



the SIREN

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A Newsletter of the Division of Emergency Medical Services and the State Emergency Medical Services Board
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www.ems.ohio.gov

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OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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Beyond Lights and Sirens:

By Division of EMS Executive Director Jeffrey Leaming

100 years ago



Ambulance Driver Nick Palucci is shown driving the 1912 Electric Winton. It was the first motorized ambulance with a top speed of 20 MPH, and a foot powered gong for clearing traffic.

EMS in Ohio:
An Overview of EMS in Ohio excerpted from a February 2011 assessment by the National Highway

Transportation Administration.

As the State song suggests, “Beautiful Ohio” is a state with much to admire. Ohio is the crossroads of America. It is the home of nationally recognized institutions of higher education and healthcare. Ohio teams frequently dominate in many sports. The economy is founded on a diverse mix of agriculture, manufacturing and service industries. Ohioans reside in a blend of communities ranging from livable mid-size cities to beautiful rural countryside.

As the nation’s seventh most populous state, Ohio has plenty of demand for emergency medical services. The State’s 11.5 million people depend on their EMS system to respond promptly and effectively to time-critical diagnoses. This system has evolved over the past 40 or more years to include

basic and advanced care available in all areas of the State.

Despite substantial progress, the job of building Ohio’s EMS system remains far from completed. The State’s lead agency does not have clear uniform regulatory authority over all forms of EMS agencies and vehicles. The increased use of safety belts and corresponding decrease in revenues from fines are threatening the financial viability of the EMS system infrastructure. The State holds a rich repository of EMS and trauma care data that has not yet been fully transformed into useful information for guiding further policy development.

While there are notable gaps in the system, a great deal has been accomplished that has provided a foundation for future improvements. Partnerships exist between essential stakeholders at all levels. EMS education is well-established and continues to support the growth of paramedic availability statewide. Trauma triage criteria have been implemented statewide. Following the events of September 11, 2001, EMS has been integrated into a number of Ohio preparedness initiatives. Wireless 9-1-1 system access has almost been fully implemented statewide. There are a variety of public information and education initiatives aimed at preparing the public to prevent

injuries and take action when an emergency confronts them. The needs of children are being considered as system decisions are being made.

The future:

The next steps in Ohio’s EMS system development include a focus on the fundamentals. Authorities at state, regional and local levels must be clarified. A reliable level and source of funding needs to be secured. Structural differences between the regulation of varying forms of EMS agencies must be eliminated. Priorities need to be established for verifiable trauma care.

The State Board of EMS is in the process of finalizing a comprehensive strategic plan that will provide direction and focus for the future of EMS in Ohio. We should be proud of where we have been yet we must continue to move towards excellence. The citizens of the Buckeye State deserve nothing else.

“We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to live the rest of our lives there”

Charles F. Kettering

EMS Training and Equipment Grant Reminders

It is that time of the year again when the Ohio EMS (Priority 1) Grant becomes available. The grant application will be available on February 1 of each award year.

There are two ways to apply for the Ohio EMS Priority 1 Grant: completing the hard copy application, or using the electronic application process with the electronic signature.

Applicants may print a hard copy application at www.ems.ohio.gov and mail the completed application with an original signature to the address below. All fields required to complete the hard copy application are located on page 9 of the application. Mail the completed application to:

EMS Grants Program
Ohio Division of EMS
P.O. Box 182073
1970 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43218-2073

Applications also can be completed on-line using the Ohio EMS Web site at www.ems.ohio.gov. Go to the Grants section, find "Apply Online" in the right-hand column, select "Already have username and password," and proceed to the electronic application. If you do not have a username and password, you must obtain them through the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Account Center. Select the section entitled "To apply for a username and password" and follow the prompts to obtain this information. If you already have a password, remember to use your Ohio Driver's License number as your username. Only the person who is selected by the applicant agency is authorized to sign the application. The electronic application will become available on February 1, 2012.

The Ohio EMS Training and Equipment Grant Application must be postmarked or delivered in person by 5:00 PM Monday April 2, 2012.

All invoices submitted for purchases must be dated within the grant period, which is from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. All invoices must be mailed to the Division of EMS by August 30, 2013 in order to receive reimbursement. Any applicant who fails to spend the grant money in its entirety by August 30, 2013, or uses grant funds to purchase items not approved by the EMS Board, will forfeit any remaining award and may have a reduced award in the subsequent award year.

The address on the application must be an address with USPS service that coincides with the provided tax ID number. No remote addresses will be acceptable and may result in a delay of the delivery of funds.

All funds will be disbursed through a reimbursement process unless the grantee has been approved through a hardship application, in which case the funds will be made available in advance. The hardship application is available at www.ems.ohio.gov in the Grants section.

For more information regarding the Ohio EMS Grant Program, contact the Ohio Division of EMS at 1-800-233-0785

EMS Seeking Regional Fire & EMS Coordinators

The Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services is looking for (3) Fire and EMS professionals to serve as representatives of the Division in assigned geographical areas of the State.

