

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Clinicians

Vol. 48 No. 7

November 2022

## Governor Announces Statewide Preparedness Efforts to Combat RSV, Potential COVID-19 and Flu Surges

~ MIEMSS expands C4 capabilities to include pediatric surge operations ~

**AS HOSPITALS IN THE REGION** and across the country experience an increase in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) admissions, Governor Larry Hogan has announced a series of new mitigation actions, along with preparedness efforts for potential fall and winter COVID-19 and flu surges in Maryland.

“After meeting with our multi-agency public health task force yesterday and reviewing all of the data, I am announcing these steps to give our hospitals more tools to expand bed capacity for pediatric patients,” said Governor Hogan. “We also continue to encourage Marylanders to be COVIDReady, so that we remain one of the most vaccinated and boosted states, and stay ahead of the virus.”

■ **Hospitals Directed to Utilize Additional State Funding to Prioritize Pediatric ICU Staffing.** RSV hospitalizations are increasing earlier and more rapidly than in previous years, with the 0-2 age group comprising 57% of hospitalizations. On October 14, the Maryland Department of Health announced \$80 million in additional funding for healthcare providers across the state.

Hospitals will receive \$25 million and have been directed in award letters to utilize these resources to increase the hiring and recruitment of staff. For facilities with pediatric ICU and/or inpatient beds, awards should prioritize staffing those units



appropriately before considering other non-pediatric units. All hospitals are also strongly urged to collaborate with neighboring hospitals on pediatric patient care coordination.

■ **Critical Care Coordination Center Expanded to Include Pediatric Surge Operations.** To help mitigate an increase in hospital admissions, particularly among children experiencing RSV, Rhinovirus, or Enterovirus D68, MIEMSS

will expand its Critical Care Coordination Center (C4) capability to include pediatric surge operations. This action will optimize existing capacity, increase statewide capacity of pediatric ICU beds, and facilitate the transfer of pediatric patients to available beds in Maryland hospitals and Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC.

■ **State Continues Joint COVID-19/Flu Shot Campaign.** In October, state officials further expanded COVIDReady Maryland, the state’s long-term preparedness plan, by adding the COVID-19 bivalent vaccine booster shot for residents five years old and older. In addition, adults now have the option of receiving a Novavax monovalent booster if they have not previously received a booster and if they cannot or will not receive mRNA vaccines.

To date, more than one million Marylanders have received the COVID-19 bivalent booster, further protecting themselves against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. With flu hospitalizations also increasing earlier and faster than in

See **GOVERNOR** page 10

# EMS News Digest

■ **Maryland Department of Health Launches RSV Resource Webpage, Urges Marylanders to Take Precautions, Get Flu and COVID Vaccines** (*Maryland Department of Health*). The Maryland Department of Health has launched a new webpage offering resources about respiratory virus infections spreading rapidly this fall, as well as steps that Marylanders can take to protect themselves. The move follows Governor Larry Hogan's announcement about statewide preparedness efforts to address an increase in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and potential COVID-19 and flu surges. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3EUonKg>.

■ **Maryland Department of Health Releases RSV Hospitalization Data Dashboard, Urges Marylanders to Wash Hands, Take Precautions** (*Maryland Department of Health*). The Maryland Department of Health has released a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) data dashboard containing RSV hospitalization numbers in the state. The RSV data dashboard will be updated on Thursdays and

display RSV hospitalizations by respiratory season. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3EUikRc>.

■ **Calvert County Implements Cost Recovery Program for Emergency Transport** (*The Southern Maryland Chronicle*). The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners has accepted a memorandum of agreement with many of the county's volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS departments to implement a centralized EMS transport billing system. EMS transport billing enables fire, rescue, and EMS companies to recover some of the costs of providing ambulance transportation. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3U4xbBz>.

■ **Harford County Expands Volunteer Fire and EMS Pension Benefits** (*Maryland Association of Counties*). In October, the Harford County Council approved legislation proposed by County Executive Barry Glassman that expands eligibility for the county's volunteer fire and EMS clinicians to qualify for pension benefits. The new law lowers the eligibility age from 55

to 50-years-old for those with 25 or more years of service and lowers the age from 70 to 60-years-old for those with five consecutive years of service and at least 10 active years. The legislation also removes the monthly cap on benefits that can be earned by longtime volunteers. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3i12jV7>.

