

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

Vol. 42, No. 5

April 2016

## MIEMSS' New Licensure System

MIEMSS is pleased to announce that a new, and more user-friendly, licensure system will be implemented within the next few months. Providers and other users will immediately notice that the new system is easier to use and streamlines many processes that were previously cumbersome and inefficient. The new system was developed by ImageTrend, Inc., which is the same company that developed eMEDS®.

The advantages of the new system are numerous. It is designed as a self-service system allowing users to log in and perform many of the functions that previously could

only be accomplished by the Licensure and Certification staff in office. For example, providers will be able to submit and view their applications, including the status of their application, at any time. The system is entirely paperless. Users will no longer need to mail in required paperwork; even forms that need a signature can be processed electronically. This is an enormous advantage over the previous system in that electronic document processing is much quicker and application processing will be much faster. The response time for certain functions will be significantly faster than that of the previous system. And

the new system will also serve a wide range of customers, including current providers, students, jurisdictional administrators, and EMS Education Programs.

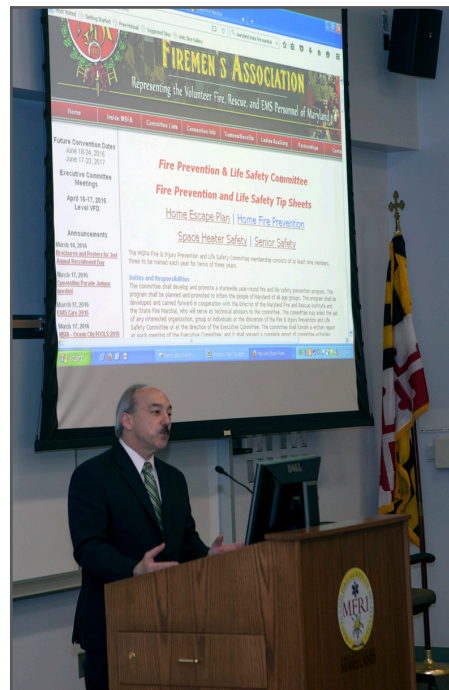
The new licensure system will seamlessly integrate with eMEDS®. This means that specific data that are collected in the new licensure system, such as affiliations, will be transferred automatically to eMEDS®. This will eliminate the need to manually maintain the eMEDS® staff list, as it is done currently.

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## 2016 Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Seminar

On March 19, the 2016 Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Seminar was held at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) in College Park. The seminar was a joint effort of MFRI, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Maryland State Firemen's Association/Ladies Auxiliary Fire Prevention/Life Safety Committee, Maryland EMS for Children, and MIEMSS. "Practical Tips for Fire and Life Safety Programs" was targeted for fire and injury prevention coordinators as well as safety advocates. The seminar was supported in part by the MSFA Fire and Injury Prevention and Life Safety Committee and Maryland EMS for Children's State Partnership Grant from DHHS/HRSA/MCHB/EMSC Program. Presentations at the seminar including various topics, such as:

- Making the Fire and Life Safety Message Mobile
- What's New at NFPA?
- Grants: Paperwork, Process and Product
- College Fire Risks: Off Campus Housing Dilemmas: Codes, Sprinklers, Occupancy
- Safety at Home for Citizens with Different Abilities



*Dr. Kevin Seaman, MIEMSS Executive Director, welcomes attendees to the Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Conference at MFRI headquarters.*

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## Maryland's Trauma System Holds Distracted Driving Prevention and Awareness Events Across the State

In recognition of April's National Distracted Driving Prevention Awareness Month, the Maryland Trauma Quality Improvement Committee (TQIC), made up of representatives from the Maryland Trauma Centers, held a Distracted Driving Prevention Awareness Day on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at hospitals, malls, and trauma centers across the state.

Distracted driving continues to be a dangerous, escalating problem on Maryland's roadways. Our Maryland trauma centers see the tragic results that occur when individuals drive while distracted. Some of the events held included distracted driving simulators, give-a-ways, and pledge campaigns to not drive distracted.

Events were held by all of the state's nine adult trauma centers and two pediatric trauma centers (one of which is in Washington, DC,

but services many Maryland patients) to bring statewide awareness to distracted driving and how it can be prevented. Participating in the campaign were: The Johns Hopkins Hospital Adult Trauma Center, The Johns Hopkins Pediatric Trauma Center, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Suburban Hospital Trauma Center - Johns Hopkins Medicine, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Prince George's Hospital Center, Sinai Hospital, Western Maryland Regional Medical Center, Meritus Medical Center, Children's National Health System, and the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

The events highlighted the need for drivers to be more aware of what can happen when they drive distracted. The day of awareness was sponsored by TraumaNet, Maryland's network of trauma and specialty referral centers, and MIEMSS. Maryland's

Trauma and EMS system—made up of trained EMS providers, communications between field and hospital personnel, and rapid delivery of patients to appropriate trauma centers—work in concert on a daily basis to provide the best assessment, transportation, and treatment of these patients who are the victims of distracted drivers.

