

## ***Governor O'Malley Issues Executive Order To Aid in H1N1 Flu Response***

On November 6, 2009, Governor O'Malley signed an Executive Order that will permit state and local jurisdictions to utilize emergency medical personnel and other licensed medical professionals who volunteer to join Maryland's statewide H1N1 (Swine) Flu response effort should their services be needed. (See [www.miemss.org/home](http://www.miemss.org/home) for the Executive Order. It is listed under "Emergency Protocol Change" on the home page.)

Under the order, paramedics who are credentialed as Vaccination and Testing Officers (VTOs) and cardiac rescue technicians who have completed training through their EMS Operational Program and have been credentialed by their EMS Operational Program Medical Director are authorized to administer 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine to public safety per-

sonnel, health care providers, and members of the general public. Currently, emergency medical personnel are allowed limited legal authority to vaccinate one other, not the general public. (See "Frequently asked Questions Pertaining to the Governor's Executive Order of November 6, 2009" and "Emergency Protocol Changes regarding Maryland Vaccination and Testing Program," on pages 1-3.)

In addition to EMS responders, Executive Order 01.01.2009.15 gives the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) the authority to enlist the aid of other licensed medical professionals, such as pharmacists, to administer the H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine to the general public as long as they have the training and experience to do so safely and effectively.

### ***FAQs Regarding Governor's Executive Order of November 6, 2009***

1. *Under the Governor's Executive Order, which EMS Providers **may administer** H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection)?*

The Governor's Executive Order of November 6, 2009, allows **Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedics and Cardiac Rescue Technicians (CRTs)** to administer H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection) to public safety personnel, health care providers, and members of the general public subject to rules established by the EMS Board.

2. *Must an EMS provider be trained and credentialed by the EMS Operational Program Medical Director to vaccinate with H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV or IM injection)?*

Yes. A Paramedic must be credentialed as a Vaccination and Testing Officer (VTO) and Cardiac Rescue Technicians must complete training through their EMS Operational Program and be credentialed by their EMS Operational Program Medical Director to administer the H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV or IM injection).

3. *Who can be vaccinated by Vaccination and Testing Officers and CRTs?*

VTOs and Cardiac Rescue Technicians can administer H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection) to public safety personnel, health care providers, and members of the general public.

4. *Which EMS providers are permitted to **screen** candidates for H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection)?*

Paramedics who are credentialed as Vaccination and Testing Officers are the only EMS providers who are authorized to **screen** candidates for receiving the H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection). CRTs may only administer the vaccine.

5. *What is the role of the **Emergency Medical Technician– Basic** in the Vaccination and Testing Program?*

EMT–Basic providers may provide logistical support but are **not** permitted to be screeners or vaccinators.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ***FAQs Regarding Governor's Executive Order of November 6, 2009 (Continued)***

*(Continued from page 1)*

6. *Where can VTOs and Cardiac Rescue Technicians vaccinate the public?*

With the approval of the EMS Operational Program and the EMS Operational Program Medical Director, VTOs and Cardiac Rescue Technicians may work in public Points of Distribution for the H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection) that are established or approved by the Local Health Department.

7. *What is the relationship between the EMS Operational Program and the Local Health Department with respect to the Governor's Executive Order of November 6, 2009?*

EMS Operational Programs support local health departments in vaccinating the public through the temporary expansion of the VTO Program pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order. VTOs and CRTs may participate in Points of Distribution established by the Local Health Department. EMS Operational Programs are not authorized to register to receive the H1N1 vaccine directly from DHMH or to function independently from the Local Health Department.

8. *Must VTOs and CRTs follow the same procedures, storage requirements, precautions, and indications/contraindications for H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection) as other healthcare providers?*

YES. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration have requirements for storage, precautions, reporting, and indications/contraindications for the H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection) which every health care provider who is administering vaccine must follow.

9. *What additional equipment must be on site when administering vaccine?*

When the vaccine is administered, ALS resuscitation equipment must be available on site.

10. *Under whose authority is the VTO or CRT allowed to administer H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection)?*

The Paramedic and the Cardiac Rescue Technician are licensed through MIEMSS, but are credentialed and authorized to practice EMS and, in this case, participate in the Vaccination and Testing Program directly under the authority of the EMS Operational Program Medical Director. The EMS Operational Program must have a current Memorandum of Understanding with the local health department.

