



Oregon EMS and Trauma Systems Program Update - March 2009

The Department of Human Services Public Health Division Office of the Oregon Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems (EMS/TS) Program is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., in the Portland State Office Building, Suite 465, 800 N.E. Oregon Street, Portland.

New Oregon EMS Advisory Committee members appointed

Nine Oregon EMS Advisory Committee members' appointments recently expired. Appointments to these and other previously vacant positions have now been made. Physicians reappointed to the committee are Jon Jui, Charles McCart and Erin Burnham. New physician members are Andrew Nichols, Douglas Grudz and Raymond Moreno. EMT appointees are Ken McGinnis, Leslie Terrell, James Thomas and Denise Giard. The following additional appointments were made: William McMillan, hospital administrator; Cathy Murphey, nurse; Vic Greiner, emergency dispatch; and John Mack, community college representative.

Continuing members are Ameen Ramzy, M.D.; Jennifer Mitchke, volunteer ambulance operator; J.D. Fuiten, private ambulance operator; and Greg Marlar, public ambulance operator. The next meeting of the Oregon EMS Advisory Committee is June 5' 1 p.m., in the Portland State Office Building.



Draft weapons policy

The Oregon EMS Advisory Committee reviewed a draft policy on weapons in ambulances. After review, the Oregon EMS Advisory Committee proposed a policy that would not permit weapons of any kind on ambulances. This includes the use of mace, pepper spray, electrical stun

devices, or firearms and guns. Equipment used in the provision of emergency medical care such as knives, scissors and needles are not considered weapons for the purposes of this policy.

The committee stressed the importance of training EMS personnel in scene safety. This training needs to focus on how to recognize a potentially dangerous scene and how to safely disengage from scenes that have become dangerous. The Oregon State EMS Committee indicated that the risks of carrying weapons on ambulances would exceed the risks of not carrying them.

A copy of the draft policy from the website.

The advisory committee will again consider this draft at the June 5 meeting. If you have comments or concerns, please send them to Justin Hardwick at justin.hardwick@state.or.us, or call him at 971-673-0576.



EMS agency license renewal

All ambulance agency and vehicle licenses expire on June 30, 2009. The ambulance service renewal application packets will be sent April 1. The process will be slightly different for agencies this year because some additional information is being requested as part of the renewal process. DHS-EMS/TS created a new electronic renewal application to allow for accurate data collection on ambulance agencies and vehicles.

For questions on ambulance service or vehicle renewal, call Justin Hardwick at 971-673-0576 or e-mail him at justin.hardwick@state.or.us.



_Coming soon - EMT recertification

Recertification packets for all out-of-state residents have been mailed. Recertification packets for Oregon residents will be mailed the last week of March. If you don't receive your packet by April 10, 2009, go to our Web page, www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/; click on EMS Cert & Training on the

right of the screen and follow to the Forms Request link. **Please do not request a duplicate packet until after April 10, 2009.**

New this year:

1. Full background checks on all recertifying EMTs.

What this means: Certificate holders registered with law enforcement for a security clearance, a gun permit or any type of criminal conviction will have to be manually cleared. This may delay recertification.

2. Have you been out of Oregon for 60 or more consecutive days over the last five years?

If yes, then you will need to submit a fingerprint card with an additional fee of \$47.25.

Exceptions would be:

* Military personnel may submit a copy of their DD214, if it has been issued to you within the past 180 days in place of a fingerprint-based criminal history check.

* If you have previously been **fingerprinted for a criminal history check with our office** and have not since been outside the state for 60 or more consecutive days, you do not need to submit a fingerprint card.

This process will be repeated with every recertification year. The Department of Human Services (DHS) needs fingerprints for those who have been out of Oregon for 60 or more days because DHS uses the Oregon Law Enforcement Database to run background checks on all Oregon residents. The database does not check on problems in other states.

Do you have questions about the rapidly approaching recertification process? Check out our Web site in the Frequently Asked Questions section at: www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/.

You will find information about certification and recertification. While we are always happy to answer your questions and hear from you, the EMS/TS

Program has limited staff for managing recertification. We may not be able to respond to your phone calls as quickly as we would like. By going to our Web page first, you can help us help you. In turn, we have more time to get your recertification applications processed quickly and efficiently.



