



Maryland **EMS** **News**

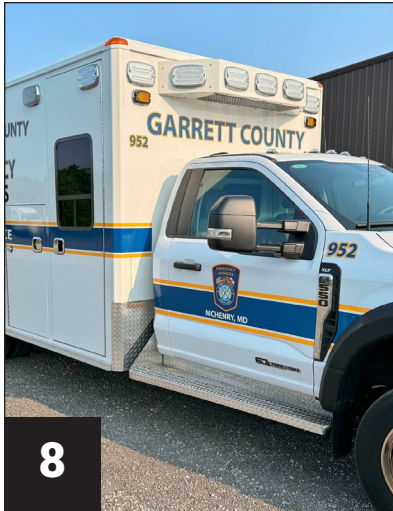
For All Emergency Medical Services Clinicians

Vol. 52 No. 8

August 2026

**Ready for
the Rescue:**
Abingdon Fire Crews
Sharpen Extrication
Skills in Scenarios

Plus:
National Night Out
Measles: Pearls for Clinicians
New NHTSA Reporting Form
DisasterPiece 2026
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: A member of the Abingdon Fire Company sharpens their extrication skills during a training scenario. (Photo: Abingdon Fire Company)

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



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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 visit <https://miemss.org/home/publications>.

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

Measles: Pearls for EMS Clinicians

Since the beginning of 2026, a total of 2,260 measles cases were reported in the United States, including 9 cases in Maryland. CDC reports 34 new

outbreaks in 2026, and 93% of confirmed cases are outbreak-associated. While there have been sporadic cases in Maryland over the past 5 years, MIEMSS urges prehospital clinicians to consider the potential for measles infection in their patients, while using the criteria to the right as a reference. While treating patients suspected of having measles, EMS clinicians should follow State EMS and appropriate infection control protocols, and appropriate PPE should be donned immediately, and the receiving hospital should be contacted via EMRC to may prepare for the incoming patient.

PPE Recommendations: Immediately after measles is suspected, providers should don gloves, gowns, eye protection, and N-95 or equivalent respirators.



Who: Although ANY individual can present with the symptoms of measles, the following are at a higher risk for severe complications:

- Infants & children aged less than 5 years
- Adults aged greater than 20 years
- Pregnant women
- People with compromised immune systems, such as patients with leukemia and HIV infections

What: Measles is an acute viral respiratory illness. It has an incubation period of 10 to 12 days. It initially presents with a very high fever (103° F or higher), along with ALL of the following:

- Cough
- Coryza (Stuffy & Runny Nose)
- Conjunctivitis

The typical rash appears approximately 14 days after the patient is exposed, and the patient is contagious from 4 days before to 4 days after the rash appears.

When: Infection transmission can occur via direct contact with an infected individual or by airborne particles expired when an infected patient breaths, coughs, or sneezes. Measles virus can remain infectious in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves the area.

Where: Recent outbreaks have occurred in other states, and 9 measles cases have been confirmed in Maryland within the past year.

Why: Measles is an incredibly infectious and deadly disease that can spread quickly and can be potentially deadly if not recognized early.

CONSIDER MEASLES
in patients presenting with febrile rash illness and clinically compatible measles symptoms (cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis)

Ask patients about recent travel internationally or to domestic venues frequented by international travelers, as well as a history of measles in the community.

MEASLES
is **highly contagious** and spreads through the air when an infected person **coughs or sneezes**.

It is so contagious that if one person has it, **9 out of 10 people** of all ages around him or her will also become infected if they are not protected.

Do you know CDC's Guidelines for Patient Evaluation, Diagnosis & Management?
www.cdc.gov/measles/HCP/

THINK MEASLES

SECURING TWO LIVES

Safe Infant & Parent Ambulance Transport

WEBINAR

The benefits of **skin-to-skin contact** between a mom and baby are well known, however, when they both need ambulance transport, the health and safety issues become complicated.

“Safely Transport Together”

- **EMS experts** share how to securely transport adult and neonatal patients together or separately using the correct safety restraint.
- **EMS Clinicians** share **case studies and tips** for using Ferno’s “Kangoofix” restraint and information about several other pediatric restraints for ambulances.

SPEAKERS:

- Cyndy Wright Johnson, MSN, RN, EMSC Director, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems
- Marc Minkler, BS, NRP, I/C, EMS-C State Program Manager, Maine EMS for Children
- Caitland Kelshaw, NRP, Pediatric Champion, Charles County Department of Emergency Services
- Stryker Medical Representative



AUGUST 26, 2026

From 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

To register, visit tinyurl.com/securing-two-lives or scan the QR code.



