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State EMS Board's Position on I.C.E.

I.C.E. is the acronym for "In Case of Emergency". The concept is to store emergency contact information in personal cell phones using the acronym ICE. At the time of an emergency, the hope is that EMS, police or hospital personnel can find emergency contact information by looking under ICE in the victim's cell phone.

The State EMS Board takes the position that anything that aids or supplements communications and information exchange during an emergency or crisis is a good idea. It should supplement, not replace, emergency contact information in a purse or wallet so that there is more than one place to look, realizing that belongings can be scattered at an emergency scene. The state EMS Board highly recommends to all Ohioans that they take advantage of the Ohio Department of Public Safety BMV Next of Kin Registration. Ohioans will be able to provide next of kin information for up to two contacts online or through any BMV deputy registrar. For those over the age of 18, the contact person can be a nearby relative, friend or co-worker. Those under the age of 18 are required to provide a parent or guardian for the primary contact. This secure database will only be accessible to BMV employees and law enforcement officials.

EMS will always be treating the patient first at the scene. It is recommended if a cell phone is observed with the patient to attempt to attach the phone with the patient's belongings that will be transported if it is not feasible for EMS to make the call from ICE.

The Board has no plans to require EMS providers to routinely call ICE numbers from the scene.

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Mission Statement

"To promote quality and professionalism in the hiring, training, education, and delivery of fire and Emergency Medical Services with equal consideration given to all diverse populations and constituents."