

Maryland

E·M·S

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 18, No. 1

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

July/Aug. 1991

EMS Week Activities in Maryland



Hospital and prehospital personnel enjoy a "Blast from the Past," a dance sponsored by Frederick Memorial Hospital.



Children look at ambulance equipment at the open house held by Clear Spring Ambulance Service.

As an expression of their appreciation of EMS care providers, county commissioners throughout the state issued proclamations declaring May 12-18 to be EMS Week. EMS care providers in each of the EMS regions arranged special events for the occasion; descriptions of some of the activities follow.

Region I

An awards dinner was held at the Grantsville Holiday Inn in Garrett County to honor people who made extraordinary efforts in delivering prehospital emergency care or improving Maryland's EMS system. Guest speaker for the event was Harry Teter, Jr., Esq., executive director of the Atlantic EMS Council.

Many fire companies and ambulance services in the region held special events for the public. For example, the Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad gave an automobile extrication demonstration. Following the demonstration, awards were given to the winners of two recently held contests: a poster-coloring contest for children through third grade and an essay contest for fourth and fifth graders.

In Allegany County, the Frostburg Area Ambulance Service gave grade-appropriate presentations at area schools: injury prevention was taught to elementary school children and first aid was taught to high-school students. Mt. Savage Volunteer Fire Department enrolled people for upcoming classes in CPR and first aid, conducted safety lessons for kindergarten classes, and showed the children the inside of an ambulance. Flintstone Volunteer Fire Department also held educational presentations at nearby schools. Both the Frostburg and the George's Creek ambulance services sponsored poster

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EMS Week Activities. . . EMS Week Activities



The Emmitsburg Ambulance Co., assisted by several neighboring fire companies, did vehicle extrication demonstrations at their open house.

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contests.

Memorial Hospital and Medical Center of Cumberland, Inc., Region I's trauma center, held an open house featuring tours of the hospital's emergency department. In addition, a Maryland State Police med-evac helicopter did demonstrations of patient loading, etc., on the helipad. Ambulance squads exhibited and demonstrated their equipment. Children interacted with and received EMS coloring books from Vince and Larry, the seat-belt dummies.

Several organizations, including Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, Frostburg Community Hospital, and Sacred Heart Hospital ran full-page newspaper ads highlighting the region's EMS providers. There were also radio programs and newspaper articles about EMS past and present and about the accomplishments of the providers and the system.

Region II

EMS Week in Frederick and Washington counties began with the EMS Providers Picnic given by the medical staff of Washington County Hospital. Providers and their families enjoyed music presented by a disk jockey, free food and beverages, and games of volleyball, horseshoes, and tug-of-war.

The Emmitsburg Ambulance Company in Frederick County participated in EMS awareness activities every day during EMS Week. They visited area elementary schools with an ambulance and gave presentations on safety, demonstrated patient immobilization, and displayed equipment; developed a 10-page safety coloring book that was distributed to the children; and stationed an ambulance at a

supermarket to conduct blood pressure screenings. Vehicle extrication demonstrations were held at their open house, complete with eight moulaged victims inside two vehicles that had "collided" head-on. Several neighboring fire companies assisted the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company with the demonstration: Thurmont Volunteer Fire Department, Squad 10; Thurmont Community Ambulance Service, Company 30; Graceham Volunteer Fire Department, Special Unit 18; Frederick County ALS, Medic 4; and the Fairfield Ambulance Company (Adams County, PA), Company 2. Gettysburg Hospital (Adams County, PA) also participated. Other activities were blood pressure screenings, CPR demonstrations, and recruitment and retention campaigns.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held to celebrate the expansion of the Clear Spring Ambulance Service headquarters in Washington County. A firemen's parade

took place after the ceremony, followed by an open house that included blood pressure screenings; displays of EMS equipment; and a chicken barbecue and crafts fair.

Frederick Memorial Hospital sponsored a "Blast from the Past" dance for Frederick County EMS providers. It featured music from the 1950s and 1960s, period-appropriate contests, and food.

Region III

The Region III EMS Advisory Council sponsored a forum to identify the issues on which the council should focus its attention over the next 5 years. Invitations were extended to the region's fire chiefs and fire department EMS officers; emergency department medical directors and nurse managers; critical care nurse managers; and hospital administrators. More than 100 issues were identified and prioritized. After the council selects its top priorities, study groups will be formed to address these issues.

Carroll County held a haz mat drill using the scenario that a chemical spill occurred at an elementary school involving a truck loaded with cleaning fluids. The driver and four other people were "injured." Units responded from Taneytown, Manchester, and New Windsor. The injured were taken to Carroll County General Hospital in Westminster, which then

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Responding to a haz mat drill involving a chemical spill in Carroll County. (Photos courtesy of Richard Lyons.)

