



Maryland EMS News

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EMS Activities Throughout Maryland

During EMS Week, May 14–20, emergency care providers throughout Maryland planned and participated in many community activities to educate the public about injury prevention and how to recognize and respond to a medical emergency. They joined EMS providers nationwide in celebrating the theme of "EMS—New Century, New Hope." In addition, MIEMSS gave EMS Star of Life Awards on June 1. There were 23 awardees in eight categories (see pages 4 to 10 inside). Below are some of the EMS Week activities this year in Maryland.

Region I

Emergency Services Day at the Country Club Mall in LaVale was held May 13. Companies participating included Tri-Towns EMS, Northern Garrett Rescue Squad, Southern Garrett Rescue Squad, Deep Creek Fire Department, Eastern Garrett Fire Department, Northern High School EMS Club, Westmar High School EMS Club, Western Maryland Health System, Region I EMS Advisory Council, and the MIEMSS Region I Office. Throughout the day,



At the EMS Safety Fair in Children's Village, EMD Bardona Woods (Washington County ECC) uses a 9-1-1 simulator.

ambulances, rescue trucks, and equipment were on display and many vehicle extrication demonstrations took place.

The Cumberland Fire Department conducted blood pressure screenings at the Downtown Cumberland Mall.

During EMS Spirit Night at McDonald's in Oakland on May 15, blood pressure screenings were held, EMS coloring books and balloons were distributed, and ambulances were displayed by the Southern Garrett Rescue Squad.

Proceeds from the admission fees for a basketball game between Southern Garrett Rescue Squad and Northern Garrett Rescue Squad benefited both squads.

The EMS Clubs of Northern and Wesmar high schools took field trips to the Baltimore R Adams Cowley

Shock Trauma Center and to the Baltimore City Fire Department. The club members also attended the Orioles baseball game that raised funds for the fallen firefighters in Boston.

Southern Garrett Rescue Squad sponsored an EMS poster contest for school children and held an open house. It also sent a letter-to-the-editor to the local newspaper "The Republican" regarding EMS Week and thanking those who volunteer in the EMS system.

Both Garrett and Allegany counties issued EMS Week Proclamations. The commissioners and representatives of the local EMS organizations in each county met to announce EMS Week and sign the proclamation for their county.

Region II

On May 16, the Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway participated in Emergency Medical Services Night at Shoney's Restaurant across from Valley Mall. The firefighters and EMS

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Mark Smith explains as Tri-Towns EMS demonstrates rescue equipment at the County Club Mall in LaVale.

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providers worked as waiters and waitresses for the evening, with all tips being donated to the fire department. They also passed out EMS and fire literature as they worked. On the restaurant parking lot, they did child safety seat inspections, conducted a bicycle safety rodeo, and provided blood pressure screenings. The Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Safety Trailer was set up and provided safety information and interactive safety training for children. (The trailer/"house" has many EMS and fire hazards and eventually fills with "smoke," at which time the children have to make the right decision to escape from the "house.") All of the safety activities can be monitored by the parents outside the trailer as they watch a large television screen permanently mounted on the side of the trailer.

On May 20, the Washington County Health Systems joined with the prehospital EMS and other safety organizations to conduct a daylong "EMS Safety Fair" at Children's Village in Hagerstown. The activities included the following.

- Equipment, fire apparatus, and ambulances displayed by the following companies: Williamsport Dive Team; "EVAK K-9" Search and Rescue Team (search & rescue dogs) from Kearneysville, WV; Sharpsburg Ambulance; Washington County 911 Center (with teaching 911 console); Volunteer Fire Department of Halfway, Maryland with fire apparatus and ambulance; Community Rescue Service Ambulance; Clear Spring Ambulance; Hagerstown City Fire Department—Engine #3 "Independent Junior Fire Engine Company."

- At the Washington County Health Systems, the emergency department nurses conducted a teddy bear clinic; the trauma service conducted face paintings; and both departments conducted "safe kids" games, where the winners were awarded prizes. Free fresh popcorn and sodas were provided to all participants throughout the day.

- Washington County Safe Kids Coalition conducted child car seat

checks throughout the day.

The Washington County Health Systems:

- Funded several newspaper advertisements and radio announcements pertaining to EMS Week.

- Developed and printed EMS Week and EMS Safety Fair "flyers" and distributed them to all elementary schools in Washington County.

- Had their Emergency Department, Trauma Department, and Public Affairs Department actively participate in all events of EMS Week.

- The Emergency Department Nurses provided liquid and snack refreshments in the EMS area for a continuous 24-hour period on May 16.

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County issued an

EMS Week Proclamation on May 16.

The Frederick Memorial Hospital Emergency Department served refreshments throughout EMS Week.

Region III

Carroll County General Hospital hosted an EMS Week Dinner, featuring a talk on haz mat incidents.

The Region III EMS Council's EMS Week Committee hosted many activities during the week. On May 17, an EMS Week Demonstration was held at McKeldin Square by the Inner Harbor in Baltimore. The downtown lunch crowd was attracted by Rescue 1 and Baltimore City EMS providers participating in mock rescue and medical care scenarios. There were also various EMS and safety displays. These included blood

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Demonstrating extrication skills in a staged incident by the Inner Harbor in Baltimore.



Blood pressure screenings were provided by the Community Health Awareness and Monitoring Program in Baltimore.