EMS Program activity February 2009 EMT STATISTICS

BASIC EXAMS	FAILED	PASSED
Written exams	12	43
Practical exams	10	33
 INTERMEDIATE EXAMS		
Written exam	0	2
Practical exam	0	0
 PARAMEDIC EXAMS		
Written exam	5	16
Practical exam	0	0
 RECIPROCITY		
	BASIC	PARAMEDIC
Applications received	10	2
Certificates issued	7	1

Information on Oregon EMT and first responder certification for 2007-08

	Total certified	Initial certifications
First Responder	959	958
EMT-Basic	6,769	1,822
 EMT-Intermediate	 1,531	 103
EMT-Paramedic	3,124	415
 Total certified	 11,393	 3,298

Prehospital Standards Unit

During February 2009, 199 Law Enforcement Data Systems (LEDS) checks were conducted and 40 national fingerprint background reviews were completed. Six new investigations were opened.

One certificate holder successfully completed a stipulated probation and was issued a letter of completion. Another certificate holder was placed on a stipulated probation, two certificate holders were issued default orders of revocation, and one certificate holder was placed on a stipulated suspension pending outcome of a criminal case. Additionally, one applicant withdrew in lieu of denial, three applicants were issued proposed orders of denial, and two applicants were issued default orders of denial.

Mobile Training Units

EMT recertification is just around the corner! Below is a list of upcoming MTU classes that may meet your last-minute needs for education, listed by category:

Pediatric-related topics:

- March 23 – 8 p.m. at Applegate Valley FD#9
- March 25 – 7 p.m. at Hoodland Fire
- March 26 – 9 a.m. at Hoodland Fire
- March 31 – 7 p.m. at Harrisburg Fire
- April 12-13 – 12-A Fire School (tentative) - Pendleton

Cardiac emergencies/cardiac arrest management:

- March 23 – 7 p.m. at Sisters-Camp Sherman

Special considerations/medical emergencies/any topic above:

- March 28 and 29 – EMS ICS – 8 a.m. at Lane County FD#1
- April 12-13 – 12-A Fire School (tentative) – Pendleton
- April 15 – Behavioral emergencies – 7 p.m. at Dayton
- April 16 – Haz-Mat for EMS – 7 p.m. at Mollala Fire
- April 20 – 7 p.m. – Strokes – Crooked River Ranch FD

E-mail or call Donna Wilson or Leslie Huntington for more information.

A certifying officer/evaluator workshop will be held in Pendleton March 21 at 8:30 a.m. E-mail Nancy Gillen at Nancy.J.Gillen@state.or.us for registration.

Donna Wilson worked as part of the HPP Region 7 team that conducted multiple tabletop exercises in Deschutes, Klamath, Lake, Jefferson, Crook, Grant, Wheeler and Harney counties. Hospitals, public health, law enforcement and EMS were all represented in the exercises. In May, the Region 7 team will return to these areas to conduct and evaluate several full-scale exercises.

Leslie Huntington assisted in a tabletop exercise for the Coos Bay region, facilitated by the HPP Region 3 coordinator. This exercise, held on March 13, was designed to prepare the region for the full-scale Cascadia Peril disaster exercise slated for April.



EMS Patient Encounter Database pilot project to continue

The Office of Rural Health and the EMS and Trauma Systems Program have reached agreement with ImageTrend to continue the pilot project for two more years.



Donna Wilson recognized by NAEMT

Donna Wilson, who operates one of the mobile training units for the Oregon EMS and Trauma Systems Program, received the 2008 Prehospital Trauma Life Support Appreciation Award in appreciation for commitment and dedication to the PHTLS Program from the National Association of EMTs. Donna was recognized for going the extra mile in helping place the PHTLS course into Oregon's rural areas. Through the Mobile Training Unit Program Donna brings the class (instructors, equipment, and sometimes PHTLS textbooks) to those areas unable to send their EMS personnel out of district to receive the training. Wilson also helps coordinate PHTLS Instructor classes to establish an instructor base for ongoing training. Due to her efforts and the PHTLS training, severe

trauma scene times around the state have dropped, translating into more lives saved.



Trauma News – Injury Prevention Grant Funds Available

The Legacy Emanuel Trauma Program, the Oregon Health and Science University Trauma Program, and the EMS and Trauma Systems Section are happy to announce that Injury Prevention Grant funds are available to EMS agencies and designated Oregon Trauma Hospitals for injury prevention activities in your communities or in your region.

As you may remember, the Oregon Trauma System 20th Anniversary Celebration last September was a grand success. During the initial planning phase, the planning committee decided that any left over money would fund injury prevention initiatives in rural communities. So, if you have a great idea for an injury prevention activity in your community, go to our website: <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/index.shtml> and download the applications. Grants range from \$500.00 for a small project to as much as \$5,000.00 for a project that will affect your region. Apply now – the deadline for application is May 29, 2009.



