

Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Services Clinicians

Vol. 52 No. 7

July 2026

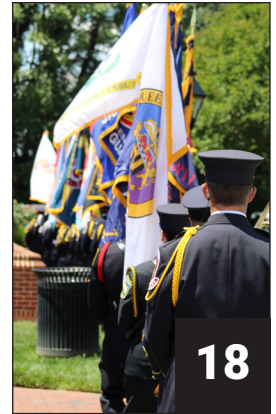


2026 Star of Life Awards

*Including: Hospital Award Winner,
TidalHealth Peninsula Regional
Medical Center Emergency Department*

Plus:

**Right Care When It Counts Awards
New MD EMS Protocols
MSFA Convention
Fire-Rescue Services
Annual Memorial Service
Upcoming Events**



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Send press releases, agency/departmental announcements, and other EMS-related news to ptandy@miemss.org for possible inclusion in a future issue of *Maryland EMS News*.

ON THE COVER: TidalHealth Peninsula Regional Medical Center Emergency Department receives 2026 Star of Life Hospital Award on July 15, 2026.

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MIEMSS
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Governor Wes Moore
Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

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 for Emergency Medical Services Systems
 653 W. Pratt St.
 Baltimore, MD 21201-1536
www.miemss.org

Chairman, EMS Board:
 Clay B. Stamp, NRP
Executive Director, MIEMSS:
 Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH

Managing Editor:
 Patrick Tandy (ptandy@miemss.org)

Design & Layout:
 Dan Taylor (dtaylor@miemss.org)

Photography:
 MIEMSS Media Services (unless noted otherwise)

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New Maryland EMS Protocols Effective July 1

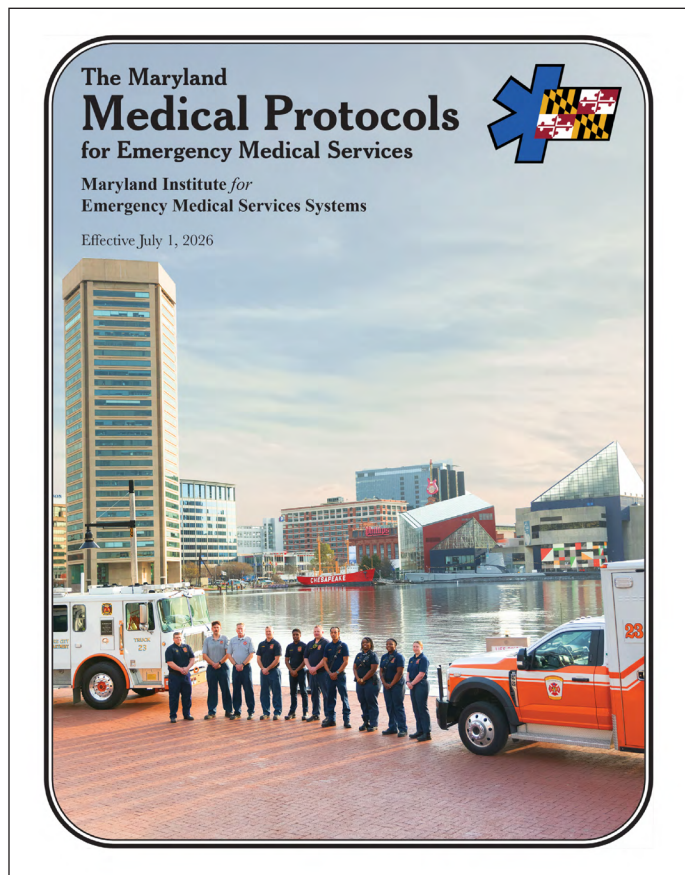
By Timothy P. Chizmar, MD, FACEP, FAEMS

THERE ARE SEVERAL new additions and changes to *The Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services* for this year. The protocols are updated on an annual basis with the latest evidence-based recommendations from the medical literature and subject matter expert perspectives.

The new protocols took effect on July 1, 2026. Please take the opportunity to visit the MIEMSS Online Training Center (www.emsonlinetraining.org) for a comprehensive review of the updates for ALS and BLS treatments.

Here are a few highlights:

- » **Abuse / Neglect:** This revision adds the new statewide hotline for child and vulnerable adult abuse and neglect reporting, 1-800-91PREVENT, pursuant to a recent change in Maryland law.
- » **Angioedema:** This new protocol addresses an adverse reaction associated with ACE inhibitor medications. Patients may experience isolated, but severe swelling of the lips, tongue or throat. The protocol defines treatment with epinephrine and tranexamic acid (TXA) after medical consultation.
- » **Chest Pain:** This protocol revision includes guidance for the treatment of suspected aortic syndrome (aortic dissection). Labetalol may be given with medical consultation.
- » **Choking / Foreign Body Airway Obstruction:** This addition to the GPC incorporates new American Heart Association guidelines for the treatment of choking in patients of all ages.
- » **Critically Unstable Patient:** This revision adds a pediatric section that describes immediate interventions for critically ill pediatric



patients prior to initiating transport.

- » **Crush Syndrome (Hyperkalemia):** This protocol modification simplifies the dosing of sodium bicarbonate (bolus only) and removes the consult for high-dose albuterol. The timing of medication administration for patients with hyperkalemia due to crush syndrome is further defined (e.g., pre- and post-extrication).
- » **MODEL-T (Buprenorphine):** This protocol revision enables Cardiac Rescue Technicians (CRTs) who have additional training to admin-

The protocols are updated on an annual basis with the latest evidence-based recommendations from the medical literature and subject matter expert perspectives.

ister buprenorphine.

