



# Media Alert

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## **Statewide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Continuing Education Conference; *EMS Care 2012*, to be Held in Ocean City**

The Maryland Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Statewide Continuing Education Conference; *EMS Care 2012- Broad Horizons* will be held in Ocean City, April 14 and 15, 2012, at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel and Conference Center. Emergency services providers from around the state will be attending to keep their skills and knowledge current on the latest procedures in caring for their patients. Approximately 250 people will be on hand over the two day event. The Conference is presented by the Maryland EMS Regional EMS Advisory Councils and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). MIEMSS is the state agency responsible for coordinating Maryland's Trauma and EMS System. The program is being hosted by the Ocean City Fire Department.

Both national and local Maryland speakers will be delivering the latest information on caring for medical and trauma patients. Topics ranging from heart attack care to hand trauma to providing care following a hurricane or earthquake will be presented. On Saturday, Dr. Ed Racht, the Medical Director for the Chief Medical Officer at American Medical Response in Austin, Texas will discuss the latest information on improving outcomes with CPR and patients suffering sudden cardiac arrest. On Sunday, Steve Berry, a nationally known EMS humorist and cartoonist, will present two sessions. Also a Statewide panel of EMS and hospital personnel from across the State including Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Northwest Hospital and Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, and Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury; will discuss STEMI - "ST segment elevation myocardial infarction", which is a severe type of heart attack in a case reviews session. Experts from the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the Johns Hopkins Hospital Eye Center, as well as Maryland Regional EMS Medical Directors, will be instructing. "This year's expanded program will provide a variety of topics and content to help keep our EMS providers informed," said Robert R. Bass, MD, MIEMSS Executive Director. "Maryland's emergency services providers are some of the most dedicated and best in the world. Their commitment to expanding

their knowledge in order to provide better care for our citizens is what makes our state's Trauma and EMS System world renowned."

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Prior to the full conference, an expanded offering of specialty classes are being offered on Thursday, April 12 and Friday, April 13, including dealing with Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), Advanced Life Support (ALS) Acute Coronary Care, and other EMS management topics. Emergency Medical Technicians-Basic (EMT-Bs) will spend two days participating in skills classes that will update their procedures of care. All of Maryland's EMS providers, both career and volunteer, must take continuing education classes to be certified or licensed in the state. Basic Life Support (BLS) providers must re-certify every three years and Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers must be re-licensed every two years.

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