



Maryland EMS News

Vol. 29, No. 1 For All Emergency Medical Care Providers July 2002

EMS Week Activities

Local jurisdictions in Maryland celebrated national EMS Week (May 19-25, 2002) in various ways. The national theme for this year "Help Is a Heartbeat Away," emphasized the responsiveness and compassion of

EMS providers whose timely and attentive intervention saves countless lives. Photos from many of the EMS activities across the state appear below and on pages 2 and 7.

The National EMS Memorial

Bike Ride arrived in Baltimore on the afternoon of May 21. Approximately 60 riders started from Boston, Massachusetts, with hundreds of others joining them as they rode south to the National EMS Memorial in Roanoke, Virginia. Especially important this year was the recognition of the fallen EMTs and paramedics from the events of September 11. The 2002 Bike Ride had special meaning for two of this year's participants. Greg Quinn, a 39-year-old realtor, rode in memory of his brother Ricardo, a New York City paramedic who died in the collapse of the World Trade Center. New Jersey Paramedic Bob Bertollo rode with a similar goal—to honor his former partner, Port

Authority Police Officer John Skala.

May 22 was designated National Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C) Day. A press conference was held by the EMS-C Office of MIEMSS and the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department at the Wheatley Special Education Center in Prince George's County. The press conference focused on the essential need for specialized emergency care for children and the need for prevention activities to stop childhood injuries.

On May 23, MIEMSS held its annual statewide Stars of Life Awards Program to honor 30 EMS personnel, citizens, and EMS programs. Information on and photos of the award winners appeared in the June issue of this newsletter.

(Continued on pages 2,7, and 8)



A member of the Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. conducts blood pressure screenings outside the Maryland Welcome Center on US Route 15 in Emmitsburg.



At the Carroll Manor Vol. Fire Co. Safety Day, a young boy is hooked up to a cardiac monitor and the printout from his heart rhythm displayed to a group of children.



The search and rescue dog team from Thurmont Ambulance Service participated in the Thurmont Emergency Services Open House.

Promoting Child Passenger Safety among Maryland Hospitals

This is the second in a series of periodic articles highlighting efforts by the EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS to promote child passenger safety among Maryland hospitals and health care practitioners.

Last fall, the EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS received a grant from the Maryland Highway Safety Office and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to promote child passenger safety (CPS) discharge policies among Maryland hospitals. Currently, there are few hospitals in Maryland that have comprehensive discharge policies for transporting newborns, young children, or children with special

health care needs. In addition, the CPS information distributed by hospitals and health care practitioners varies widely.

In March 2002, MIEMSS surveyed 48 Maryland hospitals that treat children under age 8 in their emergency departments, nurseries, or pediatric units. The written questionnaire was designed to determine the type of CPS resources available to pediatric patients and their families and to hospital staff. To date, 75 percent of the hospitals have completed the survey.

In April 2002, MIEMSS began to recruit volunteers among the state's certified CPS technicians to

serve as technical resources for the 48 target hospitals. To date, nearly 40 technicians have volunteered to help. Their first task will be to distribute updated CPS education materials and information on CPS training for hospital staff. Training available to health care

practitioners includes:

- 1- and 4-hour awareness courses for health care professionals (available Fall 2002)
- 2-day course for nurses (available Winter 2002)
- 2-day course for fire and rescue personnel (available Winter 2002)
- 2-day course on transporting children with special health care needs (available Fall 2002)
- 4-day NHTSA Standardized CPS course (for course dates refer to www.mdkiss.org)

Based on the results of the hospital survey and the on-site visits by certified CPS technicians, MIEMSS will assess the need for additional CPS education and training, and develop model CPS discharge policies and procedures. MIEMSS will recruit one urban/suburban hospital and one rural hospital to implement the model discharge policies. This aspect of the project is expected to be implemented by early Fall 2002.

