

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

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September 2004

## Maryland's EMS System Deemed 'Mature & Sophisticated' by National Experts

A five-member team of nationally recognized trauma and emergency medical services experts concluded that Maryland's EMS System uses information to drive critical public safety decisions and is capable of meeting the State's demands of both routine and larger emergency medical incidents.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which evaluates EMS systems nationwide, recently completed an exhaustive re-assessment of Maryland's EMS System and MIEMSS, its central coordinating body. The criteria used are based on national standards of essential components of an optimal EMS system, including homeland security capabilities, communications, transportation, facilities, medical direction, and trauma systems.

Specifically the team noted that since the initial NHTSA assessment in 1991, "the Maryland EMS system has embraced change with impressive results" and "... has implemented a vision of excellence through collaboration and consensus."

"We are very appreciative of this federal evaluation of our State's EMS system," said Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. "The citizens of Maryland should feel secure in knowing that our EMS system was rated highly and serves as a role model for other states."

Among the highlights of the assessment, the team noted:

- Maryland's EMS achievements have much to offer in terms of promoting improved emergency care throughout the United States.
- Maryland's EMS system's greatest asset is its cadre of volunteer and career emergency care providers.

- The team recognized the Maryland State Police Aviation Division as a key resource in the care of critically injured patients and advised the preservation of its present "core capacity."

- The citizens of and visitors to Maryland are well served by the accomplishments that MIEMSS has achieved.

- The vision of Dr. Cowley [a pioneer in trauma and EMS and the founder of Maryland's EMS System and Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore] has been expanded by the EMS Board's contemporary approach of cooperative excellence.

- A communications initiative aligned with the Governor's interoperability working group that includes state and local public safety agencies.

"We are very pleased with the results of this report," said Mr. Donald L. DeVries, Jr., chair of the Maryland EMS Board. "It is a testimonial to the cooperative excellence of our EMS system, showing that it is second to none."

The Maryland EMS Board and MIEMSS will incorporate the recommendations of the team report as it continues to address Maryland's emergency care needs.

The entire report can be found on the MIEMSS web site: [www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)

**NHTSA**  
People Saving People  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)



*According to the NHTSA report, Maryland's EMS system's greatest asset is its cadre of volunteer and career emergency care providers.*

## EMAIS Update

On July 1, the Electronic Maryland Ambulance Information System (EMAIS) went "live" in the five jurisdictions participating in the pilot program. Allegany, Cecil, Dorchester, Garrett, and Washington counties are no longer completing a paper report for each ambulance call.

On August 1, Calvert County became the sixth jurisdiction to begin using EMAIS. The EMAIS training staff visited stations throughout the county to assist providers with the completion of their first reports. Given the success with the training/implementation process, Calvert County was only required to complete two reports (electronic and paper) for three days. Providers are no longer completing a paper report for each ambulance call. The training team would like to thank Estelle White for all her assistance.

During August and September, EMAIS training will be conducted in the City of Annapolis and Harford County. The projected implementation date for both jurisdictions is October 1.

The EMAIS staff has received many suggestions for improvements and enhancements to the system. We would like to thank everyone who



has taken the time to provide suggestions. The following sections provide the answers to several frequently asked questions regarding the EMAIS system.

### Passwords

Your EMAIS password should be at least 8 characters in length and contain both numbers and letters. Remember, passwords are case sensitive. If you forget your password, please contact your jurisdictional EMS representative to request your password. When changing your password on the "Account Maintenance" screen, you must click on the "Update Account" button to save your new password. If you click on the "Return to Listing" button, your new password will not be saved.

### Connecting to the EMAIS System

When connecting to EMAIS to enter or view an existing report, you must be using Internet Explorer 5.0

or higher as your browser. You cannot access EMAIS using any version of Netscape.

### Deleting a Record

Remember that only "Pending" reports can be deleted. Once a report has been saved as "Official," it can never be completely deleted. An "Official Report" can be amended but the original data are still available for review.

