

# Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

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## Called to Care: EMS Week 2016 Honored Those Who Serve

**EMS STRONG**  
**CALLED TO CARE**

We at the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems are greatly appreciative of the contributions of EMS providers throughout the state. The highlight of EMS Week for us was the Star of Life and Right Care When It Counts

awards ceremony, held May 18 in Annapolis, where 46 providers, citizens, and youth were honored for their actions in helping others in need. Wednesday, May 18, was also National EMS for Children Day. Five young Marylanders received “Right Care” awards that day. Stay tuned for our June newsletter for a complete list of awardees and photos!

If you have not yet seen MIEMSS’ video tribute to Maryland EMS providers, please check it out on YouTube at [youtu.be/xZDkEXqmfv0](http://youtu.be/xZDkEXqmfv0).

### National Trauma Awareness Month

Every May, partner organizations and trauma colleagues observe National Trauma Awareness Month (NTAM) to bring attention to and prevent major causes of death and disability in Maryland and across the nation, including distracted driving, sports injuries, water safety, helmet use, and red light running.

This year, the NTAM campaign slogan, “Safe Steps for Seniors,” focuses on senior safety and falls. Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries for older Americans. Falls result in more than

2.5 million injuries treated in emergency departments annually, including over 734,000 hospitalizations and more than 21,700 deaths. Through practical lifestyle adjustments, evidence-based falls prevention programs, and clinical-community partnerships, the number of falls among seniors can be substantially reduced.

This National Trauma Awareness Month, MIEMSS recognizes Maryland’s trauma and EMS system for continued service to the trauma community, trauma prevention, and the care of the injured patient.

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### Highlights of Another Successful EMS Care Conference



MIEMSS Executive Director Kevin G. Seaman, MD, FACEP, gives a State-of-the State address to kick off EMS Care 2016. Story on page 2.

## Highlights of Another Successful EMS Care Conference

*(Continued from page 1)*

EMS Care 2016 was a blast! Presented by Maryland's Regional EMS Councils and MIEMSS, EMS Care 2016 brought cutting edge speakers, innovative pre-conference offerings, and offered an impressive display of vendors. With over 300 participants, and nearly 4,000 hours of continuing education achieved over five days, EMS Care had something for everyone. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the many sponsors of the event, and would especially like to recognize our Platinum Sponsors: Biocell; by Ambulance Protection Systems, The Holdsworth Group, St. Agnes Hospital, and MEP Health/US Acute Care Solutions. EMS Care 2017 planning is already underway, so mark your calendars now for April 26 – 30, 2017 in Ocean City, Maryland.



*Tactical Combat Casualty Care was offered as a pre-conference course, culminating with practical evaluations at a local laser tag facility.*



*Participants learn injury and illness treatments for infants using manikins in this training module.*



*The Maryland Resuscitation Academy held a one-day course in High-Performance CPR co-sponsored by the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services and MIEMSS.*



*Dr. Ben Lawner addresses EMS Care attendees during a main conference course.*





# Maryland Resuscitation Academy Spring Course

MIEMSS and the Maryland Resuscitation Academy (RA) are pleased to announce a two-day spring course to be held June 2–3 at Howard County's Public Safety Training Center in Marriottsville, MD. The Maryland RA course is dedicated to improving survival rates of patients suffering prehospital cardiac arrest, and is suitable for EMS supervisors, medical directors, Fire/EMS chiefs, EMS personnel of all levels, and hospital and emergency department staffs across the state of Maryland and surrounding regions. Based on the curriculum of the world-renowned Resuscitation Academy in Seattle WA, the Maryland RA is co-sponsored by the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (HCDFRS) and MIEMSS.

Attendees can expect to increase understanding of the interventions important to prehospital cardiac arrest survival, and learn to implement ways to track and improve survival rates in their own communities. The academy features acclaimed faculty who are accomplished in the field of cardiac arrest survival, and presentations on the science of CPR, the importance of time, the importance of measuring performance, the critical role of dispatch, and more. Additionally, the academy includes an extensive, in-depth, practical train-the-trainer session in which all class participants will learn and become confident in delivering High-Performance CPR. Each participant will also leave with a standardized curriculum (including instructor guide and standardized videos) to begin to teach this practice in their own departments.

**The deadline to apply is Friday, May 27, 2016.** Visit [www.ramaryland.org](http://www.ramaryland.org) for more details and to apply. Seats do fill

quickly, so early application is encouraged. Preference will be given to groups that can send two or more people in leadership, training, and field positions capable of making system-wide improvements. Organizations outside of Maryland are also encouraged to

attend. If you have any questions about the Maryland RA or about the application, email [RAMaryland@hcdfrs.org](mailto:RAMaryland@hcdfrs.org). The academy is held both days from 8:00am–4:30pm, and includes a continental breakfast and working lunch. Tuition is complimentary.

