



# *The* SIREN UPDATE

## Division of EMS Offers H1N1 Training Module Online

The Division of EMS in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Health is offering a free-of-charge H1N1 vaccination training module for Ohio's EMT-intermediates and paramedics in response to Governor Strickland's declaration of emergency on October 7.



The declaration allows only EMT-intermediates and EMT-paramedics who are certified under Section 4765.30 of the Ohio Revised Code to perform H1N1 immunizations and administer drugs related to the virus provided that they have received the appropriate training and they are under physician medical direction.

The H1N1 Vaccinations for Ohio EMS Personnel training module is composed of a PowerPoint presentation, an H1N1 immunization checklist, Appendix D of the *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*, and an instructor guide.

To learn more please visit [www.ems.ohio.gov](http://www.ems.ohio.gov).

## Ohio Office of Fire Services Gets Approval to Seek Pro Board Accreditation

The Division of Emergency Medical Services, Office of Fire Services, is researching the process for receiving accreditation from the Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System. By becoming accredited, the certification and testing processes would receive the stamp of approval from a third party (Pro Board) review. The review includes all aspects of certification testing, including; completeness, fairness, security, validity and correlation to the national standards.

The Office of Fire Services will be working with the Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee in the upcoming months to establish policies and procedures for Pro Board testing and certification.

### What are the benefits of Pro Board accreditation?

Professionalism has long been a goal sought by members of the Ohio fire service. It has only been within the past 25 years that a system has evolved to produce national professional qualification standards that an entity can use to establish performance measures for personnel. Entities that achieve Pro Board accreditation are recognized as having met the rigors of review by an independent organization. This third party independent review is the best way to assure candidates and governance bodies that the entity's program meets the national standards.

### What does this mean for Ohio firefighters?

Ohio firefighters will have the option of testing and applying for their Pro Board certificate at the Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 certification level. This will not be mandatory for state certification but an option for those that seek a national accredited certificate. The Volunteer Firefighter certification does not qualify for a Pro Board accredited certificate and will be unaffected.

### What does this mean for Ohio fire chartered training institutions?

Ohio will be able to accredit any chartered training institution that meets the standards of accreditation and can provide initial training under the Division of EMS Pro Board accreditation.

If you have any questions regarding the Pro Board accreditation or other fire related issue please contact Doug Orahod, Fire Coordinator, Office of Fire Services, at 614-752-3960 or by email at [dorahod@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:dorahod@dps.state.oh.us).

## Division of EMS Launches Instructor Listserv

The Division of EMS has started a Listserv to keep the Fire and EMS instructors up to date with changes in curriculum, standards, and rules effecting them. By signing up they will receive email broadcast of issues as they become available. Sign up by clicking the link below. [http://ems.ohio.gov/EMS\\_Fire\\_Listservs.htm](http://ems.ohio.gov/EMS_Fire_Listservs.htm).

## Drowning Prevention Resource Database

Nova Southeastern University, with aid of funds from the Florida Bureau of EMS matching grant program, developed the following drowning prevention resource database:

Utilizing the newest tool in drowning prevention can help promote your events and spread the message of water safety throughout the community. Designed in a format to accommodate parents, schools, lifeguards, EMS, and anyone else eager to learn more about the danger that water poses to young children, <http://www.nova.edu/drowning> is the perfect place to showcase your event.

Utilize the streaming slideshow to highlight your next upcoming water safety related function or simply utilize the sight for its instant access to all sorts of safety activities, statistics, guidelines, and children's games that are all designed to educate the public on how to prevent your loved ones from falling victim to water related tragedies.

## Study Examines Occupational Injuries Among EMS Providers

A new study in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine examines occupational injuries among emergency medical services (EMS) providers. A national survey was conducted to determine the most common types of nonfatal injuries and the activities and environments where injury most frequently occurred.



Occupational injury in the past 12 months were reported by more than 29 percent of the 659 survey respondents, with multiple injuries reported by 64 percent of those reporting an injury. Paid providers had approximately twice the prevalence of overall injury than volunteer providers, controlling for age and gender. Additionally, paid providers were more likely than volunteer providers to experience back injury and physical assault.

For more information, please visit: [http://journals.lww.com/joem/Abstract/2009/08000/Occupational\\_Injuries\\_Among\\_Emergency\\_Medical.15.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/joem/Abstract/2009/08000/Occupational_Injuries_Among_Emergency_Medical.15.aspx).

## Occupational Health Guidelines for Chemical Hazards Now Indexed Online

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is now offering Occupational Health Guidelines for Chemical Hazards Online.

The guidelines summarize information on permissible exposure limits, chemical and physical properties, and health hazards. It provides recommendations for medical surveillance, respiratory protection, and personal protection and sanitation practices for specific chemicals that have Federal occupational safety and health regulations.

These recommendations reflect good industrial hygiene and medical surveillance practices, and their implementation will assist development and maintenance of an effective occupational health program. Several monographs have been revised and are now available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/81-123>.