Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

Vol. 41, No. 1 August 2014

Update to Maryland EMS Providers on African Ebola Outbreak

Recent press reports regarding the outbreak of Ebola in Africa, and the transfer of two infected Americans to a hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, have raised public awareness of this illness. Although the possibility of other infected persons coming into the United States is very low, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises that health care providers consider Ebola in the differential diagnosis of febrile illness, with compatible symptoms, in any person with recent (within 21 days) travel history in one of the affected countries. Countries with known Ebola outbreaks include Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria.

Ebola is typically spread to humans through direct contact with bodily fluids from a person infected with the disease. First responders should use standard universal precautions, including contact and droplet precautions, while treating and transporting patients with suspicious symptoms. Fit tested N95 masks and eye protection should be used on patients with severe pulmonary involvement who undergo procedures that stimulate coughing or promote the generation of aerosols, or who have nausea and vomiting. Please review the CDC information on the current Ebola outbreak, which can be found at: www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/.

MSP Commemorate Full Service Operation of New AW-139 Helicopter

On August 5, 2014, Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Marcus L. Brown was joined by Delegate Marvin E. Holmes Jr., MIEMSS Acting Co-Executive Directors Patricia Gainer and Dr. Richard Alcorta, and other state and local officials at FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland, to officially mark the full-service mission operation of the new AgustaWestland 139 helicopter in the Maryland/Washington, DC, Metropolitan area. The pilots and flight paramedics who staff Trooper 2 at the Washington Section are fully trained on the new aircraft. They are now flying the new helicopter around-the-clock on all Aviation Command missions. In addition to the new AW-139 helicopter, other aircraft from allied law enforcement in the region were on display as well as fire, EMS, and rescue equipment.

Pictured left to right in front of the newly dedicated AW-139 at Trooper 2, MSPAC Washington Section, are MIEMSS Acting Co-Executive Director Pat Gainer JD, MPA; Maryland EMS Board Member David A. Hexter, MD; Colonel Marcus L. Brown, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police; Major Frank Lioi of the MSPAC; MIEMSS Acting Co-Executive Director and State EMS Medical Director Richard L. Alcorta, MD, FACEP; and State Aeromedical Director Doug Floccare, MD, MPH, FACEP.

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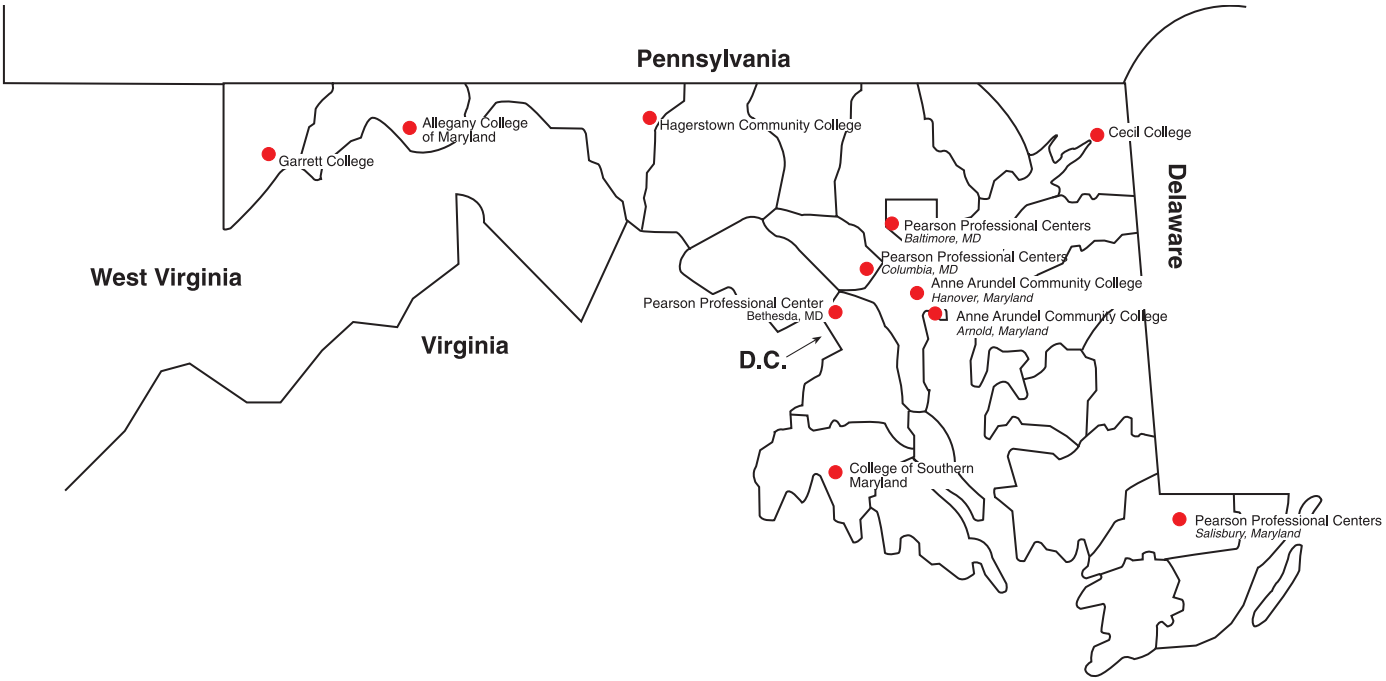
More Information on NREMT Cognitive Exams for State Certification