■ **Tracheostomy Tube Shortage Likely to Impact Pediatric Patients; FDA Offers Guidance** (*American Academy of Pediatrics News*). With a shortage of tracheostomy tubes, the Food and Drug Administration is offering guidance to support health care providers and patients who need the equipment. The shortage of tubes, including Bivona tracheostomy tubes manufactured by ICU Medical, is more likely to impact pediatric patients, the FDA said, because the supply of alternative tubes with similar functionality may be limited. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3AF5B6Y>. ■

*Submit recent EMS-related news and headlines for consideration to [ptandy@miemss.org](mailto:ptandy@miemss.org).*

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# ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAM



**December 13–15, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Online**

**Free Registration for Maryland Fire/EMS first responders!**

## ABOUT TRAINING

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Instructor Training event teaches first responders, hospital staff, and law enforcement officers how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges that adults face.

MHFA Instructors connect communities and build mental health literacy while teaching others how to assist during mental health challenges or crises.

## THIS COURSE CONSISTS OF

- **Eight hours** of self-paced pre-work, and
- **Three days** of live virtual instruction.
- Maryland EMS CEUs

[Learn more about becoming an MHFA Instructor >>](#)

[Visit MHFA for more information >>](#)

**SEATS ARE LIMITED! REGISTER TODAY**





# All-in-One Car Seats Given to EMSOPs to Transport Children Not in an Emergency

~ Additional Maryland EMSOPs invited to participate in 2022-2023 Pilot EMSC CPS Project ~



Scenes from four trainings between July and September 2022. [Clockwise, from top left: Washington County, Allegany County, Ocean City Fire Department, and Calvert County.]

**IN A PILOT PROJECT** modeled on an effort with Maryland law enforcement, EMS Operational Programs can apply to get an “All-in-One” car seat to use in a supervisor’s vehicle for transporting children who do not require ambulance transport.

Over the last six months, five EMS Operational Programs have each gotten 3 - 5 Graco “Slim Fit” car seats. This seat is easy to use and perfect for this project as it can accommodate children as little as five lbs. up to 100 lbs. with its three different modes (rear-facing, forward-facing and booster). Participating agencies receive a 90-minute training on child passenger safety and how to use this seat along with print and video instruction. Seats are available immediately. The project is funded from the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration’s Highway Safety Office to MIEMSS’ EMS for Children program.

For more information and an application, contact the project coordinator, Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, at [cps@miemss.org](mailto:cps@miemss.org). ■





## Meet the Region III Pediatric EMS Medical Director and Pediatric EMS Champions

**MARYLAND'S EMS SYSTEM** is comprised of 29 EMS operational programs divided into five regions. In this month's article, we will highlight some of the members of the Region III Pediatric Team.

### RICHARD LICHENSTEIN, MD | REGION III PEDIATRIC MEDICAL DIRECTOR

**RICHARD LICHENSTEIN, MD** is the Region III Pediatric Medical Director. He is also the Medical Director, Child Welfare, Maryland Department of Human Services, and a Professor of Pediatrics for the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Lichenstein continues to work part-time as a Pediatric ED physician at the University of Maryland Children's Hospital and serves as a C4 physician for the MIEMSS C4Pediatrics.

As evidenced by his various involvements, Dr. Lichenstein is passionate about injury prevention. He has worked locally and nationally with the AAP Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention, where current interests continue to focus on SUID, suicide, and gun violence. He is Chair of the State Child Fatality Review Team and Vice President for the Partnership for a Safer Maryland. Dr. Lichenstein is also a representative for the AAP in pediatric disaster preparedness and subject matter expert for Region III.

Growing up, Dr. Lichenstein's first job was as a soda jerk and he enjoyed playing stratomatic baseball. He loved reading the novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez.