- » **Newly Born Protocol:** The ALS and BLS protocols have been consolidated into a single protocol. A Newly Born resuscitation checklist has been added.
- » **Patient-Initiated Refusal of Care:** The protocol has been revised to focus on the assessment of a patient's capacity to make an informed medical decision. The checklist has been re-configured for clarity, so that any "no" answers lead to transport or medical consultation.
- » **Seizure – Adult and Pediatric:** This protocol modification increases the maximum patient dose of midazolam for adults to 10 mg IM/IN. For adult patients with IV or IO access, ALS clinicians may now administer up to two doses of midazolam 5 mg IV/IO. The medical consult for the second IV/IO dose of midazolam has been removed. Ketamine has been added as a second-line medication for seizures that continue after the maximum dose of midazolam.
- » **Stroke:** In the revised stroke protocol, patients

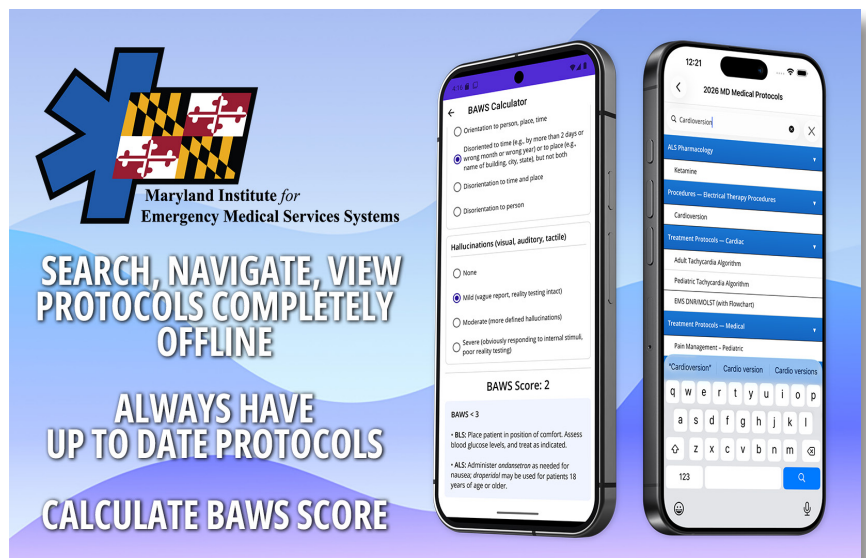
with severely elevated blood pressure (SBP greater than or equal to 220 and DBP greater than or equal to 120) may be treated with labetalol 10 mg IV x2 doses. Higher doses of labetalol may be given with medical consultation.

- » **Trauma, Multiple/Severe & Traumatic Arrest:** This protocol revision adds the "X-ABC" approach to the initial management of a trauma patient, which focuses on prompt hemorrhage control. The use of the abdominal aortic and junctional tourniquet (AAJT) has been added for ALS clinicians who have additional jurisdictional training. A tourniquet conversion to pressure dressing procedure has been added.

Download the complete 2026 *Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services* at www.miemss.org. The Maryland EMS Protocols app, designed for use on smartphones and tablets, is available for iOS (App Store) and Android (Google Play). *

Timothy P. Chizmar, MD, FACEP, FAEMS, is the State EMS Medical Director at MIEMSS.

The updated **2026 Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS app** is LIVE for both iOS & Android. This new version adds a brand-new Protocol Search system built into a redesigned Protocol List, a Brief Alcohol Withdrawal Scale calculator for quick BLS/ALS treatment guidance based on observed symptoms, a new-and-improved Protocol viewer, and a restyled home screen with version & release date indication to ensure you are always up to date. As always, everything is pre-built into the app and no internet connection is ever required to utilize any and all functionality.



If your device has not already updated to the latest version or you have yet to install the app, direct links to both the iOS & Android app downloads can be found at <https://www.miemss.org/home/Clinicians/EMS-Protocols-App>.

Maryland State Firefighters Association Annual Convention and Conference

FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES professionals from across the region gathered in Ocean City, Maryland, June 20-25, 2026, for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA) Annual Convention and Conference. MSFA welcomed William “Bill” Faust of the Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company as its Incoming President, succeeding Immediate Past President Charles J. Simpson, Jr., of the Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company. EMS highlights included MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge’s agency report on the state of the EMS system, a “Blood on Board” presentation featuring State Aeromedical Director Dr. Douglas J. Floccare, and fun, family-friendly activities courtesy of the Maryland EMS for Children program. This year, the convention’s parade, traditionally held in Ocean City, made a successful transition to downtown Berlin, Maryland. Learn more about MSFA at <https://msfa.org/>, and save the date for next year’s convention, June 19-24, 2027. *



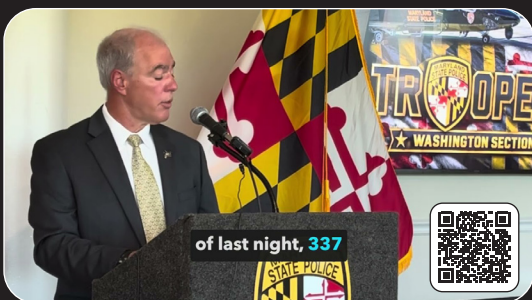


[Pictured, from left: Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Michael A. Jackson; Dr. Douglas J. Floccare; and Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller.]