As mentioned in the July 2014 newsletter, MIEMSS will be utilizing the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) for the cognitive examination portion of the State certification process for initial EMR and EMT certification, beginning with courses starting in fall 2014. The NREMT utilizes Pearson VUE test sites for the examination. Additional test sites were opened in July, bringing the number of NREMT test sites in Maryland to 11 (see map). When considering where to schedule an exam, keep in mind that Maryland students can take the exam at any NREMT-approved Pearson VUE site in the United States. More information on the cognitive exam can be found on the NREMT website at https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/CBT_Home.asp, and students may search for available test sites on Pearson VUE's website at http://www.vue.com/vtclocator.

NREMT Pearson–VUE Maryland Test Sites



Anne Arundel Community College
7556 Teague Rd
Room 310
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Garrett College
687 Mosser Road
ROOM TC 305
McHenry, Maryland 21541

Pearson Professional Centers
3108 Lord Baltimore Dr
Suite 103
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

Pearson Professional Centers
4350 East West Highway
Suite 525
Bethesda Towers
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Pearson Professional Centers
9891 Broken Land Parkway
Suite 108
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Pearson Professional Centers
1315 Mt. Hermon Road
Suite B
Salisbury, Maryland 21804

Allegany College of MD
12401 Willowbrook Rd, SE
Continue Ed Bldg, RM CE15
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Anne Arundel Community College
101 College Pkwy
Building: Student Union
Room: 240
Arnold, Maryland 21012

Cecil College
One Seahawk Drive
North East, Maryland 21901

College of Southern Maryland
8730 Mitchell Rd
LR Building
Room # 114
La Plata, Maryland 20646

Hagerstown Community College
11400 Robinwood Drive
Learning Resource Center Room 322.
(3 story building closest to entrance)
Hagerstown, Maryland 21742

MIEMSS Signs Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve

MIEMSS is pleased to announce that Acting Co-Executive Directors Pat Gainer and Dr. Richard Alcorta signed a Statement of Maryland Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a US Department of Defense office, on July 16, 2014.

The Statement of Support confirms MIEMSS joins other employers and organizations in pledging:

- To fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- To appreciate the values, leadership, and unique skills service members bring to the workforce and will encourage opportunities to hire Guardsmen, Reservists, and Veterans.
- To recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crises, and in war.

"Today, supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units" said Jean Hulet, ESGR State Chair. "I am asking all Maryland employers to take a look at their current human resources policies to incorporate policies supportive of Guard and Reserve employees."