11. *How will the public know where to receive H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection)?*

The Local Health Department will notify the public when they establish Points of Distribution for the H1N1 vaccination. The website linkage for the public is below along with the contact information.  
<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/swineflu/getVaccinated.html>

12. *What liability protections are provided to the EMS Operational Program Medical Director and EMS Providers under the MIEMSS approved Vaccination and Testing program?*

The **Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act for H1N1 Vaccination of 2006** provides tort liability immunity (except for willful misconduct) to individuals and organizations involved in the development, manufacture, distribution, administration, and use of countermeasures against pandemics, epidemics, and diseases and health threats caused by chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents of terrorism. The PREP act has been extended to include H1N1 vaccination.

<http://www.hhs.gov/disasters/emergency/manmadedisasters/bioterrorism/medication-vaccine-qa.html>

# Emergency Protocol Change for EMS Providers Regarding Maryland Vaccination & Testing Program

*Editor's Note: The following information was sent November 13, 2009 by Donald L. DeVries, Esq. (Chairman, State EMS Board) and Robert R. Bass, MD (Executive Director, MIEMSS) to all EMS Operational Programs and EMS Operational Program Medical Directors.*

Effective immediately and pursuant to COMAR 30.03.05.02.1 and Executive Order 01.01.2009.15 issued by Governor Martin O'Malley on November 6, 2009, the following modifications are made to the Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers. These changes shall remain in effect during the emergency period covered by the Executive Order.

**The Optional Supplemental Protocol Maryland Vaccination and Testing Program for EMT-Paramedic Providers is amended as follows:**

**18. Cardiac Rescue Technicians who have been trained by the EMS Operational Program and credentialed by the Medical Director may vaccinate public safety personnel, health care providers, and members of the general public with H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection) after appropriate screening by a Vaccination and Testing Officer, registered nurse, or physician.**

**19. Vaccination and Testing Officers and Cardiac Rescue Technicians are permitted to vaccinate public safety personnel, health care providers, and members of the general public with H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection) at points of distribution that have been established or approved by Local Health Departments (e.g., a clinic, occupational health site, a fire house, or other location).**

**20. Screening, administration, tracking, and dosage requirements for H1N1 (Swine) flu vaccine (LAIV and IM injection) shall be provided by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and/or Local Health Departments.**

## MIEMSS Urges Emergency Providers to Buckle Up

MIEMSS joins the National Highway Safety Administration and other safety organizations to focus on "Occupant Protection" as the November safety message.

MIEMSS is communicating the importance of this message in three ways.

1. A poster "Buckle Up...Every Ride, Every Time" that shows public safety providers all buckling up was mailed to EMS, fire, and public safety companies across the state. If you are interested in obtaining the 10"x24" poster (see photo on page 4), please contact Cyndy Wright-Johnson, MSN, RNC, Program Director for Maryland EMSC, at [cwright@miemss.org](mailto:cwright@miemss.org), or call 410-706-1758.

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*MIEMSS asked every EMS and Fire Company to put this safety message on its outdoor signs November 15–November 30, 2009. Shown here are Station Commander Captain Brian Fowler and Firefighter Mark Kessler, from the Hyattstown Volunteer Fire Department, Montgomery County Dept. of Fire Rescue Services.*

## MIEMSS Urges Emergency Providers to Buckle Up

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- As part of the statewide Choose Safety for Life campaign, MIEMSS and the Maryland State Firemen's Association, sent letters to EMS, Fire, and Rescue providers across Maryland asking them to put the message "Seat Belts Save Lives—Buckle Up, Maryland!" on

their outdoor signage from November 15–November 30, 2009. (See photo on page 3 that was sent in by Hyattstown Volunteer Fire Department.)

- MIEMSS is encouraging all emergency services providers to take the National Seat Belt Pledge.

(Information and the application are at [www.trainingdivision.com/seatbeltpledge.asp](http://www.trainingdivision.com/seatbeltpledge.asp)) More than 15 departments in Maryland already have 100% compliance; they are listed on the website for the National Seat Belt Pledge.

Earlier this year, to promote Safe Transport in Emergency Vehicles, "SECURE" workshops and interactive displays were conducted at each EMS regional and state conference by the MIEMSS EMS for Children Program, in collaboration with the MIEMSS State Office of Commercial Ambulance Licensing & Regulation and the MIEMSS Public Information & Media Services Department. These educational programs provide best practices for securing children, their families, EMS and hospital providers, and equipment within EMS transport vehicles.

SECURE posters (see photo) were produced by MIEMSS and distributed at the Maryland State Firemen's Association annual convention in June in Ocean City. The poster shows 6 safety practices:

- **S** (Stretcher with over the shoulder harnesses).
- **E** (Equipment secured).
- **C** (Cabinets closed & latched).
- **U** (Use age & size appropriate restraints for patients).
- **R** (Restrain Oxygen in crash-stable brackets).
- **E** (Everyone secured: patient/providers/families).

