Proposed EMS rules hearing and comment period

The EMS and Trauma Systems Program has scheduled a public hearing on revisions to the EMS rules for Feb. 24 at 1:15 p.m. in room 1E of the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland. Written comments may be e-mailed to EMS.trauma@state.or.us or mailed to EMS and Trauma Systems Program, Suite 465, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, OR 97232 Attention: Brittany Sande.

Following up on the work of the Oregon EMS for the Future Work Group, the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) pertaining to EMS are being updated. The update incorporates the final recommendations of the Oregon EMS for the Future Work Group which included recognizing the following national levels of provider: Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic. The work group also recommended maintaining the Oregon EMT-Intermediate provider level. The proposed rules also propose to increase fees (which have not been increased since 1997), change the deadline for recertification from May 31 to May 1 and make some clarifications to the rules. The three sets of rules are Division 250 — Ambulance Service Licensing, Division 255 — Ambulance Licensing, and Division 265 — Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders.

Fee increases are proposed in a three-step process. The first step would take effect July 2010 and increase fees for initial applicants, reciprocity applicants, late fees and testing fees. The second step, which will increase renewal fees as well as initial and reciprocity fees, would take effect July 1, 2011 (after the next recertification has been completed). The third step would take effect July 1, 2013, after the completion of the 2013 recertification period. It proposes increases in the renewal, initial and reciprocity application fees. Fees for licensing ambulance agencies and vehicles are in statute and are not affected by these proposed rule changes. The proposed fee changes can be found in the 265 — Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders section 333-265-0030, which is entitled “Fees for the Certification and Recertification of a First Responder or EMT.” The fees for EMT-Basic recertification would increase by 38 percent over the 18-year period from 1997 to 2015 and
the fees for EMT-Paramedic would increase by 25 percent. These fees fund all EMS certification activities.

The proposed rules are scheduled to be discussed at the March 5 meeting of the Oregon EMS Advisory Committee.


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Surviving the dreaded ambulance service inspection

Eric Swanson, BBA, NREMT-P
EMS Director, Adventist Health / Tillamook County General Hospital

Shortly after accepting the position as EMS director for the Tillamook County General Hospital Ambulance, I was notified that we were on the list for an ambulance service inspection. You can imagine my “delight” when I got the news. Fortunately, the Department of Human Services, Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program (EMS/TS) provided me with ample notice of their visit.

In addition to the fact that I had not worked in EMS on a full-time basis for nearly 15 years, I was also heavily involved in a variety of initiatives aimed at restructuring and improving quality and performance. This was not a good time to have an inspection! Quite frankly, I would have rather stared at the sun with binoculars.

To prepare, I went to the Oregon EMS Web site, where I found all of the forms I would need to begin preparing for the inspection. All of the forms were in the PDF format and easy to download. The information on the inspection forms is straightforward and easily understood. It provided me the foundation I needed to begin the process.

Next, the inspection process is naturally divided into three sections:

- Ambulance service records;
- Personnel records;
- Ambulances.

Supervisor Jackie Fox, NREMT-P, and Administrative Assistant Judy Parks were assigned the task of assembling the ambulance service records. Jackie and Judy used the Ambulance Service Facilities and Records Inspection Form as the template. They took each of the sections of this form — Administrators Office, Main Business, Office, Business Licenses and Records, etc. — and created tabs for a notebook. Under each tab they placed copies of the required documents and forms in the same order as they
are listed on the inspection form.

If a specific document wasn’t available to support the item, a memo was included that provided additional supporting information.

Using the Ground Ambulance Service Personnel Inspection Form, Judy Parks and Human Resources Coordinator Paula Morris reviewed the records for all personnel. The required items from the inspection form were flagged in each personnel file. This would allow an inspector to easily locate those items when inspecting the large files.

A completed Ground Ambulance Service Personnel Inspection Form for each employee was placed in another notebook in alphabetical order. Additional required documents that were not part of the personnel file were placed with the individual’s inspection form.

To insure that our fleet complied with the requirements of the Ambulance Vehicle Inspection Form, Paramedics Albert Arcure and Evan Van Otten were assigned this portion of process. As they already have primary responsibility for creating the inventory for each ambulance, Albert and Evan were the natural choice. They had used the form earlier in the year to establish an updated inventory.

Albert and Evan completed a through inspection of each vehicle and completed the inspection form. Any deficiencies were corrected. The forms for each vehicle were included in the master inspection book.

