

Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Clinicians

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MIEMSS Presents Annual Maryland EMS Awards

MIEMSS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RECIPIENTS of the 2021 EMS awards. This year's awards recognize actions occurring between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. Nominated by peers or a member of the public, this year's honorees were selected by a statewide committee of career, volunteer, and commercial EMS clinicians.

Although the presentation of the Maryland Star of Life and Right Care When It Counts awards coincided with EMS Week as well as EMS for Children Day, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic once again precluded the traditional in-person presentation ceremony. Due to the extenuating circumstances, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge traversed the state to present the Star of Life and Right Care When It Counts awards, highlights from which will be featured in a compilation video made available to the public. During the presentations of the Right Care When It Counts and EMS for Children awards, he was joined by Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics Dr. Jennifer Anders and Maryland EMS for Children Program Director Cynthia Wright Johnson. State EMS Board Chair Clay B. Stamp also participated in several presentations. MIEMSS congratulates this year's award recipients and salutes all of Maryland's outstanding EMS clinicians for their hard work and dedication.

(Continued on page 2)

EMS STRONG

This Is EMS: Caring for Our Communities



▲ During a recent visit, Governor Larry Hogan presented a Governor's Proclamation, declaring May 16–22, 2021, as EMS Week in Maryland to personnel at the Hagerstown Community Rescue Service. The Governor recognized and thanked all Maryland EMS clinicians for their hard work and dedication each and every day, and especially while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

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2021 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS

THE MARYLAND STAR OF LIFE AWARD

■ PERSONNEL FROM JARRETTSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY; WHITEFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY; DARLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY; BEL AIR VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY; ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT; SUSQUEHANNA HOSE COMPANY DIVE TEAM; FALLSTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY; HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE; HARFORD COUNTY DES 9-1-1 PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH; HARFORD COUNTY DES SOUTHERN SWIFT WATER GROUP; HARFORD COUNTY DES NORTHERN SWIFT WATER GROUP; HARFORD COUNTY DES CENTRAL SWIFT WATER GROUP; HARFORD COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND EMS FOUNDATION; BALTIMORE COUNTY SWIFT WATER TEAM - KINGSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY; BALTIMORE COUNTY USAR TEAM - TEXAS STATION; MARYLAND STATE POLICE - BEL AIR BARRACK; MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE; UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND R ADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER GO-TEAM; TIMOTHY P. CHIZMAR, MD, STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR; DAVID A. VITBERG, MD, BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPUTY MEDICAL DIRECTOR



▲ Representatives from the agencies and organizations that participated in the rescue gathered to be recognized for their part in the event.

THE MARYLAND STAR OF LIFE AWARD is given for an outstanding rescue under extreme circumstances. For their role in a multi-agency water rescue in Harford County, this year's Maryland Star of Life recipients include personnel from the **Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company; Whiteford Volunteer Fire Company; Darlington Volunteer Fire Company; Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company; Aberdeen Fire Department; Susquehanna Hose Company Dive Team; Fallston Volunteer Fire Company; Harford County Sheriff's Office; Harford County DES 9-1-1 Public Safety Dispatch; Harford County DES Southern Swift Water Group; Harford County DES Northern Swift Water Group; Harford County DES Central Swift Water Group; Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS Foundation; Baltimore County Swift Water Team – Kingsville Volunteer Fire Company; Baltimore County USAR Team – Texas Station; Maryland State Police – Bel Air Barrack; Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police; University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center Go-Team; Timothy P. Chizmar, MD, State EMS Medical Director; and David E.**

Vitberg, MD, Baltimore County Deputy Medical Director.

Shortly before 5:00 p.m. on August 23, 2020, multiple local and state agencies responded to a call of a 30-year-old male swimmer who had been swept underwater after jumping into Deer Creek in Rocks State Park. The man's ankle had become ensnared by rocks in a particularly treacherous area of rapids with a history of similar incidents and poor outcomes.

