

Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

Vol. 33, No. 5

June 2007

Stroke Centers Are Coming

Editor's Note: Stroke is a medical emergency. It occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. Brain tissue that does not receive oxygen dies, often with devastating effects for patients even if they survive. This article is the first in a series of two that will bring you up to date on developments in Maryland for the treatment of acute stroke.

MIEMSS recently designated hospitals statewide as Primary Stroke Centers (PSCs). These hospitals committed resources to improving care for acute stroke, which affects 700,000 Americans every year and is the third leading cause of death nationally. This is an important step in developing coordinated stroke systems of care within Maryland.

Primary Stroke Centers provide

benefits for patient care. Through a coordinated approach, they reduce complications such as infections and blood clots. They increase the use of stroke therapies and improve long-term outcomes. Patients report greater satisfaction with their care.

Stroke kills more than 150,000 Americans per year. Patients who have had strokes are likely to have additional strokes. The American Stroke Association (ASA) offers the following stroke warning signs:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body;
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding;
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes;
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, or

- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

Early recognition is vital. Some treatments depend on being in the hospital within two hours of warning signs. EMS serves a vital role in getting stroke patients to the right care. The acute stroke protocol includes the following critical actions:

- Providing oxygen and checking blood glucose levels;
- Administering the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale (assessing facial droop, arm drift, and slurred speech);
- Administering the Fibrinolytic Therapy Checklist for Ischemic Stroke, and
- Consulting with the receiving hospital early to allow them to prepare to receive the patient.

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MIEMSS Kicks Off EMS Week

EMS Week (May 20-26, 2007) is a national celebration that is held annually. Each year Maryland joins the nation in recognizing its prehospital care providers (30,000 statewide). Events sponsored by numerous EMS providers are held locally across the state. Many focused on the national theme "Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service," which emphasizes the responsiveness and compassion of Maryland EMS providers whose timely and attentive intervention saves countless lives.

"Working as an emergency medical services provider is different from any other career," said Dr. Robert R. Bass, Executive Director of MIEMSS. "You get tremendous satisfaction from helping others and knowing you have made a difference between life and death. Our Maryland EMS providers perform a vital service for the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

In a two-part ceremony on May 23, MIEMSS honored children from across the State and also presented its annual Stars of Life Awards to honor EMS personnel, citizens, and EMS programs. The ceremony was held at the Joint Hearing Room of the Legislative Services Building in Annapolis. Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State) representing Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor



Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State), representing Gov. Martin O'Malley and Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, presents the Maryland EMS Week 2007 Proclamation to Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board) and Robert R. Bass, MD, FACEP (Executive Director, MIEMSS).