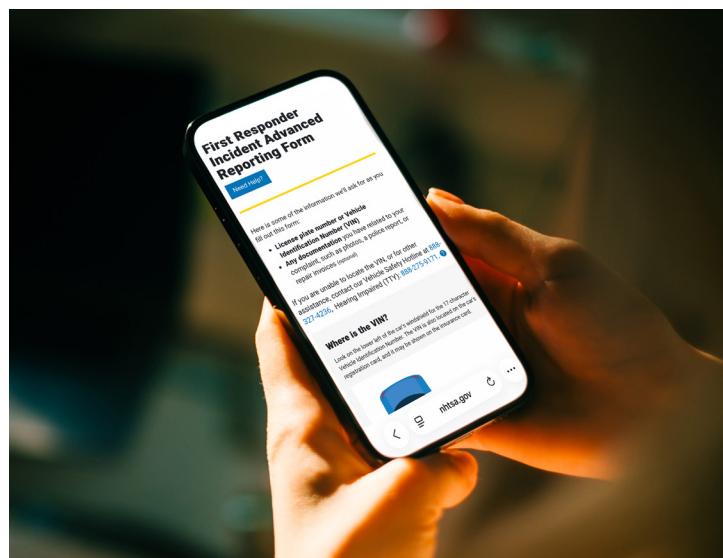
Attendance to this webinar awards continuing education credit for Maryland EMS clinicians through MIEMSS and 1.5 CEUs for Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) through Safe Kids WorldWide.

Help Improve Vehicle Safety with New NHTSA Reporting Form

Use the New Confidential, Mobile-Friendly Form to Quickly Report Safety Concerns

FIRST RESPONDERS, including EMS and 9-1-1, can now anonymously report vehicle, child seat, tire, equipment, and automated vehicle issues using NHTSA's First Responder Incident Advanced Reporting (FRIAR) form. This confidential, mobile-friendly web form allows all first responders to report vehicle and vehicle-equipment related safety concerns discovered in an official capacity, such as when responding to a crash.

On the form, select "First Responder" and provide brief information that may help identify vehicle-related issues and help strengthen emergency response. As the first to receive and respond to reports of roadway incidents and provide on-scene medical care at motor vehicle crashes, both 9-1-1 telecommunicators and EMS clinicians can offer valuable insights into vehicle safety. *



Learn more at nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem

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>.

Johns Hopkins Trauma System
Presents...

From Impact to Outcomes



**October 9
2026**



8am - 4pm



Johns Hopkins Health Plans

723 I Parkway Drive, Hanover, MD

Exploring how trauma care, trauma systems development, and multidisciplinary collaboration translate into measurable patient outcomes, stronger regional systems of care, and sustainable program growth — while advancing equitable, high-value education accessible to all Maryland clinicians caring for injured patients across trauma and non-trauma centers, rural systems, and EMS agencies.

Register via QR Code



More Information
zarciag1@jhmi.edu

Pre-Conference Trainings (ABLS, DMEP, TOPIC) are available on 10.8.2026 -
first 25 registrants are free

Caroline County DES Promote Family Safety at the Fair

FAMILIES ATTENDING this year's Caroline/Dorchester County Fair earlier this month received important child safety information courtesy of the Caroline County Department of Emergency Services.

Area EMS clinicians shared important tips for keeping families safe both at home and on the road, including information from the Ollie Otter Booster Seat and Seat Belt Safety Program. *

[Photo: Caroline County DES]

Ollie Otter
CHILD SAFETY
FOUNDATION



National Child Passenger Safety Week



IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

Every day in 2024, on average, two children under 14 were killed and 349 were injured in traffic crashes while riding in passenger vehicles. The vast majority of MVC deaths and injuries are preventable with proper buckling up! Celebrate **National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week, September 20-26, 2026!**

Free materials, ideas and supplies for exhibits as well as staff training are available.

Contact Susanne Ogaitis-Jones at cps@miemss.org or 410-706-8647.

A close-up, angled view of the side of a white ambulance. The top of the image shows the ambulance's emergency light bar with several rectangular lights. Below the lights, the words "GARRETT COUNTY" are written in large, bold, blue letters with a yellow outline. To the left of this, the number "952" is visible in yellow. The side of the ambulance features a blue and yellow stripe. A black side mirror is prominent. Below the mirror, there is a circular patch for "EMERGENCY SERVICES" with a star and the text "GARRETT COUNTY, MD". Further down, "MCHENRY, MD" is written in white on a blue background. At the bottom, a "6.7L POWER STROKE" badge is visible. The entire image is framed by a blue circular border.