Dr. Lichenstein enjoys working with EMS and Maryland EMSC because he is drawn to helping in periods of emergency, and prehospital is where it starts. He says working within EMS helps with the complete picture of understanding the continuum of care. ■



### ANITA HAGLEY, BSN, RN, NRP BALTIMORE CITY PEDIATRIC EMS CHAMPION

**ANITA HAGLEY, BSN, RN, NRP** is the Baltimore City Pediatric EMS Champion. Hagley serves as a Captain in the Emergency Medical Services Office of Quality Improvement for the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD). Previous roles include Paramedic, EMS Lieutenant, EMT-I Instructor, Clinical Coordinator, Field Preceptor, Medical Duty Officer,



See *HAGLEY* page 8

### BRIDGET WEISS, NRP, FNP ANNAPOLIS CITY PEDIATRIC EMS CHAMPION

**BRIDGET WEISS, NRP, FNP** is the Annapolis City Pediatric EMS Champion. Bridget is a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Annapolis Fire Department and an instructor with Anne Arundel Community College.



Bridget loves her career as she enjoys working with men and women from all races, backgrounds, and religions together as one to care for and

See *WEISS* page 10



**SUSAN MOTT, NRP**  
CARROLL COUNTY PEDIATRIC EMS CHAMPION

**SUSAN MOTT, NRP** is the Carroll County Pediatric EMS Champion. Susan is the Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company Secretary and EMS Lieutenant, as well as the 1st Vice President for the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association and has served on the MSFA Scholarship and EMS committee for many years.



Susan has a longstanding history being a volunteer and in healthcare. At the age of 13, she volunteered as a candy striper at the town hospital. When her children were young, Susan volunteered as a Girl Scout leader, on school PTA, and as a school chaperon. As her children grew older, Susan found the vol-

*See MOTT page 10*

**DANIELLE KNATZ, NRP**  
BALTIMORE COUNTY PEDIATRIC EMS CHAMPION



**DANIELLE KNATZ, NRP** is an outgoing Pediatric EMS Champion for Baltimore County. Chief Knatz was recently promoted as the Bureau Chief of EMS for Baltimore County Fire Department and is transitioning the Pediatric EMS Champion role to a new individual because of her increased roles and responsibilities.

Growing up, Chief Knatz loved to set up camps in the woods with her cousins. The rules limited them to use only what they could find, which made it extra challenging, but no matter what they always had lots of fun. Chief Knatz's first job was at Timonium Fairlanes, as a party hostess.

*See KNATZ page 10*

**MELISSA SIMPKINS, NRP**  
BALTIMORE COUNTY PEDIATRIC EMS CHAMPION

**MELISSA SIMPKINS, NRP** is an incoming Pediatric EMS Champion for Baltimore County. She is an EMS Lieutenant and EMS Training Officer for the Baltimore County Fire Department. Lieutenant Simpkins has special interest in de-escalation and non-violent EMS clinician safety training. She serves as a CISM



peer support team member for Baltimore County Fire Department and works with overdose outreach and situational awareness. Lieutenant Simpkins was drawn to working with EMS and Maryland EMSC because of family history (she is third-generation FD) and wanting to provide clinician education to deliver quality EMS care.

*See SIMPKINS page 12*

**RICHARD "RICK" HIGH, JR., EMT**  
HOWARD COUNTY PEDIATRIC EMS CHAMPION



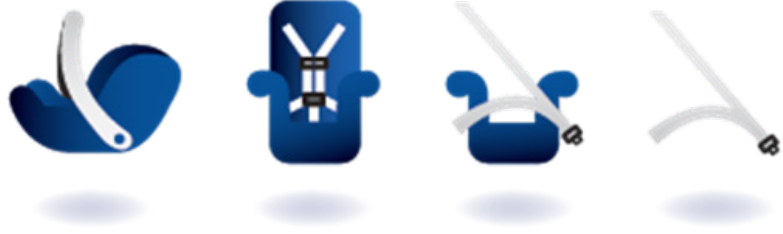
**RICHARD "RICK" HIGH, JR., EMT** is a Pediatric EMS Champion for Howard County. He is an EMT/Firefighter with the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services and has been a member of the Howard County Honor Guard for 17 years. In fact, he was the first recruit allowed to participate with

the Howard County Honor Guard and since joining has traveled both locally and nationally as part of his duties. Rick is presently in charge of the drill and ceremony for the team. Additionally, Rick serves on the Howard County CISM Peer Support team and is the BLS Liaison for the Pediatric Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (PEMAC) at MIEMSS.

