

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Clinicians

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September 2019

## Pilot Program to Test Lifesaving Alcohol Detection Technology

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) has recently launched Driven to Protect, a public-private partnership between the state and proponents of a new breath alcohol detection system that could help keep impaired drivers off the road.

The MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) pilot program will test this lifesaving technology, which the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says could help reduce drunk driving fatalities by as much as 60 percent. The Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety works by measuring the level of alcohol on a driver's naturally

exhaled breath. Small sensors built inside vehicle panels analyze breath molecules using infrared light. If the driver's breath alcohol level is above a certain range, the car won't start. The sensor is programmable, from a zero-tolerance policy for teen drivers to a breath alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent, the legal limit.

The technology will be installed in eight MDOT MVA vehicles, including a demonstration vehicle that will be used for awareness and education at safety and community events. Over the course of a year, the agency will test how the devices will hold up to everyday wear and tear,

changes in weather, and other elements. The Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety research program involves the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety, which represents the world's leading automakers, as well as the NHTSA and MDOT.

Find more information about the Driven to Protect initiative at [driventoprotectmd.org](http://driventoprotectmd.org).

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*Demonstrations of the new Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety were given during the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference. Pictured are (left to right): Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director; Dr. Tim Kerns, Chief, Maryland Highway Safety Office and SEMSAC member; Christine Nizer, Maryland Department of Transportation MVA Administrator and Governor's Highway Safety Representative; and Pat Gainer, MIEMSS Deputy Director.*

## FirstNet Cell Site Launched in Tilghman Island

*Tilghman Island second Md. site to be announced following Governor's decision to advance state's public safety broadband communications with FirstNet*

Talbot County's emergency services personnel are getting a boost in their wireless communications with the addition of a new, purpose-built cell site. The site is located on Tilghman Island Road across from the Tilghman Island Volunteer Fire Company. It is part of the FirstNet network expansion taking place in Maryland, which is bringing increased communication coverage, capacity, and capability across the state. This site will allow Talbot County carrier and volunteer emergency services personnel to better serve their communities.

"We make it a point to talk about importance of volunteer fire service not only in Talbot County but nationwide," said Clay Stamp, Talbot County director of public safety and chairman of the Maryland EMS Board. "Their paycheck is pride, and it's pride in serving their communities and making a difference."

FirstNet is the nationwide, wireless communications platform dedicated to the public safety community. It is being built with AT&T in a public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority). The First Responder Network Authority is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Its mission is



*Mr. Clay Stamp, Talbot County Director of Public Safety and EMS Board Chair, addresses the group during the announcement. [Photo: Guy Noffsinger, First Responder Network Authority]*

to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of the nationwide, broadband network that helps emergency services personnel to do their jobs more efficiently. FirstNet connects emergency personnel to the critical information they need every day, as well as in an emergency. In order to ensure that coverage and capacity is being located where it is needed most, the FirstNet build is being done with direct feedback from state and public safety officials in Maryland.

The Tilghman Island site is the second FirstNet site to be announced in Maryland following Governor Larry Hogan's decision to advance the state's public safety broadband communications with FirstNet. These

enhancements to Talbot County's public safety community communications will also allow the benefit of the use of a FirstNet Satellite Cell on Light Truck (SatCOLT), which was also on display during the announcement. This large, heavy-duty portable cell site connects communications via satellite. It is part of the nationwide fleet of 75 deployable network assets available to FirstNet subscribers. Public safety agencies on FirstNet can request the equipment for added support during planned events or emergencies. The deployable network assets are essentially portable cell sites that are designed

*(Continued on page 7)*

## 2019 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is teaming up with law enforcement nationwide during the 2019 Labor Day Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over high-visibility enforcement campaign, which runs from August 14 through September 2, 2019. The campaign coincides with the 2019 Labor Day holiday weekend, which is one of the deadliest times of the year in terms of drunk-driving fatalities. State and local law enforcement agencies are stepping-up enforcement to put an end to drunk driving, showing zero tolerance to save lives.

