

Oregon Rural EMS Training

EM-23-24-01 DDD UPDATE REPORT

August 2023

Our project has had so much activity and success that I am submitting this update early in our 4th quarter.

The Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) text is a reference providing information about the current evidence-based practices for delivering care to trauma patients, based on the most current science and best-practices. A sample of the text can be viewed at [PHTLS 10e Front Matter](#). PHTLS was first developed by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) in the early 1980s in cooperation with the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT). PHTLS promotes critical thinking as the foundation for providing quality care, knowing that EMS practitioners make the best decisions on behalf of their patients when given a solid foundation of knowledge and key principles to fuel their critical-thinking skills.

LIVE SIMULATIONS ENHANCE PHTLS EMERGENCY RESPONDER TRAINING

There are four primary components to the Prehospital Trauma Life Support course:

- 1) Didactic – Instructor presentations (lectures).
- 2) Skills – hands-on skills review, practice and evaluation.
- 3) Simulations – live scenarios with patient actors dressed by moulage artists that create simulated injuries (bleeding, bruising, swelling, open fractures with protruding bones, partial and complete amputations, vomit, burns, etc.) and the actors follow a script to present appropriate behaviors and responses based on their injuries.
- 4) Written Evaluation – written exam that has a minimum passing score, reinforcing the key knowledge points of this training needed to apply critical-thinking to making decisions.

In order for the simulations to occur, the course must have a moulage artist. However, there are so few of them Oregon does not have enough to support all PHTLS training. There is a great need to have more people trained for this role in Oregon. With this 2023 mini-grant program, we have improved our training delivery to meet the needs of more rural/frontier emergency responders to crashes on Oregon roadways, compared to our 2022 pilot. That has been accomplished because unlike the pilot, where we only delivered the full PHTLS Provider 2-day course, we have added (1) the hybrid PHTLS Provider and (2) PHTLS for First Responders training. That is a huge advance toward training the target audience!

The hybrid PHTLS Provider version involves replacement of the first day with an 8-hour online learning course that meets the didactic objectives, preparing attendees for the 8-hour in-person day of skills, simulations and written exam. This is a favorable option for many emergency response agencies because it reduces the live course attendance to one day, thus limiting the time away from their response area, along with the associated costs. Upon completion of the online training, participants receive an 8-hour CE certificate. After they attend the in-person course, they receive a PHTLS Provider certificate that issues a total of 16-hours of CAPCE credit. The in-person training day meets the psychomotor and affective course objectives.

We are fortunate to also have added the PHTLS for First Responders course (PHTLS-FR). Unlike the PHTLS Provider versions that were created for EMSPs, this class provides training to non-EMS licensed emergency responders, but also counts as CE for EMSPs. This outstanding benefit allowed us to train OSP troopers that respond to rural/frontier Oregon road crashes. It is common in many of their rural/frontier response areas to be on scene with crash victims for extended periods before EMS arrives. The OSP troopers carry emergency medical equipment, and this PHTLS-FR course specifically trains them how to properly assess trauma victims, apply medical interventions using their equipment, and how to assist EMSPs, who are often shorthanded, on crash scenes.