### On-Line Reporting

MIEMSS has begun to develop the on-line reporting system. This system will allow EMAIS users to run various reports via the web, based on the data entered into the EMAIS system. Meetings are being held to develop the structure for the standardized reports.

### Refusal Forms

If you need additional refusal forms, please request them through your jurisdictional EMS representative. The refusal form will be revised. On the next version, the three indicators for patient refusal at the top of the form will be removed. The State EMS Advisory Council (SEMSAC) has requested that a protocol be developed that includes these indicators.

If you have additional questions or comments regarding EMAIS, please contact Kathy Paez at [kpaez@miemss.org](mailto:kpaez@miemss.org) or 410-706-7798.

## Staff Changes

After 22 years of serving in Regional Programs, most recently as the Region III Administrator, John W. Donohue was transferred to the position of Chief of Planning and Operations in the Field Operations Division of MIEMSS. In this new position he will report to Clay Stamp, the Director of Emergency Operations. John will continue his work with the Facility Resource Emergency Database (FRED) and the triage programs he initiated in the Region III Office. He will assume additional responsibilities with coordinating emergency operations plans, homeland security planning, communi-



*John Donohue*



*Chad Packard*

cations interoperability, and management of the Field Operations Support Team. He can be reached at 410-706-0415.

Chad Packard, in the MIEMSS Office of Licensure and Certification, is now coordinating the continuing education approval process for all levels of EMS provider training, in addition to being responsible for the First Responder training program. Chad can be reached at 410-706-3666.

Rick Meighen, former Associate Administrator for Region V, is the new Region II Administrator, serving Frederick and Washington counties. Rick is replacing



*Rick Meighen*



*Lisa Chervon*

Dick Mettetal who retired from MIEMSS after 18 years. Rick can be reached at 301-791-2366.

Lisa Chervon, former Associate Administrator for Region III, replaces John Donohue as Region III Administrator. Lisa will continue to work with EMS in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties. She can be reached at 410-706-3996.

Andy Pilarski, former EMRC/SYSCOM Director, is now Chief of Administration and Logistics for Field Operations. Andy is now working on flow processes, inventory, and other administrative issues in the Communications Office. He can be reached at 410-706-3209.



*Andy Pilarski*



# PYRAMID 2004

**October 22, 23, & 24, 2004**

**Holiday Inn Solomons and Conference Center  
Solomons in Calvert County, Maryland**

**Host:**

Charles County Association of EMS

**Presented by:**

The Maryland Institute for  
Emergency Medical Services Systems and  
The Emergency Education Council of Region V, Inc.

**Sponsored by:**

Calvert County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association  
Charles County Association of EMS  
St. Mary's County Rescue Squad Association

**PYRAMID 2004:** Pyramid 2004, Southern Maryland's 15th annual EMS conference, is designed to meet the continuing education needs of Maryland's prehospital BLS and ALS providers. Based on your feedback from past conferences, there will be hands-on workshops for BLS and ALS providers. General sessions on Saturday and Sunday will focus on changes in prehospital practice. Conference registrations will be accepted until October 18, 2004 on a space-available basis; no walk-in registrations will be accepted at the conference.

#### **Conference Program:**

**Saturday, October 23 and Sunday, October 24**

This conference program is open to all interested individuals at the cost of \$130 (\$70 per day). This includes all instructional materials, workshop lectures, breaks, and lunches. The conference program is approved for 13 hours of continuing education: Maryland EMT-Bs will receive 5.5 trauma, 4 medical, and 3.5 local continuing education. CRTs and EMT-Ps will receive 13 hours with specific credits listed in the course descriptions.

**Location:** Pyramid 2004 will be held at the Holiday Inn Solomons and Conference Center, Solomons, Maryland, in Calvert County, Maryland. A detailed map and directions will be sent with your confirmation letter.

**Special Accommodations:** If you need special accommodations to attend our workshops, please provide information about your requirements at least two weeks prior to the conference. We have made every effort to choose healthy food for our meals. If you require a special menu or have specific nutritional needs, please let us know on your registration form.