*See HIGH page 8*

# Maryland's Updated Child Passenger Safety Law

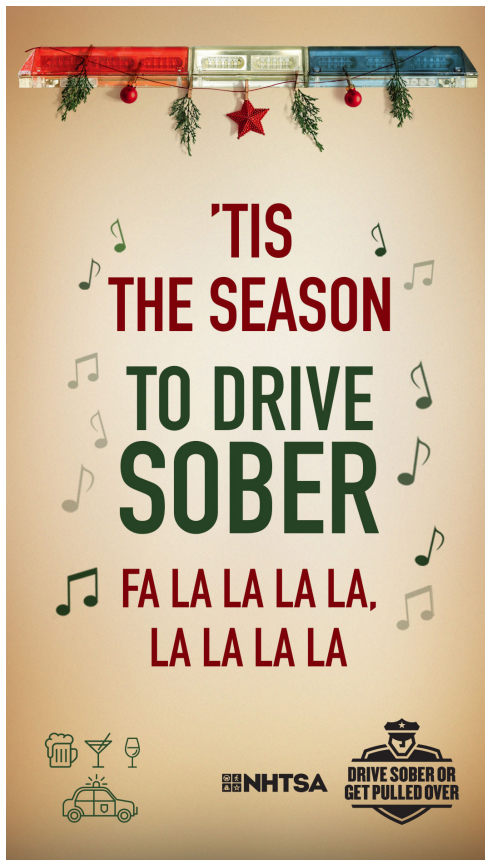
ON OCTOBER 1, 2022, Maryland updated its child passenger safety (CPS) law to more closely align with laws in neighboring states. The addition to the law requiring car seat or booster seat use until age 8 requires that children under age two must face the rear of the vehicle in their car seat. Children are safest if they stay rear-facing until they reach the rear-facing weight limit of their convertible or all-in-one type of car seat. These seats can be used in that manner until 40 or 50 lbs., so very rarely would a child under age 2 be heavy or tall enough to meet the new law's exemption to turn forward-



facing early. Crash testing and real crashes prove that children get extra protection to their head and spinal cord from being rear-facing until age 3 or more!

This advice has been part of best practice for years but not all parents are following it. To help educate families of this lifesaving information, EMS and healthcare

clinicians can get free CPS materials from MIEMSS' CPS Healthcare Project. Contact [cps@miemss.org](mailto:cps@miemss.org) for handouts, reference materials, and posters. Families can get virtual or in-person assistance with their car seats through Maryland Kids in Safety Seats at [www.MdKiss.org](http://www.MdKiss.org) or (phone) 1-800-370-SEAT. ■



## Public Safety Campaign: 2022 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization

DECEMBER 14, 2022 – JANUARY 1, 2023

**THE HOLIDAY SEASON** is known for being merry and bright, but it is also known for being the deadliest season when it comes to drunk driving. Unfortunately, every holiday season, lives are lost due to impaired drivers. In the interest of public safety, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has prepared 2022 holiday season impaired driving enforcement mobilization campaign materials for use by law enforcement and public safety personnel. Download them here: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunken-driving/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over/holiday-season>.

**HAGLEY...**

*(Continued from page 5)*

and EMS Training Officer. Additionally, Captain Hagley represents the BCFD on the Baltimore City Child Fatality Review Team.

If Captain Hagley could choose a super-

power to have, she would like to have the power to make everyone have empathy. She feels that the world would be a kinder place if everyone had the ability to put themselves in someone else's shoes.

Noting that no child ever said they wanted to be a

heroin addict when they grow up, Captain Hagley encourages both recruits and seasoned clinicians to consider the life experiences that have led them to the current moment. In other words, their goal wasn't to be addicted to heroin, or alcohol, or to be sick; rather, something happened in their life that changed their trajectory.