Floccare Receives Governor's Citation During Trooper 2 Anniversary Ceremony

DR. DOUGLAS J. FLOCCARE has served as the State Aeromedical Director at MIEMSS and the Medical Director for the Maryland State Police Aviation Command (MSPAC) since 1989. Since then, Dr. Floccare has played an integral role in the evolution of aeromedical prehospital care, including the 2023 launch of Maryland's "Blood on Board" initiative, which empowered all state police medevac helicopters to carry and administer whole blood for emergency prehospital transfusions.

Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller presented Dr. Floccare with a Governor's Citation recognizing his decades of service to the advancement of prehospital care in Maryland during a special ceremony honoring the 55th anniversary of MSPAC Trooper 2 held June 3, 2026, at Prince George's Stadium in Bowie. The event included a remembrance of TFC/Flight Paramedic Mickey C. Lippy and Pilot Stephen H. Bunker who were killed in a helicopter crash while performing a medical evacuation of two critically injured teenagers from Charles County on September 28, 2008. *



VIDEO: State Aeromedical Director Dr. Douglas J. Floccare called Maryland State Police Aviation Command's Blood-on-Board Program "a game-changer" that has "brought us into a new era of patient care" during a June 3, 2026, ceremony marking the 55th anniversary of Trooper 2.

To watch the video, visit <https://tinyurl.com/floccare-2026> or scan the QR code.

MDERS Designs Public Order Tabletop Exercise for PGPD Division V

(Photo: MDERS)



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD), the Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System (MDERS) created a tabletop exercise (TTX) to evaluate response efforts to a public order incident near Joint Base Andrews. Staff from MDERS and PGPD developed the scenario to test participants' ability to strategically supervise the evolving public order event. These exercises help bolster the capabilities of first responders to effectively guide responses in the Maryland-National Capital Region.

Public order incidents are dynamic events for law enforcement to manage. First responders must balance the rights of demonstrators while ensuring their activities do not become unlawful. These incidents become even more complex when these events occur near sensitive federal and military installations. Local first responders must interface with federal partners and coordinate a synchronized response.

Leadership from PGPD's Division V identified the need to simulate a response at Joint Base Andrews due to the complexities at the facility. MDERS collaborated with PGPD to

formulate a master scenario events list (MSEL) that would dictate exercise play. The scenario involved a small group of protestors near the entrance of Joint Base Andrews. The group grew in size and became more hostile and disruptive. Exercise players had to determine the appropriate and proportional response, communicate with federal and local partners, and oversee resource allocation.

The TTX was held twice at the District V station, allowing multiple officers to participate. Representatives from Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department (PGFD) and Joint Base Andrews joined the exercise to promote vital collaboration. Exercise players underscored the importance of coordination and communication between local and federal partners.

This exercise highlights the importance of first responders continually preparing for threats and challenges facing the region. MDERS will work with stakeholders and regional partners to prepare more exercises to examine and refine response efforts. *



DID YOU KNOW...

Maryland EMS News is dedicated to keeping Maryland EMS clinicians informed of the latest local, state, and national issues affecting emergency medical services.

You can access issues of *Maryland EMS News* from as far back as 1974 by visiting our archive at miemss.org/home/publications or scan the QR code.

The Science of Vehicle Crashes for First Responders

*A free 3-hour workshop led by Janet Bahouth, D.Sc.,
Director of the Crash Center for Research and
Education.*

Attendees will learn:

- Crash and energy phases on a human body
- Effects of crash forces on occupants
- Occupant seat belt use and air bag interaction
- Identification of crash cues that indicate potential injury
- Accurate completion of eMEDS for MVCs
- Crash Scene Checklist and Hot Wash template use

MIEMSS has approved this course for EMS Credit Hours:

- Trauma & Burns 1.00 Hour
- Elective 2.00 Hours

This course will be held three times; each session is from 1800 -2100 at the Robey Public Safety Training Center, 2200 Scott Wheeler Drive, Marriottsville, MD, 21104. Registration is open until 3 days prior to the course's start.



- **Tuesday June 16**
- **Tuesday July 7**
- **Monday August 3**



Use the QR code to register for a session or go to:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019e40e3097a7e2a8c2eb13a7dffe75e>

*This activity is funded through grants from the Maryland Highway Safety Office
to Crash Core and MIEMSS.*



MARYLAND EMS STARS OF LIFE AWARDS



Maryland Star of Life – Region III

Joshua Myers; Vanessa Kidd; Max Nickey; Rachel McGinnis; Dylan Oliver; Dan Ruhlman

On December 6, 2025, Carroll County EMS units were dispatched for a vehicle collision involving a motorcycle. Upon arrival, Medic 49, EMS101, and Rescue Squad 4 found a 15-year-old patient suffering severe trauma to his head and chest after striking a telephone pole guide wire. Lieutenant Paramedic Joshua Myers recognized this patient was the true definition of “can’t intubate/can’t ventilate”, meeting the criteria for a surgical airway, which was successful. The patient’s SpO2 and ETCO2 showed immediate improvement. With the assistance of Battalion Chief Max Nickey, Paramedic Rachel McGinnis, Paramedic Vanessa Kidd, FF/EMT Dylan Oliver, and FF/EMT Dan Ruhlman, the patient was flown to the R Adams Crowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.

During the flight to RACSTC, the patient suffered a cardiac arrest, requiring a needle decompression and the administration of whole blood. After arrival at RACSTC,

the patient suffered another cardiac arrest, but the rapid onset of spontaneous circulation was achieved. Hospital examination discovered the patient had suffered multiple complex facial fractures, basilar skull fractures, bilateral hemopneumothoraxes, and pulmonary lacerations, a small brain bleed, and retroperitoneal hematoma.