For the next three hours, the Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company and personnel from the Harford County Swift Water Team worked alongside a multitude of agencies and companies, including the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland State Police, to free the man from his dire predicament. During that time, specialized resources from outside the area were requested and responded, including units and personnel from the Baltimore County Fire Department. Due to the extended extrication, personnel from the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center Go-Team also assisted on-scene. Ultimately, the extensive rescue operations successfully freed the swimmer, who was then transported to a local trauma center.

2021 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS

THE MARYLAND STAR OF LIFE AWARD

■ **TRI-TOWNS EMS; ALLEGANY COUNTY DES; BLOOMINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY; MARANDA MOWBRAY, RN; DANIEL BEVER, EMT; F/SGT. JEFFREY PARTRIDGE; TFC TYLER BOWERS; DOUGLAS DYSON; FREDERICK BARTLETT; KRISTINE DOWDEN, RN, EMT**



▲ *Those individuals that were involved in the roadside childbirth were awarded Star of Life plaques. Daxten, the child that was rescued, and his parents were present for the presentation.*

THE MARYLAND STAR OF LIFE AWARD is given for an outstanding rescue under extreme circumstances. For their individual and collective efforts to provide emergency medical services for a pre-term, roadside childbirth, this year's Maryland Star of Life recipients include **Tri-Towns EMS; Allegany County DES; Bloomington Volunteer Fire Company; Maranda Mowbray, RN; Daniel Bever, EMT; F/Sgt. Jeffrey Partridge; TFC Tyler Bowers; Douglas Dyson; Frederick Bartlett; and Kristine Dowden, RN, EMT.**

On February 19, 2020, Autumn Clites and her boyfriend, Devin, were driving along Maryland Highway in Garrett County, bound for Labor and Delivery at UPMC Western Maryland. Although their baby was not due for two-and-a-half months, delivery was imminent – so imminent, in fact, that while en route to the hospital, Devin was forced to pull over to the shoulder of the road, where he delivered the couple's second son, Daxten. However, the tiny baby was not breathing and required immediate medical attention. The Bloomington Volunteer Fire Company and Tri-Towns EMS were dispatched to the location.

Meanwhile, Maranda Mowbray, a registered nurse, stopped to assist the couple with their newborn, and immediately begin lifesaving measures on the baby. Within minutes, her father, Bloomington Volunteer Fire Company

Deputy Chief and EMT Danny Bever arrived on the scene and began assisting with CPR while aviation transport was requested. Kristine Dowden, RN, Maranda's sister and a volunteer firefighter/EMT-B, soon arrived on the scene and joined the ongoing lifesaving efforts on the newborn.

Utilizing neonatal resuscitation measures, Deputy Chief Bever soon had the infant breathing on his own. Kristine quickly placed Daxten beneath her sweatshirt to shield him from the cold environment and prevent excessive loss of body heat while the other clinicians tended to Autumn. Within minutes, the Tri-Towns EMS ambulance arrived, and both Kristine and Deputy Chief Bever boarded with the infant, continuing to provide care while en route to a landing zone to rendezvous with Engine 101 and Trooper 5. Devin drove Autumn to the landing zone, where she was loaded onto the same ambulance as their son. After being briefed on the conditions of both mother and child, the Trooper 5 crew loaded them onto the helicopter, which transported them to Morgantown, West Virginia, for continued care.

Thirty-seven days later, Daxten left the NICU. Both mother and child continue to thrive, thanks to the selfless actions of the dispatchers, firefighters, nurses, clinicians, pilots, and emergency personnel involved.

2021 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS

THE MARYLAND EMS CITIZEN AWARD

■ HARRY E. FARRELL, JR.



▲ From left: Edward Kennett; Harry E. Farrell, Jr.; George Kennett; and Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

THE MARYLAND EMS CITIZEN AWARD recognizes citizen rescuers who have demonstrated quick thinking, fast action, and heroism. This year's recipient is **Harry E. Farrell, Jr.**

While working at a local American Legion Post in St. Mary's County, the HVAC contractor heard a faint, distant call for help coming from the neighboring farm across the road. Mr. Farrell quickly drove to the farm, where he found a 90-year-old man trapped beneath a riding mower in a farm pond.