**Hotel Reservations:** For your convenience, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Solomons. Conference room rates are \$84 for single or double occupancy. Reservations must be made directly with the Holiday Inn at 1-800-356-2009; ask for reservations and tell them that you are with the Emergency Education Council, code EDC. Hotel reservations must be received by September 21.

**Payment and Cancellation Policy:** Pre-registration is required. No walk-in registrations will be accepted. We will accept registrations received in the Region V Office by October 18, 2004 or until the conference is filled—whichever comes first. Confirmation letters will be sent. All cancellations must be made in writing to the MIEMSS Region V Office. Refunds, excluding a \$25 processing fee, will be mailed for cancellations received prior to October 18, 2004. Cancellations after October 18 will result in forfeiture of your entire registration fee. (Note: There is a \$30 fee for bad checks.) You can also pay for Pyramid using your Visa or MasterCard. We can invoice Maryland Government, EMS agencies, and Maryland hospitals directly for the two-day continuing education program. We cannot invoice Federal agencies or out-of-state agencies or organizations.

**Information:** Contact the MIEMSS Region V Office 301-474-1485 or toll free 1-877-498-5551.

## **PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAMS**

**Friday, October 22, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM**

#### **12 Lead EKG Class**

The EMS provider will learn to obtain and interpret a 12 lead EKG. After completing this course, the student will be able to properly identify and initiate care for the cardiac patient. ALS only, limited enrollment. Taught by Andrew Ballinger, RN, NREMT-P. Sponsored by MedTronic Physio Control. (7 hours A)

#### **Quality Assurance Officer Training**

Back by popular demand, this program is designed to provide the company or county QA officer with the skills and competencies necessary to do the job. Taught by District Chief Mike McAdams of the Montgomery County Department of Fire Rescue Services and other members of the Regional Jurisdictional Quality Improvement Committee. (7 hours L/2)



# PYRAMID 2004

October 22, 23, & 24, 2004

Holiday Inn Solomons and Conference Center  
Solomons in Calvert County, Maryland

## PYRAMID 2004 SCHEDULE

### Saturday, October 23, "Changes in EMS Practice"

**8:00 AM Opening Ceremonies**

**State of the State**

Robert R. Bass, MD, FACEP  
Executive Director, MIEMSS

**8:30 AM Making Changes to Improve EMS Practice**

Elizabeth U. Berg, RN, BSN, CCRN, EMT-B  
Quality Improvement activities make changes in EMS practice a reality. A major commitment has been made by each EMS jurisdiction to expand QA into QI with the shared goal to improve patient care delivery. QI changes require participation from all who provide and receive EMS services. Liz Berg, chairperson of the Jurisdictional Quality Improvement Committee, will share her recipe for mixing the right amount of medicine with data and common sense to yield a new product line for EMS Services. (1 hour L/2)

**9:30 AM Changes in Managing Poisoning in Pediatrics: The Demise of Ipecac**

Lisa Booze, PharmD and Joseph Wright, MD  
Managing overdoses and unintentional poisoning in children and youths has changed—Throw Away the Ipecac. National organizations have agreed upon recommendations for care in the home, field, and hospital. But children will still find things to taste, and teens will still experiment. Come learn the latest in both the types of poisoning seen in Maryland and the changes in field treatment. (And, yes, you must keep the charcoal on board.) Sponsored by the EMSC Partnership Grant. (1 hour M/B)

**10:45 AM The Evolution of Prehospital Care: Assessment and Care Then, Now, and in the Future**

Jim Radcliffe, NREMT-P, BS  
R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center  
See where we have come from and where we are going as technological advances expand our ability to save lives. (1.5 hours M/B)

**12:30 PM Lunch**

**1:30-5PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

BLS Afternoon Breakouts—Take 2 on Saturday, 2 on Sunday  
Important Note: Participants will be divided into groups. You will attend two BLS breakout sessions on Saturday, and on Sunday you will attend the other two.