Working together as a team, the aforementioned clinicians demonstrated excellence in this critical moment. By employing state-of-the-art knowledge, skills, and abilities through technically outstanding and empathetic care, they played an integral role saving this young patient’s life. MIEMSS presented the clinicians with the Maryland Star of Life Award on May 21, 2026, in Westminster.



Maryland Star of Life – Region IV

Erich Goetz; Amanda Arches; Chris Jarrell; Cheryl Schweinsburg; Alan Myers; Jeffrey Ritter; Thomas Morris; Bobby Sullivan; Chris Arches; Ed Long; Jason Luzetsky; Scott Collins; Jeremy Yale; Brett Wyatt; Tim Mannering; Terry McCracken

At approximately 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 22, 2025,

the Chesapeake City Volunteer Fire Company, the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services, and the Cecil County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to Wilmon Street for reports of a gravely injured person deep within the surrounding woods.

Cecil County Paramedics Chris Jarrell and Cheryl Schweinsburg were the first on scene. They worked their way through the densely wooded area, in extreme heat and humidity over difficult terrain. When they discovered a man suffering from a gunshot wound to his face, they knew in that moment that they would have to draw upon nearly every resource at their disposal in their efforts to save a life that day.

The patient was in critical condition, barely conscious, and suffering from severe facial trauma. Cecil County Paramedic Erich Goetz soon arrived on scene and was able to perform rapid sequence intubation, protecting the patient's airway. A decision had to be made, and quickly, on how to extract the patient from the inhospitable terrain and then get him to the right facility to deliver the right care for him as quickly as possible. The decision was made to dispatch a Maryland State Police helicopter for transport, which still left the matter of getting the patient out of the woods to the landing zone. To facilitate this, the patient was loaded into a Stokes basket and secured to a brush truck. Attended by a coordinated team of clinicians inside the brush truck, the patient was driven out of the woods to the landing zone. With stable vital signs, he was transferred to the care of the flight crew, who administered whole blood during the trip to receive definitive care at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.



Maryland Star of Life – Region I

Joshua Bosley; James Dudley; Jordan Ross; Jeremy Jack; Kayley Mullaney; Cassidy Rice; Sam Wilson; Gary Carpenter; Jonathan Dayton; Darrell Hout; John Harr; Jacob Lux; Tyler Moore; John Fisher; Lewis Laffey; Annamarie Dugan; Eric Derham; Jacob Harr

On the afternoon of August 9, 2025, 16-year-old Anthony Franco was found face-down in the water at the North Beach of Lake Habeeb at Rocky Gap State Park. In a moment where every second mattered, lifeguards, park rangers, EMS personnel, dispatchers, Maryland State Police Trooper 5, and medical staff came together with remarkable speed and coordination.

Anthony was pulled from the water by a Good Samaritan, lifeguards, and park rangers, and lifesaving CPR efforts began immediately. EMS crews from Allegany County, along with responders from multiple agencies, worked tirelessly to stabilize him at the scene. Trooper 5 then transported the patient to J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, West Virginia, where he continued receiving critical care.

What could have been a heartbreaking tragedy became a story of survival because of the skill, training, and teamwork of everyone involved. Their calm response under pressure, their dedication to duty, and their refusal to give up gave this young man the chance to make a full recovery and return to his family. This incident serves as a reminder that true heroism is often found in people who simply answer the call to serve others. Whether performing CPR on a shoreline, coordinating emergency communications, piloting a medical helicopter, or providing hospital care, each person played a vital role in saving a life.



EMS Clinician of the Year – Peter Dugan

Battalion Chief Peter Dugan of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service is a clinician, leader, mentor, and advocate whose career has left an enduring impact on emergency medical services.

As a clinician, Peter's career spans more than 27 years of striving to deliver the very best care possible to every patient, every time. As a full-time EMS Duty Officer, he quickly became known as a clinician who set the standard for others to follow. He is well-respected for his clinical

skill and admired for his calm leadership, unwavering professionalism, and genuine compassion for every patient he cares for. His strong leadership across the county led to his promotion to captain in 2011. In this role, Peter helped expand EMS Duty Officer deployment by more than 30 percent and strengthened critical care response capabilities throughout the county. He has consistently been a steady, thoughtful, and a trusted voice, always focused on what is best for clinicians and the patients they help every day.

Peter's mentorship to countless young EMTs, paramedics, and officers helped to shape a generation of clinicians through encouragement, guidance, and teaching by example. His passion for patient-centered care is infectious, and his influence is evident in the people he has trained, supported, and inspired throughout his career.

As Emergency Medical and Integrated Healthcare Services Operations Battalion Chief, Peter continues to lead from the front. He serves as the primary liaison to regional hospitals, oversees Montgomery County's whole blood program, supervises EMS Duty Officers, and has been instrumental in advancing groundbreaking initiatives, including ventilator management in the county's prehospital environment. He has earned recognition both regionally and nationally representing Montgomery County and Maryland EMS through presentations on CPR, Leave Behind Naloxone programs, and advanced ventilator management, including at last year's Maryland Medical Directors Symposium and, most recently, the 2026 National Association of EMS Physicians Conference in Tampa, Florida.

Those who know Peter best will tell you that his greatest strength is his humility. He understands that leadership is about service and that excellence is built through teamwork.