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pressure screenings provided by the Community Health Awareness and Monitoring Program (CHAMP), stroke risk assessments and quizzes on stroke awareness presented by the Maryland Chapter of the American Heart Association, and equipment displays and safety messages from Baltimore City and Baltimore County fire departments.

May 18 found EMS providers and firefighters engaging in a tough battle on the golf course. Twelve teams from around the state teed off at Mt. Pleasant Golf Course to

support EMS training throughout Region III. Norris Ford offered a Ford Taurus to the first person achieving a hole in one, but no one was able to take them up on it. The winner of the "Closest to the Pin" (Chip Parlin, Anne Arundel County) was entered into a national drawing for the "pick of any Ford vehicle." In addition, there were other smaller prizes. Eric Halfpap who drove the ball 285 yards won the longest drive. The overall winners were Mat and Tom Nichols, Dave Ebersole, and Pat Lynch from Howard County Fire Rescue. They shot a 9 under par in the best ball

competition. Special thanks go to sponsors Chilis Restaurant, North Park Family Consultation Center, and Parris & Castoro Eye and Laser Center for helping to underwrite the golf tournament fundraiser.

An EMS Millennium Celebration was held at Tiffany's East in Baltimore. To make up for the fact that many EMS providers had to work New Year's Eve, the dinner-dance affair included turning back the clocks and counting down to midnight. It was also a chance to say thanks to all who worked hard

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A mock medical care scenario is enacted at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.



The Maryland Chapter of the American Heart Association focused on stroke risk assessments at its table at McKeldin Square by Baltimore's Inner Harbor.



One of the 12 teams participating in the Region III Golf Tournament.



Members of the Region III EMS Week Committee, (l-r) Kevin Williams, John Donohue, Christine Ulhorn, Mark Zinn, and Valerie Hall-Butler, pose by the Ford Taurus from Norris Ford. The dealership planned to donate a two-year lease on the car to the golfer achieving a hole-in-one on a designated hole. Unfortunately, no one achieved that hole-in-one.



"Bernie, the EMS Dog" (top) and "Andy, the Ambulance" (bottom) in Baltimore's EMS parade.

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planning and implementing the EMS Week activities. Most of all it was an evening of fun for nearly 200 EMS providers and their friends.

The week ended with a 1.5 mile EMS parade through Baltimore City. Lights, sirens, and four high-energy marching bands brought lots of attention to EMS week. McGruff (the "crime dog"), Bernie (the EMS Dog), and "Andy, the Ambulance" made the trek that ended in a battle of the bands on Dunbar's track field. Spectators got a chance to look at EMS, rescue, and suppression equipment from around the region.



An EMS parade got the community involved in Baltimore City.

Jurisdictions were also busy with activities on their "home" turf. For example, Baltimore City visited several high schools and middle schools throughout the week with its "stop the violence" campaign and visited many assisted living facilities to provide information on EMS programs.

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Star of Life Award . . .

The following received Maryland Star of Life Awards for their quick thinking, calm actions, and life-saving skills that contributed to the miraculous recovery of Wally Moran.

- EMT/Paramedic Eileen Jenkins
- CRT Julia Bonner
- CRT Chuck Duran
- EMT-B Donnie Wilkerson
- EMT-B Chris Buffalini
- Former Calvert County Deputy Sheriff Jenny Gilbert
- Trooper 7 Flight Paramedic Patrick King
- Trooper 7 Pilot Paul Jones
- The crew of Engine 151 of the Fire Department, Naval District of the Washington Fire & Emergency Services

When the call came in from the

Breezy Point area of Calvert County, for a "laceration to the neck," an ambulance and a medic unit were dispatched. Expecting a simple laceration, both crews were unprepared for what they saw when they arrived.

The North Beach Volunteer Fire Department ambulance crew—Chris Buffalini, an EMT-B and driver, and EMT-B Donnie Wilkerson—were first on the scene. They found Wally Moran kneeling on the grass. His co-worker, who had called 9-1-1, was sitting to the side, looking stunned.

Beyond them, were a new in-ground swimming pool and a short wooden picket fence under construction. Only the top of Mr. Moran's head was visible. As the

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Maryland Star of Life Award Winners: EMT-P Eileen Jenkins, CRT Julia Bonner, EMT-B Chris Buffalini, former Calvert County Deputy Sheriff Jenny Gilbert, and Trooper 7 Flight Paramedic Patrick King. They are shown with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member. Not pictured are award winners CRT Chuck Duran, EMT-B Donnie Wilkerson, Trooper 7 Pilot Paul Jones, and the crew of engine 151.

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North Beach ambulance crew leaned over to talk to him, he raised his head and the crew saw that his bottom lip and jaw had been cut in half and the front of his throat was laid open. The laceration on his anterior throat was several inches wide, transecting his trachea and finally ending at his right collarbone.

Questioning the co-worker, Mr. Buffalini and Mr. Wilkerson learned that Mr. Moran had been working with a circular saw on a fence board. The saw "kicked up," coming down onto Mr. Moran's jaw, continuing downward over the neck and toward his chest. Mr. Moran had fallen to the ground and was doing the only thing he could do to breathe. By staying on his hands and knees, he could still get air into his lungs.