Approximately one-third of all traffic

crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with blood alcohol concentrations [BACs] of .08 or higher). In 2017, there were 10,874 people killed in drunk-driving crashes. To put it in perspective, that's equal to about 20 jumbo jets crashing, with no survivors!

Always remember to plan ahead if you will be celebrating. If you plan to drink, plan for a sober driver to take you home. Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you have had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation, or a ride service to get home safely.

***In 2017, there were 10,874 people killed in drunk-driving crashes. To put it in perspective, that's equal to about 20 jumbo jets crashing, with no survivors.***



## Upcoming Pediatric Education Opportunities

- September 20, 2019**  
**PRMC Trauma Conference**  
 Location: Ocean City, MD  
 Register online at <https://www.peninsula.org/29th-annual-topics-trauma>
- September 24, 2019**  
**Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference**  
 Location: Laurel, MD  
 For more information visit <https://www.fabscom.org/>
- November 6, 2019**  
**13th Annual EMS for Children Research Update**  
 Location: MIEMSS, Baltimore, MD  
 For more information contact [pepp@miemss.org](mailto:pepp@miemss.org)

For more information, email [pepp@miemss.org](mailto:pepp@miemss.org)



## Licensure and Certification

TIDBIT

**Q.** How may I access a copy of my EMS card?

**A.** EMS clinicians have the ability to view and print a license/certification by completing the following steps:

- Go to [www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org) (or just click the Provider Login button on the MIEMSS homepage) and log in to your provider account.
- Select Applications, and the click on Continue.
- Select the document you wish to view or print by clicking on View PDF.

## 2019 Educational Programs SAVE THE DATES

**September 24, 2019**

### Mid Atlantic Life Safety Conference

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab Laurel, Md.

**November 4, 2019**

### Treating Trauma: Care Across the Continuum

Sinai Hospital, Baltimore, Md.

Registration is open at either Eventbrite.com (search “Treating Trauma”) or MarylandTraumaNet.com (under “News and Events”)

**December 17, 2019**

### Meritus Medical Center Trauma Update Winter 2019

Robinwood Professional Center, Hagerstown, Md.

Contact: [ruth.leizcar@meritushealth.com](mailto:ruth.leizcar@meritushealth.com)



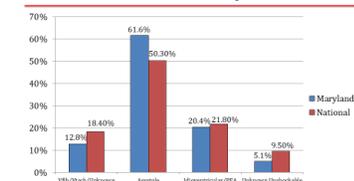
## CARES Corner

### This Month's CARES Tip

In Maryland, there were 6,700 total non-traumatic sudden out-of-hospital cardiac arrests submitted to the CARES registry for Calendar Year 2018. National reports are now available on the CARES website: <https://mycares.net>.

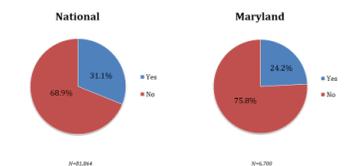
Comparison of Maryland to National Statistics for CY 2018:

### First Arrest Rhythm



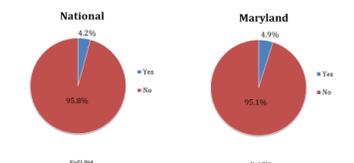
CARES Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival

### Sustained ROSC



CARES Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival

### Field Hypothermia



CARES Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival

CARES Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival

# 15TH ANNUAL GALA SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2019 THE MILESTONE EVENT & CATERING CENTER EASTON, MARYLAND

[www.mdfirerescuehero.org](http://www.mdfirerescuehero.org)



**TICKET INFO:**

JOYCE THORNE  
301-290-1590

BETTY RADISCH  
301-855-9336



# Child Passenger Safety and Maryland EMS

In 2017, 321 passengers in vehicles died in motor vehicle crashes in Maryland. When restraint use could be identified, unrestrained passengers accounted for more than a third of the deaths. [NHTSA's Traffic Safety Facts-Maryland 2013-2017]. This includes children who were of an age that required use of a car seat. Already this year in Maryland there have been two different crashes resulting in the deaths of multiple unrestrained children.