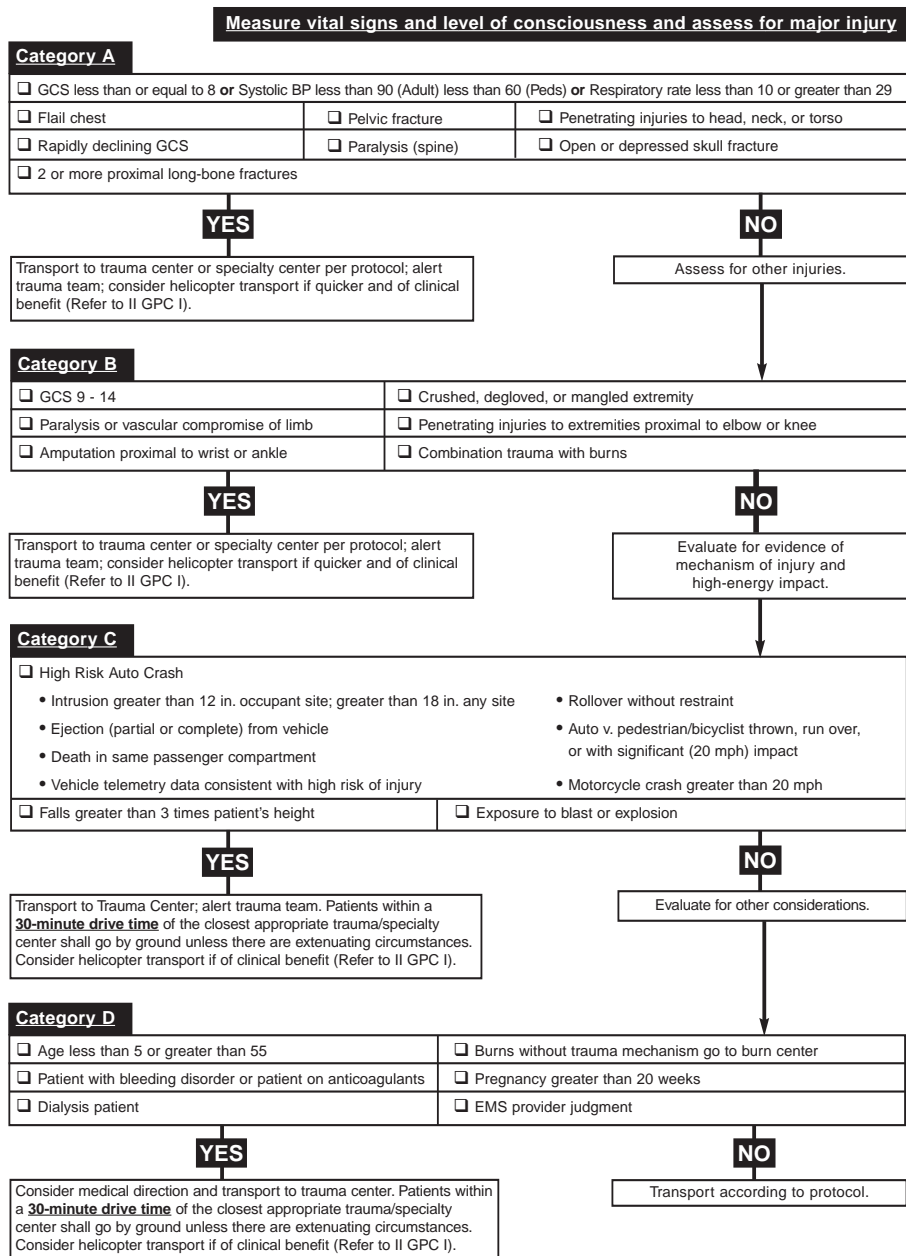
Anthony Brown, assisted with the ceremony. Photos of the winners receiving their awards, as well as summaries of why they received them, appear on pages 3-9. At the EMS awards ceremony, the Governor's proclamations designating Maryland EMS Week (May 20-26) and Maryland EMSC Day (May 23) were also presented.

New Trauma Decision Tree

The recently published *Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2006* by the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) Committee on Trauma includes a new algorithm for prehospital triage of traumatized patients. MIEMSS has incorporated ACS recommendations into the Maryland triage protocol, with modifications so that the algorithm will work within the Maryland system and optimize appropriate patient destination. The result is a *new trauma decision tree* (shown below) that was approved by the EMS Board and can be implemented immediately. MIEMSS is conducting training to cover this revised Trauma Decision Tree in an effort to reduce under-triage of the elderly meeting trauma decision tree criteria and patients with pelvic fractures, as well as to optimize appropriate utilization of transport options. Both BLS and ALS providers must complete the **Trauma Decision Tree, System Resource Utilization, Special Considerations and Protocol Clarification** course by July 2008.

TRAUMA DECISION TREE (NEW '07)

When in doubt, take patient to an appropriate Trauma Center



EMS Recognizes Children for Giving 'Right Care When It Counts'

On May 23, MIEMSS honored five children and teens; each had assisted in providing a life-saving service to someone. Their actions had ensured that people had received the "right care when it counts." Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State), representing Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, assisted with the ceremony, joining MIEMSS Executive Director Robert R. Bass, MD, FACEP, EMS Board Chairman Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq., Cyndy Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMS for Children Program Director at MIEMSS), and Dr. Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Associate State EMS Director for Pediatrics at MIEMSS).

The following received special certificates for "giving the right care when it counts." Unfortunately, Jacob Miller, Camden Casey, and Devon Taylor were unable to attend, so their photos are not available.

Jacob Miller (Allegany County): On April 27, 2006, Jacob Miller awoke to hear his mother yelling "the house is on fire." Then 13 years old, Jacob ran into his one-year-old brother's bedroom, grabbed him, and started down the stairs. Within moments the stairs collapsed under them both, yet neither Jacob nor his brother was hurt and they made their way outside to safety.

Camden Casey (Washington County): On February 10, 2006, Camden Casey (then 5 years old) heard his baby brother crying—but this time their mother did not go to the baby. Because his family had prepared him, Camden knew to go find his mother and when she could not respond due to a diabetic crisis, Camden picked up the phone and dialed "9-1-1." The dispatchers were very surprised when Camden not only asked for help but also knew his address and what was wrong with his mother—her blood sugar was low.



Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State), award winner Charlie Hudson, Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMSC Program Director, MIEMSS), and Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Assoc. State EMS Director for Pediatrics, MIEMSS).

Devon Taylor (Baltimore County): Late last fall, Devon Taylor was at the right place and knew the right actions to take to save his 9-year-old sister Dejae. She had been blowing out a candle when her long hair caught on fire. Devon, then 12 years old, immediately helped his sister to "Stop, Drop and Roll." When the flames were out, he sprayed her with cold water and called both 9-1-1 and his mom. While waiting for the ambulance, Devon put his sister into a cool-water tub to stop the burning process. Dejae was treated at the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Burn Center.

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Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State), Lisa Arceneaux, PhD (Johns Hopkins Pediatric Center) who accepted the award for Devon Taylor, Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMSC Program Director, MIEMSS), and Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Assoc. State EMS Director for Pediatrics, MIEMSS).



(Front row) Award winner Alize Spry with sister Layla and brother Freddie. (Back row, 1-r) Chief Thomas Carr (Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service), Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State), Fire Captain William Richards (EMD who answered Alize's 9-1-1 call), Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMSC Program Director, MIEMSS), Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Assoc. State EMS Director for Pediatrics, MIEMSS), and Alize's parents Mr. & Mrs. Fred Spry holding their twin daughters.

Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards

On May 23 in Annapolis, MIEMSS presented its annual Maryland Stars of Life Awards that honor EMS personnel, citizens, and EMS programs statewide. Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State), representing Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, assisted with the presentation of award plaques that represented nine categories of recognition. Two award winners were selected for the Maryland EMS-Geriatric Award, for the EMD of the Year Award, and for the MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS. Photos and summaries of the achievements of the award winners follow. Brian Thrasher, Steve Keirle, and Ken Correale were unable to attend the EMS Awards ceremony, so their photos are not available.



Maryland Star of Life Award (l-r): Bobby Balta (President, MSFA), Joe Besche, Joshua Jones, Donald Inscoe, Lisa Renee Dickerson, Michael Nasti, Richard Hayes (standing in for Brian Thrasher), John Dorsey, Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), and Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State).

EMS Star of Life Award

- **Joe Besche, CRT-I, Calvert ALS**
- **Joshua Jones, EMT-B, Calvert ALS**
- **Donald Inscoe, EMT-B, Huntingtown Volunteer FD/Calvert ALS**
- **Lisa Renee Dickerson, EMT-B, Huntingtown Volunteer FD/Calvert ALS**
- **Michael Nasti, FF/EMT-B, Huntingtown Volunteer FD**
- **Brian Thrasher, FF, Huntingtown Volunteer FD**
- **John Dorsey, FF/EMT-B, Huntingtown Volunteer FD**

On October 31, 2006, units from Huntingtown, Prince Frederick, the Naval Base, and North Beach responded to a single-story wood-frame house and found heavy fire in every room and several people trapped inside. Firefighter/EMT Nasti, from Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department and the officer-in-charge, entered the burning house to begin searching for those trapped. Almost immediately he was able to locate the body of an unconscious woman under a bed in a rear bedroom. With the help of Firefighter Thrasher, also from Huntingtown, he was able to remove her from the house and bring her to the EMS crews, where she was found to be pulseless and not breathing, with burns covering more than 70 percent of her body. EMT-Bs Don Inscoe, Lisa Renee Dickerson, Josh Jones, and John Dorsey initiated CPR, and CRT-I Joe Besche began ALS intervention. The patient regained her pulse and started breathing on her own at the scene. She was immediately transported to a local hospital and later transported to the Burn Unit at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. The patient has since made a full recovery; unfortunately she lost her 13-year-old son in the fire, and her husband was also severely burned in the fire.

EMS Provider of the Year Award

Sergeant H. B. Martz, EMT-P

Sergeant H. B. Metz, a flight paramedic with the Maryland State Police, is not only an outstanding leader at the Maryland State Police Aviation Command's Cumberland Section, but also in the community.

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EMS Recognizes Children for Giving 'Right Care When It Counts'

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Charles Hudson (Wicomico County): One afternoon this past winter, 12-year-old Charlie Hudson was riding home on the school bus when he heard other children shouting and realized that 8-year-old Dylan was choking—he was already blue. Charlie immediately went to Dylan on the bus and performed the Heimlich maneuver twice. Dylan coughed up the candy and began to breathe. Charlie had learned this life-saving action from reading a poster while waiting in the lunch line at Pittsville Middle School.