Mr. Buffalini's mother—Paramedic Eileen Jenkins—and CRTs Julia Bonner and Chuck Doran were the Calvert Advanced Life Support crew that arrived shortly after the BLS crew. Mr. Moran was still conscious. In fact, although he could not answer questions verbally, he gestured for a pen to write. After writing down his allergies to medications, he was told a Med-Evac helicopter was on its way to take him to a trauma center. He wrote: "I've never flown." Ms. Jenkins said that they were amazed at his bravery and calmness.

Jenny Gilbert, who is a CRT and was Calvert County Deputy Sheriff at the time of the incident, arrived at the scene to investigate what was considered an industrial accident. Her CRT skills were quickly utilized.

In the meantime, several crew members of Engine 151 of the Fire Department, Naval District of the Washington Fire & Emergency Services—FF Steven Truesdell, FF Tom Silvers, FF Herb Hamilton, and Capt. Mike Wells—under the direction of Fire Chief Ed Stillwell, were setting up the helicopter landing site.

By the time Trooper 7 arrived with Pilot Paul Jones and Flight Paramedic Patrick King, the six EMS providers had applied a trauma pad, oxygen mask, inserted an IV, and transported the patient kneeling on a backboard in the ambulance to the helicopter landing site.

Trooper 7 Flight Paramedic King then gave Mr. Moran some medication to make him unconscious so he could roll him on his back and intubate him. After the endotracheal tube was adjusted and secured, Mr. Moran was ventilated with a bag valve mask and transported to the helicopter. CRT Chuck Duran and an EMT from Engine 151 accompanied the Trooper 7 crew to Prince George's Trauma Center.

Mr. Moran is recovering and involved in rehabilitative therapies.

MSP Paramedic King commented that it was a very difficult case and "it's unusual to get such a complicated call. Fortunately, everything in the EMS system worked exactly right." He and the other EMS providers were very pleased with the successful outcome.

EMS Citizen Awards. . .

Maryland EMS Citizen Awards were presented to Reuben C. Halsey, Jr., William Stewart III, and to Alan J. Badeaux. Mr. Halsey and Mr. Stewart are students and Mr. Badeaux is a teacher at Crossland High School in Prince George's County.

On January 11, 2000, a tragic incident occurred during a welding class at Crossland High School. Hearing someone cry out in the classroom, Mr. Halsey stepped out of his work area to investigate and discovered that a classmate's clothing was on fire. Without hesitation or regard for his own safety, he took off his leather welding smock and wrapped it around his classmate. Mr. Halsey was able to get him to the floor, while another classmate—Mr. Stewart—seeing what was happening, retrieved a fire blanket from the wall and wrapped it around the victim, smothering the flames. With the assistance of their teacher, Mr. Badeaux, both young men were able to prevent further injury and possibly saved the life of their fellow classmate.

At the awards ceremony, Mr. Badeaux thanked the firefighters and paramedics who gave live demonstrations to students in his school. Without their training, the save on January 11 might not have happened. He urged other EMS providers to go into schools to train students in safety procedures.

Provider of the Year Award. . .

Tri-Towns' Chief Francis T. Mowbray, Jr., received the EMS Provider of the Year Award. Nominated for the award by his EMS crew, Chief Mowbray has a long list of accomplishments during a 26-year

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Maryland EMS Citizen Award Winners: Student Reuben C. Halsey, Jr. and teacher Alan J. Badeaux. They are shown with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member. Not pictured is award winner William Stewart III, a student.

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volunteer EMS career—only a few of which are mentioned in this article.

Chief Mowbray is constantly improving himself as an EMS provider. He has taken more than 5,000 hours of emergency services training. Years ago, while maintaining an active status in Tri-Towns, he also volunteered as a part-time firefighter/medic in Howard County on his days off, in order to gain valuable experience. He is currently working toward a college degree in Fire Science. Yet he continues to devote hours to patient care. In 1999, he contributed 2,909 hours of duty time.

At his full-time job, he promotes safety and injury prevention as the Construction Safety Supervisor at Westvaco Corporation. His efforts at work have proven to be effective, with the injury rate for construction employees declining drastically over the 4-year period that he has held this position. He also serves as the Westvaco Luke Mill HazMat/Rescue Team Coordinator and a paramedic on the plant EMS Group.

Believing that an active presence in the EMS community is important to keep Tri-Towns current with standards, Chief Mowbray serves and has served on many EMS committees.

Tri-Towns EMS, a completely volunteer service with 120 members, serves areas of Allegany and Garrett counties; in addition, it responds to the Piedmont area of West Virginia. Despite a shortage of volunteers experienced by many EMS

organizations, Chief Mowbray has been able to attract and retain many new recruits, including young people.

This increase has enabled Tri-Towns to eliminate delayed responses to emergency calls. In addition, Tri-Towns EMS has not failed to respond to a call within the past two years—since October 12, 1998—which is a great story in itself and can be attributed to Chief Mowbray's leadership.

Several years ago, the Tri-Towns station house sustained heavy water damage because of a flood that swept the Western Maryland area. During the past year, under the leadership of Chief Mowbray, the station has been completely renovated to include provision for training of personnel. In addition, Tri-Towns will get two new vehicles to replace worn out ambulances. Last year, under Chief Mowbray, Tri-Towns purchased protective clothing for most of the active providers, to be used during rescues in a hazardous environment.