Unable to free the man on his own, Mr. Farrell, whose truck had become stuck in his rescue attempt, sought the assistance of the man's son, who was operating a tractor elsewhere on the farm. The tractor's operator picked up Mr. Farrell and both proceeded with haste to attempt a rescue. Switching out the tractor he had been operating for one equipped with a front-end loader, the man's son was able to remove the mower from atop his father and set it aside, at which point both he and Mr. Farrell successfully rescued the patient from near-certain drowning.

The patient's son, a former EMT-B and life member of the local volunteer rescue squad, conducted a primary/secondary survey of his father, miraculously finding no injuries other than severe contusions to the patient's abdomen and upper legs. Although the patient initially refused to go to the hospital, he was admitted subsequently to St. Mary's Hospital for sepsis/pneumonia, where he spent a week before being transferred to a rehabilitation facility for continued care.

Having been in the proverbial right place at the right time, Mr. Farrell played an integral role in the rescue and recovery of the patient by demonstrating exemplary concern, compassion, and swift, decisive action.

2021 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS

THE LEON W. HAYES AWARD FOR LIFETIME EXCELLENCE IN EMS■ **FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC SUSAN CLEVELAND**

▲ From left: Clay B. Stamp, State EMS Board Chair; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Firefighter Paramedic Susan Cleveland; Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein; and Dr. Tim Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director.

THE LEON W. HAYES AWARD FOR LIFETIME EXCELLENCE IN EMS honors 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. This year's recipient is **Firefighter Paramedic Susan Cleveland**.

In January 1991, Ms. Cleveland joined the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service (MCFRS), where she would devote the next three decades to serving the residents and visitors of Montgomery County as both a volunteer and career firefighter clinician. Throughout her career, she has been recognized for her strong patient advocacy and compassion, as well as her professionalism, dedication, attitude, skills, and knowledge.

Along her professional journey, Ms. Cleveland was among the first group of clinicians to be trained in Montgomery County's Mobile Integrated Health program, and has also served as an adjunct paramedic instructor for MCFRS, assisting with the training of dozens of paramedic stu-

dents throughout the years. As a top paramedic preceptor and mentor with MCFRS, she has been an important influence on their path to becoming charge paramedics.

Taking note of her abilities and work ethic, the MCFRS Emergency Medical and Integrated Healthcare Services Section recruited Ms. Cleveland as a team member within its EMS Logistics Section, during which time she tested, ordered, and distributed EMS supplies and equipment. In this capacity, she played an integral role in the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a member of the COVID-19 Response Team, she worked behind the scenes with the EMS Logistics Section to help secure and organize the personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as manage and organize the EMS Supply Warehouse. She worked diligently to place surge ambulances in service to respond to the anticipated increase in the call load and equip the ALS chase cars. She was also involved in setting up the decontamination units that were stationed at each county hospital to assist with the decontamination of all EMS units that transported patients to these facilities.

2021 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS

THE MARYLAND EMS CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD■ **MASTER FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC ARYE SINGER**

▲ From left: Clay B. Stamp, State EMS Board Chair; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Master Firefighter Paramedic Arye Singer; Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein; and Dr. Tim Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director.

THE MARYLAND EMS CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD recognizes a clinician who has made outstanding contributions in the past year to the continuous improvement of emergency medical services in Maryland. This year's recipient is **Master Firefighter Paramedic Arye Singer**.

Mr. Singer has dedicated himself to Montgomery County's ALS and Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) programs. After years of service as both a volunteer and career clinician with Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service (MCFRS), Mr. Singer joined the MCFRS MIH team in 2018, assuming the role of Lead Paramedic in September 2019. Having enthusiastically accepted a full-time MIH detail from December 2019 to March 2020, he was responsible for management of all incoming patient referrals, liaising with hospitals, the County Health Department, field clinicians, patients and their families.

