



Firefighter Reinstatement

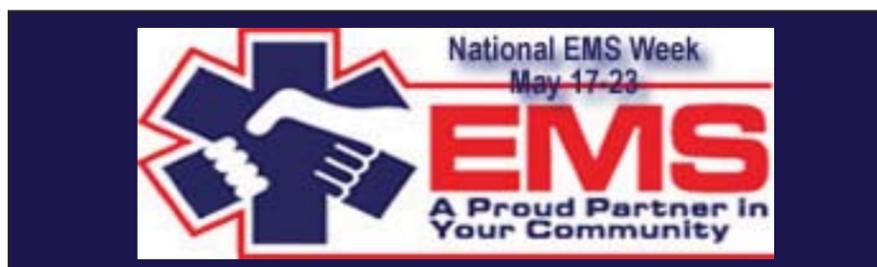
The Jan. 24, 2009, deadline for firefighters to renew their certification has passed. All firefighters that did not renew before the deadline are required to reinstate their certification to legally practice as a firefighter in the state of Ohio.

Failure to comply with this rule is a violation of the law and may result in disciplinary action or potential criminal charges under chapter 3737.99 of the Revised Code. State Fire Marshal Michael Bell, in accordance with 3737.66 of the Revised Code, has stated he will only recognize as a firefighter or volunteer firefighter, those individuals certified by the Executive Director of the Division of EMS in accordance with Chapter 4765-20 of the Administrative Code.

To reinstate, firefighters must successfully pass an examination at their level of certification within six months of expiration. Beyond six months of expiration but not longer than 18 months, firefighters must complete 18 hours of continuing education in addition to successfully passing the examination.

All exams require a score of 70 percent or better within three attempts and can be taken at any chartered fire training facility in Ohio. Firefighters that fail to renew within 18 months of expiration will be required to repeat the course of training.

If you have any additional questions please contact the Office of Fire Services at 800-233-0785.



State EMS Board Revises Instructor Rules

The State Board of EMS completed a major revision of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 4765-18, Instructor Rules.

There are significant changes that will affect accredited and approved institutions as well as EMS instructors and Special Topic Instructors (STI). The revised rules became effective Feb. 1, 2009.

Other chapters that underwent rule changes include 4765-1 Definitions, 4765-2 Public Notice and Meetings, 4765-3 Regional Physician Advisory Boards, 4765-7 Accreditation/Approval of Training Programs, 4765-8 Certification to Teach or Practice; Continuing Education, 4765-9 Ethical Standards of Conduct; 4765-12 First Responder Curriculum, 4765-18 EMS Instructor, and 4765-19 Continuing Education.

A complete listing of rule changes is available on the EMS Web page http://ems.ohio.gov/TOC_effec_020109.htm.

NREMT Seeks Item Writers

The National Registry of EMT's (NREMT) invites state EMS officials to participate in a series of Item Writing Workshops. The dates of the meetings scheduled for this year are listed below.

Please identify the dates and levels of the meetings in which you wish to participate. NREMT also needs correct contact information (mailing address, phone number, e-mail address) to confirm participation and forward item writing assignments.

The 2009 NREMT Item Writing meetings are as follows: March 19-21, April 16-18, and April 30 - May 2 for EMT; June 25-27 for EMR; July 16-18 for Paramedic; and October 1-3 for AEMT.

If you would like to participate in any of these meetings, please contact Gabe Romero at gromero@nremt.org.

Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), working with the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), has issued a revised *Health and Wellness Guide* for the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services.

The Health and Wellness Guide now provides updated information on health and wellness issues, trends, and programs focused on the needs of the volunteer fire service.



The document addresses fitness including aerobic exercise, flexibility, strength training, diet; smoking cessation; and other areas that will have a positive impact on volunteer firefighters.

The Health and Wellness Guide demonstrates ways to overcome these obstacles, and provides direction for developing and implementing a department program. It also highlights several existing health and wellness programs and how they have maintained their success over time.

Originally released in 1992 and updated several times, the 2009 version includes new information and resources to help departments ensure the health and well-being of their members.

To download *the Health and Wellness Guide* for the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services, visit: www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_321.pdf.

New Agenda For Homeland Security Includes Plans to Support Emergency Responders

President Obama's new agenda for Homeland Security includes several items aimed at supporting the Nation's emergency responders.

The agenda outlines the administration's priorities for homeland security funding targeted at, among other things, protecting Americans from terrorist attacks and natural disasters. The agenda acknowledges the need to increase federal resources and logistic support to local emergency planning efforts.

Through the appointment of a National Chief Technology Officer, the President expects to improve interoperable communications systems at the federal, state, and local levels.

The agenda also notes a plan to further improve coordination between all levels of government, create better evacuation plan guidelines, ensure prompt federal assistance to emergency zones, and increase medical surge capacity.

To view the President's new agenda for homeland security, go to http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/homeland_security.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Launches New EMS Web site

NHTSA's Office of EMS (OEMS) recently launched an innovative Web site, developed to meet the varied needs of the EMS community.

The site, www.ems.gov, contains not only the latest news from OEMS, but also functions as a portal to other Federal EMS Web sites and resources.

Visitors will find background and updates on groundbreaking initiatives and programs, including Emergency Medical Services for Children, the National EMS Information System, the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS, Enhanced 9-1-1 and Next Generation 9-1-1, the National EMS Advisory Council, and more.