MIEMSS has been approved for a second year of funding, which will be used to promote the model CPS discharge policies among other interested hospitals and to expand outreach efforts to pediatric practices throughout the state. In Year II, MIEMSS will partner with the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Maryland Nurses Association to help accomplish these goals.

For more information about the Hospital CPS Project, contact Joan Catherine Tetrault, MSW, MIEMSS—EMSC, 410-706-8647 or Jtetrault@miemss.org. Samples of occupant protection materials available to Maryland health care professionals are included on the following two pages. These materials can be reproduced with credit to MIEMSS when used for non-commercial distribution.

EMS for Children Day



(Top photo) Dr. Robert Bass (MIEMSS Executive Director) kicks off a press conference at the Wheatley Special Education Center in Prince George's County with a proclamation for EMS-C Day, a specific day during EMS Week to recognize the unique needs of children and families during a sudden illness and injury. The press conference highlighted prevention and safety activities to reduce childhood injuries. (Bottom left) Cynthia Wright-Johnson (EMS-C Program Director at MIEMSS) explains the Hazard House to a group of children. (Bottom right) Chief Ronald D. Blackwell (Prince George's Fire/EMS Dept.) and a young boy meet Troo, the Trauma-Roo.



Child Passenger Safety Resources For Parents and Caregivers



"What type of child safety seat should I buy?"

"What if I cannot afford the cost of a child safety seat?"

"What if my child has special health care needs?"

"How do I know if a child safety seat has been recalled?"

"Can someone help me install the seat in my car?"

Here are some resources to help answer those questions and more!



Maryland Kids in Safety Seats (KISS), 1-800-370-SEAT (7238)

www.mdkiss.org

General information on child safety seats. Schedules for child safety seat check-up events. Information about low-cost or loaner programs.

American Academy of Pediatrics, 1-866-843-2271

www.aap.org

Transporting children with special health care needs.

Auto Safety Hotline, 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236)

www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Child safety seat recall information. General information on child safety seats.

List of local child safety seat fitting stations.



For an appointment to help install your child safety seat:

(place label with information here)



A Seat Belt Can Save Your Life... If You Wear It Right!

Lap Belts

**Wear Your
Lap Belt Low:**

Yes!

- ✓ 2-4 inches below your waistline.
- ✓ Snugly against your hips and upper thighs.



No!

- ✗ NEVER across your stomach. (This could cause serious injury or death in a crash.)



Shoulder Belts

**Wear Your
Shoulder Belt
Snugly:**

Yes!

- ✓ Diagonally across your chest.
- ✓ Flat against your collarbone, not your neck.



No!

- ✗ NEVER across your neck.
- ✗ NEVER under your arm. (This could cause broken ribs or serious internal injuries in a crash.)



**Help your seat belt protect you—
be sure to wear it right!**

Seat belts are for:

- adults
- children older than 8 years and at least 4 feet 9 inches tall

All children age 12 and under should ride properly restrained in the back seat.

Graphic source from AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety Seat Belt Comic Book



Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems – EMS for Children Program
Hospital Child Passenger Safety Project (410) 706-8647 or
www.miemss.org/EMSCwww/HomeEMSC.htm