Returning to the field during the initial surge of COVID-19, Mr. Singer remained a consistent advocate for MIH

and Adult Protective Services, ensuring that his fellow clinicians were aware of the various programs and how to contact them for assistance. He has likewise worked behind the scenes to improve processes and the sharing of information, such as refining the internal MIH database into a more user-friendly, easily-searchable tool while maintaining all patient information in one accessible page. Mr. Singer also helped to create an eMEDS® worksheet that will allow MCFRS clinicians to refer patients to MIH in a more detailed and consistent way. He similarly stepped up and learned how to administer COVID-19 tests in the field, assisting with a clinic at a local SNF when it experienced an outbreak. He also assisted with the MCFRS Viral Leave-At-Home program by following up with patients requiring medical assistance due to worsening viral symptoms.

2021 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS

THE OUTSTANDING EMS PROGRAM AWARD■ **JOHNS HOPKINS PEDIATRIC TRANSPORT**

▲ *Members of the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Transport Team received the Outstanding EMS Program Award.*

THE OUTSTANDING EMS PROGRAM AWARD recognizes a program affiliated with an EMS system component such as a hospital, educational facility, rescue squad, or EMS organization that offers an innovative approach to reducing death and disability. This year's recipient is **Johns Hopkins Pediatric Transport**.

For nearly 30 years, Johns Hopkins Pediatric Transport has been serving Maryland's children and families (as well as its front-line community hospitals) by delivering the highest quality, compassionate care to our region's sickest and most severely injured young patients, while prioritizing their safety during the most vulnerable time in their medical journey, the transport to a quaternary care pediatric center.

Established in 1992, Johns Hopkins Pediatric Transport has grown from a unit-based team staffed by nurses working PICU shifts that retrieved fewer than 50 children/year to a large dedicated team transporting approximately 3,000 children, adolescents, and young adults annually from more than 60 regional healthcare facilities, as well as from other

national and international medical centers. Since its inception, Johns Hopkins Pediatric Transport has transported more than 50,000 children in need of specialty pediatric care, including children in cardiac arrest, trauma and burn victims, and children with life-threatening neurosurgical or cardiac emergencies.

Today, its core team consists of a dedicated group of highly trained EMTs, paramedics, and Johns Hopkins PICU nurses, in addition to respiratory therapists and pediatric critical care fellows for the transport of critically ill children, and pediatric critical care physicians. Its pediatric transport team has experience with ground, helicopter, and fixed-wing transports of children who require advanced modes of respiratory and/or extensive hemodynamic support. At the heart of its mission are continuous quality improvement, staff education, research, and innovation to ensure maximal safety during transport and to improve outcomes of its most critically ill and injured patients.

2021 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS

THE MIEMSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD

■ UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



▲ Staff from the University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center Emergency Department and Baltimore County Fire Department joined State EMS Board Chair Clay B. Stamp, Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director, and Dr. Matthew Levy, MIEMSS Region III Medical Director, to receive the Executive Director's Award.

THE MIEMSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD is presented for outstanding service and contributions to Maryland's EMS system. This year's recipient is the **University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center Emergency Department**.

Through its Ambulance Offload Project, the University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center Emergency Department's offloading times have decreased from greater than 30 minutes (approximately 38 percent of the time) to 22

percent. Moreover, 36 percent of patients now are offloaded within the first 15 minutes of arrival, as compared to 21 percent prior to their intervention. The median patient offload time is now less than 15 minutes, with 90 percent of all patients offloaded in just over 30 minutes (31.1 minutes). The EMS base station's innovative process has come to exemplify best practices for ambulance offloading while helping to ensure the prompt triage of patients.

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2021 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS

THE MARYLAND EMS-GERIATRIC AWARD

■ CHIEF JIM RESNICK



▲ From left: Clay B. Stamp, State EMS Board Chair; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Chief Jim Resnick; Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein; and Dr. Tim Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director.

THE MARYLAND EMS-GERIATRIC AWARD is given for an individual or program that has demonstrated ongoing dedication and commitment to improving the EMS care of the elderly in Maryland. This year's recipient is **Chief Jim Resnick**.

