



the SIREN

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and the State Emergency Medical Services Board
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Division of EMS Medical Director Appointed to National Council

COLUMBUS- Congratulations to Dr. Carol Cunningham, the State Medical Director for the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS,

who was appointed by Secretary LaHood of the U.S. Department of Transportation to serve a two-year term as the EMS Medical Director on the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) on June 13th.



“This recognition is a tremendous example of Ohio continuing to take the lead in helping to improve the level of care for patients,” said Ellen Owens, interim executive director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services.

As a member of the advisory council, Dr. Cunningham will advise the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on all EMS matters and related issues.

Her leadership and expertise will help NHTSA ensure that the nation's emergency response services have the most up-to-date information.

Dr. Cunningham, who was appointed State Medical Director for the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS in July 2004, has been an active participant in many national-level EMS activities. She is the current chairperson of the National Association of State EMS Officials Medical Directors Council and serves on Ohio's State Medical Coordination Committee.

The NEMSAC, a nationally recognized council of EMS representative and consumers, provides information, advice, and recommendations on all aspects of the development and implementation of EMS to the Secretary and the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) through the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Respiratory Protection and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Inspection Drill

Firefighter safety is the number one priority in the firefighting profession and is a priority during skills training. Where safety is concerned, it is the evaluator's role to inform the fire chief when a candidate poses a safety risk. Safety is also dependent on materials and equipment being in proper working order. Trainers should ensure that equipment, facilities, and conditions do not pose a safety risk to students or others.

Let's look at the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Division of Safety and Hygiene, Ohio Administrative Code 4123:1-21-02 (P) outlining the requirements for respiratory protection.

The fire department shall adopt and maintain a respiratory protection program that addresses the selection, inspection, safe use, and maintenance of respiratory protection equipment, training in its use, and the assurance of air quality testing.

All members who might be required to use respiratory protection equipment shall be medically certified by a physician, or by a state of Ohio licensed health care professional who can perform medical evaluations under the supervision of a physician, on an annual basis. Medical certification can be obtained by a medical examination, or by using the medical questionnaire as referenced in CFR 1910.134.

The facepiece seal capability of each member qualified to use "SCBA" shall be verified by qualitative fit testing on an annual basis and whenever new types of "SCBA" or facepieces are issued. Each new member shall be tested before being permitted to use SCBA in a hazardous atmosphere. Only members with a properly fitting facepiece shall be permitted by the fire department to function in a hazardous atmosphere with "SCBA."

Only "SCBA" with an approved service life of thirty minutes or more shall be considered acceptable. The following "SCBAs" shall be considered to meet the requirements

- *Open circuit "SCBA" of the positive-pressure type that operate only in the pressure demand mode.*
- *Open circuit "SCBA" of the positive-pressure type, equipped with an air flow control device for doffing and donning purposes only. Such air flow control device shall not permit the continued use of the "SCBA" in the demand mode after donning.*
- *Closed circuit "SCBA" with a rated service life of more than two hours and a minimum protection factor of five thousand, as determined by an acceptable quantitative fit test performed on each individual. Such "SCBA" are acceptable only when long-duration respiratory protection is deemed necessary by the employer. Closed circuit "SCBA" shall operate in the positive-pressure mode only.*

The employer shall not permit any known interference with the face piece-to-face seal or with the operation of the exhalation valve on the full facepiece of an "SCBA" on employees who are exposed to hazardous atmospheres from fires and other emergencies or where the potential for such exposure exists.

Respiratory equipment shall be inspected, maintained, and repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Maintenance shall include at least:

- *A written record of such inspection and maintenance for each piece of equipment.*
- *Regulator calibration performed by a manufacturer-authorized person at no more than twelve-month intervals.*

The practice of buddy breathing by any means is strictly prohibited. Buddy breathing is the practice of sharing a single SCBA breathing air source between two persons.

Respiratory Protection and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Inspection Drill - Con't.

The use of a universal air connection will be permitted to replenish the breathing air cylinder of an SCBA user from an independent rescue breathing air supply source. An independent rescue breathing air supply source does not include the breathing air from an SCBA being worn by another firefighter.