When the big day arrived, we met with Justin Hardwick and Elizabeth (Liz) Morgan from the Oregon EMS and Trauma System Program.

As we began the inspection process, we proudly provided them with our inspection manuals. Our hard work had paid off. They were very impressed with the work that had been done. They said it was obvious to them that we had worked to “exceed” the state’s standards.

Liz reviewed a number of personnel files and found that our efforts to flag the required information in the files made her job an easy one. Everything was found to be in order and was easy to locate.

After inspecting two ambulances in our fleet, they completed their inspection.

During the wrap-up meeting, Justin and Liz reported we had successfully completed the inspection with no deficiencies. They also noted that this was the fastest inspection that they had ever completed. The credited our meticulous preparation as the reason for both.

At the end of the day, everyone who participated in the process was all smiles. Our efforts had paid huge dividends.
You’re next. Here is my advice:

1. Assemble a winning team. I had complete trust in the members of our team that prepared for the inspection. Their attention to detail allowed us pass with no deficiencies and to set the gold standard for the inspection process.

2. Divide the process into manageable tasks. Span of control is critical to a successful inspection process.

3. Create a notebook with all of the required documents. This speeds the process and allows you to easily review the contents prior to the inspection to make sure you are not missing any elements. Our notebooks will now be updated on an annual basis to insure a continual state of compliance.

4. And the most important advice — Don’t be afraid! Justin and Liz are consummate professionals. The purpose of the inspection process is to insure that licensed ambulance services across Oregon meet a minimum set of standards – and this will ultimately improve the care patients receive in our state.

First Responder June 30, 2010 Recertification

Oregon DHS-EMS will soon conduct the 2010 First Responder recertification process. This process will be done online.

In April, each certified Oregon First Responder will be mailed a personal identification number (PIN). If any First Responders have not updated their current mailing address information with DHS-EMS, they may not receive the important recertification instructions and PIN in the mail. Click http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/forms/emt/Agency_Fillable_Reportable_Action_E_4_form.pdf to update your address information on our fill-able reportable actions form.

In January, DHS-EMS mailed out a preparatory letter to all EMS agencies notifying the agencies of the upcoming recertification process. To view the letter, please click http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/first_responder/Recert_Prep_Ltr.pdf.

Certification Status/Verification

If you did not apply to become an Oregon First Responder after the 2008 changes in Oregon Administrative Rules, you may not be certified through the state. To verify your certificate status or the status of your personnel, you may visit our Electronic Certificate Verification Page on our Web site or click http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/profeson/verification.shtml to access the site.
If you are not currently certified as an Oregon First Responder, you will need to successfully complete a state-approved U.S. Department of Transportation First Responder course. Our Web site shows a contact list for several of the approved Oregon First Responder training agencies.

*DHS-EMS is no longer accepting applications for recertification of certificates earned prior to the July changes in OAR. That courtesy period was extended and ended in March 2009.

Recertification Instructions

In March, instructions will be mailed out to all certificate holders with their personal identification number (PIN). Additionally, step-by-step online instructions will be posted on our Web site along with a Frequently Asked Questions page.

Group Payments

Agencies may make group payments via our online recertification process only if:

- **Five or more** First Responders are recertifying.
- You submit the First Responder group payment roster by **March 1, 2010**.
- Do not submit payment at this time; instructions will be mailed out at a later date.

If your agency has not received the recertification preparation letter mailed out in January, click http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/first_responder/Recert_Prep_roster.doc to access the recertification group payment roster.

If you have any further inquiries, please feel free to contact any of our EMS staff members. The list of office contacts is at the end this newsletter.

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**Mobile Training Unit (MTU) January update**

1. In January, Donna went to Warm Springs and worked with all three shifts on the concepts and practice of managing pediatric cardiac arrest situations. The class involved several problem-solving scenarios.

2. Leslie visited Douglas County Fire District #2 for two separate teaching sessions relating to the management of respiratory disease and cardiac chest pain. The crews reviewed the local STEMI (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction) system
and discussed the prehospital role for cardiac assessment and 12-lead interpretation in the overall system of acute care for an MI.

3. First Responders, EMT-Basics and an Intermediate from six different agencies attended an airway skills class facilitated by Leslie in Millington. The participants gained a tremendous amount of hands-on practice, thanks in part to Southwestern Oregon Community College, which loaned two airway manikins to the class. The class also covered the concept of capnography and a demonstration of the King Airway.

