



the SIREN

A Newsletter of the Division of Emergency Medical Services
and the State Emergency Medical Services Board
1970 W. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223
1-800-233-0785

2005 FALL

BEYOND LIGHTS AND SIRENS

Since the introduction of House Bill 169, there has been much debate about the state staffing and training requirements for volunteer EMTs in the rural communities. Some volunteer fire department officials have expressed concern that the current standards have put a strain on the recruitment efforts in rural Ohio.

The State EMS Board, which is comprised of doctors, nurses, paramedics and firefighters, understand the importance of transporting a patient to a hospital to receive definitive care; however, reducing the response and transport standards does not get to the root of the issue. We must be careful to ensure that patient care is not unintentionally, yet adversely affected in the ongoing struggle with recruitment and retention.

There are many challenges facing Ohio's volunteers on a daily basis, and their dedication to education, protection and service when it comes to serving their communities should be commended. Reducing standards of care in rural Ohio however, is unacceptable.

EMS is an extension of the practice of medicine and medical technique that is constantly improving. Ohioans who experience a medical emergency entrust their care to the responding EMTs and expect them to have the latest medical knowledge and skills to save their life or that of a loved one. Reducing the current training and staffing requirements may diminish that trust and the effectiveness of patient care.

The challenge of recruitment and retention is ongoing and the Division of EMS and the Board are reviewing ways to remedy this problem. We encourage everyone in the EMS community to join us in finding a solution.

Everyday, EMTs accept the call to serve their community 24 hours a day, seven days a week, giving Ohioans the highest level of skill, service and care. Together, let's continue to commit to give Ohio our best.

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Certification Verification...how it can help

Web users now have the ability to verify all active certifications online by simply entering a social security number or certification number. The most accurate and up-to-date information is provided with updates occurring each time an application is processed. Renewal applications are the largest volume of applications received on a daily basis with an average of 23,000 applications being processed each year.

The goal is to have applications processed within four working days from the time the Division of EMS receives the application, and to keep each applicant certified without a lapse in service. All cards are mailed within five days of issuance.

The division currently mails a reminder of expiration to each actively certified EMT 180 days prior to their expiration date. This is followed by a renewal packet 90 days prior to expiration and again 30 days prior to expiration. The 30-day packet is only sent out if the application is not received and processed before that date.

It is vital that the most current mailing address be on file with our office before this occurs. As it states in the rules and is printed on the back of each certification card, it is the responsibility of the applicant to inform the Division of EMS

of any change in mailing address within 30 days of the change. This is to enable us to better provide you with the necessary application for timely renewal.

We appreciate the efforts of those who submit their application for renewal in advance of their expiration date. We have, however, received several calls to confirm receipt of these applications and this has caused a flood of calls and e-mails to our office to confirm receipt.

In an attempt to address this and to give each employer the ability to verify certificate holders, we have included in our certification verification the status of "Pending." Pending in this case means it is awaiting the expiration of your current certification. The newly issued certification cannot become effective until this date. We included pending in our status on certification verification to better aid applicants and their employers in verifying that the division not only received the application, but has also issued the new card.

If you have any questions about certification verification, please call our office at 1-800-233-0785 and ask for the Certification Section. We will be happy to assist you.

Is your Agency Ready for an Influenza Outbreak?

In an average year, 5 to 20 percent of the United States population will be affected by influenza, and approximately 36,000 people will die from it. These outbreaks are caused by recurring viruses that the population has built some immunity against, either naturally or through vaccination. By definition, an influenza pandemic will have more serious consequences. A pandemic exists when there is a new virus that no one has immunity to and is easily passed from human to human. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) estimates that if an influenza pandemic occurs, 15 to 35 percent of the U.S. population could be affected. Individuals in the health care and first responder fields could be hardest hit, based on their increased exposure.

Is your agency prepared? Most agencies have plans to prepare for an increase in the number of runs resulting from a disaster or other event. However, agencies must also have a plan to

deal with the workforce shortages that may be caused by an influenza pandemic.

There are several steps that can be taken to help prevent the spread of influenza among employees and to plan for any workforce shortages. The CDC has published several informational documents, including preparedness checklists, on their web site at www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic. The Ohio Department of Health web site (www.odh.ohio.gov) also has updated information and links.

One of the most important things you can do to maintain your preparedness, is to maintain situational awareness and keep up with current pandemic information. To help you, the Division of EMS, will begin posting relevant information and links on our web site at www.ems.ohio.gov.

EMS Profiler....Robin Lester

What is your title?

