

The SIREN UPDATE

Grants Applications Available Online

Applications are now available for EMS agencies seeking funding for the 2009-2010 grant year. Grant applications for Priorities 1, 2, 3, and 4 became available Feb. 1, 2009.

Grant applicants can apply online at www.ems.ohio.gov, utilizing an electronic signature. Select the Electronic Application System option from the EMS Web page and follow the instructions. You must obtain a unique password and user ID if you do not already have one.

Priority 1 is for the training of personnel and purchase of equipment. Only eligible EMS agencies may apply for Priority 1 grants. Eligibility requirements can be found under the Grant section of the EMS Web site.

Grant Priority 2 is for injury prevention research. Grant Priority 3 is for the rehabilitation, retraining and reemployment of trauma victims. Priority 4 is for trauma research pertaining to trauma medical procedures. All entities are eligible to apply for Priorities 2, 3, and 4.

The grant period for all applications is July 1 through June 30. Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. No late applications will be accepted.

Town Hall Meeting Scheduled for Liberty Township



The State Board of Emergency Medical Services and its partners will host a Town Hall meeting for EMS and fire service professionals on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Liberty Campus.

The meeting agenda will include presentations concerning program updates and other topics affecting the EMS and fire community. Continuing education credit is available for attending the meeting.

Please register in advance by calling 1-800-233-0785. Visit the following link for a map of Cincinnati Children's Hospital at www.cincinnatichildrens.org, click on locations and select Liberty Campus.

Workgroups to Address EMSC Performance Measures

The EMSC Committee will form three workgroups to address the EMSC Performance Measures: Pediatric Medical Direction, Pediatric Pre-hospital Equipment, and Pediatric Preparedness for Emergency Departments. Membership in these workgroups is open to all.

Please contact Joe Stack by email at JEstack@dps.state.oh.us if interested in any of these areas. All three groups will meet or hold a phone conference before the next EMSC Committee meeting, which is March 17, 2009.

National EMS Week 2009, May 17-23



National Survey Finds EMS & Fire Budget Cuts May Put Public at Risk

According to a survey administered in December by Best Practices in Emergency Services and the National EMS Management Association (NEMSMA), one-third of EMS and fire department managers reported that budget cuts force emergency response agencies to operate with fewer and less trained personnel on emergency vehicles, putting citizens at risk.

More than 450 managers took the voluntary online survey, representing all types of emergency response agencies in the United States and Canada.

According to some respondents the recession could not have come at a worse time for EMS and fire departments, many of which are seeing an increase in call volume because of aging baby boomers and under-insured citizens who are calling 911 because they do not have adequate primary healthcare.

"While the EMS departments are going through all of the budgetary cuts, the number of responses is projected to go up," said one respondent. "We are expecting increases in responses from more frequent use of the emergency departments as primary care for an increasing out-of-work population."

To see the complete survey results, [click here](#) or visit www.NEMSMA.org.

Withdrawing Blood for OVI Evidence Collection

The EMS Board has received questions regarding whether an emergency medical technician (EMT) is authorized to withdraw blood for law enforcement purposes. Under current law, only the following individuals are authorized to withdraw blood for the purpose of determining its drug or alcohol content: a physician, a registered nurse, or a qualified technician, chemist, or phlebotomist.



The question raised with the EMS Board has been whether an EMT is considered a "qualified technician" and therefore authorized to perform such blood draws.

The EMS Board has determined that an EMT does not appear to be a "qualified technician" for the purpose of withdrawing blood pursuant to a law enforcement matter.

The certification provided to EMTs permits the performance of emergency medical services as set forth in Sections 4765.01, 4765.37, 4765.38, and 4765.39 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The performance of withdrawing blood for the purpose of evidence collection does not constitute an "emergency medical service" as defined in the aforementioned laws and is not an element of emergency care. Therefore, the EMS Board has deemed that the performance of withdrawing blood for the purpose of evidence collection falls outside of the Ohio EMS scope of practice and would not qualify as an authorized emergency medical service performed in the role of an EMS provider.

Tenth Annual Pediatric Trauma Symposium

April 17, 2009

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus, Ohio

Visit www.ems.ohio.gov

for additional information