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practiced its own patient decontamination procedures. Representatives from the media, county departments, Carroll County General Hospital, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and MIEMSS were present as participants, observers and evaluators. Since it was the first haz mat drill in the county in 10 years, some problems had to be worked out; it was a learning experience for all concerned.

The emergency department of Carroll County General Hospital held its annual dinner in honor of prehospital care providers. This year's guest speaker was Cheryl Bowen, MA, RN, director of the Maryland Regional Neonatal Program, whose topic was premature deliveries and prehospital treatment of the newborn. About 80 people attended the dinner coordinated



Washington County prehospital care providers view EMS equipment on display at the EMS Providers Picnic.

by Ann Palmer, RN, ED nurse manager.

Blood pressure screening was provided for approximately 60 Baltimore County senior citizens attending the Senior Saints Program at Baltimore County Baptist Church in Reisterstown. Rachel Gant of the Baltimore County Fire Department and Beth Nachbar of the MIEMSS Region III office used this opportunity to educate the public about Maryland's EMS system.

Hereford Volunteer Ambulance Company held its spring banquet at the Hunt Valley Inn. Guest speakers were sportswriter John Steadman and Philip R. Militello, MD, clinical director of the Shock Trauma Center, who represented State EMS Director Ameen I. Ramzy, MD. Among the distinguished guests were

representatives of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and of the Baltimore County Volunteer Fire Association and local, state, and federal officials, including Delegates Ellen R. Sauerbrey and A. Wade Kach and an emissary from Rep. Helen Delitch Bentley.

Kingsville Volunteer Fire Company in Baltimore County had an open house featuring an automobile extrication with two "victims" trapped inside and demonstrations of EMS equipment. Baltimore County's Paramedic 6, an ALS chase car that upgrades the BLS units when needed, was also on hand. Medical Unit 55, a Baltimore County career unit from



The Maryland State Police med-evac helicopter was on display as part of Queen Anne's County EMS Week celebration.



Attending the official presentation of the LIFEPAK 5 provided by MIEMSS to Clear Spring Ambulance Service were Dick Mettetal (Region II Administrator), Brenda Lea Keefer (vice-president of Clear Spring Ambulance Service), Del. Pete Callas, Sen. Donald Munson, and Walter Irvin, Sr. (president of Clear Spring Ambulance Service).

Perry Hall, stood ready to handle calls while the Kingsville unit was on display to the public.

Region IV

One of the highlights of EMS Week in Caroline County was a reunion of all the emergency services personnel involved on March 5, 1991, in the rescue of a 2-year-old boy who had fallen into an abandoned septic tank. Laron Brooks was hypothermic and lifeless when he was extricated; life-saving measures instituted on the scene and while en route to Easton Memorial Hospital revived him. He has completely recovered. The extrication, resuscitation, and transport of the child were accomplished by the combined efforts of three volunteer fire companies (Queen Anne/Hillsboro, Ridgely, and Denton) and Caroline County's Advanced Life Support Services, Central Alarm, and Sheriff's Office.

Cecil County Paramedic

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MIEMSS Honors 29 with EMS Week Awards



Region I: (L-r) David Ramsey (Director of Regional Programs and Region I Administrator), Daniel Durst, Ian Reikie, Donald Ruby, Sr., John Savage, and Dr. Ameen Ramzy (State EMS Director).



Region II: (Back, l-r) Dr. Ameen Ramzy, Donna Lee Seelye, Toni Lahnig, James Vance, Ron Karn and Larry Craig (accepting for Children's Village of Washington County), TFC Robert Calo, and Dick Mettetal (Region II Administrator). (Front, l-r) T.J. Flaherty and Dana Flaherty (the 3-year-old niece he saved).



Region III: (Back, l-r) Maj. Wayne Bromwell (NRP), John Donohue (Region III Administrator), Beth Nachbar (Asst. Region III Administrator), Grant Russell, Lucretia Boles, Robert Smith, Douglas Fishel, Hershel Shank, and Dr. Ameen Ramzy (State EMS Director). (Front, l-r) Timothy Warner and William Dousa, Jr. (Jeffrey Gormley was not present to receive his award.)

May 14 was a special day for the 29 award recipients honored by Maryland's EMS system for their heroic life-saving efforts or long years of dedicated service.

Distinguished service awards were presented to eight members of the EMS community for outstanding leadership in problem-solving or in initiating injury- or illness-prevention measures.