The coordinators will serve on a contractual basis to support and assist the Division of EMS staff in visiting and reviewing fire chartered training programs and approved EMS continuing education (CE) training programs. The coordinators would be paid per site visit assigned and completed. A final site visit report would also be required to be filed with the Division of EMS for each site visited.

Those selected will be required to attend training prior to the start of their regional assignments. The coordinators will utilize standardized division-approved forms to document the results of each site visit conducted.

They may also be called upon to attend paid assigned regional meetings, hearings or other duties as determined by the executive director of the Division of EMS.

Minimum qualifications to apply for the positions would be:

- Ohio EMS and/or fire certification OR
- Employed as a volunteer or part-time or fulltime member of a fire or EMS agency for a minimum of 7 years and had previously held an Ohio fire or EMS certification
- Preference will be given to previously certified fire or EMS instructors
- Must have valid driver's license and will be required to travel within their assigned region
- Must have the means to electronically communicate and receive and send documents to and from the Ohio Division of EMS

Please submit a resume' or curriculum vitae no later than January 9, 2012, to:

Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services
Attn.: John E. Sands, Chief of Operations
1970 West Broad Street, P.O. Box 182073
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2073



Ohio Trauma Triage and Transportation Protocols Course

Reminder for Ohio EMT-Basics, Intermediates and Paramedics

Ohio EMS reminds certified Ohio EMS providers that **ALL** Ohio EMT-Basics, EMT-Intermediates, and EMT-Paramedics are required to complete the *Ohio Trauma Triage and Transportation Protocols Course* once during each 3-year certification cycle, as part of their continuing education (CE) requirements. To meet this requirement, the course must be specifically, the *Ohio Trauma Triage Protocols*, which relates to Ohio laws, and not just any trauma triage course.

This requirement includes those using a National Registry card to satisfy their Ohio continuing education requirements.

Although this requirement had previously been temporarily suspended due to lack of availability of the course in a traditional classroom, the requirement has been reinstated as of July 2, 2009, and is currently required at the Basic, Intermediate and Paramedic levels of certification.

If this course is not available to you locally through an Ohio accredited or Ohio approved training institution in a traditional classroom setting, you can take it free of charge at www.ems.ohio.gov by clicking on [EMS On-line CE Training](#). You can also go directly to the online training course from your browser at www.ohioemstraining.com.

Please make sure that you print out and retain a copy of your certificate of completion as you will be required to produce it in the event your certification would be audited.

Please go to this link for shortened certification cycle and full 3-year certification cycle, EMS continuing education requirements: www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/4765-8-06%20FF.pdf.

For any questions, please contact the Ohio Division of EMS Education Section at 1-800-233-0785 and ask to speak to one of the following, or call them directly as listed below:

John Sands	614-387-0649
Linda Mirarchi	614-387-0648
Carol Palantekin	614-466-9459
Thomas Macklin	614-752-7017
Judy Celnicker	614-466-0835

“The Dirty Hand in the Latex Glove”: A Study of Hand Hygiene Compliance When Gloves Are Worn

Fuller, et al, in Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, Vol. 32, No. 12 (December 2011), pp. 1194-1199.

Healthcare workers who wear gloves while treating patients are much less likely to clean their hands before and after patient contact, according to a study published in the December issue of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, the Journal of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America*. This failure of basic hand hygiene could be contributing to the spread of infection in healthcare settings, the researchers say. Glove use is appropriate for situations when contact with body fluids is anticipated or when patients are to be managed with contact precautions. However, use of gloves should not be considered a substitute for effective hand hygiene practices taking place before and after patient contact. Although gloves can reduce the number of germs transmitted to the hands, germs can sometimes still get through latex. Hands can also be contaminated by “back spray” when gloves are removed after contact with body fluids. The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America is providing complimentary access to this article at <http://www.jstor.org/>

Ohio EMS for Children Introduces Emergency Departments: Pediatric Prepared Program

The Ohio EMS for Children (EMSC) Committee completed its first-ever consultation visit as part of its new *Emergency Departments: Pediatric Prepared* (EDPP) program on October 18, 2011, at University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. The program is part of the Performance Measures for the national Emergency Medical Services for Children Partnership Grant, and is being implemented to ensure a minimum level of pediatric capability in hospital emergency departments.

EDPP is a voluntary program based on the document, *Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department*, jointly published in 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Emergency Nurses Association. The guidelines outline the basics for pediatric emergency care in the community hospital setting, emphasizing the following areas:

- Appointed pediatric physician and nurse coordinator
- Physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers who staff the emergency department
- Guidelines for QI/PI in the emergency department
- Guidelines for improving pediatric patient safety
- Guidelines for emergency department policies, procedures, and protocol
- Guidelines for emergency department Support Services
- Guidelines for Equipment, Supplies, and Medications for the Care of Pediatric Patients in the emergency department

At present, program is in its pilot phase. The Ohio EMSC Committee is working with the University Hospitals system for initial implementation. UH Geauga Medical Center was the first applicant to the program, and after completing confidentiality agreements between the Ohio Department of Public Safety and University Hospitals, a site visit was

scheduled for October. The site visit team toured the hospital, including speaking with hospital staff and EMS partners from Munson Fire Department, reviewing selected patient records, and verifying pediatric policies, protocols, equipment and medications. The staff at UH Geauga Medical Center was very eager to participate and helpful in every aspect of the site visit.