4. Donna taught an Emergency Pediatric Care course (EPC) to the members of Fire Incident Resource Enterprises, Pendleton Fire and East Umatilla Health District in late January. Eighteen First Responders through Paramedics attended this class.

5. Leslie and Donna spent the last weekend of January in Astoria conducting an EMT-I refresher training for the area agencies. Topics included a pharmacology review, medication administration, ECG interpretation, CHF management, current trends in prehospital care including the use of capnography and 12-lead and skills practice in EZ IO, IV, King Airway, and CPAP. Fourteen EMT-Intermediates attended from the following agencies: Cannon Beach Fire Department, Knappa Fire District, Astoria Fire Department, Medix Ambulance, Lewis and Clark Fire and Warrenton Fire Department.

6. The MTU will teach the following classes in February and early March:

   - 2/13: PHTLS in Reedsport (full);
   - 2/16, 17, 18: Stroke assessment in Roseburg;
   - 2/18: EZ-IO in-service in Fossil;
   - 2/24-25: PHTLS at The Dalles;
   - 3/1: Pediatric emergencies in Paisley;
   - 3/2: Triage in Monument;
   - 3/5: ACLS for the EMT-I in Richland;
   - 3/6: Various EMT-B and I topics at Agness-Illahee Fire;
   - 3/11: Bloodborne pathogens in Milo;
   - 3/11: Misc. topics at Mist-Birkenfield.

   Further details on the above courses may be found at http://home.teleport.com/~ohdmtu/mtu/.

7. As a reminder, the recertification requirement changed after last year’s renewal. The total hours required for this recertification period are 12 hours for First Responders, 24 hours for EMT-Basics, 36 hours for EMT-Intermediates and 48 hours for paramedics. All certification levels are also required to demonstrate proficiency in specific skills.
A summary of the hours, subject categories and skill competencies may be downloaded at http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/docs/2008/TempRuleOAR265Effective6-20-08a_appendix_1.pdf. A copy this summary is also included in this newsletter.

EMS Program activity

JANUARY 2010 EMT STATISTICS

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10th Annual Emergency Medical Services Pediatric Conference

When: May 21 and 22, 2010
Location: Lane Community College

Registration, payment information, lodging and the completed conference schedule will be available mid-March at www.oregonemsc.org
If you have questions about the conference, e-mail Anne Hallinan, anne@marronehallinan.com

Pre-Conference Session (confirmed)

**Friday, May 21, 8 a.m. to noon**  
Laura Criddle, PhD RN  
OHSU Pediatric Critical Care

**Topics to be covered:**  
- When childhood diseases grow up;  
- Pediatric penetrating trauma;  
- Monsters Inc.: Munchausen syndrome by proxy.

**Main Conference Session**  
Friday, May 21, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sessions confirmed (more to come)  
- Kids and SLUG;  
- Pediatric MVC care from scene to surgery;  
- Visual diagnosis of respiratory patients;  
- Life Flight pediatric case study;  
- Jams and pretzels: Innovative pediatric packaging;  
- Emergency management of the pediatric burn patient: From scene to definitive care;  
- Caring for the pediatric brain;  
- Emotional first aid — Dealing with sudden death;  
- Recognizing and reporting abuse (panel discussion);  
- Hospital resource management for pediatric MCI (panel discussion);  
- Reach Air pediatric case study;  
- Pediatrics in disasters Do you know what to expect?;  
- How does this thing work? A look at children with special health care needs;  
- Common Pediatric EMS Calls: Separating the good from the bad;  
- Acute management of head and neck injuries in the young athlete.

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**Conference scholarships available**

The scholarship program helps to support the education and training of rural providers by offsetting the costs to attend the annual pediatric conference. The scholarship program is available to EMTs and RNs. To apply for a scholarship fill go to:

www.oregonemsc.org
Upcoming events

The Oregon EMS Advisory Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. March 5 in the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland. The proposed rules will be discussed.

The Oregon EMS for Children Advisory Committee will meet at 10 a.m on March 5th in the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland.

EMS Week: May 17-21 is EMS week this year!

MAY 19, 2010 The EMS and Trauma Systems Program and ODOT plan to showcase Oregon’s EMS providers and agencies and at the State Capital Mall Park Grounds. Join us for equipment and vehicle displays, EMS demonstrations and the opportunity to meet and greet staff from ODOT and the EMS Office. Our goal is to raise awareness about the importance of well-trained and properly equipped emergency medical service providers.

