Maryland
EMS News
For All Emergency Medical Care Providers
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National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

Motorcycles are vehicles with the same rights and privileges as any vehicle on the roadway. But in crashes, a motorcyclist is *four times more likely to be hurt* than a car driver. As the weather gets warmer, motorcyclists tend to be out on the roads in force. This is why May is perfect for National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

MIEMSS reminds motorists and motorcyclists alike to "share the road" in order to prevent motorcycle crashes, deaths, and injuries on Maryland roads. Please share these tips with drivers and motorcyclists alike to keep *everyone* safe on our roads this summer.

To prevent a crash, motor vehicle drivers take note:

- Though a motorcycle is a small vehicle, its operator still has all the rights of the road as any other motorist. Allow the motorcycle the full width of a lane at all times.
- Always signal when changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- If you see a motorcycle with a signal on, be careful; motorcycle signals are often non-canceling and could have been forgotten. Always ensure that the motorcycle is turning before proceeding.
- Check all mirrors and blind spots for motorcycles before changing lanes or merging with traffic, especially at intersections.
- Always allow more following distance—three to four seconds—when behind a motorcycle. This gives them more time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.
- Never drive distracted or impaired.

Motorcyclists can increase their safety by following these steps:

- Wear a DOT-compliant helmet and other protective gear.
- Obey all traffic laws and be properly licensed.
- Use hand and turn signals at every lane change or turn.
- Wear brightly colored clothes and reflective tape to increase visibility.
- Ride in the middle of the lane where you will be more visible to drivers.
- Never ride distracted or impaired.

For more information on motorcycle safety and National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, visit www.marylandrider.org.

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Statewide Symposium Coordinates CISM Teams in Maryland

On Sunday March 23, 2014, over 40 CISM team coordinators representing 17 CISM and crisis response teams from across Maryland came together for a Maryland CISM Coordinators Symposium. The symposium was a joint effort between MIEMSS and the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) and is part of an on-going effort to build on the strengths of Maryland's CISM teams through increased collaboration among the many independent teams in the state.

During the planning for the symposium, a shooting took place at the Mall in Columbia in Howard County during which a gunman killed two shop employees and himself. In the response and aftermath of the incident, the local CISM team and a community crisis response team were placed in the role of addressing the needs of first responders, as well as providing initial support to patrons and merchants after they fled the mall. Sharing the best practices from this event was tied into the symposium as presented by a panel of responders. Members of the panel discussed the response and illustrated the benefit of close collaboration between public safety CISM teams and community crisis response teams. The community crisis response team discussed their role and how they addressed the needs of mall patrons and merchants in the days after the event. Overall, members of the panel agreed that understanding the roles and capabilities of all crisis response teams in the community, and knowing how to access them, clearly benefited those impacted by the tragedy.

At the statewide CISM symposium in March 2014, A panel of responders from the January shooting at the Mall in Columbia discuss how CISM teams dealt with the tragic incident. Photo courtesy of Les Hawthorne.

The symposium is part of an effort by MIEMSS and ICISF to increase collaboration among CISM teams throughout the state. CISM in Maryland began in 1980s. In the early years most CISM fell under the Maryland state team coordinated by MIEMSS. As CISM evolved and became more ingrained in the public safety community, many local agencies developed their own teams (e.g., fire, EMS, communication centers, law enforcement). Although there has been a tremendous increase in the number of teams in the state, most operate independently with limited collaboration among them.

Initial efforts to increase collaboration included adding CISM presentations and training courses at the state's EMS conferences and the annual ICISF conference. MIEMSS has also utilized federal grant funds to offer CISM training to members of all teams at no cost, including five courses this year. The next step was to bring the leadership/coordinators from all the various teams together to jointly discuss how best to work as a state network of independent teams. At this year's symposium,

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New Director for Emergency Response System of the National Capital Region

The Emergency Response System of the National Capital Region of Maryland has appointed Luke Hodgson as its new Director. Mr. Hodgson has more than 20 years' experience in fire, rescue, emergency medical services, and emergency management. He has spent his entire career in the National Capital Region, making him familiar with the attributes and challenges of the region. His experience includes field provision, education, management, data analysis, policy development, strategic planning, training and exercises, and executive leadership.

The Emergency Response System (ERS) of the National Capital Region of Maryland is made up of fire, rescue, and EMS personnel from Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. At the State level, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and MIEMSS have assisted with this endeavor. The ERS has been developing an improved multiagency disaster response with support from Urban Area Security Initiative Funds. Working with the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia, they have created an integrated multi-jurisdictional response to mass casualty events.

Mr. Hodgson holds a Master of Science in Emergency Health Services Policy and Administration from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where he is continuing his studies and teaching in the Emergency Health Services Programs.

Luke Hodgson, Director of the Emergency Response System of the National Capital Region

CPR and AED Use to Be Taught in Maryland High Schools

Breanna Sudano was 14 when she collapsed and nearly died from cardiac arrest during a lacrosse game in 2012. Her life was saved, say her doctors, by the bystanders who performed CPR on her until EMS providers arrived and used an AED to restart her heart. Now Breanna is the namesake of a new law in Maryland that will require high school students to learn CPR and how to use an AED before they graduate. Breanna's Law, also known as SB503, was signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley on April 14, 2014. Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2015–2016 school year, they must complete instruction in CPR that includes hands-only CPR and use of an AED. Additionally, each county Board of Education shall provide, as part of the health or physical education curriculum, instruction in CPR that includes hands-only CPR and use of an AED in every public school in the county that enrolls students in grades 9 through 12. Since 2005, every high school and school-sponsored athletic event in Maryland has been required to have an AED available. With the Maryland Resuscitation Academy (www.ramaryland.org) in place, requirements that schools and health clubs have AEDs available, and the passing of Breanna's Law, Maryland is fast becoming one of the leading states in the country for cardiac arrest awareness and education

Governor Martin O'Malley was joined by members of the Maryland legislature and the public to sign Breanna's Bill into law on April 14, 2014. Effective beginning the 2014 –2015 school year, high school students will be required to take a CPR/AED class to fulfill graduation requirements. Photo courtesy of the Executive Office of the Governor.