➤ DELIVERIES TO DATE

Pilot/2022

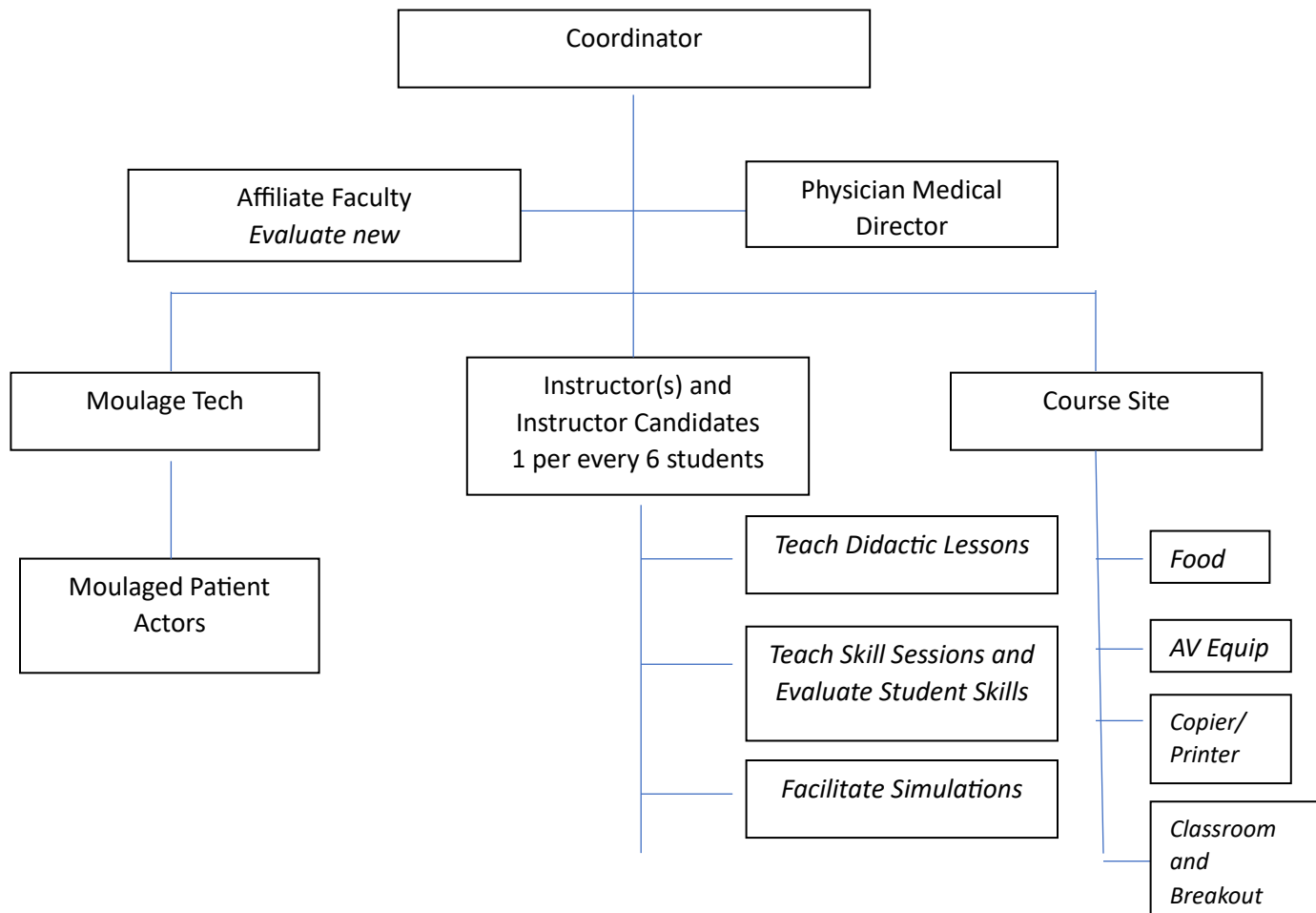
- 6/11-12/22, Hermiston Fire Department, 8 participants
- 9/2-3/22, Yachats Fire Department, 15 participants
- 9/26-27/22, Scappoose Fire Department, 11 participants

2023

- 2/25/23, Polk County Fire, PHTLS Hybrid, 18 participants
- 3/22/23, Brooks Fire Department, 10 OSP participants, (10 EMSPs) (2 trainings)
- 4/29-30/23, Chiloquin Fire Department, 20 participants
- 8/23-24/23, Cascade Locks Fire and EMS, 23 participants

PHTLS COURSE DEVELOPMENT

In the hierarchy of PHTLS emergency responder training, there are designated roles and responsibilities for faculty and staff. Below is an outline of the course structure.



