

Update on Actions Taken Under the COVID-19 State of Emergency

THE EMS BOARD AND MIEMSS

issued nine Public Notices taking action under the additional authority granted by Governor Larry Hogan in his emergency orders. Under Governor Hogan’s “Termination Roadmap,” these orders will expire August 15, 2021, unless otherwise noted.

■ **Public Notice #1** created an expedited path for individuals to obtain provisional EMS certification or licensure to augment the EMS response during the emergency. More than 1,600 individuals became provisional EMS clinicians. MIEMSS and the EMS Board issued regulations to provide a path for full credentialing which must be achieved by February 11, 2022. Provisional EMS clinicians may continue to function while they achieve full credentialing.

Public Notice #1 also modified the protocol to allow for an altered crew configuration of Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) teams consisting of a single paramedic. Subsequently, the EMS Board adopted this change to the protocol with a requirement for additional training so it does not expire.

■ **Public Notice #2** created a registry within MIEMSS to credential Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Clinical Externs to allow them to practice in a limited capacity during the emergency. These externs included more than 1,500 nursing students and more than 100 respiratory care students. This no-

tice expires September 15, 2021.

■ **Public Notice #3** allowed MIEMSS to waive certain personnel requirements for commercial ambulance services as long as patient needs are met. This was used to allow a nurse/nurse configuration on certain specialty care transports that would have otherwise required a nurse/paramedic configuration. This is scheduled to end on September 15, 2021, but the EMS Board is proposing regulations which would allow for continued waivers.

Public Notice #3 also authorized MIEMSS to issue waivers to Maryland-licensed commercial ambulance services which are also licensed in another state, to use vehicles that are not currently licensed in Maryland but are licensed in that other state. This notice expires September 15, 2021.

■ **Public Notice #4** created an expedited path for individuals to obtain provisional EMD licensure during the

emergency. Very few individuals became licensed under this provision, but they will have until February 11, 2022, to achieve full credentialing under the regulations issued by the EMS Board.

■ **Public Notice #5** allowed the EMT psychomotor testing to occur before the required field internship and expires August 15, 2021.

■ **Public Notice #6** allowed Paramedics and EMTs to vaccinate the public under appropriate supervision. While the notice expires August 15, 2021, MIEMSS sought to change the law regarding paramedics as vaccinators and was successful in the 2021 Legislative Session. Under the statute, paramedics may administer flu and COVID-19 vaccines to the public under certain circumstances. Under a separate order issued by the Mary-

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Dr. Allen R. Walker, Former MIEMSS Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics, Passes Away

DR. ALLEN R. WALKER, MIEMSS Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics from 2000 to 2017 and Director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Johns Hopkins Children's Center (JHCC) from 2003 to 2011, died June 16, 2021, at the age of 75.

Dr. Walker joined the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at JHCC in 1989 after serving in the U.S. Navy as a military base pediatrician for two years and as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, and The University of Nevada School of Medicine. He also spent several years in private practice to gain a better understanding of all aspects of pediatric care.



Dr. Walker worked at MIEMSS serving as Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics after being a member of the state PEMAC for four years. His focus was continuous improvement of pediatric care in both the field and in hospitals. He was passionate about medical personnel communicating openly and honestly with children. He was a

member of the Statewide EMS Advisory Council (SEM-SAC) from 1995 until 2014, where he constantly promoted the best care for children within the EMS community. He presented at many EMS continuing education programs

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Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation 2021 Service

THE MARYLAND FIRE-RESCUE SERVICES MEMORIAL FOUNDATION (MFRSMF) held the annual memorial service paying tribute to Maryland's fallen fire and rescue services personnel in-person on June 6, 2021, in Annapolis. The service honored 10 heroes who died in the line of duty while serving the residents of Maryland.