When asked about the criteria, Hulet said "By meeting the Statement of Support criteria, MIEMSS pledges to stand proudly with its Guard and Reserve members, who continue to answer their nation's call to defend our way of life. Their personal sacrifices are essential to the strength of our nation."

By signing the Statement of Support, MIEMSS is sending a clear message that while their employees are serving their country they do not have to worry about their civilian jobs.

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (www.ESGR.mil) seeks to foster a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States. ESGR facilitates and promotes a cooperative culture of employer support for National Guard and Reserve service by developing and advocating mutually beneficial initiatives, recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and policies, resolving potential conflicts between employers and their service members, and acting as the employers' principal advocate within the US Department of Defense.

On July 16, 2014, MIEMSS signed a Statement of Support for employment of US military service members. Pictured left to right are MIEMSS Acting Co-Executive Director Pat Gainer, JD, MPA; Maryland Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve State Chair Jean M. Hulet; and MIEMSS Acting Co-Executive Director and State EMS Medical Director Richard Alcorta, MD, FACEP.

Howard County's Chief James M. Brothers Named Harvard EMS Fellow

The International Association of Emergency Medical Services Chiefs (IAEMSC) has selected Howard County Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief James M. Brothers as the 2014 INTERMEDIX/IAEMSC Harvard Fellowship recipient.

Chief Brothers was selected from a highly competitive candidate pool of qualified EMS chiefs to participate in the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. The program offers participants experiences both inside and outside the classroom to ensure that they are equipped to lead results-driven government agencies and non-profit organizations as public officials.

Howard County Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief James M. Brothers

"Chief Brothers embodies the best of EMS leadership today," said IAEMSC President Chief James L. Robinson. "Over the course of his distinguished career, he has helped to advance the discipline within Howard County Fire and Rescue, the State of Maryland, and the United States. His continued pursuit of advanced education also illustrates his commitment to the profession."

MIEMSS congratulates Chief Brothers on this remarkable achievement.

"Move Over" Law Education and Enforcement Efforts Continue

Law Expands this October to Include Tow Service Operations

Maryland State Police efforts to educate motorists and enforce Maryland's "move over" law continued this past June with a focused initiative that resulted in thousands of traffic stops. In June 2014 Maryland troopers issued 1,165 citations and 2,594 warnings for violations of the move over law. Troopers used each traffic stop as an opportunity to clearly inform drivers of the move over law requirements. Some drivers continue to say they are unaware of the law, which took effect in Maryland on October 1, 2010.

The move over law requires drivers approaching from the rear an emergency vehicle that is stopped on a highway and using visual signals to, if possible, make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle. This movement should only be done if another lane in the same direction is available and the move can be made safely and without impeding other traffic. If moving to another lane away from the stopped emergency vehicle is not possible, the law requires drivers to slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

The intent of the move over law is to provide an extra barrier of safety for police officers, firefighters, and emergency rescue personnel working along Maryland roads. It is hoped drivers will become more aware of police and emergency workers stopped along the road and move away from them or slow down as they pass by the traffic stop or incident scene.

Under Maryland Vehicle Law, emergency vehicles are defined as:

- Vehicles of federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies
- Vehicles of volunteer fire companies, rescue squads, fire departments, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute
- State vehicles used in response to oil or hazardous materials spills
- State vehicles designated for emergency use by the Commissioner of Correction
- Ambulances
- Special vehicles funded or provided by federal, state, or local government and used for emergency or rescue purposes in Maryland.

Violation of the move over law is a primary offense with a fine of $110 and one point. If the violation contributes to a traffic crash, the fine is $150 and three points. If the violation contributes to a traffic crash resulting in death or serious injury, the fine is $750 and three points.

Effective October 1, 2014, the move over law will expand to include tow service operators. When a tow truck is on the side of the road, the same rules of changing lanes if possible, or slowing down, will apply. Do not wait for October 1 to begin this important safety practice; start moving over for tow service operators now to get into the habit of doing so.