Complete Overhaul Extends Service Life of Garrett County Ambulance While Saving Taxpayer Dollars

GARRETT COUNTY Emergency Services proudly announces the completion of the remount project for Ambulance 952 in partnership with Atlantic Emergency Solutions.

Ambulance 952, a 2019 Wheeled Coach ambulance assigned to Garrett County's McHenry EMS Station, has been given new life through the installation of a brand-new chassis to replace the original 2019 Ram chassis, along with a complete remount and refurbishment of the patient module.

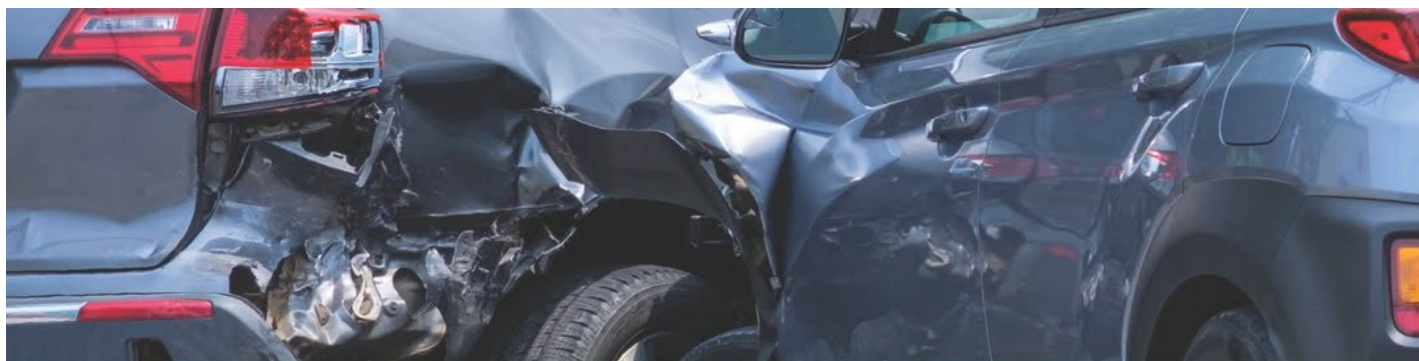
By working closely with Atlantic Emergency Solutions, County leadership was able to extend the service life of this valuable emergency vehicle while saving taxpayers nearly 50% compared to the cost of purchasing a brand-new ambulance.

Ambulance 952 will continue serving the county, providing EMS personnel with a safe, reliable, and modern ambulance while ensuring the highest level of emergency medical care for Garrett County residents and visitors.

This project reflects the department's commitment to responsible fiscal stewardship by maximizing the value of taxpayer dollars while continuing to invest in the safety of its community and the equipment that its EMS crews depend on every day. *

[Photo: Garrett County DES]

County leadership was able to extend the service life of this valuable emergency vehicle while saving taxpayers nearly 50%



Seminar Hosted by Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute | University of Maryland

THE SCIENCE OF VEHICLE CRASHES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, 4500 Campus Drive, College Park, Maryland 20742

Guest Presenter Dr. Janet Bahouth

Director of the Crash Center for Research and Education, and in partnership with MIEMSS.



This program is for Fire and Rescue personnel and Emergency Medical Technicians who want to better understand crash scenes and improve prompt decision making and patient care.

Understanding the mechanism of injury is key to assessing its severity and guides early management of the injury. Sharing an engineer's perspective of car and occupant crash mechanics will enhance your on-scene decision making.