Data Processor

What do you do?

My responsibilities include: mail confirmation letters for exams, register candidates for exams, and prepare the exam rosters.

Where did you work before?

I was previously employed with Rockwell Automation for six years.

How would you define excellence in service?

My definition of excellence in service is putting your best foot forward into everything you do.



Robin Lester at her workstation

EMS Spotlight

Tim Erskine, EMS data manager for the Division of EMS was elected as chair of the Council of State Data Managers for the National Association of State EMS Directors (NASEMSD). It is the lead national organization for EMS, a respected voice for national EMS policy with comprehensive concern and commitment for the development of effective, integrated, community-based, universal and consistent EMS systems. A special congratulation goes to him on this fine achievement.



Congratulations Tim Erskine

Thailand Delegates Visit Ohio Department of Public Safety

Thailand delegates visited the Ohio Department of Public Safety in November to get an overview of the operations and responsibilities of the department's Division of Emergency Medical Services. The delegation, made up of health care professionals from Thailand, is looking to set up an EMS educational program in their country.

"Currently in Thailand, there are no paramedics or emergency medical services like we have here in the United States – services are predominately hospital-based," said Richard Rucker, executive director of the Division of EMS. "We provided the delegates with a brief overview of our processes and procedures regarding emergency medical care, and explained how we handle complaints, disciplinary actions and medical oversight. We hope this information will help them in their effort to enhance emergency medical care in Thailand."

The six delegates were accompanied by Charles Sowerbrower from Sinclair Community College. He has been working closely with Thailand officials, helping them toward their goal to implement paramedics and an EMS educational program in their country.

The visiting delegates included:

- Dr. Somchai Kanchanasut — Medical director for EMS for the country of Thailand
- Mr. Yotin Boonchaliay — Administrator of a community college in Northern Thailand
- Miss Penrung Boonrug — ER nurse, works in ministry of public health
- Mrs. Wiphada Wattananamkul — ER nurse, educator of EMS personnel in North Eastern Thailand
- Miss Ubon Yeeheng — ER nurse, educator of EMS personnel in Bangkok
- Miss Boonchob Sarataphan — Works with ministry of education related to new community college system

The Ohio State University Medical Center, Center for EMS is Hosting a Conference

Save the Date February 8, 2006

Registration 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Time 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Location OSU Medical Center,
Ross Heart Hospital Auditorium
452 W. 10th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

Cost \$45 (includes breakfast and lunch)

Parking will be validated.

For questions or to reserve your space call (614) 293-5101. The Ohio State University Medical Center, Center for EMS is an approved provider for continuing education.

Disciplinary Actions

September 21, 2005

Jeffery L. Combs, Previously Revoked EMT Cert. #66945

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice. EMT certificate to practice previously revoked for practicing outside the scope of his EMT certificate to practice and misrepresentation of his credentials. Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude convictions for Impersonating a Government Official and Impersonating a Firefighter.

Sanction: Denial of request for reinstatement of EMT certificate to practice. Permanent revocation of the previously revoked EMT certificate to practice.

Aaron C. Minnis, EMT Cert. #104496

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Arson.

Sanction: Permanent revocation of EMT certificate to practice.

Glenn D. Wenger, EMT Cert. #68805

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice and failure to accurately document the continuing education requirements to satisfy the renewal requirement for a certificate to practice.

Sanction: Revocation of EMT certificate to practice.

Brian C. Knight, EMT Cert. #98939

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice, failure to respond to an audit, and failure to accurately document the continuing education requirements to satisfy the renewal requirement for a certificate to practice.

Sanction: Revocation of EMT certificate to practice.

Joseph D. Friedrich, EMT Cert. #88154

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice, failure to respond to an audit, and failure to accurately document the continuing education requirements to satisfy the renewal requirement for a certificate to practice.

Sanction: Revocation of EMT certificate to practice.

Charla R. Eitel, EMT Cert. #29621

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice, failure to respond to an audit, and failure to accurately document the continuing education requirements to satisfy the renewal requirement for a certificate to practice.

Sanction: Revocation of EMT certificate to practice.

Stacy M. Nolen, EMT Cert. #87708

Violation: Violation of a Board Order/Consent Agreement.

Sanction: 30-day suspension of EMT certificate to practice.

George L. Bushee, EMT Cert. #16841

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Disorderly Conduct.

Sanction: Revocation of EMT certificate to practice.

October 19, 2005

Kevin J. Miller, EMT Cert. #82328

Violations: Practicing outside the scope of his certificate to practice and failing to exhibit respect for the medical needs and personal values of EMS patients and other EMT certificate to practice holders.