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## MIEMSS' New Licensure System

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In preparation for the transition to the new licensure system, providers need to review their personal information in the current system to ensure accuracy as this data is migrated into the new system. MIEMSS requests that providers access the current system via the "Provider Login" button at [www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org) to review their personal data. Upon successful login, providers will be presented with a dialog box that will guide them through the verification. No later than Wednesday, April 27, 2016, providers should review the information, making any necessary changes.

If you have any questions about the transition, please call the Office of Licensure and Certification at 410-706-3666 or 800-762-7157.



*The members of the Maryland Trauma Quality Improvement Committee (TQIC), made up of representatives from the Maryland Trauma Centers, were responsible for planning and holding the statewide events during Distracted Driving Prevention Awareness Day.*

## National Registry Online Application Revised

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) has recently revised its online application to be more clear. All candidates wishing to obtain their first NREMT certification are considered "Initial Applicants" on the NREMT website. This is true for individuals pursuing their first ever certification in EMS as well as providers with a current and valid state certification wishing to obtain their first NREMT certification. However, the application process is different for the two types of candidates. A step-by-step guide (MIEMSS Factsheet on National Registry EMT (NREMT) Testing at the BLS Provider Level) describes how to apply for NREMT certification for both new providers and current provider, and can be found on the MIEMSS website at <http://www.miemss.org/home/ems-providers>.

## 2016 EMS & Prevention Educational Conferences

### EMS Care 2016

April 27–May 1, 2016  
Clarion Resort Fountainebleau Hotel  
Ocean City, Md.

### MSFA Annual Conference and Convention

June 18–24, 2016  
Ocean City, Md.

### Peninsula Regional Medical Center Annual Trauma Conference

**Topics in Trauma**  
September 23, 2016  
Ocean City, Md.

### Mid Atlantic Life Safety Conference

September 27, 2016  
Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab  
Laurel, Md.

# Maryland's Trauma System Holds Distracted Driving Prevention and Awareness Events Across the State

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Distracted Driving events took place statewide on April 6, 2016, including virtual reality simulations and pledge drives to not "drive distracted."

# OCR Launches Phase 2 of HIPAA Audit Program

As a part of its continued efforts to assess compliance with the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has begun its next phase of audits of covered entities and their business associates. Audits

are an important compliance tool for OCR that supplement OCR's other enforcement tools, such as complaint investigations and compliance reviews. These tools enable OCR to identify best practices and proactively uncover and address risks and vulnerabilities to protected health information (PHI).

**This audit may impact Maryland EMS Operational Programs that are considered covered entities or business associates of those entities.**

In its 2016 Phase 2 HIPAA Audit Program, OCR will review the policies and procedures adopted and employed by covered entities and their business associates to meet selected standards and implementation specifications of the Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules. These audits will primarily be desk audits, although some on-site audits will be conducted.

The 2016 audit process begins with verification of an entity's address and contact information. An email is being sent to covered entities and business associates requesting that contact information be provided to OCR in a timely manner. OCR will then transmit a pre-audit questionnaire to gather data about the size, type, and operations of potential auditees; this data will be used with other information to create potential audit subject pools.

If an entity does not respond to OCR's request to verify its contact information or pre-audit questionnaire, OCR will use publicly available information about the entity to create its audit subject pool. Therefore an entity that does not respond to OCR may still be selected for an audit or subject to a compliance review. Communications from OCR will be sent via email and may be incorrectly classified as spam. If your entity's spam filtering and virus protection are automatically enabled, you will be expected to check your junk or spam email folder for emails from OCR.

The audit program is developing on pace and OCR is committed to transparency about the process. OCR will post updated audit protocols on its website closer to conducting the 2016 audits. The audit protocol will be updated to reflect the HIPAA Omnibus Rulemaking and can be used as a tool by organizations to conduct their own internal self-audits as part of their HIPAA compliance activities.

