

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

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April 2012

## National Poison Prevention Week Celebrated in Maryland

This year marks the 50th anniversary of National Poison Prevention Week and the 40th anniversary of the Maryland Poison Center. The Maryland Poison Center which is located within the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, serves as a major resource to Maryland's Trauma and EMS System. The Center handles more than 62,000 calls each year and has served approximately two million Marylanders in its 40 years. The Maryland Poison Center is a service of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. It is staffed around the clock, seven days a week by specially trained pharmacists and nurses who have provided poisoning triage, treatment recommendations, education, and prevention services to Marylanders since 1972.

On March 12, 2012, the Maryland Safe Kids Coalition celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Maryland Poison Center at their quarterly meeting held at MIEMSS. Angel Bivens and Lisa Booze, PhD from the Poison Center were on hand to provide information and cut the birthday cake. Tours of the Poison Center were given to those in attendance.

In observance of National Poison Prevention Month, the Maryland Poison Center conducted a poison prevention poster contest for school aged children. On March 19, 2012, Tashuana Pope, a 5th grader from Edgewood Elementary School in Baltimore City was honored as the first place winner during an assembly held at the school. The other winners were also from Edgewood Elementary

School. Kristian Lancaster, a 4th grader, won second place and third place award went to Victoria Moore, a 5th grader. All three of the local winning students will have their posters submitted for the National Poison Prevention Week Poster contest awards.

The awards assembly was attended by Oxiris Bardot, MD, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner; Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP, the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy; Damion Cooper, Director of Neighborhood Relations, Baltimore City; and representatives the Maryland Poison Center and Baltimore Safe Kids.



Shown here with her award winning first place poster is Tashuana Pope, along with Kristian Lancaster second place winner and third place winner Victoria Moore. All three of the winning students were from Edgewood Elementary School in Baltimore City. Assisting in the award presentation were Damion Cooper, Director of Neighborhood Relations, Baltimore City; Karen Hardingham, Baltimore Safe Kids; Oxiris Bardot, MD, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner; Angel Bivens, Maryland Poison Center; Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP, the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy; and the Bruce D. Anderson, PharmD, Maryland Poison Center.



(Left to right) Dr. Lisa Booze and Angel Bivens from the Maryland Poison Center are shown with Cyndy Wright-Johnson State Coordinator for the Maryland Safe Kids Coalition during the 40th birthday party celebration of the Maryland Poison Center, held during the March Safe Kids meeting.

## EMS Provider Regulations Regarding Levels of Certification

### MIEMSS Transition Timelines

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)	Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate 99 (CRT)	Paramedic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Name Change:</b> First Responder becomes Emergency Medical Responder</li> <li>• Emergency Medical Responder courses must be taught after July 1, 2012</li> <li>• FR to EMR Transition update by March 31, 2016</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Name Change:</b> Emergency Medical Technician Basic becomes Emergency Medical Technician</li> <li>• Emergency Medical Technician courses must be taught after July 1, 2012</li> <li>• EMT-B to EMT Transition update by March 31, 2016</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AEMT will not be a recognized certification level in Maryland</li> <li>• Those seeking reciprocity from out of state may be certified at the EMT level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I-99/CRTs will still be recognized by Maryland</li> <li>• Maryland encourages I-99/CRTs to become paramedics</li> <li>• Maryland will still require I-99/CRT candidates to take the National Registry exam, but they will no longer receive national certification from the National Registry after December 31, 2013</li> <li>• The Maryland I-99/ CRT continuing education and re-licensure requirements will be similar to the current NREMT requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Name Change:</b> EMT Paramedic becomes Paramedic</li> <li>• New Paramedic program must be taught after December 31, 2012</li> <li>• EMT to Paramedic transition course by March 31, 2017</li> <li>• All ALS programs must be in the CoAEMSP process by December 31, 2012</li> </ul>

The EMS Board will be promulgating amendments to change the nomenclature for emergency medical services (EMS) providers' licensure and certification levels to reflect national standards and changes made to the EMS provider statute in the last legislative session by July 2012. Specifically:

- First Responder will be changed to Emergency Medical Responder.
- Emergency Medical Technician-Basic will be changed to EMT.
- Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic will be changed to Paramedic.