Battalion Chief Peter Dugan's career will have a lasting impact on the Montgomery County EMS system, and the

patients and clinicians whose lives he has touched. His career has advanced patient care, strengthened clinical excellence, improved systems, and inspired generations of EMS clinicians to achieve their best.



Program Innovation of the Year – Montgomery County Advanced Ventilator Treatment Program

For decades, success in cardiac arrest care was often measured by one milestone alone: return of spontaneous circulation – a pulse. But the men and women behind Montgomery County's Advanced Ventilator Treatment Program asked a more important question: What kind of recovery will that patient have? They recognized that surviving cardiac arrest is only part of the journey. Without careful management after the return of spontaneous circulation, patients remain at significant risk for secondary brain injury caused by uncontrolled ventilation, excessive oxygen exposure, and improper carbon dioxide levels.

In response, the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service developed and implemented an innovative Advanced Ventilator Treatment Program designed to bring hospi-



2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 12–15

**MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES SUMMER CONFERENCE**
(Ocean City, MD)

mdcounties.org/1437/Summer-2026

SEPTEMBER 15

**MID-ATLANTIC LIFE SAFETY
CONFERENCE**
(Annapolis, MD)

midatlanticlifesafetyconference.com

NOVEMBER 18

**NATIONAL INJURY
PREVENTION DAY**
(Nationwide)

nationalinjurypreventionday.org

Send EMS-related calendar events to ptandy@miemss.org for possible inclusion in a future issue of *Maryland EMS News*.

tal-level ventilatory care directly into the prehospital environment. Through a unique Clinical Practice Guideline, specially credentialed EMS Duty Officers deploy advanced ventilators in the field and provide precise, data-driven management during one of the most critical moments in patient care. Using real-time physiologic monitoring, these clinicians carefully control oxygenation, ventilation, and end-tidal carbon dioxide levels while accompanying patients all the way to the receiving hospital – ensuring continuity of care during this vulnerable period.

The results are already having a meaningful impact. Of those treated under this program, more than 11 percent achieved favorable neurologic recovery, returning to their lives with good cerebral function. But beyond the data points, the win lies in people returning home to their families, communities, and futures.

This groundbreaking initiative reflects the very best of Maryland EMS innovation: evidence-based medicine, strong clinical leadership, and a relentless commitment to survival with a meaningful recovery and quality of life. This Advanced Ventilator Treatment Program helps shape the future of prehospital critical care in Maryland and beyond.



EMS for Children Clinician of the Year – Caitland Kelshaw

Charles County Department of Emergency Services Paramedic Caitland Kelshaw has dedicated herself to ensuring that children – and especially those facing medical vulnerability, developmental challenges, or critical illness – receive compassionate, evidence-based, and specialized care from the moment EMS arrives. She is the first paramedic to join the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, bolstering collaboration between the fields of EMS and pediatric medicine in Maryland.

Caitland’s devotion to pediatric EMS education as well as her innovation in pediatric patient care are evident through her work with the Maryland EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS. As a faculty member for the Resuscitation Academy, she helps clinicians strengthen lifesaving resuscitation skills through hands-on, high-impact training. At the Winterfest EMS Conference, she delivered “Sim on the Go”, providing realistic simulation-based learning for clinicians and training them in the use of the KangooFix Neonatal Restrain System, a device that enables safer transport of newborns in the ambulance. Caitland focused on promoting safety and best practices during Charles County’s EMS Week Pediatric Education Day, reflecting her ongoing commitment to seizing every opportunity to educate fellow EMS clinicians and improve pediatric readiness in the prehospital field.

Caitland’s commitment to pediatric care is manifest outside of the classroom, as well. She assisted in the professional development of Maryland EMSC’s “Team Panda” for the Charles County DES. She dedicated four years to the Pediatric Champion Forums and has participated in specialized moulage workshops that enhance the realism of traumatic injury simulation, preparing EMS clinicians to provide care for critically ill and injured children. Her

Governor’s Proclamations

Governor Wes Moore issued a proclamation declaring May 17-23, 2026, as EMS Week in Maryland. In a separate proclamation, Governor Moore declared May 20, 2026, as Emergency Medical Services for Children Day in the state.

work helping to implement sensory kits on all transport units has helped clinicians address the sensory sensitivities of children with autism more effectively and with greater compassion. Additionally, Caitland has created proclamations for Charles County to heighten awareness of pediatric emergency initiatives, including implementation of pediatric high-performance CPR, pediatric tracheostomy care education, and innovative programming designed to improve the safety and comfort of pediatric patients during emergency transport, further exemplifying what it means to be a pediatric EMS champion. *



Maryland Star of Life Hospital Award – TidalHealth Peninsula Regional Medical Center Emergency Department

AS ONE OF THE BUSIEST emergency departments in the state, TidalHealth Peninsula Regional understands that time is a critical component in the throughput of patients who arrive via EMS. MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge, joined by State EMS Board Chairman Clay Stamp, recognized TidalHealth’s commitment to minimizing EMS turnaround times when he presented the facility with the Maryland Star of Life Hospital Award on July 15, 2026. Delbridge praised the ED’s record of effectively facilitating patient transfers from EMS care within 14 minutes, on average, more than 90 percent of the time – less than half of the statewide goal of 35 minutes. “That equates to putting one more ambulance on the street for 10 hours a day in the community, where they’re needed the most,” said Delbridge. “As a matter of fact, when other emergency departments ask us how they can do stuff better, we say go visit TidalHealth – we’ll show you how it’s done.” *



“[You are] putting one more ambulance on the street for 10 hours a day in the community, where they’re needed the most.”