**BLS Scenarios on a Bus**

Charlie Wills, Coordinator  
The call goes out—vehicle versus yellow bus. Who responds, what will you find, how will you get the children out safely? Did someone say "oxygen on board the bus"? Come participate in a real extrication experience. Sponsored by the EMSC Partnership Grant. (1.5 hours T/B)

**Scene Safety: Change the Way You Approach and Handle Crashes**

The life you save may be your own. Learn the safe way to handle a crash on the highway or byway. (1.5 hours L/2)

**Radiologic Exposure**

Jeffrey Vanhoy, PhD and Daryl Hartley, PhD  
Learn the physical effects of radiation on the body while gaining hands-on experience with a variety of detection devices. Physicists Jeffrey Vanhoy and Daryl Hartley, from the U.S. Naval Academy, will share their expertise. (1.5 hours M/B)

**START & JUMPSTART: Multi-Casualty Field Triage**

Mary Alice Vanhoy, RN, BSN, CEN, NREMT-P  
Linda Arapian, RN, MSN, EMT-B  
"JUMPSTART" is a pediatric triage tool developed to assist providers in triaging children by objective criteria rather than emotional ones. START and JUMPSTART are practical tools allowing rapid triage. Come evaluate actual scenarios that occurred in Maryland. (1.5 hours T/B)

**ALS Saturday Afternoon Breakout**

**Airway Management Obstacle Course for ALS Providers**

First Sgt. Charles Eisele, MSP Aviation, and Jim Radcliffe, NREMT-P, BS, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center  
This obstacle course will challenge you to find innovative ways to manage your patient. Wear comfortable clothes! ALS only. (3 hours A)

**Sunday, October 23, "Changes in EMS Practice" (on following page)**



## Emergency Vehicle Recalls

We have learned of some safety recalls for ambulances, and other emergency vehicles possibly used by EMS providers, that we wanted you and your organization to know about immediately. We are asking for your assistance with releasing this information so the word gets out to your constituents as soon as possible.

These recalls can be found on NHTSA's web site under "recalls." Please add 3 zeros to the end of the recall number, i.e., 04V328000. The web site is:  
<http://www.odj.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/>

### Police Vehicles

Ford Motor Company is recalling 47,314 MY 2003 Crown Victoria police/commercial vehicles and Lincoln Town Car model vehicles sold to fleets. These vehicles typically input higher loads into the vehicle chassis during fleet usage, overloading the wheel bearings and axles. This could lead to early bearing failure and ultimately axle shaft fracture. Dealers will replace the rear wheel bearings, seals, and axle shafts. 04V-328

### Ambulances/Emergency Vehicles

International Truck and Engine Corporation is recalling 19 MY1993-

2001 4700LP ambulances. These ambulances are equipped with Goodrich Corporation VELVET-RIDE rear suspension systems. The bolts connecting the suspension spring to the rear axle may break and possibly cause the axle to become separated from the vehicle without warning and result in a crash. Dealers will replace the suspension system. 04V-009

Horton Emergency Vehicles is recalling 14 MY 1997-2000 ambulances built on Chevrolet or GMC cab/chassis Models C3500 and K3500. Alternator case bolts could come loose and back out into the fan. Fan pieces disengage at high rpm and could cause injury and/or disable the vehicle which could result in a crash. Remedy options are being explored. Exact remedy and time line to be determined. 04V-101

PL Custom Emergency Vehicles is recalling 86 MY 2003 Medallion, Titan, Sentry, Rescue, and 2003-2004 Crusader emergency vehicles equipped with seat belts built by AMSAFE. Some seat belt buckles fail to conform to the load requirement of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209, "Seat Belt Assemblies." The seat belt buckle

may unlatch in the event of a vehicle crash, possibly resulting in personal injury to the seat occupant. AMSAFE will notify customers and replace the buckles. 04V-246

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## Disciplinary Actions

*The following final disciplinary actions were taken by the EMS Board on the dates indicated:*

**B-2003-237** (EMT-B)—June 30, 2004. Provider's EMT-B certification revoked for felony burglary in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in connection with a scheme to steal radios from a fire company.