Dynamic Topics

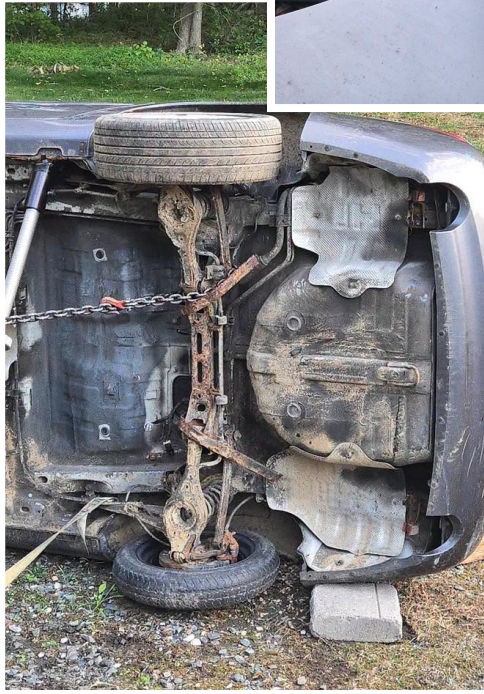
- WHOLE SCENE OBSERVATIONS
- 1 CRASH = 3 IMPACTS
- SEAT BELT DEPENDENT OUTCOME
- TRANSFERRING WHOLE SCENE KNOWLEDGE
- IMPROVE DATA = IMPROVE TRIAGE = IMPROVE DATA
- AIRBAG AVAILABILITY
- LOAD PATHS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE
- THE BENEFITS OF AACN
- WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW EN ROUTE
- SEAT BELT USE EVIDENCE
- INJURY PATTERNS
- CONSEQUENCES OF OCCUPANT MOVEMENT DURING THE CRASH

Register at <https://www.mfri.org/course/seminars/SEM/152/S001/2027>

Priority will be given and there is no fee for Maryland emergency services members.
A \$50 registration fee will be charged to non-Maryland affiliated personnel.

MFRI Contact: Mickey McBride, Special Programs Section
mickey@mfri.org | 301-226-9953





Training Hones Vehicle Stabilization and Extrication Skills for Harford County Rescue Personnel

COVER STORY

EARLIER THIS MONTH, Harford County's Abingdon Fire Company trained on vehicle stabilization and extrication techniques, providing its personnel with an opportunity to sharpen the skills they rely on during real-world emergencies.

Crews began by stabilizing a vehicle on its side using the Res-Q-Jacks, step chocks, and wedges before progressing to a tie-back system with chain and a come-along. Members also completed a demonstration using Paratech struts to reinforce stabilization techniques.

Once the vehicle was safely secured, crews worked through a full rescue scenario, including windshield removal, door removal, and creating a roof flap to simulate patient extrication. Training such as this one help to ensure Abingdon's volunteers remain prepared to safely and efficiently handle complex vehicle rescue incidents when their community needs them most. *





[Photos: Abingdon Fire Company]



EASTERN SHORE



FIRST RESPONDER PEER SUPPORT SYMPOSIUM



Supporting Those Who Answer the Call



SEPTEMBER 17, 2026
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM



CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE
TODD PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER
College Circle, Wye Mills, Maryland



POST-SYMPOSIUM GATHERING
TEN EYCK BREWERY
(First Responder / Veteran Owned)
Wye Mills, Maryland

Join first responders, peer support leaders, and behavioral health professionals from across the Eastern Shore for a day of learning, collaboration, and connection.

FREE ATTENDANCE - REGISTER



PeerSymposium.eventbrite.com

Symposium Highlights:

- ✓ Expert presentations
- ✓ Peer support best practices
- ✓ Collaborative discussions & networking
- ✓ Program development ideas
- ✓ Mental health and wellness resources

Who Should Attend

- ✓ First responders interested in joining peer support programs
- ✓ Current first responder peer support team members
- ✓ Mental health professionals interested in serving or currently serving first responders

Continuing Education

- ✓ 4.5 Category I CEUs for Social Workers and Professional Counselors
- ✓ Police and Corrections Certified MPTC In-Service Credit
- ✓ MIEMSS-approved Continuing Education Credit



A HEARTFELT MOMENT took place at the Washington County 9-1-1 Center as James and his wife, Georgia, visited to personally thank Emergency Communications Specialist Davita Foltz, whose calm voice and professional guidance helped them through a life-threatening medical emergency.

On June 3, 2026, James called 9-1-1 after recognizing that Georgia was exhibiting signs of a possible stroke and was unable to get up. Davita answered the call and remained on the line throughout the incident, providing reassurance, monitoring the patient's condition, gathering critical information, and relaying updates to responding emergency personnel until help arrived.

After Georgia made a remarkable recovery, the couple asked to visit the Washington County 9-1-1 Center to meet Davita and express their sincere appreciation for the compassion, professionalism, and support she provided during one of the most difficult moments of their lives.

Joining the couple and Davita for the special occasion were Washington County Commissioners John Barr, Jeff Cline, and Randy Leatherman; County Administrator Michelle Gordon; Division of Emergency Management and Communications Director Alan Matheny; and Emergency Communications Center Deputy Director Kelly Fisher. The visit recognized the critical role emergency communications professionals play in the county's public safety system and the lasting impact they have on the lives of those they serve.

