



Oregon EMS and Trauma Systems Program

Office of the Oregon Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems (EMS/TS) Program
Portland State Office Building, Suite 465, 800 N.E. Oregon Street, Portland

September 2009, VOLUME 3, NO. 9

What you can do to stay healthy

- **Stay informed.** The following Web sites will be updated regularly as information becomes available: www.flu.oregon.gov/ and www.cdc.gov/flu/.
- Influenza is **spread mainly from person-to-person** through airborne droplets that form when someone who is affected coughs or sneezes.
- **Take everyday actions to stay healthy.**
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
 - Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- **Follow public health advice** regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and taking other social distancing measures.
- Find healthy ways to **deal with stress and anxiety.**

Information and videos from the Oregon Pandemic H1N1 Summit can be found at <http://www.flu.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/flu/summit/index.shtml>

Oregon EMS for the Future stakeholder meetings

A seven-member work group has been evaluating the pending national EMS changes to determine what Oregon should do. The EMS and Trauma Systems Section has scheduled public stakeholder meetings to provide opportunities for public participation in that group's proposals. These meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- Sept. 23, 11 a.m., at Pacific West Ambulance, 609 N.W. Coast, Newport;

- Sept. 24, 9 a.m., in Room 100 of Rogue Community College Table Rock Campus, 7800 Pacific Ave., White City;
- Sept. 29, 1 p.m., in the La Grande Fire Department, 1806 Cove Ave., La Grande;
- Oct. 6, 9 a.m., in the Redmond Fire Main Station, 341 N.W. Dogwood Ave., Redmond.
- There will also be a presentation and discussion at the Oregon EMS Conference, Oct. 3 in Jantzen Beach, Portland.

The sessions will focus on the definition of EMS agencies and the proposed training and certification standards for first responders/emergency medical responders, EMT-Basic/EMT, Oregon EMT-Intermediate/Advanced EMT, EMT-Paramedic/Paramedic and EMS medical directors.

The Oregon EMS Advisory Committee met on Sept. 11 in the Portland State Office Building. The committee listened to a presentation on the Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network (OWIN) from Peter van den Berg, OWIN deputy director. The committee learned that the OWIN project will not address the critical need that emergency medical services in Oregon has for dedicated radio frequencies.

Next the committee learned about the Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Registry. Dr. Terry Schmitt reviewed plans for the registry to be operational in coming months.

Dr. Richard Lemman provided updated information on the H1N1 influenza virus and Oregon's public health preparedness efforts.

The next meeting of the Oregon EMS Advisory Committee is scheduled for Dec 4.

Mobile Training Unit update

1. The new categories and expanded hours for recertification are now in effect. 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/rules.shtml>. Scroll to the subheading "Oregon Administrative Rules" and click on the "Appendix 1" link.
2. Donna taught a class on pediatric trauma to the response personnel of Deschutes County Search and Rescue. The agency's medical director attended the course along with 10 other personnel. The group learned about the Pediatric Assessment Triangle for the first time and

applied this throughout the course.

3. Donna conducted a refresher on medical patient assessment to eight members of the Paisley Disaster Unit on Aug. 24. The attendees included one First Responder, six EMT-Basics and one Intermediate.
4. Leslie taught START triage and EMS incident command at Oakridge Fire on Aug. 31. Twenty-four people attended the class, including members from Central Cascades Fire and Rescue. The class involved some great discussion regarding the challenges and potential changes to MPS and MCI management in their rural response area.
5. Jefferson County gained three more approved PHTLS instructors after they taught a course to eight participants last month. Donna evaluated the instructors and assisted in teaching the course.
6. Leslie taught a course on mechanism of injury to the First Responders and EMTs at Milo Fire District on Sept. 3. Some of the participants had not had in-depth instruction on this topic until this course.
7. On Sept. 11 and 12, Donna conducted over 10 hours of EMS training to the members of Halfway /Oxbow and Eagle Valley Ambulance Districts. Approximately 15 people attended. Many topics were covered including START triage, practice with MCI tabletop scenarios, medications at all levels of EMS certification (including the application of medication usage in scenarios), discussion regarding ImageTrend computer charting and the preparation/response to the H1N1 virus. The class was so successful that another weekend EMS refresher course is scheduled for the area in November.
8. On Sept. 17, Donna assisted Phillip Engle, coordinator for the Oregon EMS for Children Program, with a high-fidelity pediatric simulation scenario in Enterprise.
9. Donna will teach the following classes in September and early October:
 - 9/18-20: EMS track in LaGrande at the Northeast Oregon Fire School;
 - 9/26-27: GEMS (geriatrics for EMS) in Reedsport;
 - 10/7 – Airway and IV skills at Mitchell Ambulance;
 - 10/17-18: SCOPE (children with special health care needs) at Molalla Fire.
 -
 Leslie will teach the following classes in September and early October:
 - 9/17: Respiratory emergencies in Chemult;
 - 10/5: Morning session: EMT-Intermediate; topics (medications, cardiac) at Port Orford Ambulance; evening session: pediatric emergencies at Port Orford Ambulance;
 - 10/15: Anaphylaxis and epinephrine at Mist-Birkenfield;
 - 10/17-18: SCOPE (children with special health care needs) at Molalla Fire.