OCR's audits will enhance industry awareness of compliance obligations and enable OCR to better target technical assistance regarding problems identified through the audits. Through the information gleaned from the audits, OCR will develop tools and guidance to assist the industry in compliance self-evaluation and in preventing

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 2016 Maryland Medical Protocols Available Online Now

The 2016 Maryland Medical Protocols Update, available on the MIEMSS Online Training Center ([www.emsonlinetraining.org](http://www.emsonlinetraining.org)), is a web-based program that can run on numerous internet browsers (Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, FireFox, etc.). If difficulty is encountered when viewing the protocol update, consider adjusting the basic internet setting configurations, such as turning off the pop-up blocker and/or allowing browser cookies. You can also try switching to a different browser. More information on internet browsers can be found on the home page of the MIEMSS Online Training Center.

Additionally, the 2016 Protocol Updates can be viewed outside the MIEMSS Online Training Center at <https://youtu.be/mWAd22LUjOU> for the 2016 ALS Protocol Update and <https://youtu.be/4Co9hmCM1Rk> for the 2016 BLS Protocol Update. Once you have viewed the Protocol Update corresponding with your level of certification or licensure (either through the MIEMSS Online Training Center or at the provided link), you must visit the Online Training Center to take the quiz for the update you viewed. The quiz must be successfully completed with a grade of 70% or greater to receive credit for the 2016 Protocol Updates.

Your company may also provide the 2016 Protocol Updates as a company level drill. If you participate in a company level drill, your organization will forward a record of your successful completion of the 2016 Protocol Updates to MIEMSS.



**Q.** I have completed portions of the 2016 Protocol Update on MIEMSS' Online Training Center, but when I return to the course, it takes me back to the beginning of the last session I completed. How can I start where I left off?

**A.** The 2016 Protocol Updates are training programs comprised of segments, each addressing a different topic. Each topic is marked as complete within the system once it is viewed in its entirety (a check mark will appear). This allows the update to be viewed in more than one sitting without losing the progress made in prior viewing sessions. The course is built to go to the last topic you viewed (even if it was marked as complete) until all topics are completed. In order to fully save the completed topic, and not need to repeat it, you must start another topic and let it run for a few seconds. More pointers on navigating the 2016 Protocol Updates online can be found on the home page of the Online Training Center.

For further assistance, contact the MIEMSS Office of Licensure and Certification at 800-762-7157, 410-706-3666, or [onlinetraining@miemss.org](mailto:onlinetraining@miemss.org).

## Maryland Division of the American Trauma Society Presents 2016 Distinguished Service Award

On Wednesday, March 16, 2016, the Maryland Division of the American Trauma Society (ATS) presented their Distinguished Service Award for 2016 in Annapolis to Fitzgerald Auto Mall, with headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Mr. Jack Fitzgerald, Chairman of Fitzgerald Auto Mall, accepted the award. The award recognizes efforts of service to the community and support of trauma and injury prevention related activities.

In 1999, Fitzgerald first teamed up with Safe Kids USA (now Safe Kids Worldwide) and the Montgomery County Government

(Consumer Protection Division, County Fire, County Police) to hold a community safety seat check—offering free car safety seat inspections to families. Since then, Fitzgerald Auto Mall has instituted a free monthly check and free individual checks by appointment at its dealerships and an annual Spanish-speaking safety seat check. In May 2014, Fitzgerald Auto Mall celebrated a milestone of 45,000 car seat check-ups! Mr. Fitzgerald's commitment to child passenger safety (CPS) has been demonstrated by paying the costs for over 100 staff members to take the 3-day CPS certification course. He also has a

Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) instructor on his staff.

In addition to CPS efforts, Mr. Fitzgerald has taken on an initiative to speed up the vehicle recall process so that car buyers can get better safety information. Last year, Mr. Fitzgerald testified before the Maryland General Assembly in support of reforms to allow auto dealers to be able to disclose full vehicle safety and secret warranty information that are often the precursor to recalls, so that dealers can do the repair work without fear of retribution by the manufacturers.

The American Trauma Society is a voluntary, non-profit organization dedicated to preventing traumatic injuries and reducing their consequences. The main missions of the ATS are to provide injury prevention information through public education and to serve as leaders in the development, advocacy, and maintenance of trauma systems.



*Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, Child Passenger Safety and Occupant Protection Health Care Project Coordinator for MIEMSS EMS-C and American Trauma Society Board Member, presents the Distinguished Service Award for 2016 to Jack Fitzgerald, Chairman of Fitzgerald Auto Mall, for offering free car safety seat inspections to the community and other injury prevention initiatives.*

## OCR Launches Phase 2 of HIPAA Audit Program

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breaches. OCR will evaluate the results and procedures used in the phase 2 audits to develop a permanent audit program.

To learn more about OCR's Phase 2 Audit program, please visit the HHS website at [www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/compliance-enforcement/audit/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/compliance-enforcement/audit/index.html).

