



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. Service 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.

In these difficult times, it would be convenient for us to ignore the dangers around us, to turn the other cheek, and channel our efforts toward our families and ourselves. Instead, in hundreds of communities and local and state agencies and institutions, people gather, organize, and deliver services to abate human suffering. At a time when so many have lost sight of the value of human life, you work unceasingly to protect and restore life.

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

Defining ‘Contaminated Sharp’

Editor’s Note: The following was part of a memorandum written and distributed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene regarding the definition of “contaminated sharps” in COMAR 10.06.02 B(22) entitled “Communicable Disease Prevention—Handling, Treatment, and Disposal of Special Medical Waste.”

The question of what specifically constitutes a “contaminated sharp” under the regulation is interpreted as follows. Any sharp (as defined in the

regulation at COMAR 10.06.02 B [21]) that is not in its original, intact packaging should be considered a “contaminated sharp” under the regulation. Sharps may not have visible blood, blood products, or other potentially infectious material but could still be contaminated and potentially infectious. Unless a sharp is in its original, intact packaging, it is not possible for a reasonable person (either layman or health professional) to conclude that the sharp is free from contamination.

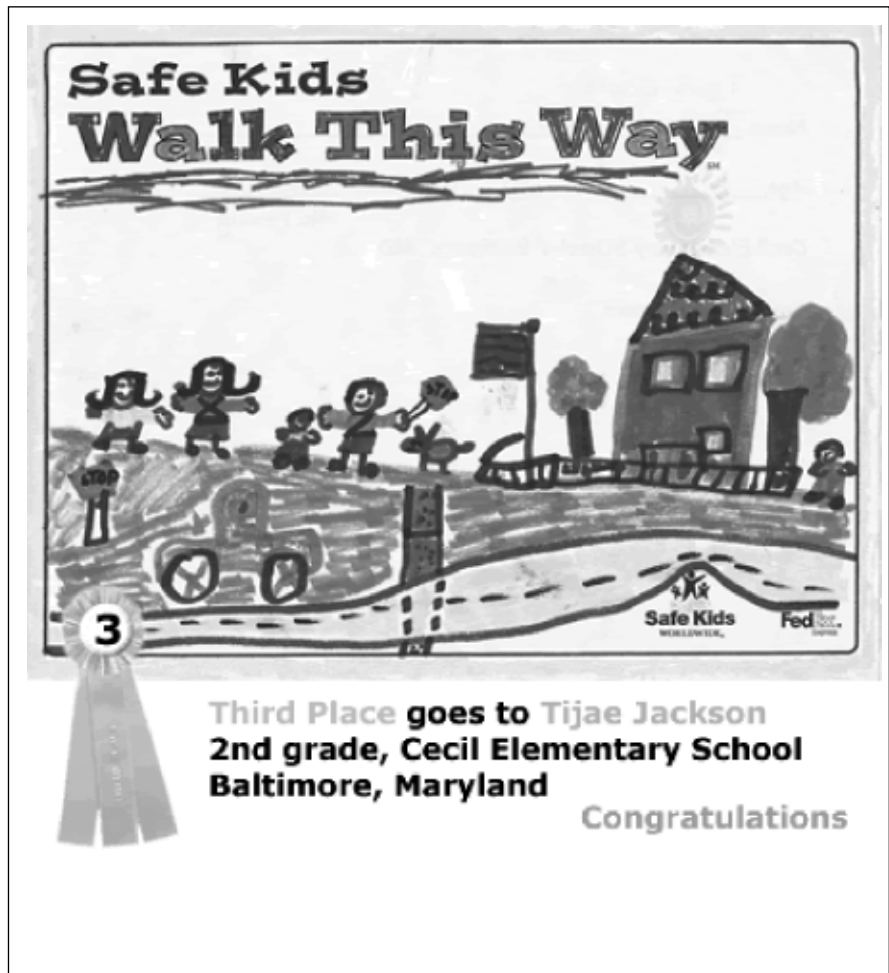
Featured in This Issue

National Safety Contest Winner	page 2
Winterfest Schedule	page 3
Bystander Care Program	page 5
Educational Events Calendar	page 6

Baltimore Student Is Runner-Up in National Safety Contest

Karen Hardingham, a nurse at the University of Maryland Medical Center and coordinator of Safe Kids Baltimore, asked the students at Cecil Elementary School in Baltimore to participate in the Walk This Way coloring/poster contest as part of Walk to School Day. Later the Safe Kids Baltimore Coalition picked the winner—submitted by second-grader Tijae Jackson—and then sent it off as their entry in the national contest sponsored by Safe Kids Worldwide in conjunction with International Walk to School Day. (The contest was open to children in grades K through 6 who submitted original artwork centering on the theme pedestrian safety.) A national panel then chose a winner and two runners-up.

