Oregon Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program
UPDATE
March 2008

The office of the Oregon Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma Systems Program is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., in Suite 465 of the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Avenue, Portland.

EMT Regulations
The updated EMT regulations are awaiting adoption. The EMS Program will provide notification when the regulations are adopted.

Trauma Regulations Update
The Trauma Program is updating the Oregon Trauma Regulations to incorporate recommendations from the “Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2006”, which was prepared by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma. Representatives from trauma centers and health care professions participated in the November and March meetings. Among the issues discussed were adding another level of hospital classification (Level V), educational requirements for physicians and nursing staff, use of mid-level providers for initial trauma resuscitation in rural hospitals, and pediatric designation criteria. For more information, or to be included in the mailings for future meetings, please contact Michelle Haun-Hood at michelle.haun-hood@state.or.us or Susan Werner. susan.m.werner@state.or.us.

EMS Preparedness Plan
The EMS and Trauma Systems Program and Oregon Office of Rural Health are convening four meetings to discuss the Oregon EMS Mass Casualty Incident Plan and EMS Communications Plan. The plan and comments from the first meeting can be found on the Oregon EMS and Trauma System Program Web page: http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/index.shtml

If you would like to send a representative to one of the remaining meetings, e-mail Kassie Clarke at clarkek@ohsu.edu for registration. Lunch will be provided at each meeting for those who register in advance. Details will follow your RSVP. The meetings are scheduled for:

April 5, Medford, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
April 10, Bend, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
April 12, Pendleton, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
**Certifying Officer and Exam Evaluator Training**

After hearing a number of complaints and concerns about the EMT testing program, the EMS Program is conducting several four hour training sessions on the role and responsibilities of certifying officers and exam evaluators. The training is for Basic, Intermediate and Paramedic practical exams. Certifying Officer’s and Exam Evaluator’s help screen and evaluate all levels of EMT practical exams. If you would like more information on these trainings or becoming an exam evaluator or certifying officer, please contact Nancy Gillen at 971-673-0526 or by email: nancy.j.gillen@state.or.us.

This is an effort to improve the quality of our testing process. All current and new Certifying Officers and Exam Evaluators are encouraged to participate and assist in the effort to revise our standards and expectations.

**Nominations for EMS Awards**

We are accepting nominations for the 2008 Oregon EMS Awards Program. Please consult our awards Web site; you can download a manual that defines the awards and the nomination form: [http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/recognition](http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/recognition). Nominations must be received by May 31, 2008, to be considered.

**Electronic EMS Patient Data Pilot Project Update**

In cooperation with the Oregon Office of Rural Health, Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon Health and Sciences University, the EMS and Trauma Systems Program has established a pilot project to study the usefulness of an Internet-based data system for prehospital patient care reports.

The study will focus on three areas to identify the costs and benefits of establishing a Web-based patient care record database. Comments from Oregon EMS agencies and hospitals will help us determine whether a system would be useful in Oregon. Both Washington and Idaho developed EMS patient care databases last year and each selected ImageTrend as its vendor, so Oregon will use ImageTrend for the pilot project.

The first of the three areas addressed by the project is using the system to create and enter a patient care record. Training sessions for this will be held:

- Enterprise, April 10
- LaGrande April 11
- Pendleton, April 12
- Medford, May 15
  - Klamath Falls, May 16
- Bend, May 17

A Webinar (Web-based training) accessible by any agency with a high-speed internet connection is scheduled for June. Contact Kassie Clarke by email at
The second area involves collecting EMS patient encounter data from all EMS providers for the month of May 2008. The EMS and Trauma Systems Program and the OHSU School of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine, will identify the costs, issues and barriers to collecting data from EMS providers in Oregon. More specific information will be shared in the future.

The third area of the project is identifying whether the data is useful to emergency medical services providers, EMS Medical Directors, regional and statewide programs such as the State EMS Advisory Committee, State Trauma Advisory Board and State EMS for Children Committee, as well as many other Oregon public health, public safety and emergency management programs. The study also will consider which prehospital data items should be included if an EMS patient encounter database is established.

A report will be prepared documenting what is learned from this pilot and will identify the costs and benefits of establishing an EMS patient encounter database in Oregon.

There are several things that make the current effort promising:

1. This is a pilot project to determine the feasibility as well as costs and benefits of an EMS patient encounter data system. This is not an attempt to establish a system.
2. Many EMS agencies in Oregon use electronic patient records. Several more agencies are planning to use electronic records this year.
3. The National Emergency Medical Services Information System (http://www.nemsis.org/) data standards. Current EMS computer software uses this format, which permits transferring information from one computer system to another.
4. There are national vendors so that the state will not have to rely on internal resources to create a data system.
5. The Internet is more robust and the techniques to secure data are well-established.
6. Many states, including our neighbors Washington and Idaho, have established these data systems.