As described previously, this Project has been successful at developing new PHTLS Instructors to deliver the course lessons, skills sessions/evaluations and simulated patient scenarios. That is, in fact, one of the Project's objectives, however, those Instructors cannot carry out their role unless there is a PHTLS Coordinator managing the class. We have been successful with taking this program another step and beginning to train select Instructors to become Coordinators.

PHTLS COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVERTISING

Because this emergency responder training has not been readily available in Oregon over the years, particularly in rural areas, a great many responders have not been aware that it even exists. We have been successful at delivering the message of its availability with the ODOT/DMV-TSO grant support via several electronic training bulletins, email lists and social media. Strong networking has been the key to delivering the message *without any cost* and having classes that reach near-maximum and maximum available seating.

PROJECT OUTREACH PROVIDES BENEFIT TO SOVEREIGN NATIONS AND NONTRADITIONAL AUDIENCES

The emergency responder training delivered via this ODOT/DMV-TSO funding has proven to be an asset to native people and nontraditional audiences in the following ways:

- Emergency responders who are Native Americans and nontraditional audiences now have this training available to them.
- Those who are crash victims on rural roadways within the sovereign nation and its borders receive care by people that have completed this emergency responder training.
- This PHTLS emergency responder training has been and can be delivered at host sites on sovereign lands.

Here are some examples from classes delivered in our 2022 pilot and 2023.

- The Chief of the Warm Springs Fire/EMS attended our course at Yachats in September 2022.
- The PHTLS Provider course on April 29-30, 2023, was held at Chiloquin Fire and Rescue, a public fire district that stands on sovereign land and routinely responds to rural crashes that involve Native Americans in their community.
- As mentioned previously, the Chiloquin course supported the completion of three Instructor candidate apprenticeships, plus training of a new course Coordinator.

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT

To contribute to the future of EMS CE applicable to EMS/Medical providers that care for victims of rural crashes in Oregon, our Instructor development program is proving to be very successful. The following are prime examples.

BILL ALGUIRE

Bill has been a paramedic since 1974(?). His experience crosses many emergency responder paths, including fire/EMS departments, private ambulance companies, and Life Flight. He was, in fact, one of the first six paramedics hired onto Life Flight! Bill has also been an EMS educator for many years in the profession.

Currently, Bill resides just outside of Chiloquin, Oregon, and is a responder with Chiloquin Fire Rescue. Their response area includes many miles of rural Hwy 97 that is notorious for severe crashes. Through our Rural EMS Training Project, Bill refreshed his Prehospital Trauma Life Support Provider certification at a course delivered at Yachats Fire District during our pilot in September of 2022. Bill subsequently proceeded through all the steps to regain his Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) Instructor status

with the National Association of EMTs (NAEMT). From there, he performed the role of Instructor at a course in Chiloquin April 29-30, 2023, and carried partial responsibilities of a course Coordinator under the supervision of a PHTLS Affiliate Faculty. That apprenticeship continued at a PHTLS Provider course at Oakridge Fire and EMS in July 2023. Bill is now scheduled to Coordinate a PHTLS course on his own in Klamath Falls on September 9-10, 2023!

JENNIFER WAGNER

Jennifer is currently a Paramedic/Firefighter working full time at Polk County Fire District #1 in Independence. She attended the PHTLS course at her agency through this project in February 2023. Jennifer subsequently co-taught at the Chiloquin course in April as the final step to earning her certification as a PHTLS Instructor. Jennifer has since been on the faculty for courses in Hermiston and Oakridge.

SAMANTHA LOVE

Sam is a full-time paramedic with Pacific West Ambulance in Newport. She attended the Yachats class during our pilot and completed the Instructor requirements at the Chiloquin class in April 2023.

OSMO LARMI

Mo is a full-time paramedic at Yachats Fire District. He attended the course during our pilot last September. Following that, he completed the Instructor requirements at the PHTLS course in Scappoose. Osmo then taught as part of the faculty at our course for Oregon State Police Troopers last March in Brooks at Chemeketa Community College.