Captain Hagley's favorite aspect of her career

has been the opportunity to serve the citizens of Baltimore in her various roles. She says it has been rewarding to help others in their time of need and bring them comfort and hope. In her role as the Pediatric EMS Champion, she continues her interest in ensuring all Baltimore City children who experience an emergency receive great care. ■



**You're Running Out  
of Time to Participate!**



**Mountain to Shore - Maryland Strong**

**Oct. 3 - Dec. 12, 2022**

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

**HIGH...**

*(Continued from page 6)*

Since 2012, Rick has been involved in the Maryland Resuscitation Academy. He was part of the original test group/shift for the pilot that was brought over from Seattle. Since then, he has taught in the local offerings of the Maryland Resuscitation Academy and traveled nationally with the group, spreading the word about high-performance CPR.

Prior to becoming a part of the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, Rick was

a member of the military for 24 years. He enlisted in 1991 and is a veteran of Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A fun fact about Rick? He has competed in the Stachesalt Mustache contest for the three last years. He has placed in the top five each time and has become a brand ambassador. When not working, Rick enjoys cycling (road and mountain), taking road trips, and cooking, with a special interest in preparing smoked meats. ■



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**WWW.MIEMSS.ORG**



# MCFRS and PGFD Train on Structural Collapse Response

**I**n 2019, the Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System (MDERS) identified structural collapse response as a strategic priority for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) and Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department (PGFD). MCFRS and PGFD determined that to ensure an appropriately robust structural collapse response capability each department needs to be able to deploy 13 trained personnel with the necessary equipment to the scene of a structural collapse incident within 40 minutes and provide cross-county mutual aid within 90 minutes.

To support this priority, MDERS sponsored personnel from MCFRS and PGFD to participate in a structural collapse specialist course in September 2022. This course trains personnel on the critical duties and activities as outlined in their position task books and is a requirement for any individual participating in structural collapse response. This training program, hosted at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy, began with eight hours of computer-based training (CBT), followed by 80 hours of hands-on training.

The specialized techniques learned and practiced that are necessary to perform rescues at structural collapse incidents included:

■ **Breaching:** Students learned techniques to break through and access obstructed areas. Participants drilled holes in a triangle formation, then chiseled away the surrounding areas, allowing the triangle to be lifted out, revealing an opening for entrance or extraction.



*MDERS sponsored MCFRS and PGFD personnel. [Photo: MDERS]*

■ **Breaking:** Students learned the skills and techniques to safely break apart larger pieces of debris to facilitate manual removal without further compromising the structural integrity of a collapse site.

■ **Lifting:** Students learned building methodology and principles of physics to lift large pieces of cement and other debris without the help of a large crane. These techniques ensure that responders are able to remove large amounts of debris before crane operations can be implemented. Students additionally learned how to coordinate crane operations via hand signals to lift and remove debris.

■ **Shoring:** Students learned basic stabilization techniques to create supports that prop up surrounding debris to allow safe ingress and egress from collapsed buildings.

■ **Burning:** Students learned the

various characteristics of available torches and the best situations to utilize a particular type to cut through rebar, steel beams, or other metal objects. Students also learned the techniques to effectively cut the metal without compromising the structural integrity in an area of a building

■ **Building Construction:** Students learned about basic construction and engineering principles to familiarize themselves with a structure and also to construct apparatus needed for an effective rescue.

With the completion of this course, MCFRS and PGFD further increase their cadre of certified structural collapse specialists, ensuring each department's ability to deploy a fully staffed response team of 13 individuals on scene of a col-

*See MDERS page 12*

**WEISS...**

*(Continued from page 5)*

educate those in our community on what sometimes is the worst day of their lives. She still hopes the community paramedicine program will bring together the prehospital community with the in-hospital community to provide for patient needs and address issues within our health-care system, including ER and 9-1-1 abuse.

Bridget shares that if she came with a warning label it would read “Caution: Gifted, but Gabby.” Growing up, Bridget loved swimming and gym was her favorite subject in school. Her first job was at a Dunkin Donuts. When not working at the Annapolis Fire Department, Bridget loves traveling anywhere with her

husband. She also enjoys spending time with family, listening to jazz music, eating out, and watching the Food Network.

Bridget was drawn to working with EMS and Maryland EMSC by the incredible positive impact that

we can provide to our fellow EMS clinicians and their patients, who we encounter at some of the most challenging and scary times in their lives. Bridget firmly believes that education and support saves lives. ■

**MOTT...**

*(Continued from page 6)*

unteer fire department, specifically EMS. She has enjoyed working in healthcare for the last 50 years and reminds others that there is “always” something new to learn.

