



# *the* SIREN

*Special Edition 2010*



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Richard N. Rucker, Executive Director  
[www.ems.ohio.gov](http://www.ems.ohio.gov)

# *the* SIREN

Editor: China Dodley  
Layout & Design: Visual Communications



**OHIO DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
EDUCATION - SERVICE - PROTECTION





# the SIREN



## One Card / One Expiration Date



Dear Ohio EMS and Fire Personnel:

Over the past several months you have no doubt heard or read numerous announcements of the move to a single card and single expiration date for EMS and fire service certificates. The Division of EMS staff has discussed it at meetings, articles have been included in this newsletter and mailings have gone out via e-mail and standard mail to those who will be impacted by the change. This special edition of the Siren is devoted entirely to this topic. We understand there may be confusion over how the change will take place, how it will impact the number of continuing education hours you will need to renew, and the renewal process in general. We hope the information contained in this newsletter will answer all your questions and ask that you help us to reach more certificate holders by sharing this newsletter with others and posting a copy in your departments.

Let's take a moment to ensure everyone understands how we reached this point. For years, you have been telling us how hard it is to keep track of the various expiration dates on all your certificates issued by our office.

House Bill 401 (passed in the 126th General Assembly) authorized the

establishment of rules to allow fire service certificates to expire of the firefighter's birthday. House Bill 1 (passed in the 128th General Assembly) authorized the Board of EMS to establish a common expiration date for individuals holding an active certification issued by the Division of EMS. The rules for moving all certificates to a single expiration date have been approved and will become effective January 1, 2011. Within ninety days of the rules' effective date, all individuals who hold a current Ohio EMS certificate (First Responder, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, EMT-Paramedic or instructor) will receive a new card reflecting the change in expiration date(s). For individuals who hold both EMS and Firefighter certificates, their expiration date will be their current Firefighter certificate expiration date. The new expiration date for individuals who hold an EMS certificate only, will be their birthday of the year their current EMS certificate is due to expire. This change will mean the certificate holder and their employer will only have one date to remember and the certificate holder will be able to go to the Division of EMS web page and renew all the certificates at one time.

The amount of continuing education hours needed to renew may also change with the move in expiration dates. For those certification holders whose Ohio EMS certification period is shortened, the required number of continuing education hours will be reduced. The changes in

continuing education requirements are addressed in the rules promulgated by the Board of EMS and are posted on the Division of EMS web page at [www.ems.ohio.gov](http://www.ems.ohio.gov). Charts showing the modified requirements are also included in this newsletter. The continuing education requirements will remain the same for individuals whose certification expiration date is extended beyond their current expiration date.

The Division of EMS is seeking your assistance in assuring all EMS certificate holders and their employers are aware of changes in the law and rules that will effect their certification expiration date. It is also critical we have current mailing and e-mail addresses for all certificate holders to ensure they receive their new certificates.

We hope the information included in this newsletter answers all your questions, but if you need additional information, or have a question we did not address, please contact the Division of EMS certification staff for assistance.

Thank you for your continued support and service.

Respectfully,

Richard N. Rucker  
Executive Director  
Division of EMS

# EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011

## ONE CARD / ONE EXPIRATION DATE

### EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011 One Card / One Expiration Date

The Ohio EMS Board and the Division of EMS have been given the ability through legislation, (H.B. 1), to begin issuing certifications for all levels, now to include, both Fire and EMS, to expire on a common date. This date as established through the implementation of H.B. 401 will be the certificate holder's date of birth. This will give both the certificate holder and the division the ability to more easily track multiple certifications and the continuing education requirements that must be met for each one, with a common expiration date.

This change will mean the certificate holder and their employer will only have one date to remember and the certificate holder will be able to go to the Division of EMS web page [www.ems.ohio.gov](http://www.ems.ohio.gov) and renew all the certificates at one time.

Certificate holders should visit the website often for updates and valuable information pertaining to training, expiration dates, and their certification. "Certification Verification" is available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week at this link: <https://www.dps.state.oh.us/certrenewal/Verification.aspx>

All active Ohio certified first responders, EMTs, and paramedics will be affected by this change in the law. For those who are dual-certified through the Division for both EMS and Fire, their EMS certification will be moved to the same expiration date as their current active Ohio Firefighter certification. For those who are certified for EMS only, their expiration date will be moved to their date of birth in the same year that their current Ohio EMS certification now expires.