This year's ceremony included those who would have been recognized at last year's ceremony had it not been cancelled due to the statewide, stay-home order associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020-2021 combined memorial service honored the following heroes, starting with the date of their passing:

- **June 2, 1931: Charles Wallace Hambrock**, West Annapolis Volunteer Fire & Improvement Company, *Anne Arundel County*
- **June 30, 1934: Thomas Chew**, United Fire Com-



pany, *Frederick County*

- **May 1, 1948: Earl Derr**, Independent Hose, *Frederick County*

- **June 25, 2019: Michael R. Powers**, Libertytown VFD, *Frederick County*

- **October 2, 2019: Kim D. Weber**, Fallston Vol. Fire & Ambulance Company, *Harford County*

- **December 29, 2019: Otis L. Isaacs, Jr.**, North East Fire Company, *Cecil County*

- **May 31, 2020: Brad A. Scott**, Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue, *Howard County*

- **August 10, 2020: Jeffrey L. Schaffer**, Taneytown VFC, *Carroll County*

- **January 1, 2021: Bryan P. Hamilton**, Naval District Washington Fire Department, *Charles County*

- **January 27, 2021: William A. Sheffield**, Baltimore City Fire Department, *Baltimore City* ■





MARYLAND STARS OF LIFE AWARDS

Each year, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) celebrates EMS Week by honoring men and women across Maryland who have contributed to the EMS system. The eight categories for awards relate to specific incidents occurring from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. For further information, call 410-706-3994, or email awards@miemss.org.

MARYLAND STAR OF LIFE AWARD

This award may be given to an individual, multiple individuals, or teams on the same incident for an outstanding rescue under extreme circumstances by EMS personnel.

MARYLAND EMS CITIZEN AWARD

This award is intended for citizen rescuers who have demonstrated quick thinking, fast action, and heroism.

EMS CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes a clinician who has made outstanding contributions in the past year to the continuous improvement of emergency medical services in Maryland (for example, in the areas of quality assurance, public or EMS education, prevention, delivery of EMS services, and new technology).

EMD CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR

This award is given for extraordinary efforts in assisting the public through dispatch in this vital portion of the Chain of Survival.

OUTSTANDING EMS PROGRAM

This award recognizes a program that offers an innovative approach to reducing death and disability. The program must be affiliated with an EMS system component, such as a hospital, educational facility, rescue squad, or EMS organization.

LEON W. HAYES AWARD FOR LIFETIME EXCELLENCE IN EMS

This award is given to 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.

MARYLAND EMS-CHILDREN (EMS-C) AWARD

This award is given to 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.

MARYLAND EMS-GERIATRIC (EMS-G) AWARD

This award is given to an individual or program that has demonstrated ongoing dedication and commitment to improving the EMS care of the elderly in Maryland.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2022 are DUE by FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022.

SUBMIT THROUGH THE ONLINE LINK: <http://www.miemss.org/home/documents>



The Right Care When It Maryland EMSC 2022 Program



The Maryland EMS for Children program is In Search Of children and youth in Maryland who have demonstrated Steps to Take in an Emergency or Ways to be Better Prepared for an Emergency. Actions taking place January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, are eligible for nomination. We will be recognizing children and youth who acted so that others would receive "The Right Care When It Counts." Each nominee will receive a patch and certificate and be eligible for a state award at a ceremony during EMS Week 2022.

Questions? Email awards@miemss.org

Children and youth who have met one or more of the following criteria are eligible for Right Care Awards:

1. Activates the Emergency Response System by calling 9-1-1 in an emergency
2. Calls the Poison Control Center in an emergency (1-800-222-1222)
3. Provides family emergency phone numbers, address, and contacts to emergency responders
4. Knows and practices an emergency plan at home
5. Applies knowledge learned in a first aid class
6. Performs CPR and/or uses an AED effectively
7. Knows his or her medical history (allergies, medications, special needs, etc.) and shares this information with emergency care providers
8. Participates in fire and injury prevention education in the community
9. Prepares, with his or her family, to respond to a disaster
10. Provides emergency assistance in the community

Nominations for 2022 are DUE by March 25th, 2022 (Friday).

Submit through the online link: <http://www.miemss.org/home/documents>

EMS Compliance Update

THE EMS BOARD IS AUTHORIZED to take disciplinary action against clinicians who engage in prohibited conduct to safeguard the integrity of the EMS system. COMAR 30.02.04.01 lists conduct which is prohibited. Below is a sample of actions the EMS Board has taken since January 2020 as a result of prohibited conduct. For more information, contact Lisa Chervon, Chief Compliance Officer, at email: lchervon@miemss.org or phone: (410) 706-2339. Additionally, MIEMSS maintains a searchable database of all decisions at: <https://www.miemss.org/home/public>, which can be found under Public Orders Report in the left-hand column.