"Emergency Communications Specialists are the first responders," said Alan Matheny, Director of the Washington County Division of Emergency Management and Communications. "Before an ambulance, fire engine, or law enforcement officer arrives, our dispatchers are already making a difference. They provide lifesaving instructions, gather critical information, coordinate resources, and offer reassurance during what is often the worst day of someone's life. Davita's professionalism and compassion exemplify the outstanding service our team provides every day."



Washington County Couple Visits 9-1-1 Center to Thank Emergency Communications Specialist Who Helped Save a Life

Emergency Communications Specialists answer thousands of 9-1-1 calls each year, serving as the critical link between the public and emergency responders. Their ability to remain calm under pressure and communicate effectively helps ensure patients receive the right care as quickly as possible.

For Davita, meeting the couple she assisted was a meaningful reminder that every call matters. While dispatchers rarely have the opportunity to learn the outcome of the emergencies they handle, this visit highlighted the profound difference emergency communications professionals make through their dedication, professionalism, and compassion.

Washington County extends its gratitude to James and Georgia for taking the time to recognize Davita and all emergency communications professionals whose work behind the scenes helps save lives every day. *

[Photo: Washington County DES]

KEEP SENSORY SQUEEZE TOYS SAFE



Soft squeeze toys are fun and calming – but heat can change them. A quick safety check helps keep playtime fun and burn-free!



Store squeeze toys **indoors** and **out of direct sunlight**.



Never leave them in a **hot vehicle**.



Check that the toy **feels cool** before use.



Never **microwave** a sensory squeeze toy.



Inspect regularly for tears, cracks, or damage.



Use squeeze toys with **adult supervision**.

If the toy breaks,



Stop using it immediately.



If hot material contacts the skin, cool the area with cool running water for 20 minutes.



Remove contaminated clothing, if it is not stuck to the skin.



Seek medical care for significant burns or if you have concerns.



JOHNS HOPKINS
CHILDREN'S CENTER
Pediatric Burn Center
1-888-KID-BURN



JOHNS HOPKINS
MEDICINE
Johns Hopkins Burn Center

July 2026



2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 15

MID-ATLANTIC LIFE SAFETY
CONFERENCE
(Annapolis, MD)

midatlanticlifesafetyconference.com

SEPTEMBER 20–26

NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK
(Nationwide)

cpsboard.org/resource-center/cpsweek/

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*.



MDERS Supports Maryland Region V Healthcare Coalition's DisasterPiece 2026

REGIONAL COLLABORATION among first responder agencies is essential to learning and coordinating with partners to respond to a myriad of emergencies. The Maryland Region V Healthcare Coalition, Inc. built upon previous successful events to host DisasterPiece 2026 – All-Hazards Health Public Safety Conference. The conference invited participants from public safety, healthcare, and public health to discuss preparedness and resiliency to our region's most pressing issues. Due to robust regional relationships, the Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System (MDERS) assisted in the planning, logistics, and execution of this event.

Quickly evolving threats pose unique challenges to first responders. These challenges require novel approaches and innovative thinking. Even more so, interdisciplinary coordination is imperative as problems may require an all-hands approach to effectively mitigate threats. Recognizing the current and future risk environment, the Maryland Region V Healthcare Coalition, Inc., created the DisasterPiece Conference to gather subject matter experts (SMEs) from a wide range of disciplines, promoting awareness and learn in a collaborative manner.

The conference was held at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center in Montgomery County. Over the course of two days, conferencegoers participated in sessions covering topics ranging from active shooter response, cybersecurity, volunteer management, and response efforts to the

2025 Potomac River mid-air collision. Keynote speakers included Chief Tom Manger (Ret. Montgomery County Police Department and U.S. Capitol Police) and Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) Secretary Russell Strickland. The conference also welcomed Jermaine Galloway, known as "Tall Cop", to share insight on current drug and alcohol trends in youth populations.

Participants were able to explore an exhibit vendor hall and afforded ample time to network and connect with peers.



From the inception of this event, MDERS staff helped in the planning, promotion, and implementation of the conference. MDERS team members attended weekly meetings to assist in curating an impactful agenda and speaker list, design event logos, coordinate travel arrangements, and support other planning tasks. During the conference, MDERS personnel staffed the registration table and supported various logistical tasks. MDERS also set up an exhibit table to highlight the organization's accomplishments and converse with regional partners about future planning and support initiatives.