Sanction: Permanent Revocation of EMT certificate to practice.

Jeremy A. Lindsey, EMT Cert. #122896

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing a certificate to practice, felony convictions for Arson, Burglary, Failure to Appear, Theft, Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for False ID as a Police Officer-Misrepresentation of Property.

Sanction: Permanent Revocation of EMT certificate to practice.

Eric C. Dayton, EMT Cert. #100773

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Theft.

Sanction: Revocation of EMT certificate to practice.

John M. Morris, EMT Cert. #5448

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Aggravated Menacing (two counts).

Sanction: Revocation (stayed), written reprimand, successful completion of an Anger Management program, fitness-for-duty/psychiatric evaluation, written approval (continual) from chief/department head permitting him to continue to practice, must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, must submit a second Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation Civilian Background Check within three years of effective date, and full disclosure of agreement to fire/EMS employer.

Scott M. Rice, EMT Cert. #127338, Applicant

Violations: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude and violation of any narcotic law for Improper Handling of a Firearm in a Motor Vehicle and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Sanction: Denial (stayed), written reprimand, three years probation, successful completion of drug/alcohol program, written approval (continual) from medical director and department head permitting him to practice, must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, and must notify the Division of EMS within 10 days of any violation of the chemical dependency program, any arrests, and must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation Civilian Background Check at renewal.

Robert F. Wall, EMS Identification #147888, Applicant

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Theft.

Sanction: Written reprimand and must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days/prior to issuance.

Richard Davidson, EMT Cert. #54075

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Domestic Violence.

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, and must complete an Anger Management course within nine months.

Joshua Cleland, EMT Cert. #105641

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice and misdemeanor or involving moral turpitude convictions for Disorderly Conduct and Criminal Damaging.

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within nine months, and another Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check at renewal.

Walter C. Hupp, EMT Cert. #78744

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice and misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Telecommunication Harassment.

Sanction: Written reprimand and must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days.

Michael J. Macko, EMT Cert. #130694, Applicant

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Misuse of Credit of Card.

Sanction: Written reprimand and must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days/prior to issuance.

Michael P. Wykoff, EMT Cert. #65986

Violation: Random audit issues.

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

John J. Warnecke, EMT Cert. #109270

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice and misdemeanor or involving moral turpitude convictions for Criminal Trespassing, Assault, and Criminal Damaging.

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, and another Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check at renewal.

James R. Fiorita, EMT Cert. #71659

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Assault.

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, and must complete an Anger Management course within nine months.

James C. Dobbs, EMS Identification #129852, Applicant

Violations: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude convictions for Menacing and Assault.

Sanction: Written reprimand and must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days/prior to issuance.

Adam R. Gates, EMT Cert. #127653, Applicant

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Disorderly Conduct.

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days/prior to issuance, and must complete an Anger Management course within nine months.

Michael R. Campbell, EMT Cert. #36200

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice and misdemeanor or involving moral turpitude conviction for Theft.

Sanction: Written reprimand and must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days.

Tammy D. Thompson, EMT Cert. #131434, Applicant

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Theft (2 counts).

Sanction: Written reprimand and must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days/prior to issuance.

Jonathon V. Bilicic, EMT Cert. #95433

Violations: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice and failure to complete the continuing education requirements to renew.

Sanction: Written reprimand, \$250.00 disciplinary fine, must complete the continuing education requirements, and must supply documentation of continuing education with next renewal application.

Daniel F. Klingman, EMS Identification #149729, Applicant

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Disorderly Conduct.

Sanction: Written reprimand and must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days/prior to issuance.

Jacob E. Blatz, EMT Cert. #74519

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Disorderly Conduct.

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, and must complete an Anger Management course within nine months.

Douglas W. Kindell, EMT Cert. #11117

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude conviction for Disorderly Conduct.

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days, and must complete an Anger Management course within nine months.

Andrew R. Gibson, EMT Cert. #125925

Violation: Committed fraud or deception in applying for or securing an EMT certificate to practice and misdemeanor or involving moral turpitude conviction for Disorderly Conduct.

Sanction: Written reprimand and must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days.

Robert T. Archbold, EMT Cert. #131435, Applicant

Violation: Misdemeanor involving moral turpitude convictions for Disorderly Conduct and Petit Larceny.

Sanction: Written reprimand, must submit a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation Civilian Background Check within 120 days/prior to issuance, and must complete an Anger Management course within nine months.

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