Honored at EMS Awards Banquet

Twenty-three people were honored September 21 at the annual awards luncheon highlighting Maryland EMS Week. This year there were four categories of awards: Certificate of Honor for a Civilian; Distinguished Service Award; EMS/Public Safety Certificate of Honor; and Certificate of Outstanding Contribution.

Award recipients provided outstanding emergency medical care often at the risk of serious injury to themselves or made contributions that advanced Maryland's EMS system.

Chuck Jackson (agency spokesman for the Maryland State Police) emceed the awards luncheon, while State EMS Director Ameen Ramzy, MD, presented the awards. (Photos of Dr. Ramzy and the award recipients appear below and on page 7.)

Unable to attend the banquet and thus missing from the photos were William E. Clark and Eileen Young, who received a Certificate of Outstanding Contribution and a Certificate of Honor for a Civilian, respectively. Mr. Clark, now deputy director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness at the US Public Health Service and former Maryland EMS field operations director, was honored for his many years of service and contributions to the Maryland EMS system. Ms. Young was recognized for her heroic actions at Bayberry Marina on June 29, 1988, when she dove into the water to rescue a 4-year-old girl who was drowning.

Others honored but unable to attend the banquet are noted in the photo captions.



MIEMSS Infection Control Officer, Nancy Hoyt and MIEMSS Chief of Infectious Diseases, Ellis Caplan, MD (missing from photo), Certificates of Outstanding Contribution—for their leadership and expertise in providing accurate information and guidelines for prehospital care providers concerning infectious diseases.



Kathleen Edwards, PhD, Certificate of Outstanding Contribution—for her many years of service to the Maryland EMS System through her work on the Region III EMS Advisory Council and the Regional EMS Advisory Council (REMSAC).



Robert A. Wilson, Certificate of Honor for a Civilian. On July 17, 1988, Mr. Wilson, who is blind, risked his life in rescuing a drowning friend and effectively resuscitated him until ambulance personnel arrived.



EMT-P Louis C. Jordan, Distinguished Service Award—for his 27 years of untiring efforts in advancing EMS care in Maryland and on the national level, especially in the area of training for prehospital care providers.



Allan Ward (firefighter with the City of Cumberland and a volunteer CRT with Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad and Eastern Garrett Rescue Squad), Distinguished Service Award—for the hundreds of hours he devoted to public education and trauma prevention in Region I.



EMT Thelma "Tina" White and EMT David Barnette, EMS/Public Safety Certificates of Honor—for their quick actions on August 14, 1988, in rescuing a 10-year-old drowning boy and successfully initiating CPR.



Lana Parsons (nurse practitioner at Francis Scott Key Medical Center and a member of Cowenton Volunteer Fire Company), Distinguished Service Award—for 15 years of EMS service, especially for providing clinical and didactic training to EMS providers with special training needs.

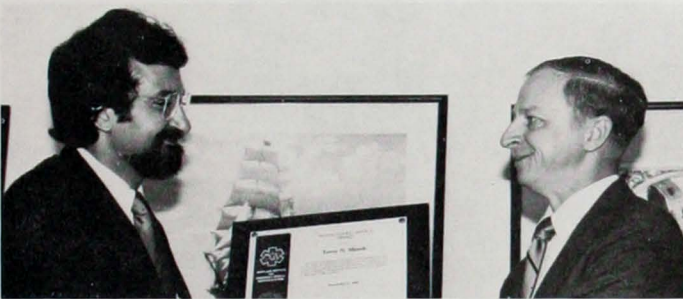




(L-r) Robert Schappert III (North East Regional Coordinator of MFRI), Brian Cully (firefighter with Aberdeen Volunteer Fire Dept.), and Deputy Sheriff Wilson Knight (Harford County), EMS/Public Safety Certificates of Honor. These three men were honored for their heroic attempts to rescue a boy who had fallen through the ice and into the Bush River on January 26, 1988. All three were later hospitalized for severe exposure and hypothermia.



(L-r) Keith Kyvan Chau, Larry Phelps, and Eugene Bass (volunteer sergeant in Company 9 of the Prince Georges County Fire Dept.). Mr. Chau and Mr. Phelps (Certificates of Honor for Civilians) and Mr. Bass (EMS/Public Safety Certificate of Honor) were applauded for their brave and selfless actions in rescuing two trapped occupants from a burning car on March 27, 1988.



CRT Terry Shook, Distinguished Service Award. A volunteer active in Thurmont Community Ambulance Service for more than 20 years, an EMT instructor, a MIEMSS evaluator, a BCLS instructor and instructor trainer, and ACLS-certified, CRT Shook has served on many EMS committees and councils. His technical expertise and dedication to the finest prehospital care make him a model volunteer.



Cheryl Bowen, RN (director of the Maryland Regional Neonatal Program and assistant director of nursing at MIEMSS) Certificate of Outstanding Contribution. Demonstrating the highest standards of leadership, patient care, and administrative skills, she is the driving force behind the success of the statewide neonatal program, based administratively at MIEMSS.



Lt. Richard T. Long, Sr., Distinguished Service Award—for his initiative and leadership in EMS. He created a prearrival instruction program for dispatchers in Montgomery County and, active in the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) Program, he helped to implement the Montgomery County CISD chapter.



Peter Stavarakis, MD, Distinguished Service Award—for his leadership in advancing EMS. For 15 years he was chief of emergency medicine at Union Hospital. In addition, he was a key figure in establishing ALS in Cecil County and served as that county's medical director.



Dispatcher Beverly Coakley, Distinguished Service Award—for developing and implementing a model program teaching the children of Harford County how to access the EMS system. She personally instructed more than 5,000 children how to use 911.



CRT Melvin Wehrman, EMS/Public Safety Certificate of Honor. On July 8, 1988, at extreme risk to his own safety and before fire and EMS units arrived, CRT Wehrman extricated an unconscious man trapped in a burning vehicle.



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EMTs David Barnett and Tina White, carrying the limp body of a boy they rescued from the harbor, race to a waiting ambulance. (Photo courtesy of the Somerset Herald.) Both EMTs were honored at the statewide EMS awards luncheon. See pages 6 and 7 for article and more photos.

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## A Time to Reflect . . .

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As we approach the holidays this year, we offer our thanks to all the Maryland providers who contributed in providing care to their communities. While these same providers may never be thanked by the families of all those whom they served for the past year, it may be a bit of solace to know that many families are celebrating the holidays this year because some trained stranger provided care at a time of illness or injury.

For those who celebrate Christmas and Hanuka, the religious values of caring and the dignity of the individual certainly carry forth throughout the year in the caring provided by EMS providers. We extend to all of you our best wishes for safe and peaceful holidays and for a new year of opportunity and growth.

—Ameen Ramzy, MD  
State EMS Director

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