Chief Resnick's passion and enthusiasm for helping others began as a child, growing up near busy River Road, where he kept a metal toolbox full of bandages and other first-aid supplies on his bike so that he could rush to the aid of the injured. Later, in middle school, he was the first to sign up for Red Cross First Aid Training, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Chief Resnick joined the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad in 1976, where he remains an active volunteer today. In 2014, he retired from Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services (MCFRS) with the rank of Battalion Chief, following a career spanning over 40 years in which he served as both a career and volunteer firefighter/paramedic. His leadership, personal integrity, energy, and commitment to the residents of Montgomery County and the State of Maryland remain the hallmarks of his lifelong commitment to public service.

Chief Resnick's passion for senior citizens is unparalleled. For over six years, he has led MCFRS' Community Risk Reduction Senior Outreach efforts, during which time he has been known to chase down seniors to talk about the

importance of having working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, the department's home safety check program, and other services that address the elevated fire and fall risks seniors and high-risk populations face as they age.

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced MCFRS to alter its community outreach program, Chief Resnick embraced the opportunity by moving to a virtual environment to deliver programs like home safety checks and discussions about trending fire issues via platforms such as FaceTime and Zoom. Meanwhile, he frequently made home deliveries of smoke alarms and "File of Life" packets to Montgomery County seniors. Through it all, he helped elderly residents stay connected and helped vulnerable residents stay safe.

Chief Resnick, a devotee of the power of partnerships, has collaborated with County agencies and departments to expand and deliver programs to reach seniors and high-risk populations to empower them to be fire-safe and fire-smart. He has presented on senior programs locally, regionally, and nationally in an effort to inspire other jurisdictions and provide the tools necessary for creating a culture of fire safety. With an eye toward the future, he also trains first responders in MCFRS and neighboring jurisdictions on new tools, technologies, and risk-reduction strategies to ensure that the next generation of first responders are ready to best serve older adults.

2021 MARYLAND EMS AWARDS

THE MARYLAND EMS FOR CHILDREN AWARD

■ CAPTAIN LAURA MURDOCK



▲ From left: Clay B. Stamp, State EMS Board Chair; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Captain Laura Murdock; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein; Dr. Tim Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director; and MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson.

THE MARYLAND EMS FOR CHILDREN AWARD is given for 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. This year's recipient is Captain Laura Murdock.

Captain Murdock has dedicated herself to advocacy for the prehospital emergency care of children in Montgomery County. The mother of four serves as the MIEMSS Pediatric EMS Champion for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS). Captain Murdock also serves on the county's Child Fatality Review (CFR) team, providing valuable EMS care perspective in both case review and prevention; recently, she coordinated the distribution of safety flyers to the public on SIDS prevention and the dangers of co-sleeping.

As MCFRS liaison to Montgomery County Public Schools, Captain Murdock works regularly with County Health and Human Services, ensuring coordination, communication, and education with clinicians about school

EMS emergencies, playing a vital role for the EMS system. As a member of the Montgomery County Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition, she maintains data on MCFRS EMS responses to pediatric behavioral emergencies and works to prevent youth suicidal intentions. Captain Murdock also trains MCFRS EMS clinicians on special-needs children, teaching them how to connect, react, treat, and transport this population.

As MCFRS' full-time Quality Assurance Officer, Captain Murdock regularly serves as lead remediation educator for case reviews. In this role, she reviews EMS reports of virtually all pediatric EMS incidents, identifies trends, and serves as a change agent for MCFRS. When she notified MCFRS' prevention of a recent spike in cycling injuries, it responded by distributing safety information that included an offer for free bike helmets to those in need. In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Captain Murdock worked tirelessly to find enough pediatric surgical masks for MCFRS EMS units to provide protection for patients of all ages.

The 2021 Right Care When It Counts Awards

FOR 18 YEARS, the Maryland EMS for Children Program has recognized children and youth from across Maryland who have learned about prevention and how to act when they see someone in need of help. This year, nine young heroes received Right Care When It Counts awards for bravely taking action to help someone in need.