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-20-23%20FF.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-20-23%20FF.pdf)

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-8-07%20FF.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-8-07%20FF.pdf)

The rules for moving all certificates to a single expiration date have been approved and will become effective January 1, 2011. Within ninety days of the rules' effective date, all individuals who hold a current Ohio EMS certificate (First Responder, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, EMT-Paramedic or EMS instructor, Assistant EMS instructor, or Continuing Education instructor) will receive a new certification card reflecting the change in their expiration date(s) and moving all certifications to one card with a common expiration date.

Expiration dates for current Firefighter only certificate holders will not change, as their expiration date was already established to their birth date.

Effective January 1, 2011, once everyone has an established expiration date on their birth date, those that are EMS only certified and then successfully complete a fire certification course, the fire certification expiration date will be moved to the already established EMS birth date expiration.

Once the certificate holder's expiration date is established on January 1, 2011, any new certifications obtained after that date will be moved to the already established birth date expiration date, which would result in the shortened CE cycles being utilized.

Currently, for all dual-certified Fire and EMS certificate holders, their fire and EMS certifications expire in the same year. The fire certification is set for their birth date, so their current EMS certification will be moved backwards or forwards to their birth date in the same year.

Since all certification periods will be changed from the 3-year cycle that was in place at the time the affected certifications were issued, continuing education, (CE), requirements will also be changed. For all EMS certificate holders whose Ohio certification period is lengthened, the continuing education required will not be changed. These certificate holders will simply have more time to complete the educational requirements that are now in place in rule for renewal for a 3-year certification cycle.

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-8-06%20FF.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-8-06%20FF.pdf)

For those certification holders whose Ohio EMS certification cycle period is shortened, the continuing education (CE) required will be pro-rated to a lesser amount. The lesser amounts of CE are detailed below in the EMS CE chart.

#### The following is an example of how this will work:

Current certification cycle for an Ohio EMT-Basic certification: 08-01-2008 to 08-01-2011.

The EMT-Basic's birthday is 02-01-2011.

The new EMT-Basic certification cycle would be 08-01-2008 to 02-01-2011, effective January 1, 2011.

CE required would be in the 2-to-3 year range in the chart below for the EMT-Basic certification cycle shortened to 02-01-2011 (less than full 3-year cycle).

# ALTERED CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

## ONE CARD/ONE EXPIRATION DATE EMS CERTIFICATE TO PRACTICE MERGED/SHORTENED CERTIFICATION CYCLES CE REQUIREMENTS

	<b>0 months up to 12 months</b>	<b>12 months but less than 24 months (30%)</b>	<b>24 months but less than 36 months (60%)</b>	<b>36 months or more (100%)</b>
<b>First Responder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No CE hours needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 hours of CE</li> <li>No specialty hours need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 hours of CE</li> <li>No specialty hours need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 hours to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patient assessment</li> <li>CPR</li> <li>Airway management and oxygen administration</li> <li>Automated defibrillation</li> <li>Illness and injury management</li> <li>Trauma issues</li> <li>Anaphylaxis and patient-assisted epinephrine</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>EMT-Basic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No CE hours needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 hours of CE to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 hour pediatric</li> <li>1 hour geriatric</li> <li>2 hours trauma or the Ohio Trauma Triage Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 hours of CE to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 hours pediatric</li> <li>1 hour geriatric</li> <li>5 hours trauma to include the Ohio Trauma Triage Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 hours of CE to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 hours pediatric</li> <li>2 hours geriatric</li> <li>8 hours trauma to include the Ohio Trauma Triage Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>EMT-Intermediate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No CE hours needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 hours of CE to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 hours pediatric</li> <li>1 hour geriatric</li> <li>2 hours trauma or the Ohio Trauma Triage Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36 hours of CE to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 hours pediatric</li> <li>1 hour geriatric</li> <li>5 hours trauma to include the Ohio Trauma Triage Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 hours of CE to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 hours pediatric</li> <li>4 hours geriatric</li> <li>8 hours trauma to include the Ohio Trauma Triage Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>EMT-Paramedic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No CE hours needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26 hours to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 hours pediatric</li> <li>1 hour geriatric</li> <li>2 hours cardiac</li> <li>2 hours trauma or the Ohio Trauma Triage Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>51 hours to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 hours pediatric</li> <li>1 hour geriatric</li> <li>4 hours cardiac</li> <li>5 hours trauma to include the Ohio Trauma Triage Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86 hours to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 hours pediatric</li> <li>4 hours geriatric</li> <li>6 hours cardiac care</li> <li>8 hours trauma to include the Ohio Trauma Triage Course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# ALTERED CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

