

OHIO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), in conjunction with the State Board of EMS, is responsible for establishing training and certification standards for fire and emergency medical services personnel; accreditation of EMS and fire programs; oversight of Ohio's trauma system; grants for emergency medical services organizations; Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC); Regional Physician Advisory Boards; and investigations to ensure compliance with Revised and Administrative Codes; collection and analysis of data submitted to the EMS Incident Reporting System and the Ohio Trauma Registry.

This year, the Division of EMS and the State Board of EMS established the Ohio EMS 2015 Strategic Plan, which will guide the development of the EMS system in Ohio. The Plan was developed with input from our partners and stakeholders who recognize Ohio's potential to become a national leader in EMS.

EMS Certification

In Ohio, about 4,500 initial certifications and 10,000 certification renewals are processed annually.

Total Active EMS Providers

	2009	2010	2011	2012*
First Responder	2,025	2,091	2,135	2,173
EMT-Basic	21,096	21,326	21,378	21,080
EMT-Intermediate	2,263	2,311	2,288	2,270
EMT-Paramedic	15,367	15,989	16,344	16,742
TOTAL	40,751	41,717	42,145	42,265

**As of June 30, 2012*

Total Active EMS Instructors

	2009	2010	2011	2012*
TOTAL	3,722	3,430	3,916	4,062

**As of June 30, 2012*

Fire Services, Certification and Standards

Total Active Firefighters and Fire Safety Inspector

	2009	2010	2011	2012*
Volunteer FF	15,949	15,911	14,911	13,957
Level I	3,781	4,163	4,455	4,578
Level II	21,462	22,692	23,391	23,531
TOTAL	41,192	42,766	42,757	42,066
Fire Safety Inspector	10,257	10,308	10,362	10,155

*As of June 30, 2012

Total Active Fire Instructors

	2009	2010	2011	2012*
TOTAL	3,668	3,942	4,096	4,091

*As of June 30, 2012

EMS Education

Ohio EMS accredits and approves institutions to operate EMS training programs and/or continuing education programs. There are nearly 100 accredited institutions offering EMS training for initial certification. Over 550 organizations are approved to offer continuing education courses to EMS certificate holders to help maintain the knowledge and skills needed to meet the medical needs of those they serve.

Approximately 200 accredited and approved institutions are inspected annually to ensure a quality educational experience for EMS providers who attend their educational offerings. In addition, approximately 1,200 individuals are audited each year to ensure they are meeting the continuing education requirements for renewal of their certificates to practice.

The primary focus in the past year has been on the implementation of new curriculum and new scope of practice at each provider level. Ohio continues to meet or exceed the national scope of practice and national educational standards at each level. Recent legislation is allowing Ohio to change the titles of our provider levels to match those used nationally.

Ohio is also following the national standards for educational programs. By January 2018, all Ohio paramedic institutions are required to be nationally accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of EMS Programs. To assist Ohio programs in meeting this requirement, grant money is available to offset the costs of accreditation.

Grants

The primary goal of the EMS grant program is to enhance EMS service in Ohio by providing funding for training and equipment to under-supported EMS organizations in Ohio. The grants are funded by seat belt fines. In addition to training and equipment, the grants fund research that improves EMS operations in Ohio. New legislation, H.B. 128 of the 129th General Assembly, created two additional funding priorities (Priority 5 and Priority 6) for the Ohio Emergency Medical Services grant program. Ohio EMS funded the following grant priorities for 2012-2013:

- Priority 1 (EMS training and equipment grants): 738 grants for \$2,581,581.00
- Priority 2 (trauma procedures research grants): 1 grant for \$143,760.00
- Priority 3 (injury prevention research grants): 4 grants for \$142,976.00
- Priority 4 (trauma rehabilitation and retraining research grants): 2 grants for \$129,000.00
- Priority 5 (EMS Board research grants): 2 grants for \$48,991.00
- Priority 6 (assistance to paramedic programs grants): 12 grants for \$46,692.00

An EMS needs assessment survey of Ohio's EMS agencies was just completed, utilizing Ohio Department of Health grant funds. The results of the survey will assist in developing Ohio's EMS system.