Congratulations to all the recipients of the 2026 Maryland Star of Life Awards. For more information about Maryland EMS Star of Life Awards, see page 16. Nomination forms can be found online at <https://miemss.org/home/awards>.

For more on TidalHealth Peninsula Regional Medical Center Emergency Department, visit <https://tinyurl.com/tidal-2026> or scan the QR code.





The Right Care When It Counts Maryland EMSC Awards



On May 22, 2025, Montgomery County resident Adam Malinauskas experienced shortness of breath and, while attempting to walk to the bedroom, he collapsed. He was having sudden cardiac arrest. His 16-year-old daughter, Lauren, immediately drew upon the skills she learned at Whitman High School. Lauren began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and continued for about 10 minutes, until Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service crews arrived.

When EMS personnel assumed care, they found the patient in ventricular fibrillation. After delivering a defibrillation shock, they achieved a return of pulses and spontaneous respirations. Adam was transported to Suburban Hospital where, prior to the crews' departure, he was alert, oriented, and speaking with hospital staff. He was admitted to the Intermediate Care Unit for continued monitoring and treatment and was discharged home a few days later, neurologically intact.

"From what the doctors have told me, Lauren's CPR helped me both survive and quickly return to normal function in body and mind," Adam later shared. "I am so grateful to be able to request this award for Lauren. She learned CPR in a required MCPS health class at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, taught by Kimberly Weaver, who not only taught the material but kept my daughter engaged and prepared to take action – even in a completely unexpected situation."

Both MCFRS and Montgomery County Public Schools subsequently honored Lauren for her heroic actions. This incident highlights the critical importance of the Chain of Survival in cardiac arrest emergencies. Lauren's immediate

bystander CPR unquestionably contributed to her father's positive outcome and recovery.



On the morning of October 17, 2025, 10-year-old Kenneth Cavender was awakened by the sound of a smoke alarm as a fire spread through his family's home. Instead of panicking, he immediately sprang into action. Kenneth ran upstairs to wake his sister, grandmother, and uncle to make sure every person in the house as well as the dog was accounted for and safely evacuated immediately. Knowing his grandmother had recently been hospitalized and may not have heard the alarm on her own, Kenneth's quick thinking likely saved lives that morning. Thanks to his calm response, courage, and focus under pressure, the entire family escaped without injury.

When asked how he knew what to do, Kenneth simply said, "That is what we practiced." The fire safety lessons he learned during a second-grade visit to Children's Village of Washington County stayed with him and became real-life lifesaving actions when it mattered most. Working smoke alarms installed earlier in the year by the Hagerstown Fire Department also played a critical role in alerting the family to danger.

Lieutenant Allen Carpenter of the Hagerstown Fire Department accepted the Right Care When It Counts Award on Kenneth's behalf during a June 2, 2026, ceremony at Rocky Gap State Park.

For video from the ceremony at Rocky Gap State Park, visit tinyurl.com/cavender-2026 or scan the QR code.



On November 21, 2025, 8-year-old twins Norah and Ivar found their mother, Kylie, suffering from a seizure at their home in Calvert County, Maryland. Norah stayed with Mom and cared for their infant sibling, while Ivar went to the landlord for assistance in calling 9-1-1 and conveyed important medical information to the responding EMS personnel. Once Mom was in transport for definitive care, Ivar and Norah continued to care for the infant until their father got home.



On the evening of July 4, 2025, 12-year-old Jillian Mitchell of North East, Maryland, acted quickly and courageously to help herself, her 12-year-old friend, and her 5-year-old sister to safety when her father's truck in which they had been traveling struck a tree along Turkey Point Road in Rogues Harbor. After extricating herself and the two other children from the vehicle, Jillian waved down a passerby to call 9-1-1 and assisted in getting her father out of the truck just before it caught fire. Jillian's actions and quick thinking helped to prevent a potentially tragic outcome for everyone involved.



On July 31, 2025, severe storms swept through Montgomery County, causing flash flooding in several areas. While riding home from summer camp with his nanny and her 3-year-old toddler, 12-year-old Aasish Selvaraj from Gaithersburg, Maryland, acted heroically when fast-moving flood waters swept his nanny's SUV off the road. The wooded landscape and rising flood waters left the vehicle harder for emergency responders to see from the road, leading Aasish to act quickly. Before the vehicle could be totally submerged, he climbed out through a rear window, then pulled the younger child up on to the vehicle's roof, where he managed to both hold on to a tree branch and keep the toddler's head above water. Aasish was able to attract the attention of Montgomery County Police, who quickly alerted Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service swift water rescue teams.



On the afternoon of August 24, 2025, 13-year-old Gunner Blackiston and his 15-year-old cousin, Cydni Fletcher, were riding through their Rock Hall, Maryland, neighborhood on the family's golf cart when they noticed smoke billowing from the back of a nearby house. Thinking quickly, Gunner immediately raced to their grandparents' house next door to retrieve a fire extinguisher while Cydni called 9-1-1 to report the incident. They then alerted the family of four, who along with their dog immediately evacuated the house. Gunner and Cydni's quick thinking and actions saved lives that day. *

For more information on "The Right Care When It Counts," please see page 16.