■ CORTLYNN GRAHAM

ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 29, 2020, Cortlynn Graham was performing her safety patrol duties in the busy parent “drop off” loop at Strawberry Knoll Elementary School in Gaithersburg, Maryland, when she noticed a toddler dash ahead of her mother, who was exiting the building. Noting that the little girl was about to run into the road, and the imminent danger, Cortlynn quickly grabbed the child, preventing her from darting into the path of an oncoming Dodge pickup truck. The driver was unaware of the near-catastrophic situation unfolding.

Through her quick thinking and immediate action, Cortlynn exemplified situational awareness, calm demeanor, and leadership required of school patrols in the performance of their critical safety roles.



▲ From left: Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Cortlynn Graham; and MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson.

■ SAVANNAH DESTINY WROBLESKI-SMITH

CARROLL COUNTY RESIDENT Savannah Destiny Wroblewski-Smith was one of seven ambassadors nominated to the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association program in 2019. Since then, she has continued to deliver programs in support of fire prevention and life safety.

After witnessing some children behaving badly in a nearby park, Savannah created several video skits promoting safety and prevention in matter ranging from dryer safety to open fire pits, which her parents have shared on social media. In addition, Savannah has also shared her timely and important messages through the Hampstead Volunteer Fire Department, as well as through other local and state channels.



▲ From left: Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMSC Department Director; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Savannah Destiny Wroblewski-Smith; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Teresa Ann Crisman, Chair of the MSA Fire and Life Safety Committee; and Dr. Tim Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director.

2021 RIGHT CARE WHEN IT COUNTS AWARDS

■ SEAN BUSICK

A MAN WAS FISHING AT A LOCAL BRIDGE on February 3, 2020, when, for unknown reasons, he fell into the water. Seventeen-year-old **Sean Busick**, who was also fishing at the same location, took notice and, with the assistance of Phillip Lewis of Washington, D.C., quickly hauled the man from the water.

Having pulled him to safety, Sean and Mr. Lewis took note that the patient, who had been face-down in the water, was not breathing. Sean immediately initiated CPR, which he had learned in high school. After a few minutes of CPR, the patient regained consciousness and was flown to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, where he was placed in the ICU due to multiple injuries. Sean will graduate from high school this spring and will attend VMI in the fall. His swift actions in rescuing the man from the water and initiating CPR played an integral role in saving the patient's life.



▲ From left: Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Sean Busick; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Clay B. Stamp, State EMS Board Chair; Dr. Thomas Chiccone, MIEMSS Region IV Medical Director; MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson; and Lt. Jen Andrews, NRP, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services.

■ BRIANA AND OLIVIA TRUITT

IN THE COURSE OF WORKING ON A public service project, Girl Scouts **Briana and Olivia Truitt** determined that many EMS personnel were not adequately prepared to communicate with and treat patients with sensory disorders, such as autism. Both girls set about conducting interviews to determine how frequently EMS personnel encounter such individuals, the manner in which they respond to and treat those individuals, and to identify what tools could potentially make it easier for everyone involved.

Their first step was to create a t-shirt to promote Sensory Disorder Awareness, as well as to raise money to buy supplies for assembling Sensory Disorder Kits for Fire and EMS agencies. These special kits contain handmade blankets, dry erase boards, sunglasses, toys for fidgeting or occupying patients' hands, noise-dampening headphones, and laminated picture cards for injury location and pain scale. The girls also produced an accompanying training video to brief EMS clinicians on the contents of the kits, which were in active use within 24 hours of their being placed on Salisbury Fire and EMS units.

Today, ambulances and fire trucks in Salisbury, Sharptown, Willards, Powellville, Delmar, Fruitland, Hebron, and Parnsburg carry these kits, with more localities planned for the future.



▲ From left: Captain Chris Truitt, Salisbury Fire Department; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Olivia Truitt; Briana Truitt, MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson; and Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

2021 RIGHT CARE WHEN IT COUNTS AWARDS

■ HOLDEN SPECK

ON JULY 13, 2020, the Montgomery County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center received a 9-1-1 call from 10-year-old **Holden Speck**, who at the time was home with his father, David, and his 7-year-old sister, Kylie. Holden reported that his father was shaking and throwing up. Although Holden was initially upset, upon speaking with the dispatcher he immediately calmed down and set about answering questions in order to get help for his father. Throughout the call, Holden remained calm, focused, and answered every question, including the address, his father's age, specifics about his father's medical history, and where to locate his father's medication. He also indicated that he would be able to contact neighbors to watch him and his sister while his father was transported to the hospital.