The efforts of Chief Mowbray have gone beyond the confines of his stations. He has initiated programs within the community to increase wellness awareness. Tri-Towns volunteers have assisted in blood pressure screenings and acted as EMS standbys at various functions at the local high schools and at other events. Tri-Towns is especially visible to the community during EMS Week. For example, more than 30 volunteers recently participated in mock emergencies during the EMS

Day at Country Club Mall. All of this is encouraged by Chief Mowbray.

Chief Mowbray was nominated for the EMS Provider of the Year Award by EMS providers in Tri-Towns. Writing about their chief, Tri-Towns said: "His hard work, dedication, support, and leadership contribute to his professional ability to manage Tri-Towns EMS. But he is more than that. To some he is a parent, to others a brother, and to all, our friend." In addition, he is now the Maryland EMS Provider of the Year.

And in his words, he received the award "on behalf of all Maryland EMS providers." . . . for he is only part of an EMS team and his "job is very easy to do with such a dedicated group."

Star of Life Award. . .

FF/CRT Andrew Seitz, from the Baltimore City Fire Department, received a Maryland Star of Life Award.

On December 23, 1999, Mr. Seitz was off duty from the Baltimore City Fire Department and visiting friends when he saw fire coming from a house down the street. As he started running toward it, he saw a woman rush from a house across the street from the house on fire and into the burning home. The woman lived in the burning house and was trying to save her cats and Christmas gifts. Firefighter/CRT Seitz rushed into the home to rescue the woman as flames

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EMS Provider of the Year Award Winner: Chief Francis T. Mowbray, Jr. He is shown with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member.



Maryland Star of Life Award Winner: FF/CRT Andrew Seitz. He is shown with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member.

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swirled at the top of the stairs and smoke filled the rooms. Finally he was able to get her out of the house, and began taking care of her and other residents until the fire department arrived. Forty firefighters labored for 45 minutes to bring the severe blaze under control.

Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year Award. . .

John G. Woelfel, a state-certified emergency medical dispatcher with Frederick County Emergency Communications Center (ECC), received the Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year Award. This is the first year the award was given.

Mr. Woelfel not only answers and prioritizes 9-1-1 calls and dispatches the appropriate response vehicles, but also instructs the 9-1-1 callers how to manage or treat a person until professional medical help arrives. According to his supervisor ECC Director Randy Waesche who nominated him, he consistently scores in the highest performance percentiles.

Prior to the 1997 implementation of a state-certified emergency medical dispatcher program, Frederick County Emergency Communications implemented a pre-arrival emergency medical advice program. This was in 1986, and Frederick County was the second jurisdiction in Maryland to start such a program.

Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS. . .

Kenneth L. May received the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS. As a tribute to the memory of Mr. Hayes, this award was designated to go to an individual "who demonstrates through his professional and personal life, dedication to excellence in patient care, compassion and respect for each patient, and commitment to continuous improvement of the Maryland EMS system in education and in prevention."

Kenneth May has been active in the Maryland volunteer fire service for 55 years and in the Maryland EMS



Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year Award Winner: John G. Woelfel, EMD, EMT-B. He is shown with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member.



The Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in Emergency Medical Services: Kenneth L. May, EMT-B. He is shown with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member.

system for 25 years. He has been president of the LaVale Volunteer Rescue Squad in Allegany County for the past 15 years. While many of his friends have retired to leisure activities, Mr. May has retired to his squad and has the honor of being #1 in his squad for both number of hours served and number of calls answered. Mr. May is also active with EMS/fire

activities at the county level. He serves on the Allegany County Fire and Rescue Board as the EMS representative and as its secretary/treasurer. He has been a champion for the volunteer services, lobbying for and receiving increased county funding for fire and EMS companies.

At the regional level, Mr. May

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serves as the Transportation Committee chairman for the EMS Advisory Council. This committee is responsible for the regional ambulance inspections and coordinates the Department of Transportation Highway Safety grant program for the region. Equipment and training from these grants have affected 80 percent of the ambulance/fire services in the region. In addition, Mr. May is a member of the Statewide EMS Advisory Council and many of its committees. Mr. May is also involved in many community activities.

EMRC 25th Anniversary

In honor of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Emergency Medical Resource Center, MIEMSS presented appreciation awards to hospitals and individuals that were involved in its initial development.

Individuals included John Stafford, MD, George Pelletier, Andrew J. Pilarski, and Loyal "Butch" Jones; hospitals included Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, and the University of Maryland Medical Center.

EMRC's first call was received at 10:15 AM on May 12, 1975 from Baltimore City Medic 5 to the EMRC



Appreciation Awards in Honor of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Emergency Medical Resource Center: Jim Scheulen (Administrator, Emergency Medicine, Johns Hopkins Hospital), Will Cook (Administrator, Emergency Medicine, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center), Robert Dice, RN (Trauma Coordinator, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center), George Pelletier, Andrew J. Pilarski, Loyal "Butch" Jones, and Dr. Brian Browne (Director, Emergency Medicine, University of Maryland Medical Center). They are shown with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member. Not pictured is John Stafford, MD.

located at Sinai Hospital at that time. The communication system was first funded as a demonstration project by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, which is now known as the Department of Health and Human Services.