DisasterPiece was a resoundingly positive event that underscores the National Capital Region's strong partnerships among first responder agencies. Valuable ideas and lessons were shared throughout the conference, enhancing regional preparedness and response efforts. MDERS is eager to support future events that will foster continued interdisciplinary and interjurisdictional collaboration among stakeholders. *



National Night Out Brings EMS and Neighbors Together

ON AUGUST 4, 2026, EMS clinicians joined police and other emergency response personnel in communities across Maryland for National Night Out.

The annual community-building campaign promotes community partnerships and camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. It also provides opportunities to bring emergency responders and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Learn more about National Night Out at <https://natw.org/>.

[Photos: Carroll County Dept. of Fire and EMS (top left), Cecil County DES (top right), Charles County Rescue Squad (middle), Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Company (bottom left), and St. Mary's County DES (bottom right)]

*Building stronger connections between Maryland's emergency responders
and the communities they serve.*





Child Passenger Safety Program

NUMEROUS MARYLAND HOSPITALS were recognized for their voluntary participation in MIEMSS' emergency car seat distribution program on June 10, 2026, at MIEMSS Headquarters in Baltimore. While onsite, hospital staff received didactic and hands-on training in selecting the appropriate car seat, adjusting the harnesses to fit the child, and helping the caregiver complete the waiver form.

To learn more about this program, contact cps@miemss.org. *



Participants learn proper harness-adjustment techniques.



As this misuse exercise demonstrates, a 4-year-old is too small and young to be in a backless booster! (In this case, a forward-facing harness car seat would be safest.)

Does the public stop by your fire station for help with their car seat? Do you have a Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) on staff and available? Most stations do not, so be ready to refer the public appropriately. A new resource is available for fire and rescue stations: a 4" x 6" sticker to affix near the phone or front desk that refers the public to the local CPST or to Maryland Kids in Safety Seats. An 8.5" x 11" laminated version is also available. To obtain these free stickers, contact cps@miemss.org.



If the public stops by your station or calls for help with their car seat:

- »» **Do not** assist them unless you are a currently-certified "Child Passenger Safety Technician" (CPST).
- »» Refer them to your local CPST: _____
- »» **OR** refer them to **Maryland Kids in Safety Seats** for help.
 - Phone: 1-800-370-7328
 - Email: mdh.kiss@maryland.gov
 - Website: mdkiss.org



08.26

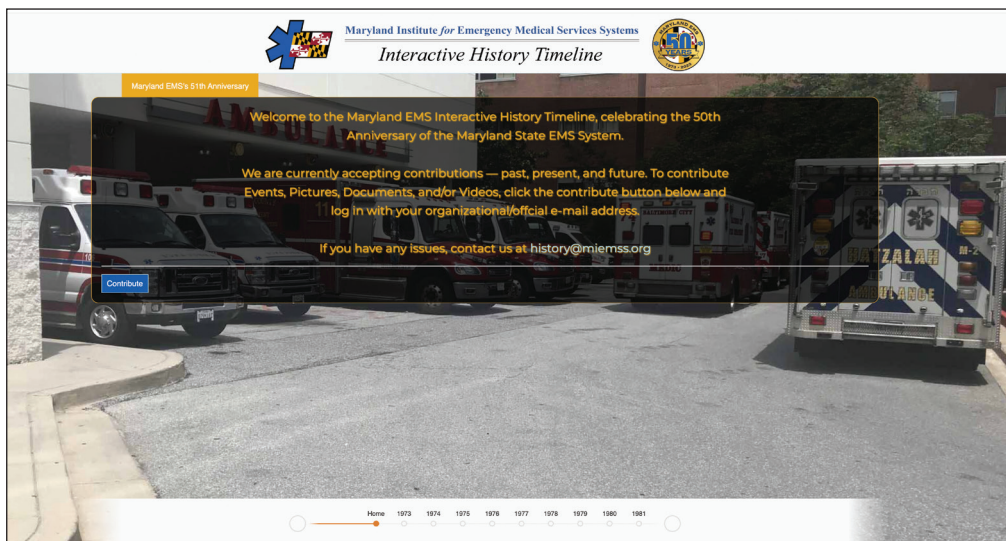
An Eastern Shore EMS
Tradition since 1998

WINTERFEST EMS 2027

JANUARY 29-31, 2027



WINTERFEST@TALBOTCOUNTYMD.GOV | EASTON, MD



Make History with MIEMSS

We are currently accepting contributions — past, present, and future. To contribute Events, Pictures, Documents, and/or Videos, visit the website below or scan the QR code and log in with your organizational/official e-mail address.

Maryland EMS History Timeline
(history.miemss.org)