Some of our key messages include:

- Oregon’s EMS and Trauma program works with agencies and providers statewide to ensure that all Oregonians receive the best care possible in emergency situations.
- Properly trained and equipped emergency services providers save lives.
- Pediatric emergency patients have unique needs.
- A quality EMS system can respond efficiently to traffic crashes can reduce fatalities and catastrophic injuries; Oregonians can prevent crashes by driving safely and cautiously.

If you would like to participate or have a suggestion for activities or displays please email Liz Morgan at elizabeth.e.morgan@state.or.us.

The 10th Annual EMS for Children Conference is scheduled for May 21-22, 2010, at the Lane Community College Center for Meeting and Learning. To be notified when information becomes available about the conference schedule and registration, go to www.oregonemsc.org. If you are interested in presenting a topic or exhibiting or in sponsorship opportunities, contact Philip Engle, philip.p.engle@state.or.us.

The second EMS Leadership Symposium sponsored by the Oregon Office of Rural Health will once again be held concurrently with the EMSC Conference on Friday, May 21. Conference details for both events will be forthcoming.

The EMS Supervising Physician and Agency Managers Forum is planned for May 20, 2010 in Eugene.
# Resources

## Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program

**Public Health Division**
800 N.E. Oregon Street, Suite 465A
Portland, OR 97232
Telephone: 971-673-0520

## Staff contacts

### PROGRAM STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Leopold</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
<td>971-673-0520</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ritu Sahni, MD, MPH</td>
<td>Program Medical Director</td>
<td>971-673-0520</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Torris</td>
<td>EMT-P, EMS Prehospital Systems Manager</td>
<td>971-673-0523</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kimberly.l.torris@state.or.us">kimberly.l.torris@state.or.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelly Shute</td>
<td>EMT Certification Coordinator</td>
<td>971-673-0533</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michele.k.shute@state.or.us">michele.k.shute@state.or.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Gillen</td>
<td>EMT Examination Coordinator</td>
<td>971-673-0526</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nancy.j.gillen@state.or.us">nancy.j.gillen@state.or.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Seymour</td>
<td>EMT Certification/Examination Assistant</td>
<td>971-673-0531</td>
<td><a href="mailto:veronica.seymour@state.or.us">veronica.seymour@state.or.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth E. Morgan</td>
<td>NREMT-P, EMS Prehospital Standards Manager</td>
<td>971-673-0530</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elizabeth.e.morgan@state.or.us">elizabeth.e.morgan@state.or.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Hardwick</td>
<td>EMT-P, EMS Prehospital Standards Manager</td>
<td>971-673-0576</td>
<td><a href="mailto:justin.hardwick@state.or.us">justin.hardwick@state.or.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Huntington</td>
<td>EMT-P, Mobile Training Unit Coordinator</td>
<td>503-931-0659</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mtu2@teleport.com">mtu2@teleport.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Engle</td>
<td>EMS for Children Program Manager</td>
<td>971-673-0525</td>
<td><a href="mailto:philip.p.engle@state.or.us">philip.p.engle@state.or.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Werner</td>
<td>RN, BSN, MAS, Trauma and Tertiary Care Program Manager</td>
<td>971-673-0534</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susan.m.werner@state.or.us">susan.m.werner@state.or.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Au</td>
<td>EMS/Trauma Research Analyst</td>
<td>971-673-0521</td>
<td><a href="mailto:donald.k.au@state.or.us">donald.k.au@state.or.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Harding</td>
<td>Administrative Specialist/Trauma Registrar</td>
<td>971-673-0527</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susan.m.harding@state.or.us">susan.m.harding@state.or.us</a></td>
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### Mobile Training Unit

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<tr>
<td>Donna Wilson</td>
<td>EMT-P, Mobile Training Unit Coordinator</td>
<td>503-807-5850</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ohdmtu@teleport.com">ohdmtu@teleport.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Huntington</td>
<td>EMT-P, Mobile Training Unit Coordinator</td>
<td>503-931-0659</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mtu2@teleport.com">mtu2@teleport.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip Engle</td>
<td>EMS for Children Program Manager</td>
<td>971-673-0525</td>
<td><a href="mailto:philip.p.engle@state.or.us">philip.p.engle@state.or.us</a></td>
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### Trauma Systems

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<td>971-673-0534</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susan.m.werner@state.or.us">susan.m.werner@state.or.us</a></td>
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