

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

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## New Protocol: Field Triage of Pediatric Burn Patients

Currently MIEMSS recognizes two Burn Centers—the Burn Center at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore and the Burn Center at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. The protocols specify that burn patients will be taken to one of these two facilities when they meet certain criteria. The criteria are listed on

page 114 of the July 1, 2005 publication of the *Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers*.

The new criteria for the referral of a pediatric burn patient **with associated airway burns** read as follows:

Pediatric burn patients (less than 15 years of age) that have signs of inhalation injury or that

require emergent intubation as determined by the field provider should be transported directly to an appropriate pediatric center (i.e., The Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore or Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC). If in doubt, obtain consultation with a Burn Center.

*Reminder:*

Pediatric burn patients (under 15 years of age) with burns should be transported to a MIEMSS recognized Burn Center. Patients (adult and pediatric) with burns and trauma should be "referred to the nearest appropriate trauma center, not a burn center."

For information, please contact the MIEMSS Office of the Medical Director 410-706-0880 or the EMS for Children's Program Office 410-706-1758 with any questions. The 2005 *Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers* and the new protocol can be viewed on the MIEMSS website ([www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)).

## Legislative Award Presented

The "Senator William H. Amoss Memorial Award for Excellence in the Legislative Process Enhancing the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services" was presented to Patricia Gainer (MIEMSS Legislative Liaison), Jim Brown (MIEMSS Director of Public Information & Media Services), and C. Daniel Davis, Jr., Chair of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA)

Legislative Committee at the June MSFA Convention in Ocean City. Each year the award is presented by the Harford-Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association with the full support of the Maryland State Firemen's Association.

The award is named after Senator Amoss, who served over 20 years in the Maryland

Legislature and in 1985 introduced the 508 Bill to financially assist the Maryland fire, rescue and emergency medical services departments on an annual basis. In 1998, the Maryland General Assembly recognized Senator Amoss' dedication to the Maryland fire, rescue, and EMS community by renaming Senate Bill 508, the "Senator William H. Amoss Fund."



*C. Daniel Davis, Jr., Patricia Gainer, and Jim Brown received the "Senator William H. Amoss Memorial Award for Excellence in the Legislative Process Enhancing the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services" at the June MSFA Convention in Ocean City.*

## Change of Address?

Prehospital EMS providers must notify MIEMSS within 30 days if their addresses change. Updates of mailing address and/or email addresses can now be done online. (Click on Provider Log-In under the MIEMSS EMS News column at the MIEMSS website ([www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)) or click [here](#).)

# Hartsock Receives National Award



*Robbi Hartsock displays her Trauma Nursing Lifetime Achievement Award. Her plaque reads: "For over 30 years of outstanding leadership in nursing, research, publication, education, clinical practice, and injury prevention. Your efforts have made a difference."*

In recognition of her contributions to trauma nursing Robbi Hartsock, MSN, RN, RNP, trauma designation and process improvement manager at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, recently received the Lifetime Achievement in Trauma Nursing Award from the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) at their annual conference in March.

Ms. Hartsock is well known to many Maryland EMS prehospital care providers. She has reviewed hundreds of base station calls and provided timely feedback to EMS QI officers, ensuring performance improvement from the time of injury to the return to society. She has given lectures on such topics as how to enhance prehospital provider care in

the field and communication. She is also involved in many prevention activities, such as her leadership in the Maryland Stop Red Light Running Campaigns, that are supported by EMS providers.

A member of the American Trauma Society (ATS) since 1985, Ms. Hartsock has been president of the Maryland Division since 1998, a member of the national Board of Directors since 1996, and on the national membership committee since 1990. In addition, she has been a member of STN since 1997 and served on its board of directors from 1997 to 2000.

Ms. Hartsock has published in the trauma literature extensively. Her publications range from thoracic injury, to alcohol screening in trauma patients, to compartment syndrome. Moreover, she has served as an editor of a major trauma nursing textbook. She has been a national speaker on topics ranging from aortic injury evaluation to wound care and

the basics of injury prevention. She has been an instructor in nursing since 1985 and currently is an affiliate faculty member for the Trauma/Critical Care Graduate Program at the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Nursing. In addition, she has mentored many trauma nurses and graduate nurse students.