Certificates of honor were awarded to 21 people—both civilians and EMS/public safety personnel who saved or attempted to save seriously injured persons at risk of injury to themselves. Many of the stories were those of heroes who showed courage, strength, and compassion.

As State EMS Director Ameen I. Ramzy, MD, said: "In these days when much of the news is about man's inhumanity to man, it is comforting to see things that make it all worth it.... For us it is a joyous occasion but also bittersweet. As the honorees hear their stories being told, their expressions show the pain of remembering the moments of horror that seemed like hours. It was not our intent to cause them pain; we thank them for letting us recount those events today."

The following received certificates of honor.

Toni F. Lahnig and James L. Vance. After seeing a fiery two-car collision, Mr. Lahnig helped to free the driver of one car. Although injured himself, Mr. Vance, who was an occupant of the second burning car, was able to kick out the back window and pull out the other person in the car.

T.J. Flaherty. Thirteen-year-old T.J. saved the life of his 3-year-old niece, Dana, by performing the Heimlich maneuver when she was choking on candy.

Grant A. Russell. Minutes before a car that had crashed into a guardrail burst into flames, Mr. Russell broke the car window with his hands and pulled the driver out of the car.

Angela Palmer. An elementary school teacher certified in CPR, Ms. Palmer saved the life of 8-year-old Heather Haas who had gotten her scarf caught on a school playground slide and was strangling. Ms. Palmer removed Heather from the slide and performed CPR.

Queen Anne/Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Co., Ridgely Volunteer Fire Dept., Denton Ambulance Squad, Caroline County ALS Services, Caroline County Central Alarm, and Caroline County Sheriff's Dept. These EMS providers worked together to rescue 2-year-old Laron Brooks who had fallen into an abandoned septic tank and was hypothermic and in cardiac arrest.

Daniel Durst, EMT. When a tow truck crew on the highway yelled that a motorist had collapsed near his disabled car, Mr. Durst, a volunteer with Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad, quickly drove to the motorist and initiated CPR, staying with him until an ALS unit arrived.

Firefighters Douglas Fishel, EMT-P; Jeffrey Gormley, EMT-P; and Hershel Shank, EMT-P. These three paramedics commute from Pennsylvania to work for Anne Arundel County Fire Dept. While driving in York, Pennsylvania, they saw a large hydraulic crane topple over a bridge. Using caving and rappelling skills, they rescued a crane operator dangling from the overturned crane 50 feet above the construction site.

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For Heroic Rescues and Distinguished Service

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Robert K. Smith. Mr. Smith helped to free a mother and child from a burning car that had turned upside down after an accident on the Baltimore Beltway.

Sgt. Kurt Talbert, EMT, and Firefighter Helen Kulle, EMT. These medics, from the Forestville Volunteer Fire Dept., resuscitated a pre-term baby boy in extreme distress.

TFC Robert Calo, First Responder. TFC Calo freed a handicapped man who was trapped and in excruciating pain inside an overturned van.

Lucretia Boles, First Responder. Although seriously injured herself when a Natural Resources Police (NRP) vehicle was forced off the road, NRP Cadet Boles was able to crawl out of the vehicle to retrieve the unit's trauma kit to treat a fellow officer.

John A. Savage. After awakening and seeing a car outside his window burst into flames, Mr. Savage ran to the smoke-filled vehicle, kicked out the driver's window, and pulled out a young woman to safety.

Distinguished service awards were presented to the following.

William Dousa, Jr., CRT. For 22 years of EMS service to Harford County, including being top responder at the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Dept. and the Abingdon Volunteer Fire Co. and giving CPR instruction to firemen and to the American Heart Assoc. and Boy Scout Troops.

Jesse Cox, CRT. The only resident CRT instructor in Charles County since that county started an ALS program, Mr. Cox has taught ALS skills to every CRT and EMT-P serving Charles County.

Donald Ruby, Sr., CRT, and Ian Reikie, CRT. Long-term members of the Flintstone Volunteer Fire Co., Mr. Ruby and Mr. Reikie have worked tirelessly to bring quality EMS to their rural area and were instrumental in establishing a first responder system with their squad members and neighboring fire companies.

Donna Lee Seelye, RN. In addition to her work as an emergency department nurse at Frederick Memorial Hospital, Ms. Seelye has volunteered her time to work on the Region II EMS Advisory Council (10 years); as the Region II rep to REMSAC (8 years); on the Region II Medical Advisory Committee (6 years); as well as on many other EMS-related projects.