Alize Spry (Montgomery County): On February 3, 2007, Alize (12 years old) heard the smoke alarm go off. She found her four younger siblings and dialed "9-1-1." Smoke in the house made it impossible for them to go down the stairs, so Alize listened to the dispatcher's instructions. She made sure all her siblings were in one room, placed a sheet at the bottom of the door to the hall, and described their location so firefighters could reach them through a window. Alize's family previously had practiced home fire escapes, so Alize knew exactly what to do.

Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards

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He believes strongly in public awareness and substance abuse prevention, and has given countless classes, courses, and lectures in Western Maryland and parts of West Virginia. In addition, after witnessing his lectures first-hand, the Allegany County Board of Education recruited him to serve as an advocate on their Substance Abuse Task Force. He has discussed the perils of impaired driving and the importance of making good decisions with students in numerous schools. Sergeant Metz also assists the Allegany County Sheriff's Department with their "Cops & Kids" program.

In addition, he works to bring about positive change in the EMS community. He helped develop and implement a new rescue squad for District 16 Fire Department. He is also an Advanced Cardiac Life Support instructor for Western Maryland Health Services and a paramedic instructor in Region I.

Maryland EMS-Geriatric Award

Oak Crest EMS

Oak Crest EMS responds to the emergency calls of a retirement community with a resident census of 2,300 and a staff/visitor population of approximately 600 per day. In 2006, Oak Crest EMS, a commercially licensed ambulance service, responded to more than 1200 calls for service, and it also works with Oak Crest staff on a daily basis.

Oak Crest EMS actively trains the EMT-B security team to improve their ability to support the ALS providers. Security officers must obtain their EMT-B certification within one year of their hire date. Oak Crest EMS has also worked with social workers at Oak Crest to ensure that residents complete the Vial of Life program information which ensures that medical information is available in a standardized location when EMS arrives.

Oak Crest EMS is also trained to access the electronic medical records of residents when they respond to an emergency and to print reports to provide to the emergency department physician upon arrival at the hospital. In addition, they conduct injury prevention classes for interested Oak Crest residents. They also participate in two emergency preparedness exercises each year and offer clinical ride-along programs to community college students to give them an opportunity to experience the challenges of geriatric emergency care.

Maryland EMS-Geriatric Award

Mary Alice Vanhoy, MSN, RN, CEN, NREMT-P, Emergency Services Educator/EMS Coordinator at Shore Health System

As a nurse and paramedic, **Mary Alice Vanhoy** assesses and treats many senior adults. But she is also one of their strongest advocates, working to educate pre-hospital and hospital providers about the changing needs of adults as they age and to teach the elderly themselves, especially about injury prevention.



EMS Provider of the Year Award (l-r): Maj. Andrew McAndrew (Commander, Aviation Command, MSP), Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Sergeant H. B. Martz, Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State), and First Sergeant Tobin Triebel (MSP, Western Region Supervisor).



Maryland EMS-Geriatric Award to Oak Crest EMS (l-r): Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Ethan Freyman (Sr. Paramedic, Oak Crest), David Lebowitz (EMS Programs and Emergency Preparedness Manager, Erickson Retirement Communities), Joe Gilpin (EMT-B, Oak Crest), Eric Trautman (Security Manager, Oak Crest), Joyce Malone (General Services Director, Oak Crest), and Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State).

Since 2001, she has developed and conducted disaster preparedness training that has been offered in workshops across Region IV in partnership with the AARP (the American Association of Retired Persons) and other advocacy groups for the elderly. She also speaks to groups of senior adults about safety and health promotion, injury prevention, stroke, and cardiac wellness.

For many years, Mary Alice has incorporated geriatric care into all of the EMS courses she taught to ALS and BLS providers. She has also championed for geriatric workshops at past regional and state EMS conferences. She

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Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards

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“formalized” some of this specialized training a few years ago when she became certified as an instructor in Geriatric Education for Emergency Medical Services.

Maryland EMS for Children Award

Retired Lieutenant Dennis Beard, EMT-B (Howard County Fire & Rescue Services)

Many years ago, when the call came from both the national and state Safe Kids' offices to start a local coal-



Maryland EMS-Geriatric Award (l-r): Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Mary Alice Vanhoy, and Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State).



Maryland EMS for Children Award (l-r): Bobby Balta (President, MSFA), Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Retired Lieutenant Dennis Beard, Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State), Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC (EMSC Program Director, MIEMSS), Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP (Assoc. State EMS Director for Pediatrics, MIEMSS).

tion in Howard County, Dennis Beard stepped forward. He pulled together a team that includes experts throughout Howard County, reaching public safety career and volunteer personnel, hospital and health departments, schools, and community organizations. He led major activities that included car seat checks, child passenger safety training, poison prevention activities, fire prevention school programs, and annual Safe Kids Week events.