*This article is an adaptation of content created by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights.*

## Maryland ACEP Physician of the Year



*Dr. Tim Chizmar, Region III EMS Medical Director, presents the Maryland ACEP Physician of the Year Award to Dr. Ben Lawner, Deputy Medical Director, Baltimore City Fire Department. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Award presentations occurred during the 2016 Maryland ACEP's Annual Educational Conference on April 8, 2016.*

## Frostburg Area Ambulance SWOT Task Force Reviews Recommendations

The Frostburg Area Ambulance Service Inc. (FAAS) has taken steps to continue serving their community with delivering the highest level of EMS. In order to do this, they are focusing on increasing their membership, establishing funding efforts to cover the increasing costs of their life-saving equipment and supplies, and providing additional leadership training. Several months ago, the FAAS Board of Directors hired James Koon as Executive Director to ensure the sustainability of their EMS organization. Koon's priority was to ensure the company moves forward. Koon and the Board of Directors agreed to secure a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis of their business and EMS operations. They enlisted the help of Dwayne Kitis, the MIEMSS Region I Administrator, to facilitate a SWOT analysis and lead a 12-member task force through a 3-month

study of their organization. Members of the task force included FAAS members, local officials, and city residents. After reviewing all the data and compiling the SWOT study information, the task force produced a prioritized list of recommendations for the FAAS. The report was presented to the FAAS in February, and at that time the membership voted to begin implementing the recommendations in the report. Along with the list of recommendations, the final SWOT report advises the FAAS to complete an 18-24 month operation plan and send a quarterly update of the implementation of the recommendations to the FAAS membership and Board of Directors, the Frostburg Mayor and Council, the Allegany County Emergency Services Board, the Allegany County EMS Chief, and to the local and regional medical directors.

## Help PREVENT Injuries and Deaths: Become a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician

A certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) can:

- Educate caregivers on what is the most appropriate car seat for their child.
- Assist with community events to check car seats and their installation.
- Teach how to properly use specific seats for the children who will actually use them.

Upcoming Classes:

- May 10-12, Clarksville
- May 16-18, Timonium
- May 23-25, Rockville
- June 28-30, Hagerstown

About the CPST certification course:

- 3-day standardized course from NHTSA and Safe Kids Worldwide
- Courses are being scheduled for fall 2016 in various Maryland locations
- Combines classroom instruction, hands-on work with car seats and vehicles, and has a community safety seat check-up event at the end
- Open-book quizzes and skills tests are required
- \$85 registration fee, but scholarships are available for qualifying healthcare/EMS personnel

To learn details about upcoming courses or to register yourself, go to [cert.safekids.org](http://cert.safekids.org). To learn about scholarships for healthcare/EMS personnel, contact [CPS@miemss.org](mailto:CPS@miemss.org) or call 410-706-8647.



*A Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician demonstrates the safety features of an infant car seat to an expectant mother at a check-up event.*



# EMS STRONG DAY

Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 p.m. vs. Seattle Mariners

Left Field Lower Box (Sections 66-86): **\$33\***  
Lower Reserve (Sections 67-87): **\$20\***  
Eutaw Street Reserve (Sections 90-98): **\$20\***

**\*\*\$5 of every ticket sold will benefit the National EMS Memorial Foundation\*\***

\*There is an additional 10% service charge per ticket.

For any questions or accessible seating, please call 888.848.BIRD (2473) and ask for the Ticket Services team.

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## FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

1. Click on the link below
2. Select a quantity of tickets
3. Create a Baltimore Orioles ticket account
4. Purchase and print your tickets

<http://www.orioles.com/tix/ems>

*Tickets posted for re-sale are subject to cancellation. Offer is NOT valid at the Box Office.*

## Certificates of Recognition



A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Stanley Williams, the EMS Coordinator from St. Mary's County, upon his retirement, which was effective April 1, 2016. At the end of 2015, he completed 42 years of service to St. Mary's County. He was recognized for his service to Region V, the citizens of Southern Maryland, and the State of Maryland. Pictured are Captain Roland Berg, Chair of the Region V Advisory Council and Chair of the Statewide EMS Advisory Council (SEMSAC); Stanley Williams; Jon Bratt, MIEMSS Director of Regional Programs; and Dr. Michael Somers, Region V Medical Director.



During a recent Region III Advisory Council meeting, a Certificate of Recognition was presented to Chief Michael F. X. O'Connell of the Anne Arundel County Fire Department for his service as Chair of the Statewide Regional Affairs Committee and the Region III Advisory Council. Pictured are Chief O'Connell and Lisa Chervon, MIEMSS Region III Administrator.

**MIEMSS, Maryland EMS News**  
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**Governor Larry Hogan**  
**Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford**

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