The Maryland Institute *for* Emergency Medical Services Systems



MARYLAND EMS STARS OF LIFE
AWARDS

CITIZEN STAR OF LIFE	EMS FOR CHILDREN AWARD
EMS CLINICIANS OF THE YEAR	LEON HAYES AWARD FOR LIFETIME EXCELLENCE IN EMS
EMS STAR OF LIFE	EMS PROGRAM INNOVATION OF THE YEAR

Nominations close for the current year on February 1st of the next year.
Scan the QR code to visit: www.miemss.org/home/Public/Awards



The Right Care When It Counts Maryland EMSC

The Maryland EMS for Children program is seeking nominations of children and youth in Maryland who have demonstrated The Right Care When It Counts. Actions taking place January 1, through December 31, are eligible for nomination. We will be recognizing children and youth who acted so that others would receive “The Right Care When It Counts.” Each nominee will receive a patch and certificate and be eligible for a state award at a ceremony during EMS Week.

Criteria includes calling or texting emergency response in an emergency; providing vital information to the emergency dispatcher or emergency responder; teaching others the importance of having a written emergency plan and practicing it at home; applying knowledge learned in a class or training, performing CPR and/or using an AED during a sudden emergency in the community; and/or implementing a unique program in Community Risk Reduction that provides education in the community. (For complete details of Right Care Awards criteria, scan the QR code or [visit miemss.org/home/awards](http://www.miemss.org/home/awards).)

**Nominations close for the current year
on February 1st of the next year.**

Scan the QR code or visit miemss.org/home/emsc/right-care
For more information or nominations, email FAN@miemss.org





RESUSCITATION ACADEMY

Improving cardiac arrest survival rates, one community at a time

October 14 & 15 2026 Marriottsville, Maryland

The Maryland Resuscitation Academy (RA) is pleased to announce our Fall 2026 two-day Academy, Wednesday and Thursday October 14 & 15, 2026 at Howard County's James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center, in Marriottsville, Maryland.

Based on the world-renowned curriculum of the Flagship Resuscitation Academy in Seattle, WA and Dr. Mickey Eisenberg's **10 Steps for Improving Survival from Cardiac Arrest**, the Maryland RA is a two-day intensive course focused on improving survival rates of patients suffering out of hospital cardiac arrest, and is suitable for Medical Directors, Fire/EMS Chiefs, EMS supervisors and personnel of all levels, Communications Center supervisors and dispatchers, law enforcement personnel, and hospital staff.

Through your attendance, you will learn about the interventions important to pre-hospital cardiac arrest survival and ways to immediately improve survival rates in your community. Delivered by subject matter experts who are accomplished in the field of cardiac arrest survival, the focus is on the science of CPR, the importance of time, data and measuring performance, the critical role of 911 Specialists, pediatric cardiac arrest, and more.

Additionally, the Academy includes a highly acclaimed and in-depth practical train-the-trainer session where all class participants will learn and become confident in delivering adult and pediatric **High-Performance CPR**, a practice proven to increase survival. Each participant will also leave with a standardized curriculum (including instructor guide and standardized videos) to begin to teach this practice in your organization.

The Academy is held both days from 8:30am–4:30pm and includes a continental breakfast and working lunch. Tuition is complimentary and generously covered by Academy sponsors. **The deadline for applying is COB Friday, August 7, however registration may be closed and notifications made sooner if all seats are filled.** Additional details will be provided following acceptance into the academy.

[Click here for the application form and apply](#) at your earliest convenience. Preference will be given to groups sending two or more people in leadership, training, and field positions, capable of making system-wide improvements. Organizations outside Maryland are encouraged to attend. For questions, please email us at careshoward@gmail.com.

The Maryland RA is co-sponsored by the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, The Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), and the Carol Act.

"Working to create a world where no one dies from sudden cardiac arrest."

Ann Doll, Executive Director Resuscitation Academy Foundation

The Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Annual Memorial Service

PRESENTED ON THE FIRST Sunday in June, the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Annual Memorial Service commemorates members of the state's Fire and Rescue services who made the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties.

This year's ceremony, held June 7, 2026, in Annapolis, saw the addition of 10 line-of-duty-death names to the memorial wall, including: Captain John W. Criswell, Baltimore County Fire Department (January 29, 1908); Chief Harry J. Jeffers, Bethlehem Steel Sparrows Point Fire Department (February 5, 1925); Chief John George Zulauf, Bethlehem Steel Sparrows Point Fire Department (June 15, 1949); Firefighter Mark G. Zeller, Sr., Bethlehem Steel Sparrows Point Fire Department (March 2, 1979); Master Firefighter Mark R. Fisher, Jr., Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (July 24, 2014); Fire Lieutenant Raymond Vargas, Jr., Baltimore County Fire Department (March 27, 2025); EVO Charles E. Mudra, Baltimore City Fire Department (May 16, 2025); Lieutenant Mark R. Dranbauer, Jr. Baltimore City Fire Department (May 17, 2025); Captain William R. Lutosanski, Jr., Baltimore County Fire Department (February 17, 2026); and Lieutenant David B. Millstein (Retired), Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services (February 20, 2026).

The memorial does more than honor the state's Fire, Rescue, and EMS personnel fallen in the line of duty. It also provides an important opportunity to recognize the devotion and sacrifice of the families they leave behind, according to Charles J. Simpson, Jr., Immediate Past President of the Maryland State Firefighters Association.

"The sad thing is, the numbers are starting to increase," said Dennis E. Beard, President of the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation, which maintains the 20-year-old memorial on Calvert Street in Annapolis. "Occupational cancer is going to be the next big thing."