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)

The EMSC program is a federally funded initiative designed to ensure that the children of Ohio receive the very best emergency care the EMS system can provide. EMSC is a broad network of services including injury prevention, accessing EMS, ambulance services, emergency room services, hospital services and rehabilitative services.

The EMSC committee completed its first-ever consultation visit as part of its new Emergency Departments: Pediatric Prepared program at University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. The program is part of the performance measures for the National Emergency Medical Services for Children Partnership Grant, and is designed to help hospitals demonstrate their ability to assess, treat and transfer injured and ill pediatric patients, and to assist them in meeting national minimum standards in pediatric emergency care.

Homeland Security

Ohio EMS maintains an active role in homeland security and disaster preparedness. The Division represents the interests of EMS and fire personnel through participation on various committees, including the Homeland Security Advisory Council. The division facilitates the exchange of critical information through our participation in the Strategic Analysis and Information Center.

The main focus this year has been planning and preparation surrounding the Bluestone Dam in Hinton, West Virginia. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined there is a potential for the Bluestone Dam to fail, given specific weather conditions and rainfall amounts. The probability of failure is small; however, the consequences would be devastating. The planning is centered on the evacuation of the inundation area in West Virginia and currently two counties in Ohio. The division has been meeting as part of a multi-agency planning group as well as meeting with EMS counterparts in West Virginia.

Investigations Section

The Office of Investigative Services conducts all investigations pertaining to alleged violations of the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes Chapter 4765, which involve emergency medical technicians, firefighters, instructors, EMS or fire training institutions, and applicants for such. Cases range from, but are not limited to: felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude convictions, standard of care cases, continuing education cases and professional standards of conduct cases. Statistics for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 are as follows:

- 763 cases
- 413 of the cases were EMS investigations
- 350 of the cases were fire investigations
- 105 of the cases were dual fire and EMS cases

Regional Physician Advisory Boards

Ohio is divided into 10 pre-hospital emergency medical services regions for the purpose of overseeing the delivery of pre-hospital emergency medical services. For each region, the State Board of EMS appoints physicians with knowledge and experience in emergency medical services to a Regional Physician Advisory Board (RPAB). Care is taken to ensure representation of all geographic areas of the region. Each RPAB meets a minimum of four times each year and may provide assistance to EMS organizations in the region, in such areas as continuing education programs, equipment procurement, establishing mutual aid agreements, and development of written medical protocol. Members of regional advisory boards serve without compensation. The state medical director conducts quarterly meetings with the RPAB chairpersons. The RPAB regions are currently under review with the intent to re-align the regions to allow for better function and coordination with regions established by other agencies within the Department of Public Safety that serve common goals and responders. These include the Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security.

Research and Analysis

The State Board of EMS has two statewide databases. The EMS Incident Reporting System (EMSIRS) collects data on all emergency runs made by EMS units in Ohio. The Ohio Trauma Registry is a database of clinical information from all Ohio hospitals and inpatient rehabilitation facilities on all seriously injured people they admit.

The Division of EMS has collected data on more than 874,000 EMS runs from 1,200 EMS agencies, and medical record data from over 50,000 trauma patients admitted to 150 hospitals. On April 4, 2012, EMSIRS received its 9 millionth record. More than 75 requests for trauma data have been received from researchers.

Statewide Trauma System

Ohio has a legislated trauma system which ensures that seriously injured people get to the right hospital, in the right manner, in the right amount of time. These three factors are crucial for patient survival.

The EMS Board, with advice from its Trauma Committee, and working through the Division of EMS is tasked with monitoring, coordination and facilitating the trauma system. This includes setting standards for trauma triage, the rules by which EMS personnel determined the guidelines for transfer to a trauma facility. There are 45 trauma centers.

The Trauma Committee continues to implement its strategic plan, *A Framework for Improving Ohio's Trauma System*, which has become part of the State Board of EMS Strategic Plan: Ohio EMS 2015.