Ms. Hartsock is recognized nationally for her expertise in trauma. Several of her recent honors include being elected for membership to the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma in 2000, receiving the Distinguished Service Award in 1999 from the American Trauma Society, and the Cultural Diversity Awareness Award in 1996 from the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

## Maryland EMS Board Appointments

Five new EMS Board appointments have been made by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. The new EMS Board members have been selected and will begin their service at the September meeting. The new members are:

- Career Firefighter/EMS Provider: Scott Graham, NREMT-P, Battalion Chief, Montgomery County Division of Fire and Rescue Services
- Emergency Physician: Jeffery Fillmore, MD
- Emergency Nurse: Mary Alice Vanhoy, RN, NREMT-P

- Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Provider: Eugene Worthington, EMT-B, Past President, MSFA
  - Public-at-Large: Sally Showalter, RN
- The following outgoing EMS Board members were presented proclamations from Governor Ehrlich in honor of their dedicated service and many contributions to the citizens of Maryland and the Maryland EMS community:
- Chief John R. Frazier
  - J. Andrew Sumner, MD
  - Dorothy W. Dyott, RN
  - Richard L. Yinger
  - John M. Murphy

# NREMT Computer-Based Testing

The National Registry for EMTs (NREMT) is proposing to transition its pencil-and-paper exams to computer-based testing starting in January 2007. The implementation of computer-based testing strengthens the NREMT's commitment to serving the EMS community and providing a valid and reliable exam process. It also provides numerous benefits to candidates, educators, and others in the EMS community as well as to the American public. Some benefits include:

- Rapid turnaround of test results. In most cases, results will be available on the NREMT web site the next business day after the candidate has completed the exam.
- Choices on when and where to take the exam
- Easier registration
- More fair and accurate evaluation of a candidate's competency
- Fortified exam security

As with all of its endeavors, the National Registry's primary interest is the safety of the American public. With computer-based testing, licensing agencies will be able to verify, with increased accuracy, that every EMT who passes the NREMT exam possesses the necessary skills and knowledge to competently provide entry-level, prehospital emergency medical care. According to the NREMT website, "The NREMT exam will continue to measure entry-level competency; however, the way it is measured will be more accurate and reliable. . . . Each candidate will be presented with a unique set of test items, but all candidates will be tested over the same subject matter and the test results will be comparable. With computer adaptive testing, each candidate's examination is drawn from an item bank of thousands of questions. Each new question will be selected based on how the individual candidate answered the previous section."

The NREMT has entered into an agreement with Pearson VUE to provide computer-based test delivery of the NREMT exam. Pearson VUE is a provider of innovative electronic testing solutions that enhance the performance, reliability, and security of high-stakes testing programs throughout the world.

As proposed, Maryland providers will have access to 8 testing centers. (Pearson Profession Centers convenient to Maryland residents are located in Baltimore, Bethesda, Columbia, Salisbury, DC, Morgantown [WV], Dover [DE], and Newark [DE].) To accommodate an anticipated large volume of students, additional sites in the metro Baltimore area have been requested.

The exam and registration fee will increase for a CRT from \$45 to

\$100, and an EMT-P from \$50 to \$110. The higher exam fees are due to the higher cost associated with conducting computer-based testing. (For testing BLS providers, Maryland, along with New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, DC, and North Carolina, participates in the Atlantic EMS Council BLS Test Bank.)

According to the NREMT website, the computer testing system has been designed so that it can be used by those with even minimal computer experience and typing skills. A tutorial will be available to each candidate at the testing center prior to taking the exam.

Additional information is available at the NREMT website [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org).

## When Does My EMS License or Certification Expire?

The easiest way to know when your EMS license or certificate expires is to look at your State of Maryland EMS Provider Identification card.

Expiration dates vary depending on the type of license or certification and when it is issued, so your expiration date could be different from that of another provider in your company and/or different from another provider with whom you have taken a refresher course.

If your address on file with MIEMSS is up to date, you will also receive a written notice 8 weeks before your license or certificate expires. This notice provides you with valuable information regarding your license or certification.

