

the SIREN UPDATE

Preparation for House Bill 1

House Bill 1 has given the Division of EMS the ability to change the expiration dates of EMT certifications to expire on each person's date of birth. The State Board of EMS is working to approve rules that will define the process and set a date for implementation. This date is tentatively set for January 1, 2011.

With this pending implementation, it will be necessary to start notifying all effected personnel as soon as possible. This can best be accomplished by Email. It is both efficient and cost effective for the division.

All active firefighters in the State of Ohio have registered in the system using the online renewal process by using an Email address that gives them access to their records. For those EMTs who are NOT certified as a Firefighter, the division may not have an active email account on record. This will limit the ability of the division to notify certification holders of the changes in their certification status.

Please register in the system today. Go to www.ems.ohio.gov and then click on Online Certification Renewal. From there you can register your current contact information. For those people who have registered in the past but have changed their email address, please revisit the website and update your contact information by re-registering in our system. This way we can be assured that all vital information about certifications can be delivered to those most affected by this change.

Public hearings will be held in regard to these rules. The State Board of Emergency Medical Services will conduct a public hearing on Wed. June 16, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. The Executive Director of the State Board of EMS and the Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee will conduct a public hearing on Tue., July 13, 2010, at 1:00 p.m.

Both hearings will be held at the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Room 134, 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223.

Ohio's Next Of Kin Registry: Valuable Resource To EMS

In May 2008, Ohio became one of the first states to make a Next of Kin registration process available through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). Since its establishment through legislation approved by Ohio's General Assembly, more than 131,000 Ohioans have signed up for next of kin registration.

Ohio's Next of Kin Registry allows law enforcement authorities to make timely notification of next of kin during an emergency situation where seconds and minutes are critical. This is yet another way law enforcement and EMS can work together in an emergency.

Any holder of a valid Ohio driver license, commercial driver license, temporary permit or state of Ohio identification card has the option of providing the name and information of a contact person they wish to be notified in the event the individual is involved in a crash or emergency and is otherwise unable to communicate with the contact person.

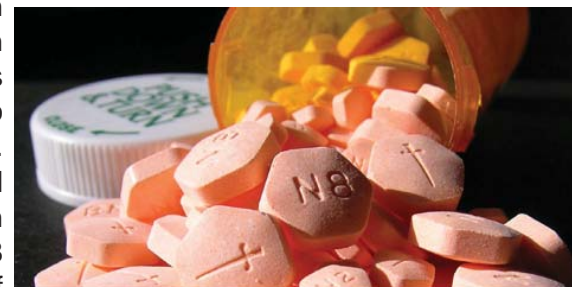
Ohioans can provide next of kin information for up to two contacts online or through any BMV deputy registrar. For those over the age of 18, the contact person can be a nearby relative, friend or co-worker. Those under the age of 18 are required to provide a parent or guardian for the primary contact.

With the busy summer travel period and trauma season approaching, we are reminding our EMS and Fire service providers that this database exists as a tool to provide timely notification to family members in the event of a serious motor vehicle crash. This secure database can only be accessed by BMV employees and law enforcement officials.

For more information on the Next of Kin registration process, log onto the BMV Web site at www.bmv.ohio.gov.

Pediatric Buprenorphine Ingestions On The Rise

Since 2004, there has been a dramatic increase in buprenorphine exposures in children, due to unintentional ingestions. One regional poison control center reported 18 cases in 2006, 59 in 2009 and 28 in the first three months of 2010. Since 2007, 58 of these cases required naloxone therapy and 2 required intubation.



Buprenorphine (brand names Suboxone® and Subutex®) is prescribed to treat opioid addiction. Subutex® may also be prescribed off-label for pain management. Suboxone®, is an orange sub-lingual tablet and Subutex®, is a white sub-lingual tablet.

If a child immediately swallows a tablet, the absorption from the stomach is 15 percent. However, if a child sucks on the tablet, the absorption increases dramatically: transbuccal absorption is 27.8 percent and sublingual absorption is 51 percent.

Buprenorphine has the potential to cause very delayed and persistent CNS and respiratory depression for up to 24 hours following ingestion.

All cases should be transported to a health care facility. If a parent is resistant to transport, put them in contact with the Poison Center. The Poison Center can explain to the parent why the child needs to be monitored in a health care facility.

Even if the majority of the tablet was removed from the child's mouth, the risk for respiratory depression remains.

Remember: Even if a child is asymptomatic when first responders arrive, they may experience delayed and severe CNS and respiratory depression hours after the ingestion.

Call the Poison Center, 24 hours a day, for detailed treatment information regarding the specific case. 1-800-222-1222.

16 Life Safety Initiatives Train-the-Trainer Sessions

The Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services, Office of Fire Services in cooperation with the Everyone Goes Home® program has hosted train-the-trainer classes for the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives®. To date there have been over 150 fire instructors trained to deliver this very important program.



Everyone Goes Home® is a national program by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries.

The 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives® were initially created in 2004 in conjunction with the Everyone Goes Home® program during a firefighter life safety summit hosted in Florida by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to address prevention efforts in reducing line of duty firefighter deaths. In cooperation with the United States Fire Administration, the Foundation has established the objectives of reducing the fatality rate by 25 percent within five years and by 50 percent within 10 years.

According to United States Fire Administration, every year approximately 100 firefighters lose their lives in the line of duty in the United States. In Ohio, six firefighters died while on duty in 2008 and as of July 2009, three Ohio firefighters have died while on duty.