Congratulations to our Baltimore second-grader who placed third in the national contest! According to Ms. Hardingham, Safe Kids Baltimore will be giving the second-grader a \$50 gift certificate at a lunch pizza party in December along with \$100 for the school. FedEx, which partnered with Safe Kids Worldwide to create the Safe Kids Walk This Way Program, will also be giving prizes (savings bonds) to the three winners. The winning entries can be seen at <http://www.usa.safekids.org/wtw/news.html#contest> and the winning Baltimore entry is shown here.



Poison Center Moves

The Maryland Poison Center moved to a new location on the University of Maryland campus in November. The new address is:

Maryland Poison Center
220 Arch Street
Office Level 1
Baltimore, MD 21201



Happy Holidays from Safe Kids Worldwide

Safe Kids Worldwide wants your children to be safe this season when they receive toys. There are certain hazards to be aware of, and by keeping these in mind as your purchase gifts, you can help protect children against injuries. To increase your awareness of toy hazards and to offer holiday safety tips, Safety Kids Worldwide offers three pages of holiday safety tips on its website. They include:

Holiday Safety Tips—<http://sk.convio.net/site/R?i=ZdXseiAzlF0gAhSlmeDTNA>
Cooking Safety Tips—<http://sk.convio.net/site/R?i=WRXRK-LHZbD1-tOgGdUg>
Toy Safety Tips—<http://sk.convio.net/site/R?i=KTjxww3vTTCSeoQwvOmJGg>

Reminder Re Flu Vaccination

Maryland's first laboratory-confirmed case of Type A seasonal influenza was announced in October by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The timing of this year's first case is comparable to last year, when the first case was reported on November 3, 2005. Although the seasonal flu is here in Maryland, it is not too late to get a vaccination and take other protective measures. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that the best time for vaccination begins in October and goes through February. MIEMSS encourages all EMS providers to get their seasonal flu vaccine.



Winterfest EMS 2007

JANUARY 27 & 28

Harrison's Chesapeake House
Tilghman Island, Maryland

Where Have We Been & Where Are We Going? 10-Year Anniversary

Preconferences

EMT-B 12-Hour Skills Refresher

Date: Jan. 25 at 5 P.M. & Jan. 26 at 8 A.M.
Location: Tilghman Island Vol. Fire Dept.
Fee: \$45 (Registration is required.)

For EMT-Bs: complete all your recertification needs with us. 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.

Quality Improvement Officer Course

Date: Jan. 25 at 9 A.M. & Jan. 26 at 9 A.M.
Location: Tilghman Island Vol. Fire Dept.
Fee: \$50 (Registration is required.)

The MIEMSS Quality Assurance Officer Course will prepare the participant to function as a jurisdictional QA officer. Day 1 will focus on the officer's roles and responsibilities regarding quality assurance, while day 2 will focus on quality improvement.

Winterfest EMS 2007

Saturday

0730-0800 Registration
0800-0815 Welcome
0815-0845 **EMS at the Crossroads**
The Institute of Medicine's Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the U.S. Health System was convened in 2003 to examine the state of emergency care in the U.S. and to create a vision for the future of emergency care, along with suggestions on how to achieve that vision.
0845-1015 **Evolution of EMS (2 hrs M/B)**
EMS is a rapidly growing profession. From the early days of the 20th Century to the 21st Century, we have grown in numbers and quality of care.— Randolph Mantooth
1015-1045 **Break with Vendors**

1045-1200 **Pandemic Flu (2 hrs M/B)**
We face a real threat with the potential for pandemic flu. It is imperative that EMS has an understanding of avian flu—its local, state, and national impact and its role in pandemic flu.
1200-1300 **Lunch with Vendors**
1330-1500 **Single "Repeat" Breakouts (Listed below)**
 A, B, C, D, E
1330-1700 **Double Breakouts (Listed below)**
 F, G, H, I
1500-1530 **Break with Vendors**
1530-1700 **Repeat Breakouts**
 Only A through E repeat
JOIN US BACK AT HARRISON'S FOR HAPPY HOUR AT 6 AND FOR DINNER AT 7.

Sunday

0845-0900 **Introduction**
0900-1015 **The Shoe Is on the Other Foot**
Although you may have provided healthcare for many years, it's significantly different when you are the patient. Hear firsthand what it's like to be on the other end of the stethoscope.
1015-1030 **Break**
1030-1145 **When Things Go Right, When Things Go Wrong—Part I**
Case studies provide a framework of patient-focused care, customer service, and risk management.—Gordon Graham

1145-1300 **Lunch**
1300-1400 **When Things Go Right, When Things Go Wrong—Part II**
1400-1500 **EMS Survivor**
Who will be the first to be voted off? Come to watch and to participate as a group of volunteers review cases. Who will be the ultimate "EMS Survivor"?
1500 **DRIVE CAREFULLY—THANKS FOR COMING—SEE YOU NEXT YEAR**