## Reminder: Be Vigilant About Mosquitos and Potential for Zika

As an EMS care provider, if you suspect a patient may have been infected with the Zika virus, you should treat any presenting symptoms per Maryland Medical Protocols, ask about travel history when appropriate as you are assessing your patients, and always be vigilant in your use of PPE.

When not on duty, there are several things you can do to reduce the risk of

invading mosquitos in your yard and around your home.

- Clean your gutters of debris so that water can't collect in them and provide food for mosquito larvae. Cover corrugated drain pipe openings with a mesh (like nylon) to keep mosquitos out of the pipe crevices.
- The tiniest of puddles can also be breeding ground for mosquitos. After a rain, turn toys, buckets, wheelbarrows, unused flower pots—anything that can collect water—over so water can drain out.
- Untreated pool water will become a massive breeding ground for mosquitos. If you have an unused pool, drain the water and treat any remaining water and skimmer baskets with mosquito repellent.
- Shake out tarps in your yard after a rain to drain water away and always keep the lids on outside trash cans.

Governor Larry Hogan declared April 24-30, 2016, as Zika Awareness Week in Maryland, but being vigilant any time of the year that mosquitos are present is key to combatting the Zika virus and other mosquito-borne infections.



*Tip: Prevent mosquitos from using corrugated drain pipe as a breeding ground by covering the openings with a mesh like nylon.*

## Motorcycle Safety Month

May is Motorcycle Safety Month. Share the road so everyone can get a safe start to the riding season. In Maryland, on average, 70 people are killed in motorcycle crashes annually and there are more than 1,700 motorcycle crashes each year. Emergency services providers see first-hand the injuries and devastation associated with motorcycle crashes. By following basic safety rules, we can all help prevent these crashes. **Give riders plenty of space.** As a driver, give yourself enough time to adjust to a motorcyclist. It is important to remember that traffic, weather, and road conditions require motorcyclists to react and maneuver differently than other drivers.



# What are Car Beds and Why Are They Used?

Car beds are designed for infants who, for medical reasons, cannot safely use a conventional semi-reclined car seat. Three are available in the United States and have different weight ranges: the Angel Guard “Angel Ride” can be used from birth to 9 lbs., the Cosco “Dream Ride” covers 5 lb. babies through 20 lbs., and the Merritt “Hope” car bed is for children 4.5 lbs. to 35 lbs.

Car beds differ from regular car seats in several ways. The main difference is that infants lay flat in a car bed; but also, the car bed is positioned in a vehicle perpendicular to the direction of travel, and the infant’s head must be towards the center of the vehicle. Additionally, they are secured differently from car seats; each of the three car beds have a different installation method, so reading the directions carefully is a must! Car seat technicians generally find car beds harder to install than car seats, and most babies being discharged from the hospital can tolerate a semi-upright car seat, so that is the first choice for parents. But all three car beds allow an

infant to ride in the prone position if there is a medical necessity and a doctor’s order. Of course, riding prone is rarely recommended due to the increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) to a baby lying on his/her stomach. The Angel Ride and the Hope car bed also allow infants with a medical order to ride on their sides, and they have features to hold a child properly in that position.

According to Dr. Natalie Davis, a neonatologist at the University of Maryland Medical Center, if babies can’t have pressure on their backs or their hips can’t flex, if they have a sacrococcygeal teratoma or spinal cord issue, for example, they might need to be prone or on their sides in a car bed. “But they are super rare,” she adds. Dr. Susan Aucott, the director of the Johns Hopkins Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program, reports that once in a while Johns Hopkins has a newborn with a large omphalocele that isn’t surgically repaired immediately, so that infant might be discharged on his/her side in a car

bed. However, now there is a special car seat available for babies with omphaloceles, the “Jefferson” car seat by Merritt Manufacturing. It has a yoke-style harness that does not put pressure on the abdominal area. Two of these rear-facing seats are available for Maryland hospitals to borrow for their patients, and they were both in use by infants this past winter.

Additional information on obtaining or using car beds or the “Jefferson” car seat is available from the CPS & OP Healthcare Project at MIEMSS ([cps@miemss.org](mailto:cps@miemss.org) or 410-706-8647). Resource guides for using car beds on ambulance cots are available from the EMS for Children office at MIEMSS ([pepp@miemss.org](mailto:pepp@miemss.org)).

◆ By *Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, MSPH, CPST-I, MIEMSS Child Passenger Safety Healthcare Program*



Merritt Manufacturing Jefferson car seat



Angel Guard (Angel Ride) car bed

— 2016 —

## EMS & Prevention Educational Conferences

**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.

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**Governor Larry Hogan**  
**Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford**

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