Fire Training Skill Drill - Personal Protective Equipment-Inspecting SCBA

If you are ready to perform when needed, you must provide current and realistic training. Inadequately or improperly trained personnel present a safety hazard to themselves as well as others on the emergency scene. They also have an impact on the effectiveness of the operation.

Here is a training drill that should be done frequently to ensure competency in inspection of their personal SCBA. Your fire department training officer or the fire chief, or his/her designee, should document compliance in this skill for each member.

Candidate Instructions

The candidate, given a self-contained breathing apparatus, shall demonstrate how to inspect and maintain this unit to ensure the SCBA is ready to use.

Performance Steps for Drill

- Checks that cylinder is 100 percent full.
 - Checks to ensure that the harness system is in good condition & that all straps are in the fully extended position.
 - Checks to ensure that all hose connections are tight & free of leaks.
 - Checks to ensure that the face piece is in good condition & the straps are in the fully extended position.
 - If applicable inspect the Universal Air Connection to be sure it is free from dirt and debris.
 - Checks that all gauges work. Cylinder & regulator gauge should read within 10 percent of each other.
- If applicable ensure the heads up display is working properly and coincides with the cylinder pressure.
 - Checks to ensure that all valves (e.g. bypass, mainline, exhalation) are operational. Bypass valve should be fully closed.
 - Checks cleanliness of unit.
 - Checks to see that low pressure alarm is in working condition and operates at 25 percent of cylinder volume.

Service Dogs: More than a 9 to 5 Job

Service Dogs: More than a 9 to 5 Job

By Katherine Hevener, Chris Puls and Tim Erskine

Federal law, through the Americans with Disabilities Act, defines a service animal as: “Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting



individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.”

Service animals are not pets. They are a vital part of daily life for their handler and have received training that can cost tens of thousands of dollars.

There are a variety of breeds and sizes of dogs utilized as service dogs. These dogs provide a great source of independence and assistance through the tasks they perform for their handlers.

Service dogs cannot be identified by their appearance or size alone because they come in all sizes and breeds. Medium sized dogs like retrievers or shepherds are most common. Extra-large dogs like Great Danes and Rottweilers may be used for mobility assistance. Small “lap” dogs can be used for a number of tasks like medical alerting (seizures, low blood sugar, etc.) and to assist the deaf.

To identify a service dog simply ask: “Is the dog trained to perform specific tasks to help you with your

disability?” Documentation, identification or special attire on the dog such as a vest is *not* required.

The reasons assistance may be needed by the handler of a service dog vary greatly and have an impact on how the dog should be accommodated. If the handler is conscious and is able to manage their dog, the dog must accompany the handler to the destination. While it is understood that the care of the human comes first, if the handler is not in a condition to manage the dog, the welfare of the dog

still needs to be considered. You should do this just as you would consider the welfare of a child that was alone with a patient.

You need to respect that the dog is a critical part of their handler’s life and that the dog is their key to being independent. The handler may owe his or her life to the dog and their bond is very close. Having the dog end up in the local animal shelter is highly undesirable and should be the absolute last resort.

It is important for first responders to follow these guidelines to minimize stress and increase safety of all involved:

Federal law gives service dogs the right to accompany their handler at all times.

- Communicate to the individual(s) that you will be entering the residence and are here to help them. If in a home, be sure to keep exterior doors closed so the dog doesn’t escape.
- If the handler is alone at home and the dog

Service Dogs: More than a 9 to 5 Job - Con't.

is loose, ask if they have a leash you can get for them.