Holden also updated the dispatcher on his father's status, including that he was snoring and making "weird noises," prompting the dispatcher to run the EMD breathing diagnostic, which Holden performed flawlessly. He was also able to direct Kylie to unlock the front door and begin gathering their father's medications for EMS personnel while remaining by his father's side to continue monitoring his condition. Despite the fear of witnessing his father's medical emergency, Holden demonstrated gentle understanding with his sister, keeping her calm throughout the event, and even reminding her to put on her mask, due to COVID-19 precautions, when EMS arrived on the scene. Though only 10-years-old, Holden exemplified the type of caller that 9-1-1 dispatchers everywhere hope to have on the other end of the line with every call.



▲ From left: Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; Holden Speck; and MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson.

■ ARMON SALEEM WILSON AND MACAYLA MILES

HAVING COMPLETED THEIR AFTER-NOON CLASS at the Howard County Public School System's Applications and Research Laboratory (ARL), Wilde Lake High School students **Armon Saleem Wilson and Macayla Miles** were returning to their home school when their bus stopped within a few blocks of their destination. Armon and Macayla, both EMT Trainees, took notice when their driver placed the bus in park and frantically ran across the street to where a stricken child lay.

Without a moment's hesitation, Armon and Macayla also ran over to the injured child. They quickly assessed the patient and, having determined that the child was in full cardiac arrest, immediately initiated CPR. Both students carried on their resuscitative efforts until responding Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services personnel arrived.

Armon and Macayla graduated high school in the spring of 2020 and have since started on new educational programs.



▲ From left: Dr. Tim Chizmar, State EMS Medical Director; Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Macayla Miles; Armon Saleem Wilson; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson; Howard County Chief Administrative Officer Lonnie Robbins; and Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services Deputy Chief John Jerome.

2021 RIGHT CARE WHEN IT COUNTS AWARDS

■ SAMARIE BRACKETT

THE HIGH SCHOOL FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM, a collaborative effort between the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and Prince George's County Public Schools, is designed to prepare students for opportunities in Fire and EMS. Cadet **Samarie Brackett**, a first-year student in the program, showed her mettle when she quickly initiated CPR on an unconscious employee of the driving school in which she was enrolled.

The victim resumed breathing, but soon began choking and once again stopped breathing. Despite extreme fatigue, Cadet Brackett jumped back into action and continued administering CPR until first responders arrived and took over. If not for her efforts, another school employee noted, "I believe this day would have turned out differently." Cadet Brackett's quick thinking and immediate action helped to provide the best chance possible for a successful outcome to this incident.



▲ From left: Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department Fire Chief Tiffany Green; Acting Deputy Chief Dwayne Bonnett; Samarie Brackett; Dr. Jennifer Anders, Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics; MIEMSS EMSC Department Director Cynthia Wright Johnson; and Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director.

Maryland Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group Launches Website Offering Guidance to Citizens, Public, and Private Institutions

THE MARYLAND ACTIVE ASSAILANT INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK GROUP (AAIWG) announces the launch of its new website, aaiwg.maryland.gov, which includes resources for Marylanders describing how to best prepare schools, homes, houses of worship, and businesses for an active assailant incident.

The safety and security of all Marylanders has always been a top priority for the Hogan-Rutherford administration. In February 2018, Governor Larry Hogan issued an executive order formally establishing the AAIWG as a public body with specific goals and objectives.

This website provides practical, evidence-based direction and information and serves as a valuable tool to identify, update, and share best practices to help Maryland prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from an unexpected attack. Some of the important topics covered include Active Shooter Preparedness for Private Citizens and information regarding the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) course.