The approximately one-hour ceremony included a memorial address by Fire Chief Doug Brinkley of the Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Company and a fly-over by Maryland State Police Aviation Command's Trooper 2. Learn more at <https://www.mdfirerescuehero.org/>.



The Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial honors fallen Fire, Rescue, and EMS personnel while recognizing the sacrifices made by the family, friends, and colleagues they leave behind. For coverage of this year's service, visit <https://tinyurl.com/md-memorial-2026> or scan the QR code.

EMS Compliance Update

The EMS Board is authorized to take disciplinary action against clinicians who engage in prohibited conduct to safeguard the integrity of the EMS system. COMAR 30.02.04.01 lists conduct which is prohibited. Below is a sample of actions the EMS Board has taken from April 2026 to July 2026 as a result of prohibited conduct. For more information, contact Lisa Chervon, Chief of the MIEMSS Office of Integrity, at lchervon@miemss.org or (410) 706-2339. Additionally, MIEMSS maintains a searchable database of all EMS Board decisions at <https://www.miemss.org/home/public>, which can be found under Public Orders Report in the left-hand column.

IRC25-052 (EMT) May 14, 2026. In 2025, while working at the All-American Ambulance commercial ambulance service, the EMT unnecessarily utilized emergency warning lights and sirens and drove in a reckless manner while transporting a patient and a family member from a hospital to the patient's residence. In doing so, the EMT struck a tree branch while driving on the shoulder of the roadway, causing damage to the passenger's side of the vehicle. As a result, the EMT's certification was revoked.

IRC25-054 (EMT) May 14, 2026. In January 2024, the EMT pled guilty to the crime driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol in the District Court of Maryland and received probation before judgment. The EMS Board issued a noncompliance notice to the EMT on February 12, 2026, proposing that the EMT's certification be placed on probation for one (1) year. The EMT requested a hearing on this matter. By means of a Disposition Agreement, the parties agreed that the EMS Board would issue a reprimand to the EMT.

IRC25-056 (EMT) May 14, 2026. In September 2025, while working at the All-American Ambulance commercial ambulance service, the EMT's partner driver utilized emergency warning lights and sirens to transport a non-emergent patient and a family member to the patient's residence. The EMT was aware of the manner of transport and made no objection. Upon completion of the electronic patient care report, the EMT falsely indicated that the transport was completed non-emergent, with no lights or sirens used. As a result, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for one (1) year.

IRC26-002 (EMT) May 14, 2026. In November 2023, the EMT pled not guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol in the District Court of Maryland. The EMT was subsequently issued unsupervised probation before judgment for a period of two (2) years. As a result, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for one (1) year.

IRC26-005 (Paramedic) May 18, 2026. In March 2025, the Paramedic pled guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol in the Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County. The Paramedic was subsequently issued unsupervised probation before judgment for a period of 18 months. As a result, the Paramedic's license was placed on probation for one (1) year.

IRC26-007 (Paramedic) May 18, 2026. In July 2025, the Para-

medic falsely amended an electronic patient care report to support the amount of fentanyl that he had administered to the patient. The Paramedic was assigned a remediation plan by the Harford County EMSOP, which he did not complete. Subsequently, the Paramedic responded to an assisted living facility, and placed a patient back in bed who was later determined to have an intracranial hemorrhage. The Paramedic documented the patient encounter as a "lift assist" only and failed to document any patient assessment or refusal on the electronic patient care report. The EMS Board issued a Noncompliance Notice to the Paramedic on April 15, 2026, proposing to revoke the Paramedic's license. The Paramedic requested a hearing. By means of a disposition agreement, the parties agreed that the Paramedic's license would be suspended for 60 days, and the Paramedic was required to complete training in ethics and report writing. If the Paramedic affiliates with an EMS Operational Program in Maryland at any time after the date of the disposition agreement, the Paramedic's paramedic license will be placed on probation for a period of two (2) years from the date of his affiliation, and they must complete a protocol review with a supervisor within 30 days of his first affiliation with an EMSOP.

IRC26-008 (EMT) May 14, 2026. In June 2025, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. The EMT received supervised probation before judgment, was required to abstain from alcohol and drugs, and complete a MADD impact panel and alcohol treatment. The EMT failed to respond to the IRC complaint that was issued to the EMT. Accordingly, the EMS Board issued a Noncompliance Notice to the EMT, proposing the EMT's certification be suspended until the EMT submitted a response to the IRC complaint, after which time, the EMT's certificate would be placed on probation for one (1) year. The EMT requested a hearing, and following a case resolution conference on April 30, 2026, submitted a response to the IRC complaint with supporting documentation. By means of a Disposition Agreement, the parties agreed that the EMT's certification be placed on probation for one (1) year.

IRC26-010 (EMT) May 18, 2026. In August 2025, the EMT pled not guilty with agreed statement of facts to the crime of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol per se in the District Court of Maryland. The EMT was subsequently issued supervised probation before judgment for a period of one (1) year. Additionally, on August 25, 2025, the EMT submitted an Application for New BLS Service Affiliation to MIEMSS and failed to disclose the aforementioned disposition. As a result, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for one (1) year, and the EMT was reprimanded for failure to disclose.

IRC26-013 (EMT) May 18, 2026. In August 2025, the EMT pled guilty to the offense of driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol in the District Court of Maryland. The EMT was issued supervised probation before judgment for a period of one (1) year, and also ordered to have an ignition interlock device installed on the EMT's vehicle. As a result, the EMT's certification was placed on probation for one (1) year.