## ONE CARD/ONE EXPIRATION DATE EMS CERTIFICATE TO TEACH MERGED/SHORTENED CERTIFICATION CYCLES CE/INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

	<b>0 months up to 12 months</b>	<b>12 months but less than 24 months (30%)</b>	<b>24 months but less than 36 months (60%)</b>	<b>36 months or more (100%)</b>
<b>EMS Instructor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No hours needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 hours methodology</li> <li>7 hours instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 hours methodology</li> <li>14 hours instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 hours methodology</li> <li>24 hours instruction</li> </ul>
<b>Assistant EMS Instructor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No hours needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 hours methodology</li> <li>4 hours instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 hours methodology</li> <li>9 hours instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 hours methodology</li> <li>16 hours instruction</li> </ul>
<b>Continuing Education (CE) Instructor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No hours needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 hour methodology</li> <li>1 hour instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 hour methodology</li> <li>3 hours instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 hours methodology</li> <li>6 hours instruction</li> </ul>

You can view a listing of the new Ohio Administrative Codes (rules) effective January 1, 2011, at this link: [www.ems.ohio.gov/ems\\_laws.stm](http://www.ems.ohio.gov/ems_laws.stm) listed under H.B. 1 EMS One Card Rules.

In keeping with the upcoming changes in the certification process with the implementation of the One Card, One Expiration-Date, the Division of EMS has approved a change in the background color of the art work on the certification cards issued by the division for both EMS and Fire.

The traditional blue that has been in place for many years has now been changed to a more definitive shade of purple. This is the first step in several changes to the way the certification card will look in the future. It is hoped this change and the changes to come will not cause any confusion in the field.

Please feel free to contact the Division of EMS Certification Section if you have any questions about this change.

Below is the sample certification card showing the new color:



## ONE CARD / ONE EXPIRATION DATE

The new certification cards will have all fire certifications listed on one side of the front of the card and all EMS certifications listed on the other side of the front of the card, with one expiration date.

After the merging of the expiration dates to the birth date, the audit process will be slightly changed. For anyone with multiple certifications, the computer will randomly select one of the multiple certifications expiring for the audit process.

The audit process involves the certification renewal process with 10% of renewals for any given month being audited. With all certifications going to one expiration date, a certificate holder may have 1 to 5 certifications which they renewed this month. If randomly selected for an audit, the computer will pick only one of the certification levels to be audited.

The Division of EMS requests anyone whose certification expires in December 2010, or January and February 2011, to renew their expiring certification as early as possible in December 2010. You can renew your expiring certification up to 90-days prior to your expiration date online from our web page under "Certification Renewal" at this link: <https://www.dps.state.oh.us/certrenewal/main.aspx>

Please renew your expiring certification as close to the start of the 90-day window as possible, if you have a certification that expires in December 2010, or January or February 2011.

Equally as important, is any certificate holder that has a fire certification that expires in January or February 2011 (on their birthday), but also has an EMS certification that expires later in the year of 2011. Effective January 1, 2011, that EMS certification will be moved to the January or February 2011 fire expiration date (birth date).

It will be necessary for the EMS certificate holder to renew their EMS certification before the newly established expiration date and to have the continuing education needed for the shortened certification cycle of 2008 to the birth date / new expiration date in 2011. (CE for shortened certification cycle of 2-to-3 years in the chart above)

EMS Instructors, Assistant EMS Instructors and Continuing Education Instructors are also reminded that

their instructor's certification will be moved from a current 2-year certification cycle, to a 3-year certification cycle to match up with all fire and EMS certification cycles of 3-years. Instructor expiration dates will also be moved January 1, 2011, to the established expiration date. CE certification cycles for EMS Instructors, Assistant EMS Instructors and Continuing Education Instructors are also listed in the above CE Chart.