Two other existing levels, Cardiac Rescue Technicians and Emergency Medical Dispatchers, will remain the same.

## First HIPAA Enforcement Action from a Breach of Information

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced on March 13, 2012 that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee (BCBST) has agreed to pay \$1.5 million to settle potential HIPAA violations. This enforcement action is the first resulting from a breach report to the government.

Unencrypted hard drives containing health information of over 1 million patients were stolen from one of the BCBST facilities. The breach was reported to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as required under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) Act. The government investigated BCBST's security measures and found that BCBST had not implemented adequate safeguards to secure patients' information. All covered entities are required by HIPAA to implement adequate physical and technical safeguards to protect all health information. Aggressive HIPAA enforcement has begun and unannounced audits are possible.



## National EMS Week - May 20 – 26, 2012

This year, National EMS Week 2012 is May 20 - May 26, 2012. Wednesday, May 23, is set aside as Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Day. This year's theme is "EMS: More Than A Job. A Calling." National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of emergency medicine's "front line." For additional information, please go to: [www.acep.org/emsweek/](http://www.acep.org/emsweek/). During EMS Week, MIEMSS and EMS-C will be honoring Maryland's children that made the proper decision to call 9-1-1 to be sure that the right care when it counts is delivered. Maryland EMS Providers and members of the general public will also be honored at the Annual Stars of Life Awards at a ceremony held during EMS Week. Please go to [www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org) to get the nomination forms that are due by April 6, 2012.



## EMS Care 2012 ~ Broad Horizons at the Beach

The Statewide EMS Conference is returning this year to Ocean City at the Clarion Fontainebleau Resort Hotel. EMS Care 2012 will be held on April 14-15, 2012. EMS Humorist and cartoonist Steve Berry will again be speaking this year. Space is limited so register early and group discounts are being offered. Please go to the MIEMSS web site for detailed information and registration forms or contact [EMSCare2012@miemss.org](mailto:EMSCare2012@miemss.org).

## Talbot County DES provides free CPR and AED Training

On February 29, 2012, the Talbot County Department Emergency Services (DES) offered free CPR and AED training to the public in recognition of the American Heart Association's "National Heart Month".

In 2001, Talbot County launched "Operation Save-a-Heart" in an effort to prepare the community to respond to Sudden Cardiac Arrests. It was through the efforts of the Talbot County Paramedic Foundation, Talbot Advanced Life Support, the Talbot County Council, and the businesses throughout the County that AED's were strategically placed and CPR training provided. There are now

over 170 AED's located throughout the County in businesses, schools, and in public buildings.

As a next step, Talbot County Emergency Services with the support of the Talbot County Paramedic Foundation, the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce, Chesapeake Publishing, WCEI/WINX Radio, and Shore Health System conducted the first of what is planned to be annual CPR Marathons. These training sessions were provided to the public free of charge with a goal to train as many people as possible.

Mr. Clay Stamp, the Director of Emergency Services for Talbot County stated, "The bottom line in the data is clear, by having a community trained in CPR, with access to AEDs, the survival rate for Sudden Cardiac Arrest improves significantly, and it is our goal to train as many in our community as we can." During this one day training marathon, 244 people were trained. Individuals from local businesses, a Bible School, a Girl Scout Troop, and senior citizens were among those that benefited from the classes.



*Pictured during the Talbot County CPR Marathon are (Left to right) Scott Redmer, Paramedic Talbot County DES; Brian LeCates, EMS Division Chief, Talbot County DES; Dirck Bartlett, Talbot County Council; Clay Stamp, Director, Talbot County DES; and Terry Satchell, EMS Nurse Coordinator, Shore Health Systems.*

## New Bumper Sticker serves as Reminder

A new bumper sticker provided by the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund has been designed for placement on emergency vehicles. The bumper sticker reads, "If I'm on the Shoulder: Slow Down. Move Over". This "move over" reminder will hopefully encourage drivers to take precautions when passing emergency service personnel working on the side of the road.