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

Ambulance inspections

DHS-EMS/TS have started ambulance service and vehicle inspections. The

Inspections schedule is: September - Malheur County; October - Grant and Umatilla Counties; November - Klamath County; and December - Tillamook County. Not every agency in these counties will be inspected.

Ambulance agencies in these counties can prepare for inspections by downloading the inspections forms from the DHS-EMS Web site. Questions or concerns regarding licensed ambulance services can be directed to Justin Hardwick at justin.hardwick@state.or.us or 971-673-0576.

EMS Program activity

AUGUST 2009 EMT STATISTICS

BASIC EXAMS	FAILED	PASSED
Written exams	21	45
Practical exams	10	18

INTERMEDIATE	FAILED	PASSED
Written exams	8	6
Practical exams	0	0

PARAMEDIC	FAILED	PASSED
Written exams	4	26
Practical exams	0	0

RECIPROCITY	BASICS	PARAMEDICS
Applications received	14	2
Certificates issued	14	1

RECERTIFICATION AUDITS	Audit required	Complete
Basic	14	1
Intermediate	4	0
Paramedic	5	1

During the month of August, one individual was issued a cease and desist order. One hundred twenty six national fingerprint background reviews were completed. Three certificate holders successfully completed stipulated probations. Two certificate holders were offered stipulated probation in lieu of denial of recertification. Six new investigations were opened.

The department currently has 26 certified EMTs or First Responders completing disciplinary probation agreements: 14 are Paramedics; three are EMT Intermediates; eight are EMT Basics and one is a First Responder.

On Sept. 10, the State EMS Subcommittee on Certification and Discipline met with five individuals who are EMT applicants or who are currently completing stipulated probations.

Rural Health Apple A Day Campaign



A benefit for the Oregon Office of Rural Health and the communities it serves.

Rural communities are facing many challenges when it comes to providing health care services. The Oregon Office of Rural Health is working to make it easier for communities to meet those challenges by creating the **Apple A Day Campaign**. This campaign will help rural EMS volunteers meet their educational expenses and rural health clinics cover the cost of uninsured patients.

According to Robert Duehmig, EMT-B, communication director at the Office of Rural Health, the Apple A Day Campaign is a great chance for all of us to do our part. The **Apple A Day Campaign** will raise money to help pay for the educational expenses of rural EMS volunteers. Many people take for granite the fact that an EMT or First Responder will show up when they call 911. But in rural areas, that is becoming less of a sure thing. Certification and continuing education requirements cost time and money, often putting a burden on rural EMS providers that they can no longer maintain.

The Apple A Day Campaign is a chance for all of us to help. And there are two great ways to get involved. Come to the Oregon Rural Health Conference and the Apple A Day kick-off dinner and auction at the Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach, Ore., Nov. 5-7, 2009. Great food, great auction items and great entertainment as well as a conference full of useful information.

You can register by going to:

www.ohsu.edu/ohsuedu/outreach/oregonruralhealth/

If you are unable to attend, you can you can still be a part of this great work by making

a contribution. It is simple and easy. You just need to go to:

www.ohsu.edu/foundation/giving/default.cfm?src=ORH_WEB&fcode=RURALCONF.

Be a part of a great campaign. Join the **Apple A Day Campaign**. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Robert Duehmig, Office of Rural Health, 503-494-4450 or duehmigr@ohsu.edu.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Mini grant update –

Legacy Emanuel Hospital, Oregon Health & Science University and DHS EMS/Trauma Systems Section announced six injury prevention mini grants that were approved July 9, 2009, Grant funding was awarded to Newberg Fire Department for “Trauma Nurses Talk Tough,” Salem Hospital Foundation for “Dallas Summer Skatefest,” Tillamook County General Hospital for “Beach and Water Safety,” Sutter Coast Hospital for “Life Jacket and Water Safety,” Providence Newberg Medical Center for “Early Injury Prevention and Beyond” and to Lower Umpqua Hospital for “Reedsport Safe Kids.”

