


## A Holiday Message *From the Director*

The holiday season is a time of sharing and giving. For those who support EMS and fire services, these are traits in evidence on a daily basis. Serving is a tradition knitted into the fabric of our communities across the state. The commitment to EMS is a legacy handed down from generation to generation. It is an honor to serve with you.

On behalf of MIEMSS, the EMS Board, the Statewide EMS Advisory Council and myself, I wish for everyone a safe, peaceful, and fulfilling holiday season.

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

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## Capacity Alert Implementation

The new alert category entitled "Capacity Alert" for the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center (STC) has been added to the County Hospital Alert Tracking System (CHATS). This policy covers ambulance as well as helicopter transports of trauma patients from the scene to the STC. MIEMSS is instituting this policy to ensure the availability of beds at the STC for the most critically injured trauma patients.

The Capacity Alert policy took effect on October 10, 2005. When the Shock Trauma Center is nearing its patient capacity, a designated staff member will notify EMRC that the STC is on Capacity Alert. Subsequently, EMRC will notify SYSCOM and use the CHATS system to alert all PSAP centers of the

Capacity Alert status. At the time of a declaration of Capacity Alert, the policy related to trauma triage will be in effect. This policy will be evaluated for its impact and effectiveness in six months following implementation.

A point of clarification is needed for Capacity Alert for the STC as it pertains to triage of patients with spinal injuries and patients requiring hyperbaric oxygen during periods of Capacity Alert:

**Patients with spinal injuries and documented motor weakness in the field should be transported to the Shock Trauma Center regardless of Capacity Alert Status.** Patients complaining of neck and back pain without weakness and who do not otherwise meet the criteria in Category A of the Trauma Decision Tree should

be transported to the closest available trauma center other than the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

**Patients who require hyperbaric oxygen therapy** and do not otherwise meet criteria in Category A of the Trauma Decision Tree should be transported to the University of Maryland Emergency Department where they will have access to the hyperbaric oxygen chamber.

For questions regarding the appropriate destination for your patient, please request a trauma-line consult.

For questions regarding the Capacity Alert Policy, please contact Mary Beachley, director of hospital programs at MIEMSS (410-706-3932 or [mbeachley@miemss.org](mailto:mbeachley@miemss.org)).

# Emergency Response Guidelines

MIEMSS was part of a group that assisted in developing guidelines to help communities prepare and respond to major emergencies. The planning guide is the culmination of a two-year process assisted by MIEMSS, as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the National Center for Emergency Preparedness at Columbia University. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations issued the step-by-step guide, *Standing Together: An Emergency Planning Guide for America's Communities*, for small, rural, and suburban communities to both prepare for and successfully respond to major local and regional emergencies—whether they be hurri-

canes, floods, terrorist attacks, major infectious outbreaks, or other catastrophic occurrences.

The project involved the convening of two expert roundtable sessions to identify challenges, solutions, and recommendations. The national panel included representatives of federal, state, and local agencies; front-line emergency responders; emergency preparedness planners; and public health and hospital community leaders. The Joint Commission also drew on the "9/11 Commission Report from the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States" and reports from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The planning guide developed essential steps that local government and public health leaders can use to establish an effective community-based emergency management planning and response process. These included defining the community, establishing emergency management teams, determining current capabilities, and training exercises and drills. The final electronic version of the emergency management planning guide is now available on the Joint Commission website at [www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org).

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## EMS Educators Symposium

The second annual EMS Educators Symposium, sponsored by MIEMSS and hosted by the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute in College Park, is set for January 11, 2006. The symposium, a tradition started last year, is

an annual event for EMS education administrators, program coordinators, education program medical directors, and lead faculty. To promote statewide quality EMS education, the program will share best practices, provide administration updates, and bring in a guest speaker to "inspire" and provide some useful tools and "tricks of the trade" to make Maryland EMS educational programs even better.

This year the keynote speaker will be Mike Smith from Tacoma, Washington. He will be presenting "Shaping Student Performance" and "Evaluating Competencies" during the morning session. In the afternoon, best practices will be shared, as well as a "SWOT" analysis of the State's EMS Educational System. Insightful tips and tools for the ALS licensing process will also be presented. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Bill Seifarth at 1-800-762-7157 or [wseifart@miemss.org](mailto:wseifart@miemss.org).

### Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program

The final version of the Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program (VAIP)—Seal of Excellence document was approved by the EMS Board at their last meeting. A major change is in the reduction of the drug inventory to provide maximum ALS care for one patient, as opposed to the previously required inventory for two patients. Printed copies will be available from Regional Offices and on the MIEMSS web page later this month.

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## SAVE THE DATE!



### Miltenberger EMS & Trauma Conference 2006

**March 11, 2006**

Rocky Gap, Maryland  
Schedule and registration  
in next *Maryland EMS News!*

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### EMAIS Update

EMAIS is now "live" in 17 jurisdictions—Allegany, Annapolis City, APG, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, and Washington counties. Martin's State Airport EMS began using EMAIS on December 1.



# WINTERFEST EMS 2006

## JANUARY 28 & 29

### HARRISON'S CHESAPEAKE HOUSE TILGHMAN ISLAND, MARYLAND

JOIN US FOR A FUN AND RELAXING WEEKEND OF QUALITY EDUCATION

#### PRECONFERENCE—EMT-B 12-Hour Skills Refresher

DATE: January 26 at 5 PM & 27 at 8 AM  
LOCATION: Tilghman Island Volunteer Fire Department  
FEE: \$45 Registration is required.

For EMT-Bs, complete all your recertification needs with us at WINTERFEST EMS 2006. A 12-hour skills class is available as a pre-session followed by 12 hours of continuing education, which, with careful choosing, can meet the 12-hour continuing education requirement.

#### PRECONFERENCE – Preparedness Workshop: Personal, Family & Organizations

DATE: January 27 at 8:30 AM  
LOCATION: Tilghman Island Volunteer Fire Department  
FEE: \$45 Registration is required.

This workshop is geared toward preparing EMS, Fire Services, Schools, and Families for the types of natural and man-made disasters that could happen in Maryland.



### WINTERFEST EMS 2006



#### SATURDAY

- 7:30 AM Registration
- 7:45 AM Welcome
- 8:00 AM **When Tragedy Strikes (2 hrs B/T)**  
*One paramedic's story about the call that changed his life--Tim Hayes*
- 8:30 AM **BREAK WITH VENDORS**
- 10:15 AM **Is Your Scene Safe? (2 hrs B/T)**  
*How to set up your scenes to protect the providers as well as the patients*
- 11:30 AM **LUNCH WITH VENDORS**
- 1:00 PM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
  - A. **Safe Transport of Children (1.5 hrs B/M)**  
*Discuss and practice safe transportation of children in ambulances with MIEMSS' EMS-C Staff.*
  - B. **Special Rescues and Patient Care (1.5 hrs B/T)**  
*How to effectively render care to victims of unique and challenging rescue situations*
  - C. **Behavioral Scene Management (1.5 hrs A/M)**  
*Behavioral emergencies present a challenge to provide the medical care needed in a safe environment for the patient and provider.*
  - D. **Communication Barriers (1.5 hrs A/M)**  
*Learn basic culture and communication skills needed to interact with the hearing impaired and Hispanic populations.*
  - E. **CSI: Tilghman (1.5 hrs B/M)**  
*Interaction and management at a possible crime scene*
  - F. **Fire-Based Thermal Imaging (3 hrs 2/L)**  
*Located at Tilghman Island Volunteer Fire Department--Runs from 1 PM to 5 PM*
- 2:50 PM **BREAK WITH VENDORS**
- 3:10 PM **REPEAT BREAKOUTS (EXCEPT F)**
- 5:00 PM **CONFERENCE ENDS FOR THE DAY; JOIN US BACK AT HARRISON'S FOR HAPPY HOUR AT 6 AND DINNER AT 7.**

#### SUNDAY

- 9:00 AM **Maryland's Response to Katrina (1.5 hrs B/M)**  
*A panel discussion from those who were there*
- 10:15 AM **BREAK**
- 10:30 AM **ALTE: What is it? (1.5 hrs B/M)**  
*Young children can present with vague complaints which may be significant in nature. Understanding ALTE can make a difference.*
- 11:45 AM **LUNCH**
- 1:00 PM **ABC's & 123's of Trauma (1.5 hrs B/T)**  
*A systematic approach to trauma care*
- 2:00 PM **Only in the World of EMS (1.5 hrs B/M)**  
*Emergency services providers face many strange complaints. Case reviews of some bizarre presentations.*