It is very important that the Ohio Division of EMS has current mailing addresses and current e-mail addresses for all certificate holders to ensure they receive their new certificates.

You can update your personal information 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, using the online renewal process. From the "Certification Renewal" screen at this link: <https://www.dps.state.oh.us/certrenewal/main.aspx> login and then click on "Update Contact Information."

The Ohio Board of Emergency Medical Services and the Division of EMS are seeking your assistance in assuring all EMS certificate holders and their employers are aware of changes in the law and rules that will effect their certification expiration date.

The Ohio Division of EMS asks that you pass the word among departmental members. The Division of EMS will work with certification holders to make this transition as smooth and as easy as possible.

The Ohio Division of EMS and the Ohio EMS Board is very excited about this change and believes this will assist the fire and EMS personnel in Ohio to remember to review and/or renew their Fire and/or EMS certifications every time they have an approaching birthday. Many refer to their driver license for renewal as their birthday approaches; hopefully this will prompt certificate holders to also refer to their EMS and Fire certification expiration dates.

We want you to stay certified if you want to stay certified, and this move should assist all Ohio EMS and Fire personnel in renewing their expiring certifications BEFORE their expiration date. For both the Fire and EMS certifications, the Ohio Administrative Code is very specific on what you must do to become active again if you let your certifications expire. Don't let your certifications expire. Ohio EMS hopes this move to One card/One Expiration Date will prevent this.

## Q & A

Below are several questions and answers scenarios that may assist you to understand the process to get all certifications moved to one card with one expiration date.

**Q.** - My fire certifications expire on my birthday 08-24-2011.

My EMT-Paramedic certification expires 12-08-2011.

What happens to my expiration dates on January 1, 2011?

**A.** - Your EMT-Paramedic certification expiration date will be moved to your current Fire certification expiration of your birthday 08-24-2011.

**Q.** - For the above question, what CE would be needed and what is the shortened certification cycle?

**A.** - Your EMT-Paramedic certification cycle is shortened and would be 12-08-2008 to 08-24-2011.

CE needed would be the shortened certification cycle between 2-to-3 years for the EMT-Paramedic, listed in the chart above.

**Q.** - I have an EMT-Basic certification only, and it expires 12/28/2011.

My birthday is 01/07/2011.

What will happen to my expiration date effective January 1, 2011?

**A.** - Your new expiration date effective 01/01/2011, will be 01/07/2011.

You would need to renew your EMT-Basic certification very quickly within the first week in January 2011.

Your new certification cycle would be 12/28/2008 to 01/07/2011.

CE needed would be the shortened certification cycle between 2-to-3 years for the EMT-Basic, listed in the chart above.

Again, please note that the Division of EMS staff will be here to assist Ohio certificate holders whose expiration dates have been moved to January or

February 2011, from expected expiration dates which were originally later in the 2011 year.

**Q.** - After January 1, 2011, all my certifications will be able to be renewed within 90-days of my expiration date, and at the same time, online by clicking on the boxes available to be renewed. What if I only renew one certification and do not check the boxes for the other certifications listed?

**A.** - The Ohio EMS online renewal process will be set up to have a pop-up box warning you that you did not renew a certification available to be renewed.

Due to multiple certifications being on the same card and having one expiration date, the new certification cards will not be printed and mailed until after the single expiration date passes.

The cards will show only the certifications renewed, and the other certifications not checked/not renewed will expire and will not be on the new certification card issued. The expired certifications would be available to be renewed through the Fire or EMS reinstatement process, if allowed to expire.

**Q.** - With not receiving my new certification card until after the expiration date, how will I or my employer be able to verify my certification status?

**A.** - Your certification status can always be displayed through the "Certification Verification" selection from the Ohio EMS web page: <https://www.dps.state.oh.us/certrenewal/Verification.aspx>

You and/or your employer can always call or e-mail Ohio EMS, or use the Ask EMS selection from our Web page, to get any question you may have answered by one of our staff members.

**Q.** - What if I am granted a 90-day extension for my EMS certification card, and I have other certifications that expire?