SAVE THE DATE!

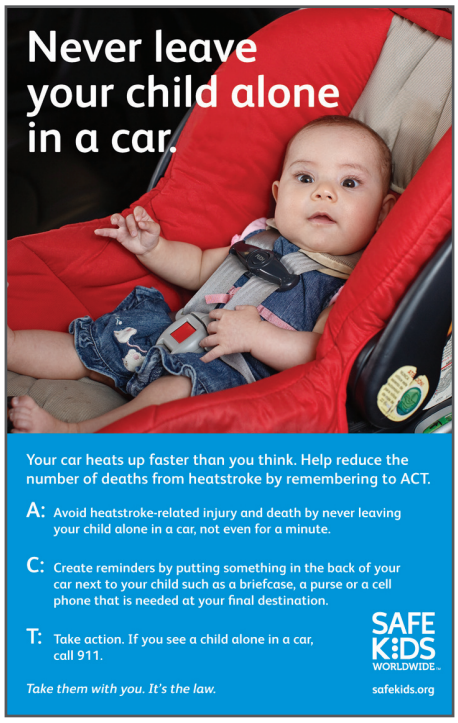
Peninsula Regional Medical Center

24th Annual Trauma Conference: Topics in Trauma

September 26, 2014

Clarion Resort and Hotel
Ocean City, MD

Online registration now available
http://bit.ly/1mGmNK2



Social Media Campaign to End Heatstroke Deaths and Injury to Children

On July 31, 2014, a collaborative social media campaign to promote National Heatstroke Prevention Day, sponsored by the US Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the US Department of Health and Human Services, Safe Kids Worldwide, and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), took place. On that day, MIEMSS posted Safe Kids' tips to ACT (see image) on Facebook and Twitter.

This campaign targeted parents and caregivers to prevent any more tragic deaths of children left in hot cars. In 2013, 44 children died from heatstroke as a result of being left alone in motor vehicles. This year, 19 children have already suffered the same fate. To help get the word out on this preventable tragedy, visit www.safercar.gov/heatstroke or www.safekids.org/heatstroke for more information.

Reducing Overdose Deaths in Maryland

On July 26, 2014, Governor Martin O'Malley unveiled new data on overdose deaths occurring in the first half of the year. Under Governor O'Malley's leadership, the state has committed to drive down overdose deaths by 20% by 2015 and has added drug and alcohol overdose deaths to the Administration's 16 strategic goals.

Overdose deaths represent one of the most compelling public health challenges facing the nation. In Maryland there were more overdose deaths than traffic fatalities in 2013. As one of the strategies to address the overdose epidemic in Maryland, Governor O'Malley signed an executive order in June establishing the Overdose Prevention Council. The Council will advise and assist in establishing an unprecedented effort among multiple State agencies to reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Maryland. Acting Co-Executive Director and State EMS Medical Director Dr. Richard Alcorta is MIEMSS' representative on the Council.

"The Overdose Council represents a new level of coordination, data collection, analysis, and information sharing among State agencies. Together, as One Maryland, we're breaking down silos to collect up-to-date statistics, better target resources, and empower citizens to combat this epidemic and save lives," said Governor O'Malley. "With this data guiding us, we will continue to fight to keep Maryland families and communities safe while also developing innovative strategies to reduce the number of overdose deaths in Maryland."

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) released a report that contains updated overdose intoxication data for the first quarter of 2014 and two data briefs, which show that from January to March 2014 there were 252 total overdose deaths, a 33% increase from the same time last year. The increase is largely driven by a rise in the number of deaths related to fentanyl-laced heroin since last fall, which coincides with trends reported by states up and down the East Coast. The data briefs also show an increase in heroin-related emergency department visits from 2008 to 2013.

Governor Martin O'Malley discusses the State's Overdose Prevention Goal, which includes the establishment of the Governor's Overdose Prevention Council. MIEMSS Acting Co-Executive Director/State EMS Medical Director Dr. Richard Alcorta is MIEMSS' representative on the Council.