DRIVE CAREFULLY — SEE YOU NEXT YEAR



# WINTERFEST EMS 2006

**Location:** Winterfest EMS will be held on Tilghman Island with headquarters at Harrison's Chesapeake House.

**Payment and Cancellation Policy:** Preregistration is required. Payment of all fees must be included with preregistration. There is a \$25 fee for bad checks. We will be accepting registration until January 15, 2006 or until the conference is filled—whichever comes first. All requests for cancellations must be made in writing to: Winterfest EMS, C/O Talbot Co. EMS, 29041 Corkran Rd, Easton, MD 21601

Refunds, excluding a \$10 processing fee, will be mailed for cancellations received before January 15, 2006. Cancellation after January 15, 2006 will result in forfeiture of your entire registration fee. Speakers and topics are subject to change.

\* **Weather Cancellation:** The Conference Planning Committee will make a decision about cancellation of Winterfest EMS due to severe weather by 12 Noon on January 25 (preconference) and again on January 27. Call Talbot County EMS—Winterfest EMS Line at (410) 822-2030 for details. Written requests for refunds will be accepted within 30 days of cancellation.

**Information:** For additional information or registration confirmations, call the TCEMS—Winterfest Line at

(410) 822-2030 or email us at [winterfest2006@hotmail.com](mailto:winterfest2006@hotmail.com). The Winterfest EMS Committee is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in the conference. If you require additional assistance, please call the Winterfest EMS Committee.

**Directions:**

**Traveling from the Bay Bridge and points West:**

Take Route 50 East to Easton. Turn right onto the Easton Bypass (Route 322). Turn right at the 4th light (St. Michaels Road, Route 33). Follow road for about 23 miles to Tilghman Island. Once you cross the bridge, Tilghman Island Volunteer Fire Department will be on the left; Tilghman Island Elementary School will be on the right; Harrison's Chesapeake House will be on the left on Chesapeake House Drive just past the school.

**Traveling from Ocean City and points East:**

Take Route 50 West to Easton. Turn left onto the Easton Bypass (Route 322). Turn left at the 3rd light (St. Michaels Road, Route 33). Follow road for about 23 miles to Tilghman Island. Once you cross the bridge, Tilghman Island Volunteer Fire Department will be on the left; Tilghman Island Elementary School will be on the right; Harrison's Chesapeake House will be on the left on Chesapeake House Drive just past the school.

## REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Provider #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Certification/Licensure (circle): FR EMT-B CRT CRT-I EMT-P LPN RN NP PA MD

**PRECONFERENCES, \$45** (Select Only One): \_\_\_\_\_ EMT-B Skills Refresher \_\_\_\_\_ Safety Preconference

**CONFERENCE FEES:**

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 Day, \$75  
\_\_\_\_\_ Both Days, \$110

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

First Session – A B C D E  
Second Session – A B C D E  
Thermal Imaging Training – F  
(If you chose "F" do not select from First & Second Sessions.)

## MEALS & ACCOMMODATIONS: Harrison's Chesapeake House, Tilghman Island, MD

**Room Rate per night:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Single, \$95  
\_\_\_\_\_ Double, \$85 **Must Specify Roomate**  
Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner and Entertainment:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday and Saturday, \$56  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1 Night Only, \$30

Nights Staying: \_\_\_\_\_ THURSDAY \_\_\_\_\_ FRIDAY \_\_\_\_\_ SATURDAY

\_\_\_\_\_ Room Fees = Rate **per night** x Number of nights staying

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Due** = Preconference Fees + Conference Fees + Room Fees + Meal Cost (as applicable)

Make checks payable to **Winterfest EMS**. Reservations are due by **January 15, 2006**. Accommodation and meal fees must be included with registration. Send check along with this form to Winterfest EMS, C/O Talbot Co. EMS, 29041 Corkran Rd, Easton, MD 21601. Call or email us with any questions or confirmation requests, (410) 822-2030 or [winterfest2006@hotmail.com](mailto:winterfest2006@hotmail.com).

**\*\*\*\*Provider Number is Required to Receive Continuing Education Credits\*\*\*\***

# 2005 American Heart Association Guidelines For CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care Changes

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## *EMS/Fire Services*

The American Heart Association (AHA) recently released the 2005 “Guidelines for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care,” which includes guidelines for administering CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) use, as well as recommendations for key elements of public access AED programs. MIEMSS is in the process of reviewing the new AHA guidelines to determine what changes will be made to the current Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers and the Maryland Layperson AED Program. Until the protocols have been revised, the following should occur:

**Maryland EMS providers and EMS Operational Programs** should continue to follow the existing protocols for performing CPR and defibrillation. Additionally, no monitor or AED calibration changes from the existing “stacked delivery” mode of operation should be performed at this time.