The current EMRC is located at MIEMSS in Baltimore. The original system covered Baltimore City, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties. In April 1999, the center was expanded to cover the counties of Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's. EMRC now services approximately 90 percent of the state's population. In fiscal year 1999, there were 229,900 radio and phone calls handled at the EMRC.

EMS Program Award. . .

CRT Kevin Williams received the EMS Program Award for his "EMS Stop the Violence Program." CRT Williams is the developer and chairperson of the "EMS Stop the Violence Program," which has been presented in more than 15 Baltimore City middle schools and high schools since January 2000. Mr. Williams' vision and resolve to make a difference in the lives of the youths in our city go back to 1992 when Baltimore had a record number of homicides. In May 1999, his program was implemented in schools in



EMS Program of the Year Award Winner: CRT Kevin Williams for implementing the EMS Stop the Violence Program in Baltimore City middle and high schools. He is shown with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member.

Baltimore City. It includes one-on-one mentoring, health, and safety education, with the goal of giving children positive alternatives to solve their problems. Mr. Williams strives to give the students the knowledge needed to make better informed choices, shows them the impact of negative decisions on their communities, schools, and families, and lets them know where to go for help. His positive energy is bringing about positive changes.

EMS for Children Award. . .

This is the first year that the EMS for Children Award was given. The following individuals—each from a different agency—were honored for their work in developing the "Emergency Response Team Guide," which has demonstrated excellence in EMS care for children in Maryland. These individuals are:

- Maria Johnson, from Pupil Services of the Charles County Public School System
- Trooper David Svites, from the Maryland State Police
- Sgt. Hoover Thompson, from the Charles County Sheriff's Department
- Assistant Fire Chief Scott Creelman, from the Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association
- Assistant EMS Chief Charles Wills, from the Charles County

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Association of Emergency Medical Services

The "Emergency Response Team Guide" was developed for response to disaster situations in Charles County schools. Such disasters as weapons in the schools, suicide, hostage taking, bus crashes, tornadoes, and demonstrations are covered in the quick response guide, which provides at a glance the course of action that police, fire, EMS, and school personnel should take.

The guides have been placed in all emergency vehicles used by Charles County fire and EMS personnel, as well as the Maryland State Police and Charles County Sheriff's Department cars. Each school bus and pupil personnel workers' car driven for the Charles County Public School System will also carry a booklet for reference. Each school in Charles County now has an Emergency Response Kit and the guidelines are also part of the equipment placed in the kit.

As part of their research for the quick response guide, the authors attended several presentations on school violence incidents and learned about special problems encountered during the incidents, such as consolidated command, "freelancing" responders, and scene and crowd control.

According to Assistant EMS Chief Charles Wills, the guide was "tested" in the disaster drill at Lackey High School in Indian Head, Charles County on May 20. This drill simulated a school bus crash with special needs students followed by a hostage situation in the school. The writers of the manual were very pleased with the results of the drill.

Quality in EMS Award. . .

Judy Phillips, RN, CPQA, the Nurse Trauma Coordinator at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, received the Quality in EMS Award.

Over the past four years, Ms. Phillips has provided quality



The EMS for Children Award Winners: Maria Johnson, MSP Trooper David Suites, Sgt. Hoover Thompson, and Assistant EMS Chief Charles Wills. They are shown with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member. Not pictured: Assistant Fire Chief Scott Creelman.



Members of the EMS Public Education Committee of the Baltimore City Fire Department's EMS Division (l-r) Chief Lloyd Carter, Lt. Alan Bull, Valerie Hall-Butler, Vanessa Burrell, and CRT Kevin Williams (committee chairman) present an Appreciation Award to MIEMSS Region III Administrator John Donohue. They are shown with Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member, and MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass.

management leadership to MIEMSS and to the Maryland Trauma Network. As chairperson of the Trauma Quality Improvement Committee, she has provided the leadership, organization, and direction to an area with diverse needs and political interests.

Among her many contributions, several have played an important role in defining and maintaining a statewide, quality trauma care system. She was instrumental in the establishment of trauma center standards for the promulgation of

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The Quality in EMS Award Winner: Judy Phillips, RN, CPQA. She is shown with MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert R. Bass and Capt. John Fraser, Baltimore City Fire Dept. and EMS Board member.

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regulations. Her four-year tenure as chairperson of the Trauma Quality Improvement Committee has kept the committee focused. They have established key indicators of EMS and clinical trauma care, defined process and patient outcomes to be monitored, and ensured consistency and compliance in Maryland Trauma Registry participation.

EMS Week Activities

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Region IV

Centreville's EMS Division of the Goodwill Fire Company (22 EMT-Bs, 3 CRTs, and 2 EMT-Ps) held an open house on May 16 and 20. Free blood pressure screenings were also held. Equipment, such as the Thumper, was demonstrated. Information was also available for people wishing to join the fire and/or ambulance service. Goodwill also sent an ambulance to the Hayden Welcome Center for a Safety Day demonstration on May 19.

The Kent County EMS Council and the Kent County Fire and EMS

departments held an EMS Awareness Day on May 21. Keith Bennet coordinated the event.

Caroline County Department of Emergency Medical Services celebrated EMS Week with a safety display at the Hertrich Chevrolet-Dodge dealership in Denton. EMS events included a free car seat safety check and equipment displays.