**R-2003-240** (EMT-B)—June 8, 2004. (by Disposition Agreement) EMT-B provider placed on probation until successful completion of probation in criminal matter in which provider pled guilty to a fourth-degree sex offense involving a co-worker.

**B-2003-246** (FR)—June 30, 2004. Provider's First Responder certification revoked for pleading guilty to second-, third-, and fourth-degree sex offenses.

**B-2003-24** (EMT-B)—April 20, 2004. EMT-B provider placed on probation for 6 months for pleading guilty to a charge of theft of goods valued under \$500 for illegally removing a motor vehicle registration sticker.

**B-2004-250** (EMT-B)—June 30, 2004. Provider's EMT-B certification revoked for pleading guilty to felony theft of goods valued at \$500 or more.

## FBI and DHS Alert for Potential Vehicle-Borne Attacks

*Editor's Note: The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), which receives informational alerts and bulletins issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has asked MIEMSS and other emergency response agencies to disseminate the following.*

### Potential for Terrorist Use of Rental Vehicles

On August 5, 2004, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued an alert for the potential of vehicle-borne attacks in the United States. . . .

. . . There is no standard type of vehicle associated with Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs). Terrorists appear to select vehicles based on an assessment of vehicles common to and available in a region, vehicles possessing routine

access to the target area or the security posture of the intended target. Vehicles of any type or size can be utilized in vehicle bombings, although the size of the explosive charge may, to some degree, dictate the size of the vehicle required. In the 1993 World Trade Center attack, approximately 1,200 pounds of improvised explosives were placed in a rental van which had been reported stolen by one of the conspirators.

Other large vehicles—such as limousines—should also receive consideration as potential VBIEDs, since limousines have larger storage capacity than regular passenger vehicles. In addition, limousines often convey an impression of authority or prestige, which may facilitate their access to specific locations in a building or facility denied to the general public.

Analysis of terrorist preparations for past attacks overseas and in the United States suggests that pre-

operational indicators may be present in the days or weeks prior to an attack. Eight indicators pointing to possible planning to use rental vehicles in a terrorist attack are cited, including "customers displaying burns or chemical exposure symptoms who provide vague or illogical explanations as to the circumstances surrounding the injuries." For a complete list of the indicators, as well as the complete bulletin, please see the IAFC web site at [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org).

## National Award: EMSC Project Coordinator of Distinction

During the Annual National Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Grantee Meeting held in June, Cyndy Wright-Johnson, program director of the EMSC Program at MIEMSS, was one of five individuals and one committee that were recognized with National Heroes Awards for their outstanding efforts to improve pediatric emergency care. Ms. Wright-Johnson received the EMSC Project Coordinator of Distinction Award.

Nominations were solicited from throughout the country and were divided into five categories—EMSC Provider Leadership Award, EMSC Family Member Volunteer of the Year, EMSC Community Partnership Award, Outstanding EMSC Research Project Award, and EMSC Project Coordinator of Distinction Award.

Since 1993, Cyndy Wright-Johnson has served as the program director for the EMSC program at MIEMSS. She is recognized at both state and national levels as an expert in the EMS delivery of pediatric emergency care. Since 1993, Ms. Wright-Johnson has been awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants on which she served as the project director or principal investigator. In 2001, under her leadership, the state of Maryland's EMSC program received the "EMSC State Achievement Award."

Ms. Wright-Johnson has built and continuously supports a network of EMSC programs, one in each of Maryland's five regions. In addition, she has provided guidance and leadership to the eight states of the Mid-Atlantic EMSC Region. Under her initiative, MIEMSS has formally recognized the Pediatric Emergency Medical Advisory Committee, which consults with the agency on all pediatric issues.

Hundreds of EMS providers in Maryland have benefited from the continuing education programs she has organized and instructed through the EMSC program. More than half of these programs have occurred in the evenings or on weekends.

According to Ms. Wright-Johnson: "Maryland has a dedicated group of pediatric experts who serve on a voluntary basis at both the state and regional committee levels to ensure that quality pediatric education, prevention, and quality improvement initiatives reach every county. The support our Maryland EMSC program receives from the Pediatric Base Stations and the MIEMSS Regional Offices has been the key to ensuring that Maryland's most precious resource—our children and youth—receive the Right Care When It Counts."