- Move slowly, but normally - rushing at the handler may alarm the dog.
- Avoid making direct eye contact with the dog and, if possible, simply ignore the dog.
- Minimize the number of people that enter the home or surround the handler.
- Keep your tone of voice calm and volume normal.
- Do not grab or reach quickly for the dog, its leash or its harness, especially if the dog is near its handler.
- Do not feed, talk to, pet or lean over the dog. If needed, explain to the handler where the dog would best be positioned and let them move the dog out of your way.
- Don't take the dog from the handler or move the dog without their permission. Having the dog nearby or the leash in their hand can be a great comfort to the handler and reduce their stress.
- Do your best not to separate the two unless it is required. If they must be separated, have someone take the dog to the hospital so the handler can be reunited as quickly as possible.
- If there is a second person in the home or area that knows the dog, ask the handler if it is OK for the other person to attend to the dog.
- If the handler is unresponsive at home, in most cases throwing a piece of kibble into the dog's crate or another room will work to get the dog contained.
- Accommodate the dog as you would a child alone with the patient: If in public, take the dog with you. If in the patient's home, be sure a caretaker for the dog is notified before you leave. If not possible, take the dog with you.
- Load the handler first, then the dog. This way the dog will know what space is available and will be less likely to be in the way of the stretcher. If the handler is not in a condition to control the dog, it may be best to have the dog ride in the front of the ambulance.
- Address the handler and explain to them what will be happening with the dog. This can be of great comfort during a crisis situation just as an ill or injured parent would want to know what will be happening with their child.

Remember, a service dog is not "just a dog" nor is it just a pet - it is a lifeline, life-saver and life enhancer for the person who uses it.

FEMA'S Online Community - Where Your Ideas Come to Life

FEMA recognizes the best solutions to the challenges we face are generated by the people and the communities who are closest to them. That is why FEMA is taking a "whole community" approach and reaching out to state, local, and tribal governments, and all members of the public, including the private sector, the disability community, and volunteer community, to seek ideas and suggestions to improve the nation's emergency management system. FEMA's online community, Think Tank, has two components to facilitate conversation and new ideas:

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Open Dialogue and Discussions

Join your colleagues through an online forum in viewing, contributing, and commenting on conversations about emergency preparedness, disaster response and recovery, and other emergency management topics. The way it works is simple: Users submit ideas, the community discusses and votes on those ideas, and the best ideas bubble to the top. To date, more than 2,600 ideas and comments have been generated through this online forum including youth preparedness, training, emergency management planning, and making our communities more resilient to disaster events.

Monthly Conference Calls

Join more than 500 State, Local, Tribal, and Federal emergency managers, first responders, and other individuals on monthly conference calls with FEMA’s Deputy Administrator Rich Serino to discuss real-life solutions and ideas generated through the online forum. Conference calls are open to the general public and a great opportunity for Citizen Corps council members to learn and share information about whole community preparedness and best practices.

Visit <http://fema.ideascale.com/>

Disciplinary Actions

EMS Disciplinary Actions

April

Leonard J. Frost, EMS Applicant Number 153157

Violation: Failed to satisfy requirements for certification

Sanction: Denial of application for certificate to practice

Jay D. Dee, EMS Applicant Number 185754

Violation: Failed to satisfy requirements for certification

Sanction: Denial of application for certificate to practice

Dawn M. Petrescu, EMS Applicant Number 154662

Violation: Failed to satisfy requirements for certification

Sanction: Denial of application for certificate to practice

Daniel J. Serge, EMS Certificate Number 6821

Violation: Felony conviction, *Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity-Oriented Material or Performance*

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Justin A. Trager, EMS Certificate Number 116182

Violation: Felony convictions, *Theft (Credit Card)*, *Theft (From an Elderly Person)*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another at renewal, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Sam J. Brackett, EMS Certificate Number 10966

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Written reprimand, \$250 disciplinary fine, must complete the continuing education requirements, and must supply documentation of continuing education with next renewal

Celia K. Sholtz, EMS Certificate Number 102171

Violation: Felony conviction, *Theft*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another at renewal, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Jay L. Liu, EMS Certificate Number 141264

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Christopher A. Wright, EMS Certificate Number 134084

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Disorderly Conduct*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must successfully complete anger

management course within nine (9) months, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Christopher W. Price, EMS Certificate Number 113605

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Richard D. Carr, Jr., EMS Certificate Number 97456

Violation: Felony conviction, *Theft*

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Patricia A. Ford, EMS Certificate Number 157596