Region V

The Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Department sponsored a Partners in Prevention Safety Day on May 4. The dangers of household cleaning products, fires, and other everyday dangers were presented. Children were also given the opportunity to dress up in firemen's gear, and taught what equipment is on a fire truck that is needed during medical and other emergencies. More than 500 students from kindergarten through second grade went to the Fire and EMS Training Academy in Cheltenham to learn about the different jobs performed by public safety personnel.

On May 18, the Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) invited medical professionals, EMTs, and the community to tour the hospital's new Emergency Department and meet the CNMC Pediatric Emergency Care team. In addition to the new "kid-friendly" design and equipment, several key service areas distinguish CNMC in the provision of emergency pediatric care. These features include: the emergency communications and information center; the emergency medicine and trauma center which is an accredited level I pediatric trauma center; an after-hours urgent care center for children with mild acute illnesses or injuries; and the 23-hour evaluation and treatment unit for children who may require extended observation but not need to be admitted to the hospital for an overnight stay. In addition, the CNMC Emergency Department is doing several community-based violence prevention research projects.



Calvert County EMS Appreciation Day was held at the Calvert County Industrial Park on May 13. BLS/ALS teams from each of the county's EMS companies competed, displaying their patient care skills in multi-victim scenarios. In addition to the competitions, which were open to the public, there were displays, demonstrations, and information on volunteering for EMS.

Charles County celebrated EMS week with a massive public information campaign. Every student in the county was given a pamphlet describing the EMS system, including how to use it and how to participate as a volunteer provider. Each pamphlet had a blue ribbon attached that could be affixed to an antenna during EMS Week. There were many reports of blue-ribboned antenna sightings. A second and companion printed piece was distributed widely through the regional mall in St. Charles. EMS Week culminated on May 20 as Charles County hosted the second Tri-County Drill. This extensive drill with nearly 100 school-age victims and the participation of EMS, fire, rescue, and SWAT teams from Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties replicated a terrorist takeover of Lackey High School that included the detonation of a bomb (see pages 11-13).

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A scene from the Tri-County drill hosted by Charles County.

Tri-County Disaster Drill

The fire, rescue, and EMS services of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties knew they would be participating in a mass casualty exercise on May 20, but they were not sure about the details of the scenarios.

After the 9-1-1 calls were received by the Charles County Communication Center, the Potomac Heights Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad was dispatched and was the first to arrive at Lackey High School in Indian Head.

In the parking lot, firefighters found a school bus carrying special needs children that was lying on its side and three crashed vehicles. (According to the scenario, there had been an explosion causing a school bus carrying special needs children to overturn, crashing into three other cars.)



Managing mock "realistic" injuries.

A propane tank produced a "controlled" fire that simulated the fire engulfing the schoolbus. Volunteers quickly began to unwind hoses and put out the fire. Next came the difficult task of removing the screaming children from the overturned bus; some were in wheelchairs or attached to special medical equipment. Victims from the cars were lying on the parking lot. Then came the task of triaging and treating the injured victims. All of the victims had been moulaged with mock "realistic" injuries by the Port Tobacco Players.

The scenario was complicated when several injured teens came screaming and running out of the school. Some collapsed on the ground. Two gun-wielding young men were shooting and holding 30 students and staff hostage inside. Rescuers now turned their attention to the school and to the newly injured. Police took over the scene, shielding the injured behind their squad cars. The Emergency Services Team (EST)—20 police officers trained in special weapons and terrorist tactics—from Charles and St. Mary's counties was called. The EST entered the school after dispersing from behind an armored vehicle and protected by metal shields. Once inside the school, they tried to get the students out. However, everyone was suspect of possibly being a terrorist.

Students went out one by one after putting their hands on their heads, walking down the hall, stopping to be frisked, and then continuing out the door where they were escorted to safety.

After some students were taken out, the two young terrorists, hiding behind a wall down the corridor from the EST, engaged in a verbal confrontation with them. Finally one terrorist surrendered, was handcuffed and led off. The other terrorist then moved into a classroom.

As the EST were readying to move in, the terrorist set off a bomb, injuring students and killing two EST members. Smoke filled the area, making the search and extrication of victims even more difficult. The young terrorist was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Again, the victims—many with simulated gunshot wounds, burns, and lacerations—were triaged and treated outside the school. Some were then transported to Civista Hospital as part of the drill. Victims with simulated injuries were also "staged" at Fort Washington and St. Mary's hospitals.

The May 20 drill demonstrated the cooperation of multiple agencies and hundreds of people in three jurisdictions. The Potomac Heights Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, the Charles County EMS Association, the fire, rescue, and EMS services of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties, the Charles

(Continued on page 12)



The scene that greeted the first fire and EMS response units.



Hosing down the fire that, according to the scenario, engulfed the school bus.

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County Board of Education, and MIEMSS planned and conducted the mass casualty exercise. It was funded by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency through a domestic terrorism training grant.

The drill involved more than 100 victims, over 200 EMS providers and support personnel, 5 public safety agencies, 36 police officers, 28 ambulances, 18 pieces of fire apparatus, and the Charles County School System, including administration, staff, and students from Lackey. In addition, more than 50 pieces of apparatus and nearly 300 volunteers responded to the mass casualty incident.