**A.** - Renew any desired certification before its expiration date.

For the EMS certification that was granted the extension on the expiration date, the EMS database will be marked for the 90-day extension granted, and you will be notified of that granted extension.

## Q & A (cont.)

Once you meet the CE requirement within the certification cycle plus the extension granted, you would renew the extended certification. Your certification card listing all of your renewed certifications will then be issued for a new three-year certification cycle with the expiration date established before the extension was granted, plus three years.

**Q.** - After January 1, 2011, all my certifications will be able to be renewed within 90-days of my expiration date, and at the same time, online by clicking on the boxes available to be renewed. What if I only renew one certification and do not check the boxes for the other certifications listed?

**A.** - The Ohio EMS online renewal process will be set up to have a pop-up box warning you that you did not renew a certification available to be renewed.

Due to multiple certifications being on the same card and having one expiration date, the new certification cards will not be printed and mailed until after the single expiration date passes.

The cards will show only the certifications renewed, and the other certifications not checked/not renewed will expire and will not be on the new certification card issued. The expired certifications would be available to be renewed through the Fire or EMS reinstatement process, if allowed to expire.

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**A.** - Your certification status can always be displayed through the "Certification Verification" selection from the Ohio EMS web page:  
<https://www.dps.state.oh.us/certrenewal/Verification.aspx>

You and/or your employer can always call or e-mail Ohio EMS, or use the Ask EMS selection from our Web page, to get any question you may have answered by one of our staff members.

**Q.** - What if I am granted a 90-day extension for my EMS certification card, and I have other certifications that expire?

**A.** - Renew any desired certification before its expiration date.

For the EMS certification that was granted the extension on the expiration date, the EMS database will be marked for the 90-day extension granted, and you will be notified of that granted extension.

Once you meet the CE requirement within the certification cycle plus the extension granted, you would renew the extended certification. Your certification card listing all of your renewed certifications will then be issued for a new three-year certification cycle with the expiration date established before the extension was granted, plus three years.



## SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1

The Ohio Division of EMS has received letters of support from the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters and the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, both promoting the one card, one expiration date process. The following is a copy of the letter received from the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association supporting the one card, one expiration process for Ohio EMS and Fire Certifications;

October 12, 2010

John Kennington, Certification Coordinator  
Ohio Emergency Medical Services  
P.O. Box 182073  
1970 West Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43218-2073

Dear John:

This letter is given in support of the changes in 2011 that will allow one expiration date for firefighters and EMS personnel in Ohio. The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association fully supports this move with the belief that this will make recertification processes easier for everyone in the future.

When the fire committee implemented HB 40 I, it was decided to use the birth date of the cardholder as the expiration date. The thought was that this would be the easiest to remember, and to date, this has worked very well.

With the implementation of one card under HB 1, all agreed with the EMS Board that keeping the birth date expiration was still valid and important. This change will only affect existing fire personnel that have dual certifications in Fire and EMS, with the EMS card defaulting to the Fire Card expiration date. As such, only the EMS recertification cycle will be effected, and recertification hours will be adjusted accordingly with the change. The one card rule gained unanimous approval by the fire committee.

The only exception to this rule is when an EMS only cardholder becomes certified as a firefighter and in this case the fire certification card will assume the same expiration date of the existing EMS card.

The association has full confidence that the current staff at the Division of EMS will make this as smooth a transition process as possible.

Sincerely yours,  
Chief Bernard E. Ingles, President

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LINKS

Visit the following links for additional information:

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-8-06%20FF.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-8-06%20FF.pdf)

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-8-07%20FF.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-8-07%20FF.pdf)

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-18-06%20FF.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-18-06%20FF.pdf)

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-18-16%20FF.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-18-16%20FF.pdf)

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-18-19%20FF.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-18-19%20FF.pdf)

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-20-22%20FF.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-20-22%20FF.pdf)

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-20-23%20FF.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-20-23%20FF.pdf)

*Thank You*

The Ohio EMS Board and the Ohio Division of EMS thanks you for taking the time out of your schedule to review this special edition of the Siren Newsletter.

Please feel free to contact the Ohio Division of EMS Certification or Education staff with any questions you may have. We are here to assist you in maintaining your Ohio certifications:

[www.ems.ohio.gov/contacts.stm](http://www.ems.ohio.gov/contacts.stm)

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