The campaign plans for the bumper stickers to be placed on law enforcement, fire, and EMS vehicles for one month, although it is hoped that it becomes instinctive for drivers to move over when they see flashing lights on the side of the road. Motorists who fail to slow down and move over into the next lane if the next lane is clear, and it is safe and legal to do so when passing an emergency vehicle on the side of the road can be fined \$110 and get one point on their license. If there is a crash due to the violation, the fine is \$150 and three points. If there is a death or serious injury due to the crash, the fine is \$750 and three points. The law went into effect in October, 2010.



## Walk Like MADD Baltimore Event

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is a non-profit organization with over 200 field sites nationwide. MADD is not a crusade against alcohol consumption. MADD's mission is to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime, and prevent underage drinking. The Maryland chapter of MADD is a very vital partner in Maryland's Trauma and EMS System. Their prevention efforts in our state will help eliminate drunk driving and will end this danger on Maryland's roads.

WALK like MADD®, is MADD's signature walk event. In 2011, in almost 40 cities around the nation, thousands of people participated in walks to celebrate a brighter future without drunk driving and underage drinking. There is far too much work that needs to be done to eliminate drunk driving, prevent underage drinking and serve victims. Every step taken during the walk will help raise funds and awareness for MADD's programs and services. This year marks the sixth year for the Baltimore Event. It will be held on May 12, 2012 at Federal Hill Park in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The activities begin at 8:30 AM followed by the walk. Please join your fellow emergency services providers to help our partners at MADD with this worthy cause. To register for the walk, please visit the Walk Like MADD® Web site. Select "Baltimore" from the list of cities and follow the prompts.



## Maryland EMS Provider Descriptions



**Emergency Medical Dispatcher:** *Skills include:* Call intake/call allocator; medical interrogation; medical pre-arrival and post-dispatch instructions; medical call prioritization; EMS resource allocation and management. *Hours of training:* 24 hours minimum from an EMS Board approved agency. *Licensure requirements:* written exam; successful completion of a Healthcare Provider CPR Course. Licensure period is for two years. *Renewal requirements:* Current Healthcare Provider CPR card; 24 hours continuing dispatch education.



**Emergency Medical Responder:** *Skills include:* Patient assessment; vital signs; bleeding control and bandaging; fracture management; emergency medical management; CPR and AED; airway management and optional O2 administration; optional self and buddy WMD auto injectors. *Hours of training:* 51 hours minimum. *Certification requirements:* Written and practical exams. Certification period is for three years. *Renewal requirements:* 12 hours of approved continuing education (6 hours didactic and 6 hours of skills). Maryland grants legal recognition for Emergency Medical Responders from most states, National Registry, and EMS Board approved certifying agencies.



**Emergency Medical Technician:** *Skills included:* Patient assessment; vital signs; bleeding control and bandaging; shock management; fracture management; CPR, AED, O2 administration; airway management; emergency medical management; patient assisted medications; spinal immobilization; patient movement; transport. *Hours of training:* 165 hours minimum. *Certification requirements:* EMS field internship; written and practical exams; affiliation with a BLS EMS Operational program. Certification period is for three years. *Renewal requirements:* 24 hours of approved continuing education (12 hours didactic and 12 hours of skills); a current NREMT certification at the time of Maryland renewal may be used. Maryland accepts reciprocity for Emergency Medical Technicians from most states and National Registry.



**Cardiac Rescue Technician:** *Skills included:* All skills listed under EMT plus additional advanced procedures such as intravenous and intraosseous cannulation; medication administration; EKG monitoring; electrical therapy. *Hours of training:* EMT certification plus approximately 400 additional hours. *Licensure requirements:* Written and practical exams; successful completion of a Maryland ALS licensing protocol exam; affiliation with an ALS EMS Operational program. Licensure period is for two years. *Renewal requirements:* 72 hours of approved continuing education; continued affiliation with an ALS EMS Operational program.



**Paramedic:** *Skills included:* All skills listed under CRT plus additional skills and medication administration. *Hours of training:* EMT certification plus approximately 1,100 additional hours. *Licensure requirements:* NRP certification; successful completion of a Maryland ALS licensing protocol exam; affiliation with an ALS EMS Operational program. Licensure period is for two years. *Renewal requirements:* Successful re-registration as an NRP; continued affiliation with an ALS EMS Operational program.