Throughout the May 20 disaster exercise, every aspect was evaluated by 20 emergency response personnel from Maryland and Virginia. The

"lessons learned" session was held several days after the event. Rick Meighen, Region V associate administrator, and the evaluation team noted that the main problem encountered during the drill was communication between the response teams. "The various county to county ambulances were on different [radio] channels. Ambulances with St. Mary's and Calvert counties were on separate channels and were unable to successfully communicate. They did solve the problem by duplicating the walkie talkies and having two walkie talkies in the ambulances, one having the St. Mary's frequency and the other with the Calvert frequency." Mr. Meighen thought that the three Southern Maryland counties should develop a radio system to allow radios to scan all three channels during a disaster.

Communications was also a problem inside the school in dealing with the hostage situation. Mr. Meighen said that there was "a SWAT
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Rick Meighen, Region V associate administrator, checks on drill proceedings.



Working to reach victims trapped inside a crashed vehicle.



Extricating an injured child.



Assessing the injured.



The new edition of the pocket version of the "Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services Providers" is now available. This edition contains the new protocol changes that were effective July 1, 2000 with jurisdictional implementation by October 1, 2000. Still a bargain at \$1, the pocket version of the protocols can be obtained by contacting the MIEMSS Department of Education, Licensure, and Certification (1-800-762-7157), your local MIEMSS regional administrator, or your local EMS operational program.

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team from St. Mary's County and they were on a different radio channel than the [Charles County] team. But again, the problem was solved with the commander of the team having two radios."

Another problem noted by the evaluation team was "establishing a unified command involving high-ranking officials from the various agencies. . . . At some points, some commanders were not in the same location. They need to understand that they all have to work together and all decisions have to come from all groups involved."

To provide additional training in and discussion about disasters, Mr.

Meighen suggested that more table-top drills might be helpful, where leaders would meet and discuss scenarios such as the May 20 drill, without actually "enacting" them.

School officials were following the procedures mapped out in the Red Book or "Emergency Response Team Guide" developed by representatives of the Charles County Public School System, the Charles County Sheriff's Department, and the Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and the Charles County Association of EMS (see pages 8-9 for information regarding the EMS for Children Award given to the developers of the manual). The drill also gave them a chance to see what

procedures might need to be improved (for example, a system of notifying parents and accounting for students involved in a mass casualty incident).

Most gave the participants in the May 20 drill high marks. Mr. Meighen emphasized that the "Southern Maryland providers acted professionally and they carried out their duties as if the scenario were real. They take their training seriously. Just the number of people who were with the providers giving up their Saturday morning to participate reflects their dedication."

◆ Beverly Sopp



Treating and preparing a patient for transport.



The Emergency Services Team prepares to enter the high school.



The Emergency Services Team searches for the two terrorists inside the school.



Injured students are taken out of the school.

Distinguished Healthcare Leader Award

Richard L. Alcorta, MD, FACEP, State EMS Medical Director, received one of the Howard University Hospital 2000 Legacy of Leadership Awards, specifically the award for Distinguished Health Care Leader. Chosen by a panel of his peers, Dr. Alcorta received the award at the Ninth Annual Legacy of Leadership Awards Gala at the DC Hilton Washington & Towers Hotel on May 20.

The Legacy of Leadership Award recognizes individuals who exemplify the mission of Howard University Hospital—"excellence in service and leadership" in the health care industry. Other awards presented included Distinguished Health Care Educator and Distinguished Health Care Advocate.

Dr. Alcorta has participated in numerous advocacy groups and has been tireless in his efforts to ensure quality prehospital care in Maryland. He was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Maryland Chapter of the American College of

Emergency Physicians.

Dr. Alcorta is a nationally recognized leader and expert on the delivery of emergency care for a Weapons of Mass Destruction event. He is the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) State Medical Director and has presented scholarly papers at the CSEPP and National Disaster Medical Preparedness conferences. He has received many awards, including the Governor's Salute to Excellence and the Excellence in Concepts of Public Health and Family Practice Award.

Howard University Hospital stated that Dr.

Alcorta's "impact on the health and safety of the people of Maryland during the past decade and his achievements in the emergency medical service system are exemplary. His commitment to the education of health care providers and dedication to excellence have made him a national leader in the delivery of both prehospital and emergency hospital care."



H. Patrick Swygert (President of Howard University) and Dr. Floyd Malveaux (Interim Vice-President for Health Affairs and Dean of the College of Medicine) present the Legacy of Leadership Award to Dr. Richard Alcorta, Maryland State EMS Medical Director.

Working on E-MAIS

MIEMSS is working to implement an electronic version of the Maryland Ambulance Information System (E-MAIS) during the next few years. The goal is to develop a statewide, user-friendly, computerized ambulance reporting system that may eventually replace the current paper system. Implementation will result in more accurate and timely reporting of data that will lead to more effective use of the data in EMS operations. Prehospital providers will find the system easier to use and faster than the current MAIS system. Feedback to participating entities will also be faster and more accurate.

Maryland's Department of Budget and Management has awarded MIEMSS one year of funding (with potential for 2-4 additional years of funding). First year funding will be used to develop the software and the infrastructure to process the data. Several pilot programs will be established. Future funding will be used to refine the software and provide distribution to all jurisdictions. The software may be used to collect fire response data. Although no jurisdiction will be mandated to convert to the electronic program, MIEMSS believes that the benefits will attract widespread participation.