Maryland EMS Awards to Be Presented during EMS Week

The Stars of Life and Right Care When It Counts Awardees have been selected by a committee of career, volunteer, and commercial EMS providers. Each awardee will be presented with a plaque during the annual Awards Ceremony taking place in Annapolis on May 21, 2014. MIEMSS congratulates all of those nominated as well as those selected for awards in the following categories:

- Maryland Star of Life
- Maryland EMS Citizen
- EMS Provider of the Year
- EMD Provider of the Year
- Outstanding EMS Program
- Leon W. Hayes Award of Lifetime Excellence in EMS
- Maryland EMS-Children (EMS-C)
- Maryland EMS-Geriatric (EMS-G)
- Right Care When It Counts (for children and youth who have demonstrated steps to take in an emergency or ways to be better prepared for an emergency)

EMT/EMD/EMR Renewal Certification Cards

Reminder: EMT, EMD, and EMR Renewal Certification cards will be sent out mid-May. Please note that these cards are self-laminating to prevent wear and protect the printed information. To laminate the card, please follow the instructions below, which will also be provided in your certification/licensure letter:

1. Peel card from liner slowly
2. Place card face down in window
3. Punch card through back of sheet

Please contact the MIEMSS Office of Licensure and Certification at 1-800-762-7157 or 410-706-3666 with any questions.

EMS Week 2014: "EMS: Dedicated. For Life."

For the week of May 18–24, EMS providers across Maryland will be honored for their dedication to being on the medical "front line." MIEMSS will hold its annual Stars of Life Awards ceremony this week to recognize and thank those Maryland providers who provided extraordinary care in EMS in 2013. For more information about EMS Week, visit www.acep.org/emsweek.

EMS DEDICATED. FOR LIFE.

Over 70 individuals attended an entry level CISM course held in Howard County on March 24 – 26, 2014. The course, which was jointly sponsored by the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services and MIEMSS, focused on both group and individual crisis intervention as well as peer support. Photos courtesy of Les Hawthorne.

Statewide Symposium Coordinates CISM Teams in Maryland

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each represented team shared information about their team including best practices on a wide variety of topics such as how CISM education is shared with all personnel, how teams work with community-based crisis response teams, activation/call down procedures, and how teams are backed up via mutual aid from surrounding jurisdictions.

The symposium also gave CISM teams an opportunity to discuss and learn best practices for dealing with challenges they all face such as funding limitations, limited support from administration, lack of legislation that makes CISM communications confidential, and difficulty in maintaining skill levels due to limited interventions and training opportunities. This networking among Maryland's CISM teams was of significant benefit to the CISM community.

The attendees of the first statewide symposium jointly decided that meetings will be held semiannually. They will work jointly on continuing to share response plans and materials, crafting and supporting legislation to ensure the confidentiality of CISM discussions, creating a 24/7 contact list for mutual aid and access to each of the teams, increasing collaboration between public safety CISM teams and community crisis response teams, identifying other teams/groups that should be included in the group, and continuing to look for ways to share best practices and training opportunities.

Over the years Maryland has progressed from a centralized state team to many strong individual and widespread teams that together provide CISM services for first responders across the state. Maryland already has a solid CISM system; through closer collaboration it will become even more robust.

Q. I just received my National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Paramedic card, but my Maryland license lapsed on April 30, 2014. What do I do?

A. Once a license has lapsed, you must apply for reinstatement. There are two options.

1. If you have maintained your NREMT certification as either a CRT/I-99 or a Paramedic, to return to current status in Maryland, you must:
   a) Submit "Student Application 1" of the Maryland Emergency Services Student Application.
   b) Submit a Release and Affiliation form complete with company officer, EMS Operational Program or Commercial Ambulance Service representative, and Medical Director signatures.
   c) Submit a copy of a National Registry card.
   d) If a Maryland Medical Protocol update has been issued, complete a protocol review class and submit "Student Application 2" of the Maryland Emergency Services Student Application that documents your outcome and is properly signed by the instructor.
   e) If expired for more than one year, take the Maryland Protocol licensing examination and obtain a minimum score of 75%.

   Upon completion of the above requirements, you will be issued a Maryland CRT or Paramedic card that will be valid until April 30 of the year in which your NREMT card expires.

2. If you are a non-NREMT CRT (Maryland ONLY) licensee, you must:
   a) Submit a completed CRT/I-99 WITHOUT National Registry Relicensing Application
   b) Submit a Release and Affiliation form complete with company officer, EMS Operational Program or Commercial Ambulance Service representative, and Medical Director signatures.
   c) If a Maryland Medical Protocol update has been issued, complete a protocol review class and submit "Student Application 2" of the Maryland Emergency Services Student Application that documents your outcome and is properly signed by the instructor.
   d) If expired for more than one year, take the Maryland Protocol licensing examination and obtain a minimum score of 75%.

   Upon completion of the above requirements, you will be issued a Maryland CRT card that will be valid until April 30 for a cycle of no longer than two years.

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