■ **B-2019-932 (CRT)** October 30, 2020. While assigned to a medic, the CRT was ordered to respond to the aid of a 1-year-old infant in respiratory distress and purposely fabricated a “false call” to avoid responding to the infant respiratory distress call. This resulted in the delivery of first responder basic life support patient care and suboptimal transportation and delayed advanced life support of a critically ill patient. The Board proposed to revoke the CRT’s certification, however, the CRT proposed to surrender their license. Under COMAR 30.02.05.13, a clinician may not surrender a certificate unless the Board agrees to accept the surrender. The Board accepted the surrender of the CRT’s certificate.

■ **B-2019-933 (EMT)** June 9, 2020. By disposition agreement: The EMT contributed to suboptimal transportation and delaying advanced life support care of a critically ill patient. The

EMT’s certificate was retroactively suspended for a period of one month and placed on probation for a period of 2 years. Additionally, the EMT was required to successfully complete remedial training on response procedures, chain of command, and situational awareness.

■ **B-2019-937 (Paramedic)** June 9, 2020. By disposition agreement: The Paramedic failed to administer the appropriate level of care to a patient. The agreement provided that the Paramedic’s license was placed on probation for the remainder of the current term of their license, during which time the Paramedic was required to continue to comply with remediation required by the Paramedic’s EMS operational program.

■ **B-2020-944 (Paramedic)** July 23, 2020. While on duty as a Paramedic, the Paramedic tested positive for morphine during a random drug test. The EMSOP suspended the Paramedic’s privileges for violation of their Substance Abuse Policy, and referred the Paramedic to their Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for evaluation and random on-demand testing schedule. The EMSOP restored the Paramedic’s functional privileges contingent upon compliance with their EAP Plan. The Paramedic submitted to MIEMSS documentation of successful completion of rehabilitation and negative testing. As a result, the EMS Board placed the Paramedic on probation through the remainder of the Paramedic’s current term of licensure, subject to random testing at the Paramedic’s expense and continued compliance with the EAP plan.

■ **B-2020-953 (EMT)** February 19, 2021. On September 21, 2018, the EMT was sentenced to the Division of Corrections for five years with all but one day suspended, placed on su-

pervised probation for five years, and ordered to pay \$305 court costs and \$37,000 restitution for the crime of Theft Scheme more than \$10,000 but less than \$100,000. The EMT failed to disclose this conviction on their EMT application. The noncompliance notice proposed that the Board revoke the EMT’s certificate and the EMT requested a hearing. Subsequently, however, the EMT proposed to surrender their certificate. Under COMAR 30.02.05.13, a clinician may not surrender a certificate unless the Board agrees to accept the surrender. The Board accepted the surrender of the EMT’s certificate.

■ **B-2020-963 (Paramedic)** April 23, 2021. The Paramedic received probation before judgment for the crime of driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol and was placed on probation for three years. The EMS Board placed the Paramedic on probation for the period of court ordered probation during which the Paramedic will be subject to random alcohol testing.

■ **B-2020-966 (EMT)** April 23, 2021. The EMT was found guilty and sentenced to 18 months in jail, with the entire 18 months suspended, and 30 months of supervised probation for the crime of disclosure/use of a wiretap. The EMT failed to inform MIEMSS of this conviction when submitting the application for renewal of their EMT certification. The EMT was reprimanded and placed on probation for the period of probation ordered by the criminal court.

■ **B-2020-967 (EMT)** April 23, 2021. While on the scene of a call for EMS service, the EMT was abusive towards a patient. The EMT’s unprofessional behavior was also directed towards other EMS personnel on scene. The

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EMS Compliance Update (continued)

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EMT was placed on probation for one year and ordered to complete the remediation requirements imposed by the Jurisdictional EMS Operational Program in connection with this matter.

■ **B-2020-971 (EMT)** April 23, 2021. The EMT received probation before judgment for the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and was placed on two years of supervised probation. The EMS Board placed the EMT on probation for one year with random alcohol testing.

■ **B-2020-965 (Paramedic)** April 23, 2021. The Paramedic was found guilty of the crime of assault in the second degree and sentenced to 18 months in jail, with the entire sentence suspended, and three years of supervised probation. The EMS Board placed the Paramedic on probation for the period of probation ordered by the court, during which the Paramedic will be subject to random alcohol testing.