As a child, Susan enjoyed playing Monopoly and helping provide care and maintenance of the horses

on the racehorse farm where she grew up. According to Susan, the best piece of advice she ever received came after an emotionally challenging call, when the ED physician (having seen heartbreak on Susan’s face) said, “You can only do what God will allow you to do. You can’t hold that against yourself.” ■

**GOVERNOR...**

*(Continued from page 1)*

previous years, state health officials continue to encourage Marylanders to get their COVID-19 and flu shots simultaneously. Starting next week, state health officials will launch a new “Flooster” television, radio, and social media ad campaign to amplify this message.

The state maintains a robust vaccination infrastructure of more than 900 providers. Some locations offer both COVID-19 and flu shots during the same visit. Find a vaccination

clinic near you at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>.

■ **Enhanced Awareness and Outreach.** The state’s GoVAX Call Center (1-855-MD-GOVAX) continues to be available seven days a week. In addition to providing a number of services for help with getting tested and boosted, the call center is launching a texting campaign focused on preventing COVID-19, flu, and RSV. ■

**KNATZ...**

*(Continued from page 6)*

When not at work, Chief Knatz enjoys spending her free time on the farm with her family, taking care of pigs, and farming grain. The family is very involved in the 4H program, working with youth in Carroll County. Her favorite holiday is Easter as the family has a very exciting egg hunt. Chief Knatz says it is great to see the kids working together to find the eggs. She says if she came with a warning label, it would read “Warning: May combust with compassion.”

The Maryland EMSC Department thanks Chief Knatz for her years of service as one of the original Pediatric EMS Champions for Maryland and sends best wishes for continued success in the new role. ■

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Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's (MDOT MVA)

## Maryland Highway Safety Office

*The MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office (MHSO) is dedicated to saving lives and working with many partners across the State to reduce the number of crashes each year. In addition, the MHSO looks for ways to reduce crash severity and ways to treat crash victims easier and faster.*

***Maryland aims to reduce the number of crashes, and the resulting deaths and injuries, to zero by 2030.***

### Travel Safely this Holiday Season

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

#### Prior to Departure:

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



#### During Travel:

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

### What to Do in a Roadside Emergency

No matter how well prepared you and your vehicle are for the road, at some point we all experience a roadside emergency. Knowing how to react in these stressful situations is the key to remaining safe until you can get back on the road.

- **Find a Safe Place.** Exit the travel lanes and get as far onto a shoulder as possible. If you can, exit the roadway entirely.
- **Assess the situation, call for help.** Motorists can dial 9-1-1 for assistance. In Maryland, you can also dial #77.
- **Use good judgement and stay vigilant.** If you're able to do so, remain in your vehicle, buckled and facing forward. If you cannot remain in the vehicle, exit safely and move quickly away from the road, behind a barrier or up an embankment if possible.
- **If stranded in a travel lane.** Activate your warning lights, contact emergency services and assess the situation to determine whether it is safest to remain in, or leave the vehicle.

For more information on handling roadside emergencies, visit [ZeroDeathsMD.gov/Roadside](https://ZeroDeathsMD.gov/Roadside)

### Emphasis Area Team Meetings

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

- **Pedestrian & Bicycle:** December 1, 2022 (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- **Impaired Driving:** January 23, 2023 (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

Contact [MHSO@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:MHSO@mdot.maryland.gov) to register



**MDERS...**

*(Continued from page 9)*

lapse event within 40 minutes. Additionally, by jointly training across both departments, MCFRS and PGFD can deploy fully interoperable mutual aid within 90 minutes of a large collapse event.

To further bolster structural collapse response capabilities within the Maryland-National Capital Region, MDERS is coordinating with MCFRS and PGFD to host two technical search specialist courses and an additional structural collapse specialist course in 2023. These courses, alongside a robust equipment cache, ensure both departments are able to effectively deploy and respond to structural collapse incidents.