The AAIWG was established after the tragic Washing-



ton Navy Yard shooting in September 2013. The Maryland State Police (MSP) and Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) co-chair the work group with leadership and policy oversight provided by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The AAIWG involves participants from throughout the State of Maryland and the National Capital Region in all facets of active assailant prevention, preparedness, and response.

The work group created this resource-oriented site developed by subject matter experts from across the state that includes specific content for:

- Emergency management and public safety personnel
- Businesses and employers
- Houses of worship
- Schools and universities
- Health and human services
- Special events and tourist attractions
- Families and individuals

For additional information, visit aaiwg.maryland.gov or contact aaiwg.mema@maryland.gov.

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.

MHSO Announcements

Be the **SLOW DOWN / SOBER** Driver

Summer: the time to get out and enjoy the warm weather and take a much-needed vacation. However, the Highway Safety Office sees a negative trend each Summer. Traditionally, crashes attributed to speed and impairment increase during the Summer months. As our partners in traffic safety, here are a few things the EMS community can do to help with safety messaging.

- If your building has a sign in front of it, consider adding some safety messaging like
 - Be the Sober Driver
 - Be the Make a Plan Driver
 - Be the Slow Down Driver
 - Obey the posted speed limit
- If you are doing firehouse tours, remind civilians about the dangers of speed and impaired driving. Each of you has your own experiences from responding to these crashes. Find an appropriate way to share some stories to encourage people to slow down and drive sober.

Emphasis Area Team Meetings

Looking to become more involved in local road safety? Mark your calendar for the upcoming June EAT Meetings:

Impaired Driving: Monday, June 21, 2021 – (10:00 a.m. – Noon)

The Maryland Highway Safety Office welcomes participation from the EMS community at these meetings. Your unique experiences truly help to save lives on Maryland Roadways!

Contact MHSO@mdot.maryland.gov to register.

In the News

Motorcycle Safety

Motorcyclists are another group that likes to take advantage of summer weather. Please remind people to look twice for motorcycles. It's very easy to not see a motorcycle on the road due to their small size. Also, remind people to give motorcyclists some extra space on the road.

If you're talking to people who ride or who know people who ride, encourage them to get familiar with the motorcycle before venturing out on a long trip. There are lots of resources for motorcycle safety too. Let people know that they can get information and training from the following sources:

- Zero Deaths MD: ZeroDeathsMD.gov
- The Motorcycle Safety Foundation: msf-usa.org
- Pro Rider: proridermd.com/
- MDOT MVA: MVA.Maryland.gov/MotorcycleSafety



Visit ZeroDeathsMD.gov for all Social Media Toolkits!

Bike Safety is a Year-round Responsibility

“Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of riding a bike.” – John F. Kennedy

MAY WAS NATIONAL BIKE SAFETY MONTH, but safety shouldn't be contained in one specific time frame. It should be a mindset, a way of life. It should be the first thing on your mind when you walk out the door with riding on your mind.

Safety starts with planning ahead and making sure you have the right equipment. A properly fitted bike helmet is on the top of the list, but it doesn't stop there. Just like a pilot and his crew go through a safety checklist before every flight, you should do a quick check of your bike and equipment to make sure everything is in working order before you hop on.

Check the following items for a safe ride:

- **Helmet:** Make sure it still fits well and sits correctly on the top (NOT the back) of the head
- **Tires:** Are they properly inflated and hold air?



- **Brakes:** Are they adjusted properly allowing you a smooth stop?
- **Seat:** Is it at the right height? If you're feet are flat on the ground, it's time to move it up a little!

- **Reflectors:** Are they still attached and not broken?

- **Pedals:** Are they solid with no cracks or chunks missing?

- **Clothing:** Are your clothes bright or reflective to make you more visible?

All told, these checks should take you less than 30 seconds, but it's a smart and easy way to make sure you stay as safe as possible when you are riding.

The ride depends on your strength and brainpower from start to finish, so

it's important to take care of yourself, too. Stay hydrated while riding so your body and mind work at their best. You will need to be alert whether you are riding on a city street or on a trail. Being mindful of your surroundings is another way to keep yourself safe and make the ride more enjoyable.

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Governor Larry Hogan
Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford

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