## MSFA's Recruitment and Retention Committee Holds Leadership Seminar

"Building Leadership for Organizational Success" was the title of the seminar put on by the MSFA's Recruitment and Retention Committee on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at MFRI. The philosophy behind this day-long seminar was that if a department has good leadership – the members will follow. Instructor George Zeeks taught the participants, through interactive exercises, a method to better understand how to lead, keep members involved, and how to make them part of the "family". Attendees were broken down into teams and worked through multiple exercises that helped them learn the qualities of good leaders. Mr. Zeeks has used this method as a proven process that helps build leaders that are then able to increase their organization membership and to create an Atmosphere of Excellence within their department. The seminar was completely filled with a waiting list of attendees. It is the hope of the MSFA's Recruitment and Retention Committee to offer this seminar again in the near future.



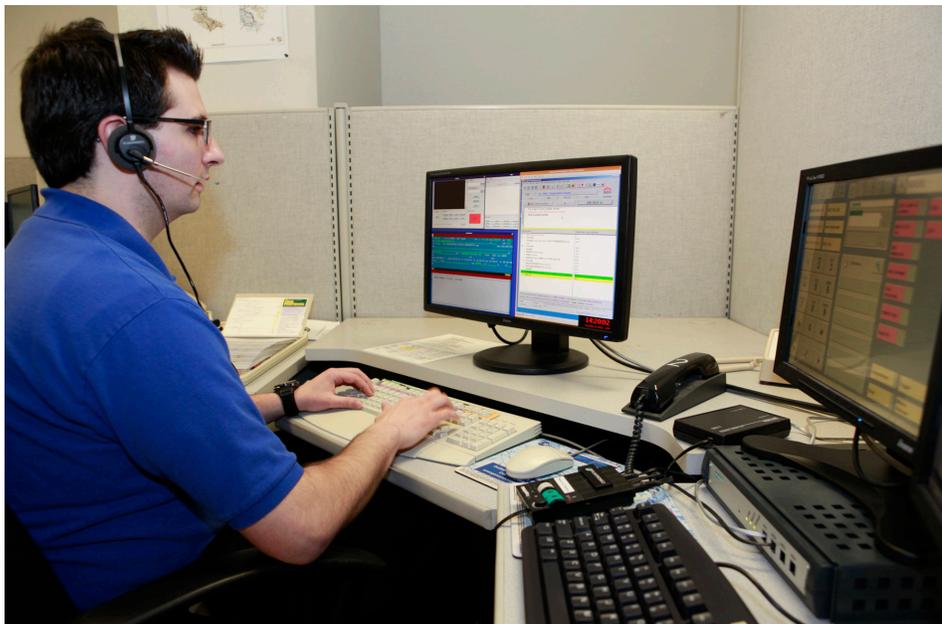
*MSFA Recruitment and Retention Committee members are pictured with Instructor George Zeeks at the Leadership Seminar. (Left to right; Bill Wagner, Julie Casey, Instructor George Zeeks, and Committee Chair Joe Chornock)*

## 2012 EMS Today Conference



*Dr. Robert R. Bass, Executive Director of MIEMSS, welcomes attendees to the 2012 EMS Today Conference in Baltimore. This year's conference was held at the Baltimore Convention Center from February 28 - March 3. Attendees from around the world came to Maryland for the national conference to attain EMS continuing education from speakers who are experts in their field. Numerous networking events and hundreds of national manufacturers and demonstrations were held in the exhibit hall. Next year's conference will be held in Washington D.C., March 5-9, 2013.*

# National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week



Each year during the second week of April, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is observed to recognize the dedication of the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. It was first conceived by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County, California Sheriff's Office in 1981 and was observed only at that agency for three years. Members of the Virginia and North Carolina chapters of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) became involved in the mid-1980s. By the early 1990s, the national APCO organization convinced Congress to produce a formal proclamation. Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) introduced what became H.J. Res. 284 and created "National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week."

MIEMSS wishes to thank all telecommunications personnel in the public safety community for your continued efforts to preserve the public's safety. This special week has been set aside to inform Marylanders of your hard work and dedication. Maryland's Emergency Medical Dispatchers provide the vital link to public safety services, on which our citizens rely every day.

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**Governor Martin O'Malley**  
**Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**

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