Since 1998, the national EMSC Program has used the National

Heroes Awards as an opportunity to recognize and reward outstanding achievement in emergency medical services for children.

According to Dan Kavanaugh, EMSC federal program project officer, "this year's winners will encourage development of the best possible projects and programs, which help our emergency care

providers deliver better care to our nation's children and their families . . . Through their services, they have improved the lives of many children. We thank them, we celebrate their excellence, and we urge each of them to continue being extraordinary inspirations to others."

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### EMS Educational Opportunities

#### September 17

##### PRMC "Topics in Trauma" 14th Annual Trauma Conference

Carousel Resort Hotel, Ocean City  
Contact: Lisa Hohl, RN, Trauma Nurse Coordinator, PRMC, 410-543-7328

#### September 20-22

##### Terrorism and Trauma: A Transatlantic Perspective

University of Maryland Medical School Teaching Facility, Baltimore  
Contact: Mary Leach, Office of the President, University of Maryland (mleach@umaryland.edu or 410-706-7004).

#### September 28

##### Mid-Atlantic Lifesafety Conference

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, Laurel  
Contact: Fire Marshal's Office, 1-800-525-3124

#### October 15-17

##### Maryland State Women's Fire Service Conference

MFRI, College Park  
Contact: MFRI to register on-line at [www.mfri.org/seminars](http://www.mfri.org/seminars).

#### October 22-24

##### Pyramid 2004

Solomon's Island  
Contact: MIEMSS Region V Office, 301-474-1485 or toll-free at 1-877-498-5551

#### January 28-30, 2005

##### Winterfest 2005

Tilghman Island  
Contact: Talbot County EMS, 410-820-8311

#### April 29-May 1, 2005

##### EMS Care 2005

Bethesda Marriott Hotel  
Contact: MIEMSS Region V Office, 301-474-1485 or toll-free at 1-877-498-5551



At the national EMSC meeting are Dr. Allen R. Walker, Cyndy Wright-Johnson (EMSC Program Director at MIEMSS), and Dr. Joseph L. Wright. Drs. Walker and Wright are the two Associate State EMS Medical Directors for Pediatrics at MIEMSS.

MIEMSS, *Maryland EMS News*  
653 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1536  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele

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**DATED MATERIAL**

## Terrorism and Trauma Conference

The University of Maryland at Baltimore (Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, Law, and Social Work), the Royal Society of Medicine, and the Association of Academic Health Centers are sponsoring a conference on "Terrorism and Trauma: A Transatlantic Perspective," September 20-22, at the University of Maryland Medical School Teaching Facility in Baltimore.

MIEMSS speakers include Executive Director Dr. Robert Bass ("EMS Investment and Collaboration") and State Aeromedical Director Dr. Douglas Floccare (Taking the "pro" position on "To Field Intubate or Not?")

Some of the sessions include:

- Protect the Homeland and Protect Privacy: Compatible or Conflicting Policies?
- Health Security: Government Responses
- What If? [Includes What if we had a Super-Spreader SARS Bioterrorist at Atlanta Airport? What if Anthrax Spores were delivered to the UN, NY Stock Exchange, and five major gov-

ernment agencies in Washington, DC? What if Quarantine Restrictions were placed on London vs. Washington, DC?]

- The Potential Benefits from \$ and \$ Spent for Preparedness
- Controversies in Resuscitation
- Terror-Inflicted Injuries
- Research in Progress on

Terrorist Threats and Trauma

- Education and Training

For further information, see

[www.umaryland.edu/terrorismandtrauma](http://www.umaryland.edu/terrorismandtrauma).

Or if you have questions, please contact: Mary Leach, Office of the President, University of Maryland at [mleach@umaryland.edu](mailto:mleach@umaryland.edu) or 410-706-7004.



*Maryland State Governor Robert L. Ehrlich visits the MIEMSS booth during the 112th Annual Maryland State Firemen's Association Convention.*