New grant opportunity for EMS equipment

Legacy Emanuel Hospital, Oregon Health & Science University and DHS EMS/Trauma Systems Section announced that the grant funding that targeted injury prevention programs has been extended through Friday, Oct. 30, 2009. Grant guidelines have been altered to include the purchase of EMS equipment.

Grant guidelines and applications are available by contacting Peggie Turton at 503-494-7305 or turtonp@ohsu.edu.

The Oregon Medical Board’s EMT Advisory Committee report – Dave Lapof, chair

The EMT-Advisory Committee is a subcommittee of the Oregon Medical Board (OMB). The role of the EMT Advisory Committee is to collect information and define the scope of practice for all levels of certified First Responders and EMTs.

The committee is comprised of Dave Lapof, EMT-B, Rose Howe, EMT-I, Tony Grimes, EMT-P, Dr Matt Eschelbach, and Dr. Terry Schmitt. Dr. Schmitt was recently elected to the committee to replace Dr. Paul Rostykus, whose term had expired.

The committee met on Aug. 29. Dave Lapof was elected committee chair.

Clarification on the intermediate scope of practice and the use of 12-Lead.

The proposed rule change will allow intermediates to apply 12 lead and transmit this rhythm.

Clarification on multi lead and its use by an EMT-P.

The proposed rule change will clean up language to clearly allow the paramedic to interpret and treat associated rhythm.

After much lengthily discussion over two meetings, the committee moved forward for approval to add the medication family Ondansetron (anti-emetics) to the Intermediate scope of practice. There was considerable discussion on the amount of education hours currently needed for the Intermediate program and the need for a statewide survey on the Intermediate program.

The committee reached consensus to allow the use of the suction port on a multi lumen airway devices (King LT) as this is not considered initiating gastric suctioning.

There was some minor housekeeping with the removal of outdated language as it related to terms of office.

As will all proposed rule changes, after the final review by the EMS advisory committee, it is forwarded to the OMB for final approval and implementation. In general, the complete process from first discussions to implementation in rule is nine months. Current rules are then posted on the Department of EMS & Trauma's Web site as well as the Oregon Medical Board's Web site.

The meetings are quarterly and the next meeting is Nov. 20, 2009.

Upcoming events

The 2009 Oregon EMS Conference: Red Lion On The River, Jantzen Beach, Portland. Oct. 1-3, 2009. For more information, go to www.oregonemsconference.com.

The **EMS Supervising Physician and Agency Managers Forum** will be held on Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, at Jantzen Beach in conjunction with the Oregon EMS Conference.

Building the Oregon Stroke System of Care Connecting Rural and Urban Populations to Improve Outcomes

Oct. 23, 2009, 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Riverhouse Resort & Conference Center, 3075 N. Business 97, Bend, OR 9770.

State Trauma Advisory Board meeting

Nov. 6, in the Portland State Office Building, 800 N.E. Oregon St., Room 1-B, Portland. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Oregon EMS for Children State Advisory Board meeting

Dec. 4, in the Portland State Office Building, 800 N.E. Oregon St., Portland. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m.

State Trauma Advisory Board meeting

Dec. 4, in the Portland State Office Building, 800 N.E. Oregon St., Portland. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The **2010 Oregon EMS for Children Annual Conference** will be held May 21 and 22 at Lane Community College, Center for Meeting and Learning in Eugene. The conference will include a half-day pre-conference session on Friday with the opening general session and breakouts on Friday afternoon and continued full conference activities on Saturday.

The second EMS Leadership Symposium sponsored by the Oregon Office of Rural Health will once again be held concurrently during 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 next May, also in conjunction with the EMSC conference.

Resources	Staff contacts		
Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program Department of Human Services Public Health Division 800 N.E. Oregon Street, Suite 465A Portland, OR 97232 Telephone: 971-673-0520	PROGRAM STAFF		
	Robert Leopold Program Director 971-673-0520 robert.e.leopold@state.or.us	Ritu Sahni, MD, MPH Program Medical Director 971-673-0520 sahnir@ohsu.edu	Maria Campbell Executive Assistant 971-673-0522 maria.campbell@state.or.us
	EMS Kimberly Torris EMT-P, EMS Prehospital Systems Manager 971-673-0523 kimberly.l.torris@state.or.us	Shelly 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 ohdmtu@teleport.com	Leslie Huntington EMT-P, Mobile Training Unit Coordinator 503-931-0659 mtu2@teleport.com	
EMS Patient Encounter Database Will Worall Prehospital Data Systems Coordinator 971-673-0536 william.h.worral@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
RN, BSN, MAS, 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