To combat the rise of opioid overdoses, DHMH and Maryland State Police (MSP) have launched a new initiative to train and equip Maryland State Troopers with Naloxone. As of July 1, 2014, MSP has collaborated with local health officers in Cecil, Allegany, and Somerset Counties to train and equip police officers with Naloxone. Additionally, MIEMSS approved the use of intranasal naloxone by EMTs effective July 1, 2014. This protocol is available for commercial services and EMRs as an optional supplement.

Additional information on the Governor's Overdose Prevention Council can be found at http://governor.maryland.gov/documents/OPCFactSheet.pdf.

Two Maryland EMS Providers Receive National Star of Life Award

Paramedic John Gosford, a College of Southern Maryland professor and EMS program coordinator, and EMT Dallas Arenas, a student in the paramedic training program, have been honored with American Ambulance Association's Star of Life awards for their outstanding commitment and dedication in the line of service. In August 2013 Paramedic Gosford and EMT Arenas responded to a patient in cardiac arrest during the March on Washington in DC. They performed life-saving interventions at the scene and during transport; as a direct result of their actions, the patient survived and was discharged only days later.

(*Continued on page 7*)

Advanced Disaster Life Support™ - Instructor Course

Location:

Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute
4500 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, Maryland 20742

Date:

November 22, 2014

Time:
8:00 am – 12:30 pm

The ADLS Instructor course is provided for those students of ADLS® who desire to become instructors. The half-day course includes instruction in coordinating and conducting the four rotation stations of ADLS®. These stations are:

- Mass Triage™
- Human Patient Simulations
- PPE and Decontamination
- Disaster Skills

Each station requires unique equipment and supplies and poses logistical challenges. Instructions are provided regarding how to setup the scenarios and how the mock victims are used in support of the course. The requirement for victim moulage is also detailed to include presenting symptoms and circumstances. The minimum facility requirement for each module is specified.

- **Target Audience:** Any ADLS® student desiring to become an instructor

- **Class size:** 50

- **Pre-requisites:** BDLS® and ADLS™

  An ADLS Instructor Course will be held November 22, 2014 which requires electronic copies of BDLS and ADLS successful completion certificates <u>and</u> submission of current CV for approval to chyzer@miemss.org.

- **Course Length:** 4 hours

- **Course Credits:** N/A

- **Recertification:** Every three years

To register, please contact Chris Hyzer at 410-706-0881.

Two Maryland EMS Providers Receive National Star of Life Award

(*Continued from page 5*)

In addition to his work at the College of Southern Maryland, Paramedic Gosford works for American Medical Response. He was also selected to appear in this year's Meet the Protocols Update produced by MIEMSS. EMT Arenas, who also works for American Medical Response and attends the College of Southern Maryland, became an EMT in 2009 after losing a family member to a vehicle crash. She also holds a position in MedStar St. Mary's Hospital's hyperbaric chamber department.

The American Ambulance Association presented this year's Stars of Life awards in March 2014 in Washington, DC. MIEMSS congratulates Paramedic Gosford and EMT Arenas on their accomplishment and thanks all of Maryland's EMS providers for their service.

Paramedic John Gosford, left, and EMT Dallas Arenas, right, each received a National Star of Life Award from the American Ambulance Association during a ceremony in March 2014. Photo copyrighted by John Harrington. Reprinted with permission.

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653 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1536

Governor Martin O'Malley
Lt. Governor Anthony Brown

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653 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201-1536
www.miemss.org

Chairman, EMS Board: Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq.
Acting Co-Executive Directors, MIEMSS:
Richard L. Alcorta, MD, FACEP & Patricia Gainer, JD, MPA

Managing Editor: Aleithea Warmack (410-706-3994)
Design & Layout: Gail Kostas
Photography: Jim Brown & Brian Slack
(*unless noted otherwise for specific photos*)