"In Maryland, we are intent on driving toward zero highway traffic-related fatalities," says Dr. Ted Delbridge, MIEMSS Executive Director. "We cannot accept that traffic-related deaths are inevitable, especially among children. We have effective tools available to minimize risks of injury. It should be our personal mission to ensure that every child is safely secured in an appropriate child seat, booster, or seat belt."

"I grew up in the era of not being in a car seat," says Holly Trego, BS, Captain of Quality Assurance/Communications for Cecil County Department of Emergency Services. "However, cars are traveling faster, more vehicles are in use, and vehicles are designed differently than they were in previous decades. This makes it more imperative that we educate everyone on the importance of passenger safety."

MIEMSS, along with state partners such as the Maryland Highway Safety Office and Maryland Kids in Safety Seats ("MD KISS", from the state's Department of Health), encourages local fire and rescue agencies to include occupant protection and child passenger safety as part of their life safety initiatives for their communities. MIEMSS' CPS and OP Healthcare Project, now in its 19th year of MDOT funding, offers free in-person training, educational materials for the public, exhibit/activity ideas, scholarships to take the child passenger safety (CPS) certification course, and archived or live webinars on staying safe in cars (visit [www.miemss.org/home/emsc/cps/training](http://www.miemss.org/home/emsc/cps/training)). MIEMSS also can grant EMS clinicians continuing education credit for participation in some CPS trainings, with advance notice.

Historically, the public viewed fire and police stations as default "drop-by" locations for car seat assistance. Currently this is not advised, but there are effective ways to integrate CPS education and services into fire/rescue. Open houses are a great opportunity to educate on occupant protection. Exhibits focused on proper car seat use and buckling up can provide the public with information on where they can get their car seats checked. Some agencies send their staff to



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**DR. TED DELBRIDGE**  
*MIEMSS Executive Director*

the four-day certification course to be trained as CPS Technicians (CPST). Afterwards, they can schedule individual families to come to their station for a personal safety seat check-up. Some stations host regular seat check-up events, and have their trained staff work with other Technicians to meet with families by appointment. Some other models used in Maryland include:

- **A regional team.** CPSTs representing EMS, law enforcement, and healthcare agencies over several counties work together to hold one seat-check a month with MD KISS's van at a predetermined location, with families coming by appointment. The check is promoted both through the MD KISS website and local advertising. The location rotates between the counties, but is convenient for

families and ideally has a drive-in option (e.g., a fire department bay). Someone/agency takes responsibility for scheduling appointments either by phone or online, and for working with KISS to schedule dates. Each individual CPST also can provide handouts, exhibits, or activities for his/her specific community as needed. Southern Maryland has used this model successfully in the past.

- **A county agency CPS program.** Several employees become certified and use work time to help at regularly scheduled county seat-checks. For example, the county fire and rescue agencies in Montgomery and Frederick Counties have their own check-up supplies and CPST Instructors, and offer regular checks. Frederick County Fire/Rescue has even integrated the CPS certification course into its new recruit training. After becoming CPSTs, the recruits participate in their "Keep Kids Safe" program, which has its own website and maintains a phone line to answer CPS questions and to schedule individual appointments for seat-checks at local fire stations. An example of a model for more rural counties is Talbot County Department of Emergency Services. They work with MD KISS, which sends staff and their colorful van of equipment several times a year to a local fire station for a check-up event. The event is posted on the statewide KISS calendar and is promoted through in-county channels. For any agency scheduling individual appointments, ideally two technicians should be helping one family at a time.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Maryland EMS Plan Update

MIEMSS is in the process of updating the Maryland EMS Plan. The Plan is being re-written with input from MIEMSS staff, SEM-SAC representatives, and stakeholders from around the state. It will set the direction for the system for the next five years. This will focus the efforts of MIEMSS and the statewide EMS community as it moves forward in the future. MIEMSS would like your input and welcomes comments and content for the process. The plan is comprised of 17 areas of focus. They include:

**Maryland EMS Plan 2020**  
Comments/Input

**EMS Plan Sections**

1. Integration of Health Services	8. Public Education	15. Resource Management / Transportation
2. Research	9. Prevention	16. Public Access
3. Legislation & Regulation / Policy	10. Public Access	17. Hospital Systems of Care
4. System Finance	11. Communications	17. System Preparedness and Response to Extraordinary Events
5. Human Resources	12. Clinical Care	
6. Medical Direction	13. Information Systems	
7. Education / Training	14. Evaluation	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

EMS Plan Section:  
(Please submit a form for each section)

Comments/Input:  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Click Here to Submit](#)  
OR Fax to: 410-706-4768

1. Integration of Health Services
2. Research
3. Legislation and Regulation / Policy
4. System Finance
5. Human Resources
6. Medical Direction
7. Education / Training
8. Public Education
9. Prevention
10. Public Access
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14. Evaluation
15. Resource Management / Transportation
16. Hospital Systems of Care
17. System Preparedness and Response to Extraordinary Events

There are several ways to participate in the process. Please visit the MIEMSS website ([www.MIEMSS.org](http://www.MIEMSS.org)) and download a copy of the form. It can be filled in and sent back via fax. Copies of this form are being distributed statewide at various meetings.

## APCO 2019 Annual Conference and Expo Group Tours MIEMSS, EMRC/SYSCOM

The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) is an international organization that provides public safety communications expertise, professional development, technical assistance, advocacy and outreach to benefit members and the public. APCO International is the world's oldest and largest organization of public safety communications professionals.

APCO 2019, which is APCO International's Annual Conference and Expo, was recently held in Baltimore from August 11- 14, 2019. The event was designed for public safety communications officials, from frontline telecommunicators to communication center managers to public safety communications equipment and services vendors. APCO 2019 offered four days of educational sessions, com-



*Attendees received an overview of the Maryland EMS System and information on how EMRC and SYSCOM operate before going to the Communication Center at MIEMSS.*

mittee meetings, and special events.

On Saturday, August 10, a group toured the MIEMSS SYSCOM/EMRC Communications Center. Visitors included individuals from Hawaii, Puerto

Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. An overview of MIEMSS and the trauma and EMS system was provided, followed by a tour of the EMRC/SYSCOM Communications Center.

# Child Passenger Safety and Maryland EMS

(Continued from page 5)

With approximately 21 percent of neighboring Queen Anne's County's population under the age of 19, safety initiatives targeting this age group are particularly important, according to Casey Amos, a Paramedic with Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services. "By increasing the number of Car Seat Inspection Technicians in our County, we can work to improve safety education and best practices for this special population," says Amos. Indeed, through its Car Seat Inspection Technician Course held in August at the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department, the County trained eight new CPS Techs, more than doubling its personnel resources for the program. "We hope to get out into the community on a semi-annual or quarterly basis to increase the availability of this resource, and bring awareness to the program," adds Amos.

■ **A county-wide CPS person.** This person has dedicated time for coordinating and conducting CPS activities (for instance, Howard County's Safe Kids Program, hosted by their fire/rescue), or this person fits CPS activities into and around a schedule of non-CPS activities (e.g., Cecil County Department of Emergency Services). This person may or may not work with MD KISS to schedule seat-checks, but he/she does post the checks on the KISS calendar and involves other local CPSTs for check-up events.

■ **A healthcare facility person or program.** The Johns Hopkins Children's Center, the University of Maryland Medical Center, and the Mt. Washington Pediatric

***If we can save a family from the experience of a child's death or injury in a preventable action of child passenger safety, we have also saved a medical clinician from the heartache of caring for that child.***

## HOLLY TREGO

*Captain Quality Assurance/Communications  
Cecil County Dept. of Emergency Services*

Hospital each have a person (or persons) whose job responsibilities include CPS for their hospital (e.g., educating providers and caregivers, creating policies, helping families obtain low-cost car seats; and loaning special needs restraints/assisting with their installation). They also perform community outreach on CPS, such as helping at car seat check-ups and health fairs. They may work with MD KISS or the local Safe Kids Coordinator to arrange and offer seat-checks by appointment.