Neonatal Transport Technicians of the Maryland Regional Neonatal Program. These transport technicians, who drive the neonatal ambulances and assist the neonatal transport nurses, were honored for their loyalty and commitment to the program. Dennis Haslup accepted the award on behalf of Larry Shugars, Bill Davis, Karen Kellner, Mark Falkenhan, Tom Ford, and Ray McFarland.

Timothy S. Warner, EMT-IVT. An outstanding volunteer at the Winfield Fire Company for 13 years, Mr. Warner finished first in ambulance responses for 9 years and was in the top five in responses for the other years.

Children's Village of Washington County. Children's Village initiated an injury prevention and safety program for second-graders. As part of this program, uniformed firefighters and police officers present a 2-day program on topics such as calling 911, wearing safety belts, bike safety, and fire prevention and escape.



Region IV: Dr. Ameen Ramzy (State EMS Director), Wayne Fretterd (Denton Ambulance Squad), Dennis Porter (Caroline Co. ALS), Ken Rodgers (Caroline Co. Central Alarm), Chris Winstead (Queen Anne/Hillsboro Vol. Fire Co.), George Cohey (Ridgely Vol. Fire Dept.), John Barto (Asst. Region IV Administrator), and Marc Bramble (Region IV Administrator). (Front, l-r) William Rude (Caroline Co. Sheriff's Dept.) and Bo Casper (Ridgely Vol. Fire Dept.).



Region V: (Back, l-r) Maj. Joseph Ockershausen (Bureau of Advanced EMS, Prince George's Co. Fire Dept.), Marie Warner-Crosson (Region V Administrator), Jesse Cox, Sgt. Kurt Talbert, Firefighter Helen Kulle, and Dr. Richard Alcorta (Chairman, Region V EMS Advisory Council), and Dr. Ameen Ramzy (State EMS Director). (Front, l-r) Angela Palmer and Heather Haas (the 8-year-old student she saved).

Dr. Ramzy Receives NHTSA Award



At the EMS awards ceremony State EMS Director Dr. Ameen Ramzy (second from left) received an unexpected award for public service from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation (DOT) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). (L-r) Frank Altobelli, Sr. (regional administrator for NHTSA), Susan Ryan (chief of the EMS division, NHTSA), and Dennis Atkins (deputy director of the Safety & Motor Carrier Programs of the Maryland DOT) presented the award on behalf of Gen. Jerry Curry in recognition of Dr. Ramzy's leadership, service, and outstanding efforts to reduce morbidity from traffic crashes.

EMS Week Activities. . .EMS Week Activities

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Foundation, Inc., presented awards to several community organizations for their contributions to the county EMS system. In another Cecil County event, Coloma Medic Station used its open house for a dual purpose: to dedicate the station and to unveil its mass casualty unit.

Queen Anne's County ALS and the Queen Anne's County Ambulance Committee had an EMS celebration that included displays and volunteer recognition awards. The event, held at the Emergency Operations Center in Centreville, marked the introduction of the countywide "Elder Alert" program, which is sponsored by the Queen Anne's County Adult Day Care Foundation. Participating senior citizens are given a medical history form to place in a tube in their refrigerator; a sticker is then put on the door to alert EMS providers to the tube. The medical history can help the EMS provider to better understand the patient's chief complaint and relay this to the on-line medical control physician.

Also in Queen Anne's County, the Grasonville Volunteer Fire Company provided blood-pressure screenings at the Grasonville Senior Center and gave public awareness presentations to the Queen Anne's County public schools.

"Promoting Excellence in EMS," a 12-hour continuing education program, focused on sports injuries, as well as pediatric and orthopedic emergencies. The conference, which was sponsored by the Ocean City Division of EMS, the Paramedic Foundation, the Region IV EMS Advisory Council, and MIEMSS, took place at the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company headquarters in Worcester County.

CRT graduates and instructors were honored at a reception hosted by the Region IV EMS Office and the Memorial Hospital of Easton, Inc.

Presentations about the Maryland EMS system were given to Wicomico Senior High School health education classes by Salisbury EMS; ambulance demonstrations were held at Salisbury's Holly Center Spring Festival and the Salisbury Mall. EMS coloring books were given to children visiting the demonstration at the mall. Open houses were held by Sharptown EMS, the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, and the Delmar Volunteer Fire Department; among the events were blood pressure screenings, equipment displays, and demonstrations. In addition, Sharptown EMS conducted CPR classes for the public. Delmar and Hebron participated in and



(L-r) Joe Carroll and Wilson Howes (Md. New Car & Truck Dealers) and Robert Suddith (National Automobile Dealers Assoc.), present Prince George's Fire Dept. Lt. Col. John Proels with a Resusci-Junior CPR training maniquin. (Photo courtesy of P.G. County Fire Dept.)

passed their volunteer ambulance inspections during EMS Week.