Water Safety



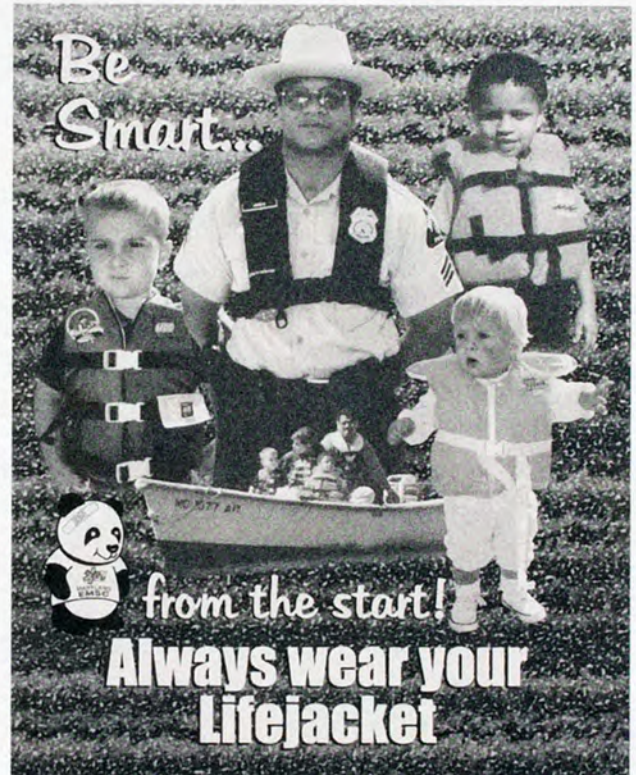
Summer Is Here—and EMS providers know too well the risks that children of all ages face. Unfortunately, it takes only a few seconds for a child to drown. Too many times we hear "it happened so fast" or "I was only gone a moment."

Please take the time to educate parents, child care providers, and your entire community in the simple but life-saving essentials for WATER SAFETY and SUMMER FUN.

BOTH adults and children must be responsible, and actively participate in water safety around pools, in open water, and on boats.

MIEMSS has produced a series of safety posters and public service announcements (PSAs) focused on injury prevention. One target area was the use of personal flotation devices or life jackets. Through a partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, MIEMSS has video and radio PSAs, as well as posters in English or Spanish that explain the new Life Jacket Law in Maryland. Effective June 1, 2001—all children under the age of 7 must WEAR a US Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (Type I, II, III, or IV) while underway on a recreational vessel under 21 feet in length on Maryland waters. The life jacket must be the proper size and in good condition. For more information on the law, please go to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website listed below.

Please contact the MIEMSS EMS for Children Office (410-706-8647) for copies of posters or PSAs on personal flotation devices. They are available through a federal EMS for Children's Partnership Grant and produced by the MIEMSS Educational Support Services staff.



Internet Resources on WATER SAFETY

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.state.md.us/boating/

Maryland EMSC Website
www.miemss.org/EMSCwww//PPWater.html

Risk Watch from NFPA has pages for Parents:
www.nfpa.org/riskwatch/parent_water.html
and for Kids: www.nfpa.org/riskwatch/topwater.html

Safe Boating Campaign
www.safeboatingcampaign.com

US Coast Guard—Boating Safety
www.uscg.mil

Preventing Child Drowning—
Consumer Product Safety Commission
www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml01/01168.html

Center for Disease Control—Drowning Prevention
www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/drown.htm



Water Safety



FACTS about DROWNING

- Approximately 70% of all drownings occur in backyard swimming pools, with the remaining 30% occurring in bathtubs, sinks, buckets, and other bodies of water.
- Remember, children can drown in just inches of water.
- Near-drownings that result in permanent disabling injuries outnumber drownings. For every child who drowns, four more children are hospitalized for near drownings.
- A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone; 77% of children who drown are reported missing from sight for 5 minutes or less.
- 65% of drownings occur in pools owned by the families of the drowned children, and 33% take place in homes of friends and relatives where the child is a guest.
- Barrier fencing can effectively reduce drowning deaths of children up to 80%.

ADULT SUPERVISION

- Never take your eyes off a child when he or she is in or near water, even for a second.
- Don't rely solely on barriers, such as fences or walls, around a pool. There is no substitute for constant supervision.
- Keep rescue equipment and a portable phone near the pool and any open water.
- Don't allow children to play in pool areas. Keep toys out of the area.
- Never allow children to be alone near a pool; always make sure a "WATCH BODY" is present.
- Swimming lessons and safety classes for children are available from county recreation departments and at community swimming pools. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children over 4 years of age take swimming lessons.
- Swim only in approved areas and check the depth and condition of the water and water bed before entering.
- NEVER jump into unknown waters.
- Personal flotation devices or life jackets are a GREAT idea when at the beach and jumping in the waves.
- Always wear a US Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device when boating, tubing, jet skiing, or water skiing.
- Children learn by example—adults must also follow water safety rules, and set a good example!