Three years ago, Maryland received a Risk Watch award from the National Fire Protection Association to integrate their curriculum into schools and child care activities. Dennis again stepped forward, and Howard County was one of the first five communities to embrace Risk Watch. In 2005, Dennis retired from full-time work in Howard County and after a very brief vacation, he rejoined the Fire Service on a part-time basis to continue keeping the Safe Kids and Risk Watch programs alive. This past year, he transitioned those two programs to new leadership in Howard County.

In his new retirement, Dennis continues to be active in the Sykesville Volunteer Fire Department and remains a strong voice and advocate in safety for children, families, and public safety providers. Much of the success that Maryland has enjoyed in reducing children's injuries from fire is due to the strong system of life safety education that Dennis has worked tirelessly to develop and implement in Howard County and across the state.

Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year Award

Fire Capt. William Richards, EMD, Montgomery Co. Fire & Rescue Service

On February 3, 2007, **Fire Capt. William Richards** answered a 9-1-1 call from 12-year-old Alize Spry (the young girl who received a 2007 Right Care When It Counts Award). She said that she and her 4 siblings—1-year-old twins, 3-year-old sister, and 7-year-old brother—were trapped on the second floor. Neither of her parents was there.

Dispatcher Richards kept Alize on the phone. He received good information from her about the location of her house and what had happened—she had taken her siblings to the second-floor bedroom and closed the door after the smoke alarm went off and she saw flames in a room on the first floor. There was heavy smoke. She had then dialed 9-1-1. Dispatcher Richards prompted her to keep talking and provided life-saving instructions. He told Alize to have the children stay low to the floor since the smoke would rise high, and to take the sheet from the bed and stuff it under the door so the smoke would not get in. Alize was able to listen and calmly follow his instructions. She told 3-year-old Layla and 7-year-old Freddie to stand by the window. She got the twins into the bedroom closet and put blankets over them.

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Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards

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Firefighters arrived minutes later, entered the house, located the children on the second floor, and were able to rescue them. It was only then that Dispatcher Richards was able to breathe easy.

Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year Award **Wayne Oursler, EMD, Carroll County Emergency Communications**

It was 3:20 PM on April 19, 2006, that Wayne Oursler, a dispatcher at the Carroll County Emergency Communications 9-1-1 Center, answered Donna Hansen's emergency call for help. Her 7-year-old daughter Estelle had been run over by a lawn tractor and had lacerated



EMD Provider of the Year Award (l-r): Chief Thomas Carr (Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service), Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Fire Captain William Richards (EMD), and Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State).



EMD Provider of the Year Award (l-r): Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), EMD Wayne Oursler, and Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State).

her hand badly. Dispatcher Oursler entered the information and Sykesville Medic #128 was dispatched one minute later. But then the details that Mrs. Hansen was getting and repeating to Dispatcher Oursler started getting worse. When Estelle had been run over, both of her feet and her left hand had been amputated. Oursler quickly upgraded the severity of the injuries, dispatched additional equipment, and alerted the Maryland State Police Med-Evac helicopter about the young child's injuries. Within 30 seconds, Trooper 8 was dispatched.

While the land and air units were en route, Dispatcher Oursler began to give Mrs. Hansen pre-arrival instructions on how to control her daughter's bleeding. Prehospital providers arrived 7 minutes after dispatch. They prepared Estelle for Med-Evac transport, properly packaging her fingers and using a thermal imaging camera to find the parts of her feet for transport. Trooper 8 arrived 20 minutes after dispatch.

Although Estelle was on life-support at Johns Hopkins Pediatric Center for days, she recovered enough to visit the Sykesville Fire Department several months later to thank everyone who helped her. After several surgeries, Estelle is now able to walk; her successful recovery is due in part to the quick thinking of Dispatcher Oursler when he answered Mrs. Hansen's call.

Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in Emergency Medical Services

Eltonio "Tim" Collins, NREMT-P

Tim's dedication to EMS and his excellence in patient care and teaching have been demonstrated consistently over the years. He works three jobs in EMS—employed full-time by the **Princess Anne Volunteer Fire Company**, part-time by Lifestar Ambulance Company, and as a volunteer with the Lower Somerset EMS Squad in Crisfield. He is also a BLS and ALS instructor for Peninsula Regional Medical Center for the Eastern Shore area. In addition, as Somerset County's jurisdictional representative, he is the liaison between approximately 135 EMS providers, McCready Hospital, Peninsula Regional Medical Trauma Center, and MIEMSS.