**EMS dispatch centers** should continue to follow the dispatch protocols utilized by their jurisdiction until formal updates have been made by their vendor.

**EMS educational programs** should continue to teach, utilizing the existing guidelines. The AHA has scheduled update courses for National/Regional Faculty and Training Center Coordinators between February and May of 2006.

The 2006 update of the Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS providers will NOT be implemented on July 1, 2006. The update will be delayed in order to incorporate the new AHA guidelines. The Protocol Review Committee at MIEMSS met on December 14 to determine how the new guidelines will be incorporated into the Maryland EMS protocol and an appropriate implementation schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Chaney at 410-706-0880 or [echaney@miemss.org](mailto:echaney@miemss.org).

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## *Layperson AED Program Staff*

The American Heart Association (AHA) recently released the 2005 “Guidelines for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care,” which includes guidelines for administering CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) use, as well as recommendations for key elements of public access AED programs. MIEMSS is in the process of reviewing the new AHA guidelines to determine what changes if any shall be made to the current Maryland AED protocol and program requirements.

**Until further notice, Maryland Layperson AED Programs are requested to make no changes to the existing protocols for performing CPR and AED use. Additionally, no AED calibration changes from the existing “stacked delivery” mode of operation should be attempted at this time.**

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Myers at [lmyers@miemss.org](mailto:lmyers@miemss.org).

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## New Faces at MIEMSS

MIEMSS would like to introduce some new staff members.

**Terrell Buckson**, in the Office of Education, Licensure, and Certification, is coordinating the First Responder program, as well as other programs as time progresses. He has nearly 10 years of field experience as a paramedic and several years of experience as a BLS and ALS instructor.

**Michelle Bell** is the new secretary for the Office of Education, Licensure, and Certification.

**Page A. Gray** is the new Associate Administrator for Region IV.

**Karen Brown** recently took over as secretary of the MIEMSS Region V Office.

## EMS Influenza Vaccine

MIEMSS continues to prepare for the 2005–2006 flu season which began with the first case of seasonal flu being reported by the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene in November. The case, confirmed as Influenza B, occurred in a woman from Baltimore City. Although this is the first case of the season, it is not too late to get the flu vaccination. Flu season often lasts into February or March, and the shot helps protect you for the entire season. MIEMSS encourages all EMS providers to receive the vaccine.

A memo has been posted on the MIEMSS web page and widely distributed to EMS providers. The memo encourages EMS providers to be vaccinated and provides several links for additional information on influenza. Governor Ehrlich's Office has been very proactive with the flu season and has launched a Maryland Flu Preparedness website (<http://flu.maryland.gov>). It includes information on seasonal, pandemic, and avian flu. This link is also posted on the MIEMSS web page.



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Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele  
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## Mark Your Calendars!

### EMS Educational Opportunities

**January 27-29, 2006**

#### *Winterfest*

Tilghman Island, Maryland  
(headquarters at Harrison's  
Chesapeake House)

Contact: TCEMS–Winterfest EMS

Line at 410-822-2030; email:

[winterfest2006@hotmail.com](mailto:winterfest2006@hotmail.com)

**March 11, 2006**

#### *Miltenberger Emergency Services Conference*

Rocky Gap Lodge

Flintstone, Maryland

Contact: MIEMSS Region I Office,  
301-895-5934 or 301-746-8636.

**March 21–25, 2006**

#### *EMS Today 2006*

Baltimore Convention Center  
Sponsored by JEMS

Communications. Contact: Olga  
Berdial 800-266-5367. Website:

[www.emstodayconference.com](http://www.emstodayconference.com)

**March 25, 2006**

#### *Public Education & Safety Conference*

MFRI, College Park, MD

**April 29–30, 2006**

#### *EMS Care 2006*

**(Preconference April 27–28)**

Maritime Institute for Technology  
and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) in  
Linthicum

Presented by the Region III EMS  
Advisory Council & MIEMSS.

Contact the MIEMSS Region III  
Office, 410-706-3996.