Saturday Breakouts

SINGLE "REPEAT" BREAKOUTS (1330-1500 & 1530-1700)

- A. ATV Safety (2 hrs T/B)**
ATVs are popular in the public arena but they also serve a major role in rescue.
- B. Capnography (2 hrs M/A)**
Capnography has patient care uses beyond intubation. Explore the uses in the non-intubated patient.
- C. CHF vs. COPD vs. Pulmonary Edema (2 hrs M/A)**
Differentiating underlying distress is vital to patient care. This course examines the causes of respiratory distress and their management.
- D. Stroke Update (2 hrs M/A)**
With the upcoming process of Stroke Center Designation, the EMS provider needs to have a stronger knowledge of the causes, assessment, and management of the stroke patient.
- E. Management of the Burn Patient (2 Hrs T/B)**
While low in the number of calls, burns present us with challenges in assessment and management across the lifespan.

DOUBLE BREAKOUTS (1330-1700)

- F. Water Rescue (4 hrs T/B)**
We are surrounded by water. Do we know how to respond to water emergencies while maintaining safety for all?
- G. Kidz Kornerz (4 hrs T/B)**
Hands-on experience with new technology! With new equipment and skills, the participants get the opportunity to learn and review skills.
- H. Healthcare Provider CPR (4 hrs M/A)**
Renew your CPR to the new 2006 standards. This program will provide the opportunity to renew HCP status.
- I. Patient Care on the Gridiron (4 hrs T/B)**
Athletes, equipment, and their injuries provide challenges to the EMS provider. Come learn about care of the injured athlete, including hands-on practice.



❄️ Winterfest EMS 2007 ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Location: Winterfest EMS will be held on Tilghman Island with headquarters at Harrison's Chesapeake House. Do not call Harrison's for accommodation reservations, since all reservations are being made through Winterfest EMS. There is a section on the registration form for such information.

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 12, 2006 or until the conference is filled—whichever comes first. There will be a late registration fee of \$25 added to all registrations that are received after January 12, including call-ins. Walk-in registrations will not be allowed. 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 12, 2007. Cancellation after January 12, 2007 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 24. 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.

Due to the high volume of students, everyone must select breakout sessions, as there will be limited space for each session. Select 2 "repeat" breakouts, since you will go to one

session before the break and a different session after the break; or select 1 "double" breakout (you will be in that session all afternoon).

Information: For additional information or registration confirmations, call the TCEMS—Winterfest Line at (410) 822-2030 or email us at winterfest.ems@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 Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Provider #: _____ Email: _____

Primary Affiliation: _____

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

PRECONFERENCES (Select Only One): _____ EMT-B Skills Refresher, \$45 _____ Quality Improvement, \$50

CONFERENCE FEES:

_____ 1 Day, \$75

_____ Both Days, \$125

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (choose first and second OR double)

First Session – A B C D E

Second Session – A B C D E

Double Session – F G H I

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

Room Rate **per night:** (includes breakfast at Harrison's)

_____ Single, \$95

_____ Double, \$85 **Must Specify Roommate**

Roommate _____

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)

Dinner and Entertainment:

_____ Friday and Saturday, \$56

_____ 1 Night Only, \$30

Make checks payable to **Winterfest EMS**. Reservations are due by **January 12, 2007**. 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 winterfest.ems@hotmail.com.

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

Bystander Care Program Expands

The Bystander Care Program, which started in Maryland as a pilot project in Region I (Garrett and Allegany counties) conducted by MIEMSS and the Maryland State Highway Administration's Highway Safety Office, is continuing to expand across the state. The program is designed to educate the public, especially fleet operators and others who spend large amounts of time on the road, about what they can do at the scene of an emergency before trained rescuers arrive.


Last year the program expanded its outreach to Carroll, Frederick, and Washington counties. Recently a series of classes was completed for the Allegany County Roads Department. With about 150 employees, they are the largest single group to complete the training. In addition, with the cooperation of the Chesapeake Region Safety Council, a class was conducted in Baltimore for representatives of various agencies and private companies in that area. In Region IV, there is now an instructor based in Salisbury, and plans are underway to begin classes on the Eastern Shore.

Al Ward, Maryland's Bystander Care Program Coordinator, emphasizes that rural areas often rely on volunteer prehospital personnel who may have to drive several miles from their home or workplace to their station and then drive several miles again to the scene of the injury. He notes that it "may be 15-20 minutes before someone is discovered, and loss of time is often critical to the critically injured." With such

response times for fire and rescue personnel often encountered in rural areas, basic life-sustaining, initial actions to resuscitate a person or stop bleeding must come from those first on the scene—the bystanders.


The 3-hour program taught by Mr. Ward and a small group of volunteer instructors focuses on increasing a bystander's awareness of when and how to properly stop and assist victims of motor vehicle crashes or other medical emergencies.