According to his employers, he is extremely knowledgeable about EMS skills, equipment, and patient care protocols and always willing to share his knowledge and help others enhance their skills. He often teaches continuing education classes on the Eastern Shore on such diverse topics as patient handling, diabetic awareness, CPR recertification, BLS protocol updates, the Ferno Stretcher, and HIPPA regulations. He also started an IV tech program for Somerset County that will especially benefit such rural areas as Smith and Ewell Islands.

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Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards

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Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS (l-r): Bobby Balta (President, MSFA), Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Paramedic Tim Collins, Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State).



Outstanding EMS Program Award & Maryland EMS Citizen Awards (l-r): Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Scott Van Horn (EMS Citizen Award), John Randolph (cardiac arrest victim who was saved), NAS Patuxent River Fire Chief George Kennett (receiving Outstanding EMS Program Award for Patuxent Naval Air Station), NAS Patuxent River Executive Officer Andrew Macyko, Kim Tierno (EMS Citizen Award), and Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State). Missing from the photo are EMS Citizen Award winners Steve Keirle and Ken Correale.

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One final addition to this description of Tim's work—he not only practices his emergency skills in the field, but also is an integral member of the Peninsula Regional Medical Center Emergency Department. He assists in teaching ED staff the many skills related to hospital/prehospital care.

Outstanding EMS Program Award
Naval District Washington
Fire & Emergency Services Division
Naval Air Station, Patuxent River District

and
Maryland EMS Citizen Awards

Scott Van Horn
Steve Keirle
Ken Correale
Kim Tierno

For several years the Naval Air Station at Patuxent River has been a "Heart Safe Community," with over 140 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) installed in various buildings. CPR and bystander AED training courses are offered to employees on a regular basis. Last year three cardiac arrest patients were saved by using the EMS "chain of survival." For their outstanding AED program that demonstrates team effort in the workplace and has resulted in several saves, the Naval Air Station at Patuxent River received the Outstanding EMS Program Award.

In addition, four employees at the Naval Air Station—Scott Van Horn, Steve Keirle, Ken Correale, and Kim Tierno—received Maryland EMS Citizen Awards for their response to the apparent cardiac arrest of a 55-year-old colleague who was a contract worker. He was not breathing and had no pulse. Without hesitating, the four employees initiated the EMS chain of survival. One dialed 9-1-1 while the others assessed their unresponsive co-worker and initiated CPR. When fire/EMS personnel arrived, the patient was re-assessed, CPR continued, the AED on the pumper was retrieved, and 6 shocks were administered to restore pulse and breathing. St. Marys County's ALS unit arrived, initiated care, and transported the patient to a hospital via Navy ambulance. Following advanced treatment, the patient has returned to work, and was able to attend the EMS awards ceremony.

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Maryland EMS Stars of Life Awards

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MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS

**The Maryland Club
and**

Andrew Cordova (Maryland Club Staff)

The Maryland Club in Baltimore has participated in Maryland's Public Access Defibrillation program since 2002, and has a model Public Access Defibrillation Program. To date, they have trained 17 out of 45 people on their staff. Katherine Mandaro is the AED Coordinator of the Maryland Club's AED Program, and Dr. James D'Orta is its Sponsoring Physician.

On August 1, 2006, Sandy Martin was playing squash at the Maryland Club. After his game, he suddenly went into cardiac arrest and collapsed. Maryland Club staff Andrew Cordova was nearby and immediately responded. Mr. Cordova called 9-1-1, performed CPR, and used the Maryland Club's AED until Baltimore City EMS providers arrived. Mr. Martin was transported to the hospital and later underwent emergency observation and received an internal cardiac defibrillator. For using skills learned in CPR and AED training which led to saving Mr. Martin's life, Mr. Cordova also received the MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS.



MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS (l-r): Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman, Maryland EMS Board), Katherine Mandaro (AED Coordinator of the Maryland Club's AED Program), Sandy Martin (cardiac arrest victim who was saved), Andrew Cordova (Maryland Club staff member who used AED to save Sandy Martin), and Brian R. Moe (Deputy Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State).

Howard Co. EMS Provider Wins American Legion Statewide Award

Capt. Charles "Chuck" T. King, Jr., Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services, has been selected to receive the American Legion-Department of Maryland Career EMS Award. The competition is open to fire departments throughout the State of Maryland and recognizes EMS providers who continually perform "above and beyond the call of duty" in terms of heroism, training and experience, and volunteer service to the community. This is the fourth consecutive year that this statewide award has gone to a member of Howard County's career fire service.