2009 Oregon EMS for Children Conference

Seaside welcomed more than 170 conference attendees from Oregon, Idaho, Washington and California to the 9th Annual EMSC Conference Feb. 27 through March 1. Conference organizers gave a sigh of relief as only a light snow fell in the coast range just days before the conference, giving way to drier weather. Several popular local

speakers returned and the conference welcomed speakers from the University of Utah Primary Children's Medical Center, New Mexico

Department of Health and the National EMSC medical director from the Children's National Medical Center.

In 2009 the Federal EMS for Children Program marks its 25th anniversary as the only federal program dedicated to improving emergency care for children. Oregon was one of only a handful of states to receive EMSC funding in 1984. Oregon congratulates the Federal EMSC Program and the providers in our state who continue to give quality pediatric care to Oregon's children. Thank you!



Safe utilization of air ambulances

The Association of Air Medical Responders of Oregon, Inc. (AAMRO) has provided information on the safe utilization of air ambulances which is on the following web page:

www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/airmed/2009/AAMRO.pdf



Nominations for EMS awards

We are accepting nominations for the 2009 Oregon EMS awards. Please see our awards Web site to download a nomination form and manual that defines the awards. Submit your nominations by June 30, 2009 at <http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/recognition>.

**Take a minute to recognize someone in Oregon
who makes EMS special.**

Upcoming events

2009 - Rural Aspects of EMS - The Timberline Conference

(The ONLY conference that has live music!)

Thursday, May 7, 2009, through Saturday, May 9, 2009.

For a draft schedule, costs, etc., go to

www.EastClackamasCountyEMS.Org.

Gary McLean, Vice Chair - ECCEMS
Sandy Fire District No. 72

The **Spring 2009 Oregon EMS Supervising Physicians Forum**, which is open to Oregon EMS medical directors and EMS administrators, will take place on the morning of Friday, May 29, in Portland. The afternoon session will be the Oregon ACC STEMI Summit. This multidisciplinary meeting will include networking and strategy development for improving STEMI outcomes. Discussion will include both urban and rural issues. Please e-mail or call Ritu Sahni, M.D., M.P.H., for more information.

Supervising Physicians/Medical Directors Forum

The spring Supervising Physicians/Medical Directors Forum will be paired with the Oregon Chapter of American College of Cardiology's STEMI Summit.



Contact information for the EMS and Trauma Systems Program staff

Robert (Bob) Leopold, Program Director
971-673-0520, robert.e.leopold@state.or.us

Ritu Sahni, M.D., M.P.H., Program Medical Director
971-673-0520, ritu.sahni@state.or.us

Maria Campbell, Executive Assistant
971-673-0522, maria.campbell@state.or.us

EMS

Kimberly (Kim) Torris, EMT-P, EMS Prehospital Systems Manager
971-673-0523, kimberly.l.torris@state.or.us

Shelley Shute, EMT Certification Coordinator
971-673-0533, michele.k.shute@state.or.us

Nancy Gillen, EMT Examination Coordinator
971-673-0526, nancy.j.gillen@state.or.us

Veronica Seymour, EMT Certification/Examination Assistant
971-673-0531, veronica.seymour@state.or.us



Elizabeth E. Morgan, NREMT-P, EMS Prehospital Standards
971-673-0530, elizabeth.e.morgan@state.or.us

Joanna Faunce, NREMT-P, EMS Compliance Specialist
971-673-0532, joanna.k.faunce@state.or.us

Justin Hardwick, EMT-P, EMS Prehospital Standards
971-673-0576, justin.hardwick@state.or.us

Mobile Training Unit

Donna Wilson, EMT-P, Mobile Training Unit Coordinator
503-807-5850, ohdmtnu@teleport.com

Leslie Huntington, EMT-P, Mobile Training Unit Coordinator
503-931-0659, mtu2@teleport.com

EMS Patient Encounter Database

Will Worrall, Prehospital Data Systems Coordinator
971-673-0536, william.h.worrall@state.or.us

EMS for Children

Philip Engle, EMS for Children Program Manager
971-673-0525, philip.p.engage@state.or.us

Trauma Systems

Susan Werner, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.S.,
Trauma and Tertiary Care Program Manager
971-673-0534, susan.m.werner@state.or.us

Donald Au, EMS/Trauma Research Analyst
971-673-0521, donald.k.au@state.or.us

Susan Harding, Administrative Specialist/Trauma Registrar
971-673-0527, susan.m.harding@state.or.us

Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program
Oregon Department of Human Services
Public Health Division
800 N.E. Oregon Street, Suite 465A
Portland, OR 97232
971-673-0520