Mr. Ward is a 30-year veteran of the emergency services, currently serving as a firefighter/emergency medical technician with the Cumberland Fire Department; he has extensive experience in public safety education and is a certified level II instructor through the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute.



GIVE A HAND
JOIN LEARN
THE Bystander
LIFE SAVING
TEAM!

Maryland's Bystander Care Program



About Maryland's Bystander Care Program

Maryland's Bystander Care Program targets fleet operators and others who spend a great deal of their time on the road. The program is designed to be taught as a single, three-hour session, but can be broken down into several shorter sessions. Included with the program are a student manual, a rescue keychain, and a "reminder card" stating the steps of Bystander Care.

The Bystander Care Program emphasizes not only calling the EMS system and administering life-sustaining care but also recognizing the emergency and making the decision to stop and give help. Most training programs focus solely on how to administer the proper care. Scene safety and provider safety are stressed in this program.

Why Are Bystander Care Programs Important?


According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), rural crashes account for 59 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities. Many rural crashes are discovered by passing motorists, who have an opportunity to improve a victim's chance of survival by providing simple, life-sustaining care. Nationwide implementation of Bystander Care Programs could reduce the death toll by 22,000 per year.

Care administered by bystanders prior to the arrival of Emergency Medical Services is important. The simple actions of bystander care could mean the difference between life and death for many victims. The length of time before a victim is treated is critical: the earlier proper care is received, the greater the chance of survival.


- Save Lives
- Satisfaction of Helping Others
- Confidence to Help in Crisis
- No Cost to Sponsor
- Minimal Time Commitment
- Nationally Recognized Curriculum
- Integrates with Other Programs (CPR, First Aid, etc.)
- Improve Community Relations

Why Sponsor a Bystander Care Course?


To obtain further information, schedule a bystander care training session for your company or organization, or inquire about becoming an instructor, please contact:
 Al Ward, Coordinator, Bystander Care Program
 MIEMSS Region I Office, P.O. Box 34
 Grantsville, MD 21536
 301-895-5934 award@miemss.org



Maryland Institute for
Emergency Medical Services Systems



Maryland Highway Safety Office



SHA
State Highway Administration

Anyone interested in becoming a Bystander Care Program instructor, assisting with the program, or learning more about it, should contact the MIEMSS Region I Office at 301-895-5934, or email award@miemss.org.

Safety Reminder

COMAR 30.09.07.03—Operational Requirements for [Ground] Ambulances

- Ensure occupants are safely transported in ambulances by:
 - Requiring all occupants to wear safety restraints.
 - Requiring all patients to be secured to stretchers in accordance with the stretcher manufacturer's recommendation, except as may be necessary for treatment;
- Stow or adequately fasten all medical devices, supplies, or equipment to prevent items from becoming projectiles that might cause injury in an abrupt stop or crash;

- Ensure that compartments used to carry heavier items, first-aid kits, portable oxygen cylinders, suction units, intravenous pumps, ventilators, and monitors have positively locking latches:
 - With both latch and hinge bolted to the door and frame structure; and
- Oxygen cylinders located in the patient compartment are secured by a crash stable bracket.

For exact language please refer to COMAR 30.09, available at: http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/subtitle_chapters/30_Chapters.htm

Educational Events!

January 27–28, 2007

10th Annual Winterfest, Tilghman Island. Information available at winterfest.ems@hotmail.com or at TCEMS–Winterfest EMS Line, 410-822-2030.

March 6–10, 2007

EMS Today Conference and Expo at Baltimore Convention Center. For information, see www.emstodayconference.com

March 16–17, 2007

5th Annual Miltenberger EMS & Trauma Conference. For information, call MIEMSS Region I Office, 301-895-5934 or 301-746-8636.

March 24, 2007

Public Education & Safety Conference at MFRI, College Park, MD. For information, see www.mfri.org

April 13–15, 2007

EMS Care. Maritime Institute for Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) in Linthicum. For information, call 301-474-1485.

May 20–26, 2007

EMS Week. Theme “EMS: Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service.”

Save the Date!

April 13–15, 2007

EMS Care

MITAGS (Maritime Institute for Technology and Graduate Studies)
Linthicum, Maryland

Information: call MIEMSS
Region V Office, 301-474-1485

**Schedule and registration in next
Maryland EMS News!**

MIEMSS, Maryland EMS News
653 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1536



Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele

Copyright© 2006 by the

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

653 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1536

www.miemss.org

Chairman, EMS Board: Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq.

Executive Director, MIEMSS: Robert R. Bass, MD

Managing Editor: Beverly Sopp (410-706-3248)

Design & Layout: Gail Kostas

Photography: Jim Brown, Dick Register, Brian Slack, Fernando Tosti
(unless noted otherwise for specific photos)