Capt. King, a U.S. Army veteran, began his career with Howard County as a firefighter in 1988. He has been the recipient of four "Gift of Life" awards, presented to an individual who has treated a victim who had ceased breathing and had no heartbeat. He or she must then successfully revive the victim and, following transport and hospitalization, the victim must leave the hospital as a complete survivor. In 2005, Capt. King's work was also recognized with his department's Meritorious Service Award.

"Chuck King is a highly skilled professional in every sense of the word," said Howard County Fire Chief Joe Herr. "His life-saving skills are well documented, and he continuously provides great service to the citizens of Howard County, both day-to-day and in his work as our special events coordinator. Chuck follows a long line of Howard County paramedics who have been recognized by the American Legion for their professionalism and service to our County."

Prior Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue winners of the American Legion Award include: Battalion Chief John Jerome (2005), Captain John Butler (2004), and Captain Kevin Buker (2003).

Stroke Centers Are Coming

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Children with suspected strokes have special considerations. Review the Stroke: Neurological Emergencies section of *The Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers* for more details.

Later this summer, MIEMSS will implement routing to the designated Primary Stroke Centers to complete the protocol. The second article in this series will identify these hospitals, discuss some of the required elements, and describe future directions.

June 22, 2007

MEDICATION ALERT

TO: All EMS Operational Programs
All EMS Operational Program Medical Directors
All Base Stations

From: Richard Alcorta, MD
State EMS Medical Director

RE: Removal of Verapamil and Availability of Lyophilized Diltiazem

In response to the EMS community's need for Diltiazem in lyophilized (dry) form, two companies have stepped forward to provide an alternative to the syringe-based injector system that is no longer being manufactured. Hospira (Diltiazem HCL) and BD [Becton, Dickinson & Company] (Monovial™) are manufacturing Diltiazem (Cardizem®) in lyophilized (dry) form, which has a shelf life of over two years. The Diltiazem comes in a 100 mg vial which is to be reconstituted in 100 ml of normal saline making a concentration of 1mg/ml.

The essential components are:

Diltiazem 100 mg vial	\$7.70
NS 100 ml bag	\$2.00

30 cc syringe to reduce risk of overdose

Universal vial adaptor
Needle-less connector for administration
Sealable plastic bag to contain medication and components

The reported cost for this administration system is under \$12 per patient (even if one patient needs multiple doses). The previous Diltiazem injector system cost about \$27 per single 25 mg dose.

Jurisdictions that have implemented Verapamil should convert to this Diltiazem system as soon as possible and discontinue the use of Verapamil since Diltiazem is the superior medication for the treatment of the symptomatic atrial fibrillation/ atrial flutter patient. Providers may also want to check with Hospira and BD to see if training programs are available to EMS personnel.

Providers should remove the new blue Page 248-1 "Verapamil" from their Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers packets that they will be receiving in a few weeks. They SHOULD NOT place the blue Verapamil page in their binders.

Mark the Date

September 21

Peninsula Regional Medical Center
Trauma Conference
Clarion Hotel
Ocean City, Maryland
Information:
Lynn Holloway, 410-543-7328

September 25

Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference
Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab,
Laurel, Maryland
Information:
Office of the State Fire Marshal,
410-653-8980/800-525-3125.

October 12-14

Pyramid 2007
Holiday Inn Select
Solomon's Island, Maryland
Information:
MIEMSS Region V Office
301-474-1485;
1-877-498-5551 (toll free)

Recruitment and Retention Help

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Companies throughout Allegany and Garrett counties will receive assistance in the recruitment of new members and retention of current members thanks to a recent grant award. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program recently awarded \$294,980 under its Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Act grant for recruitment and retention efforts in Allegany and Garrett Counties.

The Allegany-Garrett County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association was the leading support-

er of submitting an application for the grant. The idea of the grant "is to add to the efforts that the Association's Recruitment and Retention Committee have concentrated on for several years. The problem has been that it is such a large undertaking that no volunteer has enough time to put toward this size of a project," said Robert Ritchie, the Association's President. The efforts will benefit all fire and rescue departments in the two counties, including those who do not belong to the Allegany-Garrett County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association. "This

grant provides a wonderful opportunity to collectively work together across jurisdictional boundaries to recruit the next generation of fire and EMS providers in Western Maryland," stated Richard DeVore, Chair of the Allegany County Fire and Rescue Board and Emergency Management Division Chief.