Region V

The Prince George's County Fire Department (PGFD) announced the enhancement of the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) program (begun as a pilot in 1985) with the addition of three new Laerdal Heartstart 1000 AEDs to replace older machines. A study was made on potential survival rates based on BLS and ALS response times and volumes, geographic coverage, and overall county demographics to determine their optimal placement.

EMS personnel from PGFD provided lectures and demonstrations to more than 300 students in grades 1-4 at Magnolia Elementary School in Lanham. The topics included how to access the 911 system; how the heart works; poison prevention; and explanations of EMS equipment, a medic unit, and fire engines.

A child-size CPR training manikin, Resusci-Junior, was donated to PGFD by the National Automobile Dealers Charitable Foundation (NADCF) and the Maryland New Car and Truck Dealers Association. NADCF represents more than 20,000 franchised new car and truck dealers in the US; in 1990 they distributed 180 manikins to 154 organizations in 40 states.

One special program initiated by the Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Services was the testing of new triage tags. Videotapes describing the new tags were shown to prehospital care providers for a week or so prior to the test. The new tags and ribbons were used for all hospital transports during EMS Week.

Among the many activities that took place around Montgomery County were the following: Several fire stations offered CPR classes to the public; others held open

houses. Educational programs for high-school students on alcohol awareness and drunk driving were given by prehospital care personnel in conjunction with Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD). Holy Cross, Shady Grove Adventist, and other

hospitals hosted case-study programs for prehospital care providers.

Suburban Hospital hosted a trauma reunion for former patients. This event brought the patients together with the prehospital providers, nurses, and physicians who were involved in their care.

In Calvert County, the 2nd District Volunteer Rescue Squad conducted "Tots Tours." They visited day-care centers and invited the children to make a field trip to squad headquarters. Upon the children's arrival, they were shown various pieces of equipment; given balloons imprinted with the squad's name; and saw stuffed animals "treated" in the ambulances. Souvenirs to take home included EMS brochures and puppets inscribed, "Don't be a dummy—wear your seat belt!" Medics took the children's blood pressure and let them listen to their own heartbeat. About 150 children visited. Squad members made a videotape of the event; they will show it to children to reduce their fear of EMS personnel.

All of the rescue squads in Charles County collaborated in a 3-day event at the St. Charlestown Center mall. Prehospital care providers did blood pressure screenings and electrocardiograms and demonstrated the equipment on the ambulance that was on display. An automobile extrication, including enactments of patient care during and after an extrication, took place in the parking lot. The Maryland State Police demonstrated the "Seat Belt Convincer." Several Charles County rescue squads also held open houses and gave demonstrations at local schools.

In St. Mary's County, the Lexington Park Rescue Squad was host company to an event held at the Sans Souci mall. There were blood pressure screenings, CPR demonstrations, and displays, and all seven county squads competed in stretcher races.

CPR Awareness Day in PG County

It is estimated that 1.5 million people will have heart attacks this year, and nearly half will die before reaching the hospital. When CPR is started within the first 4 minutes after cardiac arrest, it greatly increases the chance of survival. Prince George's (PG) County has an annual CPR education program based on American Heart Association guidelines. Since the program was established in 1984, one-quarter of the county population (173,000 people) have received CPR training; the goal is to teach it to half of the population.

PG County 1991 CPR Awareness Day educated 1,602 people, twice as many as the previous year, on subjects including heart disease, risk factors, signs and signals of a heart attack, mouth-to-mouth breathing, one person adult CPR, and caring for a conscious or unconscious choking victim. The event, which took place on April 13 at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, required 150 CPR instructors. Classes began every half hour from 8 am to 1:30 pm and took 3 hours each.

A foundation was formed to underwrite all costs so the program could be offered to the public free of charge. This year's sponsors were the PG County Fire Department, the PG County Public Schools, and Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham.



*CPR Awareness Day in P.G. County.
(Photo courtesy of P.G. County Fire Dept.)*

Mark Your Calendars

EMS Care '92 will be held April 24-26 at the Turf Valley Country Club in Ellicott City (Region III). More information will appear in future newsletters.

3d ANNUAL TRAUMA CONFERENCE

**Topics in Trauma
September 18-19**

**Carousel Hotel & Resort
Ocean City, MD**

General surgeons, emergency physicians, critical care nurses, and ALS prehospital care providers interested in expanding their knowledge of caring for the trauma patient are encouraged to register. For additional information, contact Darlene Kwiatkowski, PGHMC Trauma Program Coordinator, 302-543-7328.

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