



Monthly message from EMS Director Jeffrey Leaming 'Tis the season to be safe

While many associate the holidays with yuletide cheer, it's also a busy time of year for emergency responders. The holiday season is usually a time when most people can relax and reduce their frantic work schedule to spend time with family or participate in holiday activities. That is not always possible for you.

It is difficult to put into words the appreciation and accolades you deserve from not only this office, but from everyone whose life you touched in 2011. If you are reading this "Siren" update, more than likely you have one or more certifications in your pocket to help others when they are having an adverse moment in their lives.

As we are in the midst of the holiday season, I want you to know that every personal sacrifice you have endured or are about to is not without recognition. I know that you have already given a tremendous amount of time and energy just to be trained to do what you do. Many of you will sacrifice time in December to cover shifts or answer alarms during the holidays.

Ohio has a force of approximately 57,000 dedicated and well-trained firefighters and emergency medical technicians ready to offer life-saving assistance 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Over 11 million Ohioans rely on emergency responders to be there for them in their time of need and your services can never take a break, even for the holidays.

Thank You for your service to Ohio and please continue to prepare yourself so that you can make it home safely to your family for all of your special moments this holiday season.



Flu season is approaching...are you vaccinated?

The flu season is upon us. Since flu is not making national headlines this year, the Division of EMS would like to bring to your attention the importance of vaccination to your attention and encourage all EMS providers to get their annual influenza vaccination (flu shot).

Multiple national advisory bodies, including the Centers for Disease Control, recommend influenza vaccination for all healthcare workers who have direct patient contact.

Please consider getting vaccinated; you are not only doing yourself a favor, but you are protecting your friends, your family and your patients.

If you happen to get influenza, please stay home until your symptoms resolve so that you don't continue to spread the disease.

Please visit the Center for Disease Control's Web site for additional facts about flu vaccines at www.cdc.gov.

Is your respirator NIOSH-approved?

Buying a respirator can be confusing, especially because some face pieces are marketed and advertised as NIOSH-approved when, for a variety of reasons, they have not actually been certified. NIOSH recently launched a new campaign, *Know It's NIOSH*, to make it easier to verify NIOSH-certified respirators.

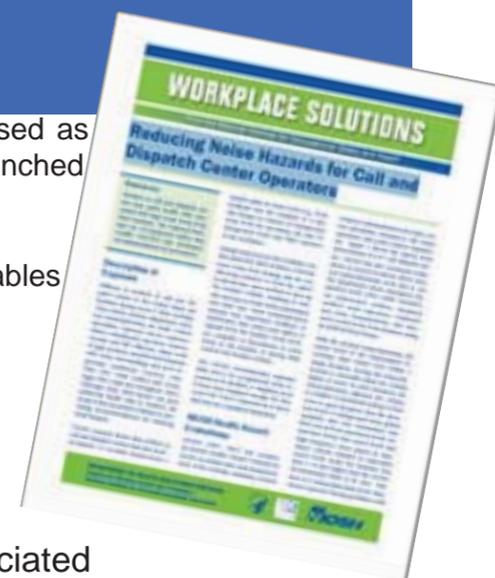
Go to <http://knowits.niosh.gov> and it will redirect you to the NIOSH respirator source Web page that enables you to verify whether or not the product you have is, in reality, NIOSH-approved in addition to providing other useful respirator information.

Reducing noise hazards for call and dispatch center operators



NIOSH provides recommendations for prevention to workers at call and dispatch centers who may suffer health risks associated with high noise levels from their headsets, including sudden spikes in noise and stress.

Visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2011-210/



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Did you know that 89 percent of injuries reported to the Ohio Trauma Registry were unintentional?

Learn more in the 2010 OTR Report at www.ems.ohio.gov under the Data Center link.