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Petty Theft*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

James R. Aili, EMS Certificate Number 90554

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Written reprimand, \$250 disciplinary fine, must complete the continuing education requirements, and must supply documentation of continuing education with next renewal

Joshua P. Erskine, EMS Certificate Number 100658

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Namika L. Miller, EMS Certificate Number 140897

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Jerome C. Walker, EMS Certificate Number 157938

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Domestic Violence*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, must successfully complete

anger management course within nine (9) months, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Madelyn M. Riddle, EMS Applicant Number 190307

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude convictions, *Disorderly Conduct*, *Criminal Damaging*, and *Falsification*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Daniel J. Allen, EMS Certificate Number 138748

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Disorderly Conduct*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another at renewal, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Dena L. Collins, EMS Certificate Number 22941

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Written reprimand, \$250 disciplinary fine, must complete the continuing education requirements, and must supply documentation of continuing education with next renewal

Howard E. Caldwell, EMS Certificate Number 8209

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Patrick J. Alt, EMS Certificate Number 36633

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

EMS Disciplinary Actions

June

Robert C. Magnuson, EMS Certificate Number 120787

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude convictions, *Worker's Compensation Fraud, Theft, Passing Bad Check*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must comply with Ohio Board of Nursing consent agreement, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Justin E. Deierling, EMS Certificate Number 148816

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Obstructing Official Business*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another at renewal, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Ashley J. Lawrence, EMS Certificate Number 158165

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Domestic Violence*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, must successfully complete anger management course within nine (9) months, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Christopher P. Mahoney, EMS Certificate Number 130385

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Aggravated Menacing*

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Andre F. Jenkins, EMS Certificate Number 85408

Violation: Felony conviction, *Attempted Passing Bad Checks*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit

Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, must submit another at renewal, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Michael R. Ballenger, Sr., EMS Certificate Number 159821

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Domestic Violence*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Katie L. Rea, EMS Certificate Number 159819

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Theft*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, must submit another at renewal, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

James A. Henley, EMS Certificate Number 98058

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Written reprimand, \$250 disciplinary fine, must complete the continuing education requirements, and must supply documentation of continuing education with next renewal

Michael L. Hardway, EMS Certificate Number 145467

Violation: Felony conviction, *Theft*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another at renewal, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Joshua G. Limbacher, EMS Certificate Number 111267

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Written reprimand, \$250 disciplinary fine, must complete the continuing education requirements, and must supply documentation of continuing education with next renewal

Disciplinary Actions

Fire Disciplinary Actions

April

Carl E. Lykins, Fire Applicant Number 154881

Violation: Failed to satisfy requirements for certification

Sanction: Denial of application for certificate of fire service training

Corey J. Ringle, Fire Applicant Number 155509

Violation: Failed to satisfy requirements for certification

Sanction: Denial of application for certificate of fire service training

Levi Z. Copley, Fire Applicant Number 156657

Violation: Failed to satisfy requirements for certification

Sanction: Denial of application for certificate of fire service training

Justin A. Trager, Fire Certificate Number 116182

Violation: Felony convictions, *Theft (Credit Card)*, *Theft (From an Elderly Person)*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another at renewal, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Jeffrey L. Combs, Fire Certificate Number 66945

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude convictions, *Impersonating a Firefighter*, *Impersonating a Government Official*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, must submit another at renewal, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Christopher A. Wright, Fire Certificate Number 134084

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Disorderly Conduct*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must successfully complete anger management course within nine (9) months, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Richard D. Carr, Jr., Fire Certificate Number 97456

Violation: Felony conviction, *Theft*

Sanction: Revocation of certificate of fire service training

Jonathan D. Stephanchick, Fire Applicant Number 190373

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Terroristic Threats*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Daniel J. Allen, Fire Certificate Number 138748

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Disorderly Conduct*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another at renewal, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Joseph W. Morton, Fire Certificate Number 158057

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, *Domestic Violence*

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, must successfully complete anger management course within nine (9) months, and must disclose consent agreement to employer