If you are interested in obtaining a SECURE poster, please contact Cyndy Wright-Johnson at [cwright@miemss.org](mailto:cwright@miemss.org), or call 410-706-1758.



## NTSB Public Meeting

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) held a public meeting on October 27, 2009, to review the Accident Report of the crash of the Maryland State Police (MSP) Aviation Trooper 2 helicopter on September 27, 2008.

The Board heard presentations from accident investigation staff on various aspects of the crash, and discussed report conclusions and the probable cause determination. The NTSB also reviewed and discussed recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration, the MSP,

public EMS helicopter operators, and others emanating from the review of the Trooper 2 crash.

A synopsis of the report was made available to the public; the final NTSB report is expected to be released in several weeks. In addition, Dr. Robert Dodd, Chief of Safety Research and Analysis at the NTSB, provided a briefing on the accident report to the Maryland House of Delegates EMS Workgroup on November 10, 2009.

A detailed summary of the meeting can be found at

[www.nts.gov/Publicity/2009/AAR0907.htm](http://www.nts.gov/Publicity/2009/AAR0907.htm)

## Relocation of MSP Trooper 6

The Maryland State Police (MSP) Aviation Command has announced the relocation of Trooper 6, from the current MSP Aviation base located in Centreville to the Easton Airport.

The MSP helicopter will be housed in a hangar at the Easton Airport previously used by the Natural Resources Police. That department no longer needed the hangar, and it was made available to the MSP Aviation Command. All six of the other active MSP hangars are located at airports. The Easton Airport facility has several runways that could be used for emergency landings if needed and has airport tower controllers on duty 16 hours each day. The airport has a precision guidance instrument landing system and will soon have radar for air traffic control. The Easton hangar is less than 14 nautical miles south of the former Centreville hangar, which is a helicopter flight time of six minutes and ten seconds.

## Emergency Vehicle Visibility Report

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), in partnership with the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), announced the release of the Emergency Vehicle Visibility and Conspicuity Study. The study report highlights the results of a U.S. Department of Justice–National Institute of Justice (NIJ) supported project intended to enhance emergency vehicle and roadway operations safety for firefighters, law enforcement officers, and other emergency responders. It discusses best practices in emergency vehicle visibility and conspicuity, including cutting-edge international efforts. It covers information for law enforcement patrol vehicles, fire apparatus, ambulances and other EMS vehicles, and motor cycles. The Emergency Vehicle Visibility and Conspicuity Study and additional information on emergency vehicle safety projects may be found at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/vehicle.shtml](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/vehicle.shtml).

## Chief James Seavey, Sr. Named Vol. Fire Chief of the Year

Chief James Seavey, Sr., of the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Services, was named the Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

Chief Seavey was cited for having "led his department heroically in times of crisis, including administering the department's staff and operations while his apparatus responded to the Pentagon following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks." In addition, he has cultivated a relationship with the Halsenbek Volunteer Fire Department just outside of Hamburg, Germany, that has created an opportunity for cultural, educational, and technological exchanges between U.S. and German fire services. Chief Seavey has completed 33 years of service.

# Working to Stop Impaired Driving

As part of its efforts to get impaired drivers off the road, MIEMSS points out two ways to raise awareness of the enforcement of laws against drinking and driving as well as the dangers and consequences of those actions.

## Don't Think You Can Get Nailed for Drunk Driving?

MIEMSS partners with other members of the Impaired Drivers Coalition such as the Maryland Highway Safety Office, the Maryland Department of Transportation,

Maryland law enforcement officers, and the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP). Many of these members, such as law enforcement's Checkpoint Strikeforce and WRAP, are using social marketing and new media outlets (including YouTube) to better reach the 21-35 year-old male audience in their prevention and education materials.

For example, a new video "Even a Police Chief Can Get Nailed Drunk Driving" communicates that the Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign is in full force and that an arrest for drunk driving can happen to anybody who drives impaired. It can now be viewed at:

[www.youtube.com/DUIcheckpoint](http://www.youtube.com/DUIcheckpoint).

This Checkpoint Strikeforce video features a remorseful former Alexandria (Virginia) Police Chief David Baker who was arrested, pled guilty, was convicted, and served time for an alcohol-related traffic crash in July 2009. The overall message that Baker's story captures is the under-appreciated aftermath of a DUI arrest and or crash. The campaign message is that NO ONE is exempt from arrest, prosecution, and penalties if they wrongly choose to drink and drive—even a police chief.