The decline of volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel, which leads to delayed and failed responses, has become a growing problem in both counties. In an effort to analyze the problem, a year-long Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) study was performed in both counties and concluded in May 2006 with several recommendations made to the local elected officials. "This will coincide very nicely with the recommendations of the SWOT study and will be an excellent tool to assist in those efforts," stated David Ramsey of the MIEMSS Region I Office, who wrote the successful grant.

The Allegany County Commissioners served as the submitting agency and will therefore administer the grant for the two-county project. "This is a 100% grant from the Federal Government and will not require any funding from local fire and rescue departments or county governments," said Steven Kesner, EMS Division Chief for Allegany County, the grant administrator.

The grant provides funding for one full-time contractual person who will work at least 40 hours a week, including evenings and weekends, for four years. "Recruitment and retention activities in Allegany and Garrett Counties will be the only responsibility of this person," stated Kesner. The person filling this position will develop and distribute numerous types of media material such as brochures, billboards, theater ads, and print ads throughout both counties to be used for recruitment and retention; and will visit schools, community groups, and other locations

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In Memoriam

Chief John R. Frazier

John (Jack) R. Frazier, Bureau Commander of the Baltimore City Fire Department and former EMS Board member, died April 6, 2007 after an unexpected medical crisis.

Chief Frazier was an original member of the Maryland EMS Board appointed by former Governor William Donald Schaefer in 1993, and served until 2005. During his tenure with the EMS Board, he served as Co-Chair of the Joint EMS Board/Statewide EMS Committee and of the Finance Subcommittee. He was currently serving on the Helicopter Replacement Committee, the Statewide Infection Control Committee, the MIEMSS Legislative Committee, and the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Task Force.

Chief Frazier's tenure with the Baltimore City Fire Department spanned more than 50 years.

Two months after Chief Frazier's death, the Baltimore City Fire Department received an 87-foot long, state-of-the-art fireboat that it named the "John R. Frazier." In addition to being used in Baltimore, it will be used for Homeland Security, for such things as terrorist threats and decontamination, and will be multi-jurisdictional.

George H. Linnell

George H. Linnell, who served in EMS in Landover Hills in Prince George's County for more than 20 years, died April 13 after a long illness. Last year MIEMSS awarded Mr. Linnell the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS.

Randal "Robert" Orff & Jonathan Orff

Randy Orff and his son Jonathan lost their lives in a tragic motor vehicle crash on the Bay Bridge May 10. They both were members of Crumpton Volunteer Fire Department. Funeral services were held May 16 at the Fire Department. Memorial donations may be made to: Brandon's Educational Fund c/o Mercantile Eastern Shore Bank, 101 East Main Street, Sudlersville, MD 21668. In addition, all proceeds from the Randy Morris Memorial Golf Tournament, to be held July 9, will go to benefit Randy and Jonathan Orff. For more information, contact Chief Jim Hurlock @ 1-302-354-5950 or jahurlock@cvfd7.com

ACEP Presents Gainer With EMS Award

Pat Gainer, JD, MPA, a Deputy Director at MIEMSS, received the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians "EMS Provider of the Year Award." This award is given to individuals who have contributed to the advancement of Emergency Medical Services and contributed to the improvement of the emergency care of patients within Maryland.

Recruitment and Retention Help

(Continued from page 11)

where recruitment of new volunteers is possible. Efforts will be made to secure business discounts and other benefits for volunteers, and seminars designed to recruit and retain volunteers will be conducted. "This is an excellent first step in the western region of addressing the critical emergency service needs and hopefully will lead to an emergency services system that is viable and sustainable for the future," stated Brad Frantz, Garrett County Director of Emergency Management.

Volunteerism has seen a steady decline nationwide, and the Allegany-Garrett County area has been no different. This grant will serve to reverse this trend and produce new growth of volunteerism in public service.

Hogland Honored



John W. Hogland, Director Emeritus of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, recently retired after 42 years of faithful service to the fire service. During a ceremony held at MFRI in May, a classroom was dedicated in his honor. He is seen here with Dr. Robert R. Bass (Executive Director, MIEMSS) receiving recognition from MIEMSS for his dedicated time to Maryland's emergency services.



(L-r) Jon Mark Hirshon, MD, MPH (president of Maryland ACEP), Pat Gainer, and Richard L. Alcorta, MD, FACEP (vice-president of Maryland ACEP & State EMS Medical Director, MIEMSS).

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Governor Martin O'Malley
Lt. Governor Anthony Brown

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