**EMSC Survey**

The EMS for Children program survey has reached its goal for completing the hospital survey and is very close to meeting the goal of having 80 percent of EMS agencies provide information for the prehospital survey. We want to thank those who took the time to complete the surveys. This will help our office be competitive for grant funds. There may still be time to input data if you wish to participate. Contact Philip Engle at (971) 673-0525 or email at philip.p.engle@state.or.us. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
EMS for Children Advisory Committee
The March Advisory Committee meeting included an overview of the Federal EMS for Children Performance Measures. The purpose of the performance measures is to ensure a system that identifies which hospitals are able to stabilize and manage pediatric patients by 2011. A task force will be established to recommend how Oregon will address the performance measures.

Intermediate in a Box
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVFR), Lake Oswego Fire Department and Eugene Fire have jointly developed an Intermediate Bridge course. This course includes DVDs of the didactic material. The course requires some group discussion and work with your training officer is still required. Please have your training officer contact: Eric Schult, TVFR, eric.schult@tvfr.com; Steve Dehart, Lake Oswego Fire Department, sdehart@ci.oswego.or.us; or Karen Anderson, Eugene Fire Department, karen.l.anderson@ci.eugene.or.us.

EMS Program Activities
During February, 10 new ambulances were licensed, 26 fingerprint background checks were conducted and 162 Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) Oregon background checks were processed. Twelve new complaints were received and two new investigations were opened. One certificate holder was placed on suspension. Four investigations were closed. Eighteen certificate holders are completing court-ordered probation after DUII incidents (monitored by program staff), and 16 individuals currently are on department-stipulated probation. You can find out if there is a disciplinary action against an individual at this Web page: http://www.dhs.state.or.us/dhs/ph/ems/profesion/action.shtml.

* We are recruiting a Compliance Specialist 3 (Prehospital Standards Representative). This person will conduct inspections and licensing of ambulances and ambulance agencies, and investigation of complaints received about certificate holders who are first responders and EMTs. Experience as an advanced provider in an EMS agency is desired. For further information, contact Duenna Ignacio-Kawanishi at 971-673-0523 or email: duenna.l.ignacio-kawanishi@state.or.us.

Our congratulations go out to Justin Dillingham, MPH, Assistant Professor, with the OHSU-OIT Paramedic Education Program and Director of Business Development with Life Flight Network. Justin was notified this week that his 2007 research project will receive the, "Best Research" award at the national EMS Today conference in Baltimore later this month.
Upcoming Events

* EMS Medical Directors Course
The one-day NAEMSP medical director course has been changed to Thursday, April 24, in Eugene. Check with Ritu Sahni, M.D., M.P.H., for confirmation and details at 971-673-0631 or ritu.sahni@state.or.us.

* EMS Supervising Physicians Forum - Friday, April 25, in Eugene.
The agenda will include quality improvement and patient safety processes, protocol comparisons, disaster preparedness and public access defibrillation programs. Contact Ritu Sahni, M.D., M.P.H. for details at 971-673-0631 or ritu.sahni@state.or.us.

* Acute Stroke and Acute Myocardial Infarction: Pre-hospital & Emergency Departments Working Together to Establish Systems of Care to Improve Health Outcomes Symposium
This symposium is scheduled for Friday, May 30, in Eugene. The event will bring together EMS supervising physicians, cardiologists, neurologists, hospital emergency department managers/administrators, EMS agency managers and others to learn about STEMI triage programs and discuss how these ideas might apply to stroke care. For details contact Rachel Saunders at 971-673-1085 or email: rachel.b.saunders@state.or.us.

* 2008 Oregon EMS Conference
The Oregon EMS Conference has been scheduled for Oct. 10-12, 2008, in Bend. A supervising physician’s forum also is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 10, 2008, in Bend. An infection control officer’s class also is scheduled. For information visit the website at: http://www.oregonemsconference.com/

* EMS Week 2008 Planning
EMS Week 2008 will take place May 18-24, 2008, with May 21 designated as EMS for Children Day. The slogan for 2008 is “EMS: Your life is our mission.” For resources to promote EMS week in your area visit: www.acep.org/emsweek.

Tax Credit for Volunteer EMTs
The Oregon Department of Revenue offers a tax credit for EMTs who volunteer their services to rural Oregon communities. The application process is done through the Office of Rural Health at Oregon Health and Sciences University. To obtain an application for the tax credit, visit: http://www.ohsu.edu/ohsuedu/outreach/oregonruralhealth/providers/taxcredit/provider_tax_credit_emt.cfm or contact Eric Jordan at 866-674-4376 or jordane@ohsu.edu. To be eligible for this credit, you must be an EMT licensed in Oregon and provide some services on a volunteer basis.
New Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations
The National Fire Protection Association 1999: Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations, 2008 edition, is now available. This edition has been revised to address changes requested by end users and the industry, and specifies minimum documentation, design, performance, testing and certification requirements for new single-use and new multiple-use emergency medical operations protective clothing used by emergency medical responders prior to arrival at medical care facilities and used by medical first receivers at medical care facilities during emergency medical operations. The new standards are available for purchase and download at http://www.nfpa.org.

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