■ **Hospital-based CPS Advocacy.** Many hospitals do not offer a CPS program nor do they have a CPST on staff, but do have a car seat policy for testing premature, low-birth weight, or medically fragile babies in their car seat prior to discharge, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Most hospitals' policies or procedures include CPS education in their

birthing classes and their discharge education for newborns. Some hospitals ask families to bring in their car seat prior to their newborn baby's discharge, where they then check if the seat is appropriate for the baby, and has not expired or is missing parts. They may educate the parents on proper harnessing. They do not provide any installation services, instead referring families to local seat check-up events.

Any of these institutionalized models benefit greatly from having a source of funding, or car seats to sell to low-income families or families with emergency needs. This source could be participation in MD KISS' "Car Seat Assistance Program" (email MDH.KISS@maryland.gov for information) or a safety group such as Safe Kids Worldwide or the Injury-Free Coalition for Kids. All individual safety seat check-ups must be documented using a standardized form (e.g., the KISS inspection form – digital or hard copy – or the Safe Kids Buckle Up form). The completed forms are then sent to MD KISS or Safe Kids Worldwide for data collection.

"If we can save a family from the experience of a child's death or injury in a preventable action of child passenger safety, we have also saved a medical clinician from the heartache of caring for that child," notes Trego.

For more information on upcoming CPS technician certification classes, visit [cert.safekids.org](http://cert.safekids.org). For CPS and OP materials, activity ideas, general training, or CPST scholarship information, please contact Susanne Ogaitis-Jones at MIEMSS' CPS & OP Healthcare Project at [cps@miemss.org](mailto:cps@miemss.org), or call (410) 706-8647.

## FirstNet Cell Site Launched in Tilghman Island

(Continued from page 2)

to keep FirstNet subscribers connected to the information they need, no matter where their mission takes them. It will allow personnel to make rescues, communicate and coordinate their emergency response, or aid in recovery, even in the most remote parts of the state. These portable cell sites were deployed in Maryland to support last year's flooding emergencies in Ellicott City, as well as in Washington County.

### Keys to Successful CPS Programs

- ❑ A team of CPSTs—a program requires more than one or two CPSTs
- ❑ Annual or biannual four-day CPST training class in the region to continue to grow the team
- ❑ Regular (at least quarterly) seat check-up events to meet community needs and to keep CPSTs in practice and meeting re-certification requirements
- ❑ A county/regional car seat assistance program to ensure that low cost car seats can be available if needed by families
- ❑ A check-up event flyer standardized with the KISS regional check-up events' format, to advertise events at the local/regional/state level; and use of multiple platforms (print, radio, social media) to promote events.
- ❑ Written materials on CPS to distribute at events such as CPR trainings, open houses, check-ups. These should be written at a lower literacy level and some should be available in other languages

## Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center Opens

On August 25, 2019, a new hospital opened in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center, located at 11890 Healing Way in Silver Spring, Maryland, will replace the current Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland. On the day of the opening of the new hospital approximately 100 patients were transferred from

Washington Adventist Hospital and admitted to the new facility.

White Oak Medical Center provides emergency, stroke, maternity, cancer, surgical, and orthopedic care. Their integrated healthcare delivery network includes acute care and physical rehabilitation hospitals, mental health services, home health care, urgent care and a range of outpatient services.

***Located in Silver Spring, Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center will replace Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park.***

***SAVE THE DATE***

**WINTERFEST**  
~ 2020 ~

***JANUARY 23-26***  
***EASTON, MD.***

**EMT Skills Refresher**

*January 23-24*

**Preconference Course**

*January 24*

**Main Conference**

*January 25-26*

***FULL DETAILS COMING SOON!***

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



**Governor Larry Hogan**  
**Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford**

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Emergency Medical Services Systems  
653 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1536  
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*Chairman, EMS Board:* Clay B. Stamp, NRP  
*Executive Director, MIEMSS:*  
Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH

*Managing Editor:* Patrick Tandy (410-706-3994)  
*Design & Layout:* Gail Kostas & Patrick Tandy  
*Photography:* Jim Brown & Brian Slack  
(unless noted otherwise for specific photos)