For more information on MDERS, please visit [www.mders.org](http://www.mders.org). ■

**SIMPKINS...**

*(Continued from page 6)*

As a child, Lieutenant Simpkins loved playing Trivial Pursuit and card games, and her favorite subject in school was science. Her first job was at a Baskin Robbins. Now, when not working at Baltimore County Fire Department, she loves to decompress by reading or completing crossword puzzles.

Lieutenant Simpkins explains that the best advice she has received is to “use your ears and eyes before your mouth; there is a 2:1 ratio for a reason.” And if given the choice to time travel, she says she would decline, advising that she has learned lessons from her mistakes and wants to continue learning as she goes through life. ■

**SAVE THE DATE**

**April 26-30, 2023**

*Ocean City  
Fontainebleu Resort*

*Ocean City, Maryland*

*Further details will be published as they become available.*



**Maryland EMS News**

**MIEMSS**

**653 W. Pratt St.**

**Baltimore, MD 21201-1536**



**Governor Larry Hogan**

**Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford**

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~ **SAVE THE DATE** ~

**WINTERFEST EMS 2023**

**FEBRUARY 3-5, 2023 ■ EASTON, MD**



This year, the Annual Volunteer EMS Conference and Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar are happening at the Winterfest & Miltenberger 2022 EMS Conferences. Both conferences have a longstanding reputation for providing quality EMS training to Maryland's clinicians, with Winterfest celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year, and Miltenberger celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup>. This joint conference will feature an EMT/EMR Refresher class as well as a PEP-4® Edition Hybrid Course. Due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, the joint conference will offer over 12 hours of existing virtual continuing education. Those who attend the full conference and complete a Maryland 12-hour EMT/EMR Refresher class will meet the 24 hours required for recertification as an EMT. Virtual content will be approved on the EMS/EMR website and will also be distributed in the January edition of Maryland EMS News as well as via Winterfest and Miltenberger social media accounts. Lectures will be posted on MIEMSS Online Training Center (https://www.miemss.org/training) in March.

**PRECONFERENCE**  
**Registration Required; Basic PPE Required (Face Mask and Eye Protection)**  
**EMT-B 12-Hour Skills Refresher - Combination of online and in person**  
**Fee: \$75**  
**Location: Easton Volunteer Fire Department**  
**315 Leonard Rick Drive (Formerly Aurora Park Drive), Easton, MD 21601**  
A 12-hour skills class will be divided into 4 hours of virtual instruction, followed by 8 hours of skills in person. Space is limited, register early! Skills Refresher participants will be emailed to confirm class requirements.  
Please note: This EMT-B 12-hour course is a recertification course and does not include a certification exam. The course will be held at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department. Participants must bring their own PPE. The course will be held at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department. Participants must bring their own PPE. The course will be held at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department. Participants must bring their own PPE.

**Pediatric Education for Paramedics/Professionals (PEPP-4) Course**  
**Fee: \$90**  
**Course Dates: Friday, February 18, 8:00 AM**  
**Location: The Oxford Fire Company**  
**308 Oxford Road, Oxford, MD 21654**  
The PEPP-4 hybrid course features an all-in-one lecture on Behavioral Emergencies, role-play activities and learning games, such as triaging and triaging, along with updated case-based scenarios, videos, scenario-based activities, and group education. The PEPP-4 Hybrid Course is designed by the American Academy of Pediatrics specifically for EMS/EMR clinicians who are involved in assessment and management of ill or injured children. Maryland EMS Clinicians has added additional scenarios and special equipment to enhance the one-day course portion. All PEPP-4 participants will complete 12.5 hours of online learning prior to attend the one-day course portion. Participants will qualify to receive an AHA course certificate upon participating in 12.5 hours of online and on-site portions of the course and successfully completing a written test. Credit Hours: BLS: 15 hours; AHA: 18.75 hours. Required - online learning must be completed prior to attending the course. Textbook will be mailed with online access code when payment has been received. PEPP-4 participants will be emailed to confirm class requirements.

There also is still time to access course content from the Winterfest EMS and Miltenberger 2022 combined virtual EMS conference – but hurry! Many of these courses will be removed from the Online Training Center on or about December 31, 2022. Learn more at <https://www.emsonlinetraining.org/>.