



the SIREN UPDATE

EMSC Program Meets with Federal Preparedness Official on Pediatric Preparedness

Dr. Nicole Lurie, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), visited Cleveland and took part in several presentations to the health care community and the general public. Dr. Lurie serves as the principal advisor on matters related to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. Her office is the lead agency for federal public health and medical preparedness and response, helping the nation prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

The Ohio EMS for Children program was particularly well represented at her roundtable discussion on the needs of children in disasters. Dr. Deanna Dahl-Grove, Dr. Carol Cunningham, Dr. Bill Cotton, and Ms. Carol Jacobson who were a part of the panel are all members of the Ohio EMSC Committee.

Dr. Lurie gave a presentation at the Wolstein Research Institute at Case Western Reserve University on her office's recent efforts in supporting disaster preparedness. Following that presentation was a one-hour panel discussion on "The Needs of Children in Disasters" and how children's hospitals and local planning officials can be ready for children's needs in disasters.



Dr. Lurie then delivered a presentation to the Cleveland City Club. Her presentation can be heard in podcast form on the City Club's Web site at www.cityclub.org/mediacenter/cityclubpodcast/Podcastpsting/tabid/194/Default.aspx.

Cost Savings for EMS and Fire Departments

Did you know that the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (ODAS) has a Cooperative Purchasing Program that offers Ohio communities the benefits and cost savings of buying goods and services through state contracts?

In addition to items approved for purchase by the Ohio EMS Grant Program, there are also opportunities for savings on a multitude of items such as automotive supplies, emergency response supplies and equipment, technological equipment and office supplies.

In a time of diminishing public funding, this program offers a great opportunity to stretch public dollars. Those EMS and fire departments who have participated report significant savings.

For more information and to obtain details on how to participate in the program and how to find savings, go to the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Web site at <http://procure.ohio.gov/proc/index.asp> and click on the Cooperative Purchasing Program icon or call Renee at ODAS at 614-466-6530.

EMS Week 2012 Planning Guides Available from ACEP

National EMS Week 2012 will be celebrated May 20-26, 2012, with May 23 set aside for Emergency Medical Services for Children Day.

The slogan for 2012 is EMS: Not a Job, a CALLING. For complete information, visit www.acep.org/emsweek/



FEMA to Engage Stakeholders in New "Think Tank"

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is seeking input from state, local, and tribal governments, and to all members of the public on how to improve the emergency management system. FEMA wants to hear your ideas and suggestions, to both explore best practices and generate new ideas.

Two ways to participate include an online forum and monthly conference calls with Deputy Administrator Rich Serino.

For more information, go to <http://www.fema.gov/thinktank/>.



Did you know that grant applications are now available?

Learn more learn more about the types of grants and eligibility at www.ems.ohio.gov/ems_grants.stm

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