Please share the video in the above link, further assisting and contributing to the region's fight against drunk driving.

## Ravens Fans—Designating a Sober Driver

MIEMSS has also teamed up with the Maryland Highway Safety Office and the Impaired Drivers Coalition to record Ravens fans giving their "Don't Drink and Drive—Designate a Sober Driver" messages that will be displayed at

[www.stopdrunkdriving.net](http://www.stopdrunkdriving.net). In addition, fans were able to test the "fatal vision" goggles that simulate alcohol impairment. The next "recording sessions" for Ravens fans are the Ravens games on November 29 and December 13. Stop by to see them or to record your own message.



*MIEMSS teams up with the Maryland Highway Safety Office and Impaired Drivers Coalition to record Ravens fans giving "Don't Drink and Drive—Designate a Sober Driver" messages.*



*Jim Darchicourt is the new Director of Information Technology (IT) at MIEMSS. With more than 19 years of experience in IT, Mr. Darchicourt most recently worked as a consultant for Hartman Business Technology advising CEOs about IT management and aligning IT to business goals. In addition to consulting, his experience includes working as an IT Support Specialist, an IT Manager, and the Director of Information Technology.*



*As the new Stroke Program Director at MIEMSS, Anna Aycock, MHA, RN will work with both hospitals and EMS to support the continued development of the statewide stroke care system. Ms. Aycock has 36 years of experience in cardiovascular and critical care nursing and has played a major role in stroke and STEMI program development at several hospitals in Maryland.*

## MCVFRA Announces Volunteer Fire-Rescue Recruiting Station

The Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association (MCVFRA) is trying a new approach to meet the needs of the 19 volunteer fire and rescue departments in Montgomery County.

A new store-front recruiting station, opening this month, will feature the volunteer experience with hands-on activities and current volunteers available to answer questions and share their experiences. "This is a walk-in off the street, see what you

can do, and join your local fire and rescue department experience" said Eric N. Bernard, executive director of the MCVFRA. "The need for volunteers has never been greater and the time never better for our residents to join their community volunteer department."

"The nation's first volunteer fire-rescue recruiting station is a novel approach to getting our residents, our community members to become volunteers in their neighborhood vol-

unteer fire-rescue department" said Marcine D. Goodloe, president of MCVFRA. "We believe this recruiting station will be critical in adding new volunteers and growing our capabilities."

The Recruiting Station is conveniently located near downtown Rockville at the intersection of North Washington Street and Beall Ave. The station offers hands-on equipment including a fire engine cab, fire hydrant and hose to hook-up, fire gear and other equipment that potential volunteers can try. For more information; please contact Eric N. Bernard at MCVFRA at 301-455-6648.

## MD EMSC Program Director Receives Award



Cynthia Wright-Johnson, RN, MSN, program director of the EMS-Children Program at MIEMSS, received the Barbara Foley Injury Prevention Leadership Award from the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) at its annual conference, October 8, in Baltimore.

The Foley Award honors an active ENA Injury Prevention Institute/ENCARE volunteer, who, within the past year, has served as a leader in the development and promotion of injury prevention programs at the national, state, and local level.

"ENA is proud of the outstanding accomplishments of its members," stated William T. Briggs, RN, MSN, CEN, FAEN, 2009 ENA President. "Cynthia Wright-Johnson represents the excellence and dedication of the nation's emergency nurses to quality patient care."

ENA is the only professional nursing association dedicated to defining the future of emergency nursing and care through advocacy, expertise, innovation, and leadership. Founded in 1970, ENA serves as the voice of more than 37,000 members and their patients.

*Cynthia Wright-Johnson, MIEMSS EMSC Program Director (right), the recipient of the Barbara Foley Injury Prevention Leadership Award, receives her award from the award's namesake, Barbara Foley (left), during the National ENA Conference.*

## EMS Calendar

### January 30–31, 2010

Pre-conferences: January 28–29, 2010

#### **Winterfest 2010**

Tilghman Island, MD

Contact: [Winterfest.ems@hotmail.com](mailto:Winterfest.ems@hotmail.com)

### March 2–6, 2010

#### **EMS Today: The JEMS Conference & Exposition**

Baltimore Convention Center

Baltimore, MD

Information: [www.EMSTodayConference.com](http://www.EMSTodayConference.com)

### March 13, 2010

Pre-conferences: March 12, 2010

#### **Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar 2009**

Rocky Gap, MD

Contact Region I Office at 301-895-5934

### May 16–22, 2010

#### **National EMS Week**

May 19, 2010

National EMSC Day

**MIEMSS, Maryland EMS News**  
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**Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**

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