The site visit team recommended to the Ohio EMSC Committee that UH Geauga Medical Center is recognized as the first member of the *Emergency Departments: Pediatric Prepared* program. In addition, Ohio EMSC is working with University Hospitals Bedford Medical Center and University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center, both campuses of UH Regional Hospitals, to complete application to the program and to schedule their site visits. Several hospitals outside the University Hospitals system have also indicated an interest in EDPP.

Emergency Departments: Pediatric Prepared is a program designed to help hospitals demonstrate their ability to assess, treat and transfer injured and ill pediatric patients, and to assist them in meeting the national minimum standards in pediatric emergency care. Hospitals interested in finding out more about EDPP, and pediatric emergency care providers interested in participating on consultation teams, can contact Joe Stack, EMS for Children Coordinator, at 614-387-1949 or by e-mail at jestack@dps.state.oh.us.

DHS Roundtable Highlights Active Shooter Awareness

The 2011 Critical Infrastructure Learning Series provides one-hour Web-based seminars conducted by senior critical infrastructure protection experts on the tools, trends, issues, and best practices for infrastructure protection and resilience. On Sept. 27, 2011, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) hosted a 90-minute interactive virtual roundtable designed to help the private and public sector understand the importance of developing an emergency response plan and the need to train employees on how to respond if confronted with an active shooter. Participants learned about the three types of active shooters—workplace/school, criminal, ideological—and how their planning cycles and behaviors differ. The recording of this interesting roundtable is now available on the DHS Web site at <https://connect.hsin.gov/asaware2011>.

FEMA to Engage Stakeholders in New “Think Tank”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes that the best solutions to the challenges we face are generated by the people and the communities who are closest to these challenges. It is essential that these partners are invited to the table to actively participate in thought-provoking discussions. That is why FEMA is reaching out to state, local, and tribal governments, and to all members of the public, including the private sector, the disability community, and volunteer community, to seek their input 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. The FEMA Think Tank will help facilitate these conversations and encourage further discussion. 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/>.

Immunization Recommendations are Re-issued

A new report updates the previously published summary of recommendations for vaccinating health-care personnel (HCP) in the United States. This report by of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) summarizes all current ACIP recommendations for vaccination of HCP and does not contain any new recommendations or policies. The recommendations provided in this report apply, but are not limited to HCP in acute-care hospitals; long-term-care facilities (e.g., nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities); physician's offices; rehabilitation centers; urgent care centers, and outpatient clinics as well as to persons who provide home health care and emergency medical services. For more information, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6007.pdf>.

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, go to <http://www.acep.org/emsweek/>

Disciplinary Actions

EMS Disciplinary Actions

October

David S. Cummings, EMS Certificate Number 110088

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Richard F. Urich, EMS Certificate Number 91916

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, Attempted Obstructing Justice

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another in three (3) years, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Eddie L. Sparrow, EMS Certificate Number 10324

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, Disorderly Conduct

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must successfully complete anger management course within nine (9) months, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Michael A. Burke, EMS Certificate Number 79066

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Jennifer L. Sellers, EMS Certificate Number 12762

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Lucas T. Pyles, EMS Applicant Number 181255

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude convictions, Unauthorized Use of Property; Telecommunications Harassment

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

James E. Guy, EMS Certificate Number 40788

Violation: Felony conviction, Burglary

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another in three (3) years, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Michael D. Matheney, EMS Certificate Number 20293

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Revocation of certificate to practice

Shawn E. Thompson, EMS Applicant Number 188783

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, Domestic Violence Menacing

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, must successfully complete anger management course within nine (9) months, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Megan M. Rader, EMS Applicant Number 188996

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, Persistent Disorderly Conduct

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Malissa M. Mathias, EMS Applicant Number 185711

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, Assault

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, must submit another in three (3) years, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Anthony A. Salyers, EMS Certificate Number 141127

Violation: Random audit issues

Sanction: Written reprimand, must complete the continuing education requirements, and must supply documentation of continuing education with next renewal

Jason M. Williams, EMS Applicant Number 135741

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, Attempted Theft

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Disciplinary Actions

Fire Disciplinary Actions

October

Whitney P. Cook, Fire Certificate Number 142167

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude convictions, Escape and Falsification

Sanction: Revocation of certificate of fire service training

Raymond W. Hixson, Fire Applicant Number 122856

Violation: Failed to satisfy requirements for certification

Sanction: Denial of reinstatement application for a certificate of fire service training

Richard F. Urich, Fire Certificate Number 91916

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, Attempted Obstructing Justice

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another in three (3) years, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

John R. Jeffrey, Fire Certificate Number 109238

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, Assault

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

Jason M. Williams, Fire Applicant Number 135741

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction, Attempted Theft

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check prior to issuance/within 120 days, and must disclose consent agreement to employer

James E. Guy, Fire Certificate Number 40788

Violation: Felony conviction, Burglary

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit another in three (3) years, and must disclose consent agreement to employer