EMS Week Activities (con't)



The Maryland State Police Trooper 3 Med-Evac helicopter on display at the Carroll Manor Vol. Fire Co. Safety Day on May 19.



Lulu the clown (a member of the Carroll Manor Vol. Fire Co.) entertains children at the Safety Day.



The rescue air boat, on display at the Carroll Manor Vol. Fire Co. Safety Day, is used for rescues in shallow water.



A young girl tries out the 9-1-1 demonstrator at the table of the Guardian Hose Company at the Thurmont Emergency Services Open House.



The National Bike Ride "team" arrives in Baltimore.

Life Safety Conference

The 2002 Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference will be held October 1, at the Kossiakoff Conference Center, John Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, in Laurel. MIEMSS will award 8 continuing education credits to participants. For information, call the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 1-800-525-3124.

HBO Filming MIEMSS



The MIEMSS building on Pratt Street was used as the setting for state offices by HBO's "The Wire," which is shot on location in Baltimore and focuses on the "law" and the drug war.



Governor Parris N. Glendening

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DATED MATERIAL

EMS Week Events

(Continued from page 1)

Community Events, Open Houses, Safety Days

Kitzmillar Vol. Fire Dept.

held an Open House, including an EMS for Children event. Families could get their children fingerprinted, and kids could be checked for the proper fit of bike helmets and have their bikes safety-inspected. Information was also available on child safety seats. In addition, there were blood pressure screenings, and Vials for Life were distributed.

Cumberland Fire Dept.

offered blood pressure screenings on the downtown mall.

Owings Mills Vol. Fire Company held a Safety Day.

The EMS Day held by the **Community Fire Company of Rising Sun** included information about safety and injury prevention, activities for children, and tours of med-evac helicopters.

The **Mechanicsville Vol. Rescue Squad** had a health fair and open house.

A display describing the statewide Maryland EMS System was set up at the Welcome Center on US

Route 15; outside the center, the **Emmitsburg Ambulance Company** did blood pressure screenings.

The **Princess Anne Vol. Fire Company** held an open house.

Housed in adjoining facilities, the **Thurmont Fire and Ambulance Companies and the Thurmont Police Department** held an open house for the public. Events included: demonstrations by search and rescue dogs; safety games and demonstrations for kids; 10 "stations for survival" for kids, with prizes for those who completed all 10; building tours; emergency vehicles on display; the distribution of free smoke detectors and EMS, fire, and police safety information.

The **Baltimore County Professional Firefighters Assoc.** distributed fire safety booklets with activities for kids to complete at home. When they returned their activity sheets to their teachers, they received firefighter/paramedic badges and fire erasers.

The **Carroll Manor Vol. Fire Co.** Safety Day had vehicle crash extrication and rescue demonstrations; emergency first aid and sports injury prevention information, as well as educational displays; safety seat checks; health screenings; emergency vehicle and equipment displays; inter-

active safety activities for children, including a Safety House to demonstrate proper escape routes and a 9-1-1 simulator for kids to practice making emergency calls.

Showing Appreciation

An EMS Awards Banquet at the Hagerstown Four Points Sheraton Hotel was sponsored by the **Washington County Hospital and the Washington County Emergency Medicine Physicians, LLC.** Various "personnel of the year" awards were given, and numerous EMS providers were recognized for participating in cardiac resuscitations during 2001. Also present at the banquet was a former patient whose heart had stopped beating who thanked his EMS providers for saving his life.

Many hospitals, such as **Peninsula Regional Medical Center and Washington County Health Systems**, treated EMS personnel to refreshments during EMS Week.

Ads saluting EMS providers were run in local newspapers by the **Region I EMS Advisory Council**, and the **Shore Health System.**

Letters-to-the-editor and news articles highlighting the roles that EMS providers play and thanking them for their services were printed.