Be sure to keep track of your certification or license expiration date and allow for enough time to complete necessary continuing education,

renewal paperwork, and if applicable, NREMT registration. To provide prehospital emergency medical patient care (EMS) in Maryland, you must have a current Maryland EMS certification or license.

**Renewal of your EMS Provider certification or license is your responsibility.** Education Article § 13-516(b)(1) prohibits a person who is not licensed or certified from providing EMS services except in very limited circumstances.

Recertification requirements and timeframes can be found on the MIEMSS website ([www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)). Point your cursor at Licensing & Medical Program under MIEMSS Departments. Click on Licensure & Certification. Then click on Initial & Renewal Certification/Licensure.

# Policy for Service Members Called to Active Duty

This policy applies to the certification/licensure status of all Maryland prehospital providers (FR, EMT-B, CRT, EMT-P, and EMD) who are deployed or activated under military orders in the service of the United States Armed Forces. This also includes any reservist called to extended active duty. Recognizing that no entity can jeopardize the rights and privileges of one called into the service of the United States, a “**military EMS provider status**” is available to these service members, enabling them to return to their established level of function within one year of their return to Maryland.

The date of return will be established based on the service member's certificate of discharge, statement of release, separation orders, or certificate of retirement. The State of Maryland reserves the right to require a photocopy of one of the above as documentation of the service member's date of return.

If the Maryland EMS certification or license is predicated upon current registration with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), maintenance of NREMT registration, including continuing education requirements, is an individual responsibility and must be

conducted in accordance with National Registry policies.

## In the event of deployment or activation:

1. The EMS provider or his/her designee notifies MIEMSS in writing that the provider has/had been called to extended active duty.
2. The MIEMSS Office of Education, Licensure and Certification places the provider on Military inactive status as a provider.

## Upon return of the provider to Maryland:

3. The provider notifies MIEMSS that he/she desires reinstatement to active status and provides appropriate documentation of release from active duty.
4. The CRT or EMT-P provides documentation of current active registration with the NREMT.
5. The provider provides verification of EMS affiliation with an approved EMS operational program.
6. If a revision of the Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS providers occurred during his/her absence, the provider must attend a protocol review session conducted by the EMS operational program.
7. The EMS operational program with which the provider is affiliated may elect to conduct a skills review and proficiency demonstration.
8. One calendar year from the date of deactivation is afforded to the provider for completion of steps 1 through 7.

Reference: COMAR 30.02.02.08.e

## Lee Sachs Honored



*MIEMSS Executive Director Robert R. Bass, MD presents a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of MIEMSS and the EMS Board to Lee N. Sachs, new president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association. Mr. Sachs was honored for the standards, expertise, and fairness which he brought to the Maryland State EMS Provider Review Panel as its first Chair.*

## Mark Your Calendars

### EMS Educational Opportunities

**September 11, from 11 AM to 4 PM**

#### Maryland State Police Aviation Command Open House

*35th Anniversary of First Patient Flown by MSP and Ceremony Remembering 9-11-01*

MSP Frederick Hangar at Frederick Airport  
For information, contact Sgt. Tobin Triebel, MSP Aviation, 301-663-5742.

**September 23**

#### Trauma Conference

*Sponsored by Peninsula Regional Medical Center*  
Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, Ocean City, Maryland  
For information, contact Lisa Hohl, RN, Trauma Nurse Coordinator, PRMC, 410-543-7328

**September 27**

#### Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, Laurel, Maryland  
Contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 800-525-3125.

**October 14-16**

#### PYRAMID 2005

Solomons Holiday Inn, Solomons, Maryland  
For information, contact MIEMSS Region V Office at 301-474-1485 or toll free at 1-877-498-5551.

**November 15**

#### Special Topics in Trauma Care

R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Baltimore, Maryland  
For information, call the Clinical Practice & Professional Development Office, University of Maryland Medical System, 410-328-6257.

## At the MSFA Convention...



*Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. visits the MIEMSS booth at the 2005 Maryland State Firemen's Association Convention in June. Also pictured with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and his staff is former EMS Board member and Past President of the MSFA, Richard L. Yinger.*



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

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