



Oregon EMS and Trauma Systems Program Update - May 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.

H1N1 influenza pandemic

Our thanks to all EMS agency personnel who transported potential flu patients, as well as the health providers who treated them. The Public Health Division's Agency Operation Center was established early in the H1N1 event and ran smoothly.

Several EMS/TS staff members were actively involved with the event. Communications with critical partners such as hospitals and the EMS community effectively ensured that all responders and providers had the most up-to-date information about handling H1N1 patients. In addition, there was aggressive engagement with a variety of media sources, which helped lead to responsible event reporting.

Interim guidance for cleaning emergency medical service (EMS) transport vehicles during an influenza pandemic is now available at www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/cleaning_ems.html.

Personal protection equipment for the 2009 H1N1 flu virus quiz

Q: What are facemasks and N95 respirators?

Q: What's the difference between a facemask and an N95 respirator?

Q: Do N95 respirators reduce the chances of contracting the 2009 H1N1 flu virus?

Q: Is it OK to use one disposable N95 respirator for a long time?

Q: Is it OK to reuse or share a disposable N95 respirator?

Q: What other personal protective equipment does FDA regulate?

Q: Where can I find additional information on personal protective equipment (PPE)?

Q: What is the purpose of the FDA's emergency use authorization for certain N95 disposable respirators?

Q: Does the FDA's emergency use authorization for certain disposable N95 respirators cover only products in the Strategic National Stockpile?

Q: Does the FDA's emergency use authorization for certain disposable N95 respirators permit them to be reused in health care settings?

Q: Does the FDA's emergency use authorization for certain disposable N95 respirators cover health care employees?

Q: Does the FDA's emergency use authorization for certain disposable N95 respirators lift the fit-testing requirements?

For the answers and more information go to:

http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/H1N1Flu/ppe_faq.html

For more information on H1N1 situation, please visit www.PandemicFlu.gov and www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/spotlight/panflu/index.shtml.



EMS agency license renewal

All ambulance agency and vehicle licenses expire on June 30, 2009. As of May 12, 35 EMS transport agencies and 134 ambulances have been renewed.

The ambulance service renewal application packets were sent April 1. The process is slightly different for agencies this year because 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.



EMT recertification!

Recertification packets for all Oregon and out-of-state residents have been mailed. If you don't receive your packet, go to our Web page, www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/; click on EMS Cert & Training on the right of the screen and follow it to the forms request link.

New requirements 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 in the past five years?

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

Exceptions:

- Military personnel may submit a copy of your 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 however please attach an explanation.

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 recertification process? Check out our Web site in frequently asked questions at www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/.

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.

Planning for EMT recertification in 2011

The next recertification period starting July 1, 2009 will require more continuing education hours. Planning ahead and getting started early will make this easier.



**Emergency
Medical
Services for
Children Program**



EMSC received a grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to conduct four simulation-based trainings with pre-hospital and hospital providers in the care of pediatric trauma victims from motor vehicle and ATV crashes. During the trainings, rural providers practice hands-on skills in a realistic environment from scene to hospital. The first of four simulation exercises were conducted in Silverton, Oregon. To view video of the training go to www.oregonemsc.org.



May MTU update

An evaluator training workshop (for state EMT exams) was held in Banks May 11. Certifying officer information was NOT included in this training.

Donna and Leslie conducted trainings in the following areas in April: Glendale, Dayton, Mollala, Pendleton, Crooked River Ranch, Sherman and Sisters-Camp Sherman. Donna taught a class on strokes in Arlington in May.

Donna and Leslie will assist in the site review of two EMT program accreditations in May: Rogue Community College in Medford and Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay.

Seven EMTs attended an intensive EMS track conducted by Donna Wilson at the 12-A Fire School in LaGrande. The EMTs gained 11 hours of recertification topics in pediatrics, medications and case reviews.

Donna served as a certifying officer for an EMT-I certification exam in John Day. All three candidates passed the practical and two of the three passed the written exam on the first attempt. Rose Howe was the primary instructor of this rural EMT-I course, which allowed the students to remain in their ambulance response area throughout the duration of the class.

Recent exercises:



- Terrorist attack: John Day High School
- Fire in Harney District Hospital causes evacuation of patients and staff
- Explosion At Prineville Police Department: Multiple patients transported to Pioneer Hospital

During the first week of May the Region 7 Hospital Preparedness program conducted exercises at five of the eight hospitals in Region 7 (ATAB 7). The Region 7 Design Team constructed two possible scenarios to test hospital and other stakeholders on the ability to either evacuate the hospital or deal with a pre-hospital event requiring decontamination. Hospital, EMS, fire, law enforcement, public health and other stakeholders decided which scenario to exercise.

The design team along with evaluators traveled to John Day, Burns, Prineville, Klamath Falls and Lakeview hospitals to facilitate the exercises. Disaster preparedness personnel at each hospital will receive an after-action report to assist them in identifying areas to work on as a local community and as a Region 7 resource. Madras, Bend and Redmond hospitals will exercise in June.

Exercise Design Team

Tiffany Stafford, Region 7 HPP Coordinator;
Monte Keady, Division Chief Training and EMS,
HazMat Team Leader of Klamath Fire District No. 1;
Collette Whelan RN, DMAT Team member;



Donna Wilson MTU Coordinator, DMAT Team member.



EMS Program activity

APRIL 2009 EMT STATISTICS

BASIC EXAMS	FAILED	PASSED	
Written exams	37	158	
Practical exams	52	211	
INTERMEDIATE	FAILED	PASSED	
Written exams	5	7	
Practical exams	0	0	
PARAMEDIC	FAILED	PASSED	
Written exams	0	6	
RECIPROCITY	BASICS	PARAMEDICS	
Applications received	4	2	
Certificates issued	5	0	
RECERTIFICATION (5/12/09)	EMT-B	EMT-I	EMT-P
	458	281	591



2009 Trauma Coordinator/Trauma Registrar Conference

The 2009 Trauma Coordinator/Trauma Registrar Conference was held at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend on April 15, 2009. Thirty-nine trauma coordinators and trauma registrars from 26 trauma hospitals attended the day-long event that included topics related to trauma quality improvement and trauma registry.

Lynn Eastes and Maureen Harrahill, trauma coordinators from Oregon Health & Science University Hospital, facilitated discussion on refining your quality improvement process, and Ted Raschkes, Salem Hospital Trauma Program manager, presented his work on Trauma performance improvement goals. Ms. Eastes, Ms. Harrahill and Susan Harding, state trauma registrar, facilitated discussion regarding the use of chalkboards and query reports available in the TraumaOne Trauma Registry. Ms. Harding also fielded general questions on using the registry and writing reports. The Office of Rural Health, St. Charles Medical Center in Bend and an anonymous benefactor defrayed the cost of participant attendance.

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.engle@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