A subcommittee representing many elements of the EMS system has helped develop the request for proposal that will be published in late July or August. After pre-bid conferences, vendor fairs, and evaluation by those who will be using the system, a contract award is expected in October.

Any jurisdiction wishing to participate in the pilot program should contact Kevin Combs, Information Technology director, at 410-706-7798.

The *Maryland EMS News* will keep the EMS community up to date on progress toward the development of an E-MAIS system.

Mackenzie Named Director of National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Systems

Colin F. Mackenzie, MD, has been appointed Director of the National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Systems (NSC) by Dr. Donald E. Wilson, Dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Mackenzie served as the Study Center's interim director since 1996. He is also a Professor of Anesthesiology and the Vice-Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology in the School of Medicine, as well as Director of Anesthesiology in the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

The NSC conducts research into the causes, treatment, and outcomes of traumatic injury and sudden illness. It was established by the U.S. Congress in 1986. Federal and state statutes designate the NSC as a research arm for the Shock Trauma Center and for MIEMSS.

Current research projects in the National Study Center include the following:

- crash reconstruction studies, which identify compartment intrusions that occur during crashes and link them with physical injuries (and thus contribute to improved vehicular safety) (funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation)
- surveillance of pre-injury alcohol abuse by trauma patients and evaluation of brief interventions for trauma patients who abuse alcohol and other drugs (funded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)
- telemedicine projects involving, for example, trauma resuscitations and early intervention for ischemic stroke (funded by the Army Research Institute, the National Science Foundation, and the National Library of Medicine)
- evaluation of patterns of pedestrian injuries in Ocean City and participation in the resulting

Pedestrian Safety Campaign (funded by the Maryland Highway Safety Office)

More information about the NSC can be obtained by calling 410-328-5085 or visiting its web site at <http://som1.umaryland.edu/NSCforTrauma>.

Christiana Hospital Formally Recognized as Primary Transport Trauma Center

MIEMSS has entered into a written agreement with the Christiana Care Health Services Trauma Center to receive critically ill patients from the northeast quadrant of Maryland. Christiana Hospital, located in Christiana, Delaware, is a Level I trauma center designated by Delaware Emergency Medical Services and has gone through the American College of Surgeons' verification process as a Level I center.

This agreement, which formalizes the mutual aid process that has been occurring, allows time-critical patients from Cecil and northern Kent counties to be transported to the closest appropriate trauma center. The trauma center is under the direction of Glen Trinkoff, MD, Trauma Director, and Linda Jones, RN, Trauma Coordinator.

MIEMSS will benefit from this agreement by getting access to data on Maryland patients transported to Christiana Hospital. Maryland EMS providers will also benefit from prehospital educational programs and case reviews through the trauma center. EMS radio communications already exist with the hospital. MIEMSS has placed an audio console in the trauma center that allows hospital personnel to talk to Maryland providers.



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EMS, & St. Mary's County
Rescue Squad Association

Pre-Conference, September 8

- Annual meeting of Tri-County Quality Council
- Quality Improvement Workshop
- Base Station Course for Nurses & Physicians

Conference, September 9-10

- General sessions on national EMS topics
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Governor Parris N. Glendening

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DATED MATERIAL

EMS/DNR

During the last Maryland state legislative session, a new law was passed that allows Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) forms to be honored by all health care providers, as well as by prehospital EMS providers. The law goes into effect on October 1.

Prior to the passage of this law, only prehospital EMS providers were authorized under state law to honor EMS/DNR forms. Because of this, many individuals who completed and signed the forms were unsure that their wishes regarding their end-of-life care would be honored if they were in a hospital, nursing home, or other medical facility. In addition, other health care providers were unsure of what action they should take when a patient presents an EMS/DNR order. Under the new law, physicians in hospitals and nurses in nursing homes would be authorized to honor DNR forms.

The wording of House Bill 770, which amends Section 5-608 of the

Health General Article, Annotated Code, is as follows:

"A health care provider, other than certified or licensed emergency medical services personnel, may provide, withhold, or withdraw treatment in accordance with an emergency medical services 'Do Not Resuscitate Order' described in paragraph (1) of this subsection if a health care provider sees either the order or a valid, legible, and patient identifying emergency medical services 'Do Not Resuscitate Order' in bracelet form."

House Bill 770 has directed the Attorney General's Office, in consultation with MIEMSS, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Board of Physician Quality Assurance, and other interested parties, to study the current EMS/DNR order form and determine if it should be simplified and address other issues concerning EMS/DNR orders. The findings of this study will be reported to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2001.

EMS Week...

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Prior to the terrorist incident, providers had responded to the mock crash of three cars and a school bus that carried children with special needs.

St. Mary's started EMS Week with an Open House at Leonardtown Rescue Squad on May 13. This featured displays by EMS, fire, and sheriff's office personnel, demonstrations, face painting, and health screenings. Valley Lee Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Seventh District, and Ridge all held open houses on the following Saturday, May 20. A joint Mechanicsville Rescue Squad, St. Mary's Hospital program was held mid-week at a local school. Mindful of the health of county EMS providers, St. Mary's Hospital sent each a fruit basket to mark the week.

Hospitals throughout Montgomery County recognized EMS providers during EMS Week with special refreshments and promotional materials.