■ **IRC21-002 (Applicant)** May 12, 2021. The Applicant was convicted of Assault – Second Degree and sentenced to time served in jail, and 18 months of supervised probation with provision for transition to unsupervised probation after six months. The Applicant was allowed to proceed with certification and if the Applicant is certified, the Applicant will be placed on probation for the Applicant's first EMT certification cycle.

■ **IRC21-003 (EMD)** May 12, 2021. On August 8, 2020, the EMD pled guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol and received 12 months of unsupervised probation before judgment. The EMD failed to disclose the probation before

judgment disposition upon application for EMD licensure on October 1, 2020. The EMD was reprimanded for failing to disclose and placed on probation for one year with random alcohol testing.

■ **IRC21-010 (Provisional EMT)** May 12, 2021. On April 13, 2017, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of theft under \$1,000 and was sentenced to one year in jail with all but 15 days suspended and two years of supervised probation. Upon application for provisional EMT certification on August 28, 2020, the EMT failed to disclose the guilty plea. The EMT was reprimanded and placed on probation for one year by the EMS Board.

■ **IRC21-012 (Paramedic Applicant)** May 12, 2021. On January 26, 2017, the Applicant pled guilty to the crime of theft scheme \$1,000 to under \$10,000 and was sentenced to serve one year in jail with all but two months suspended, and supervised probation for three years. Additionally, on April 13, 2017, the Applicant pled guilty to the crime of theft scheme under \$500 and was sentenced to serve unsupervised probation for a period of 12 months. These two criminal matters arose from the same conduct, which occurred over a period of years in two different jurisdictions. Having completed all probation and having made restitution, the Applicant was reinstated as a Paramedic and placed on probation for one year.

■ **IRC21-001 (EMT)** May 12, 2021. On March 31, 2016, the EMT was found guilty of the crime of Concealed Weapon Carry and was sentenced to one year of unsupervised probation. The EMT failed to disclose the above-mentioned conviction on the EMT's application for EMT certification renewal in 2018. The EMT was rep-

rimanded for failing to disclose and placed on probation for one year.

■ **IRC21-011 (CRT)** June 16, 2021. On November 10, 2020, the CRT pled guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol per se and was sentenced to supervised probation before judgment for a period of 18 months. The EMS Board placed the CRT on probation for one year, during which the CRT is subject to random alcohol testing.

■ **B-2020-964 (EMT)** June 16, 2021. On October 16, 2020, the EMT received probation before judgment for assault in the second degree and was placed on unsupervised probation for one year. The EMS Board placed the EMT on probation for the period of court-ordered probation. ■



Don't turn your back on getting fully vaccinated. The only way we can defeat COVID-19 is for all of us to get vaccinated. So, get yours! Be Smart! Be Safe!

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccination at <https://covidlink.maryland.gov>

[Artwork courtesy 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.]

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land Department of Health, EMTs and CRTs have the option to vaccinate as laypeople, not as EMS clinicians, under certain circumstances.

■ **Public Notice #7** permitted EMS clinicians to provide non-EMS care at state-facilitated alternative care sites such as the Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital (BCCFH). This notice expires August 15, 2021.

■ **Public Notice #8** extended all EMS clinician licenses and certificates that would have otherwise expired in April or June 2021 to October or December 2021, depending upon level, and remains in effect.

■ **Public Notice #9** allows commercial ambulance services to use non-certified personnel to drive a BLS ambulance if issued a waiver by MIEMSS. These individuals must be

licensed by the Public Service Commission and meet certain training requirements. Additionally, the services must provide data so that MIEMSS can assess its effectiveness in expand-

ing commercial ambulance service availability. It expires October 15, 2021. However, the EMS Board is proposing regulations to allow for continued waivers. ■

Dr. Allen R. Walker, Former MIEMSS Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics, Passes Away

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across Maryland, leading the implementation of both PEPP for EMS and APLS for physicians. Dr. Walker was awarded the EMS for Children Star of Life award in 2017 in recognition of his commitment to the emergency care of children across Maryland.

In addition to his roles at MIEMSS and Johns Hopkins, Dr. Walker was an advocate for children in Maryland

and everywhere, becoming a nationally recognized expert in child victimization and working closely with Maryland Child Protective Services and the judicial system to create a safe environment for youth.

Dr. Walker will always be remembered for his dedication to pediatric care, mentoring the next generation of healthcare professionals, and always putting the best interest of children first in every conversation. ■

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Governor Larry Hogan
Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford

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