KASEY LANNING

Kasey is an EMT-Intermediate and faculty for the EMT program at Klamath Falls Community College. Kasey attended the PHTLS class at Chiloquin in April. Then she finished her Instructor apprenticeship at the PHTLS Provider course at Oakridge Fire and EMS in July. She is scheduled to teach at a course for Klamath County Fire District #6 in September 2023.

COLE DUNN

Cole is a full-time paramedic with Santiam Ambulance in Stayton. He attended the course in February 2023 at Polk County Fire District. He is now an Instructor candidate scheduled to complete his apprenticeship at a class in Cascade Locks in August 2023.

REBECCA GEHRLING

Rebecca is a volunteer paramedic/firefighter at Parkdale Fire District. She also works full-time at Skamania EMS and Rescue. Rebecca attended our course delivered by this project at Cascade Locks Fire District, July 12, 2023. Rebecca is scheduled to finish her Instructor apprenticeship at the course we have planned at the Bonneville Dam facility this month.

NEW COORDINATORS

Bill Alguire was mentioned in the Instructor development section above. He is the first Instructor trained through this Project to become a course Coordinator. In the span of time from his attendance at the Yachats Fire District's PHTLS course during this Project pilot in September 2022, through the PHTLS course at Oakridge Fire and EMS in July 2023, Bill has become a Coordinator and is preparing to oversee his first course in that role at Klamath County Fire District #5, September 9-10, 2023.

FUTURE COORDINATORS

As we move forward with this Project, we will be identifying strong Instructors to become PHTLS Coordinators and training them to carry that role throughout the state.

TRAINING HOST SITES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Since this Project's pilot in 2022, we have established partnerships with EMS agencies and other organizations to provide venues for this rural EMS PHTLS emergency responder training. As explained in our quarterly reports, numerous EMS, fire and other agencies have shared their facilities at no cost! This in-kind match to the grant funding is a major contribution to the success of this program. In addition to emergency response agencies teaming with us, we now have educational institutions performing a host role.

The host sites do far more than simply give us a space to deliver the rural EMS PHTLS emergency responder training. They provide a classroom with AV equipment in a climate-controlled environment; coordinate food and refreshments for the participants, faculty and staff; share their copier/printer and a computer to support faculty; contribute EMS and training equipment; breakout rooms/space for moulage technicians to prepare simulated patient actors, and to carry out skill stations and simulations. The support we receive from these entities is truly remarkable!

A bonus with the Project has been the addition of law enforcement to the ranks of emergency responders we have trained. We have a strong working relationship with the Oregon State Police statewide EMS Coordinator. He delivers notices to troopers around the state when we have PHTLS courses scheduled. As a result, trooper/EMTs that are commonly with rural crash victims long before EMS arrives are being trained to perform the most effective trauma assessment and care. Further, we have expanded the course offerings to deliver the PHTLS for First Responders course (PHTLS-FR) to train EMRs and non-EMS trained responders, which includes law enforcement, Search and Rescue and other non-EMS people involved in caring for rural crash victims. Not only have we been working with OSP, but other law enforcement agencies have participated in our PHTLS emergency responder training. At our courses in Oakridge July 29-31, we had representation from the following: Lane County Sheriff and Oakridge Police Department.

We have been fortunate to receive a 25% discount when ordering the book from the publisher, Jones and Bartlett Learning, for our course attendees. This has lowered the per book cost from \$69.95 to \$52.46, maximizing the grant dollars spent. We have also secured free shipping for most of those orders!

CRUCIAL NEED FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDER CONTINUING EDUCATION IN OTHER STATES

The demand for this PHTLS emergency responder training has become increasingly evident. Not only are Oregon emergency responders filling our classes. We have been contacted by emergency responders in other states about attending our courses because they cannot find this training in their states. Not only that, but some have actually traveled to our classes and paid the full cost to attend this training without any support from the ODOT/DMV-TSO funding. That occurred at our course in Oakridge July 29-30, 2023, where a Paramedic from the Seattle area paid full tuition and drove to attend the class. We were also contacted by a paramedic in Texas wanting to join that same class. At the course in Chiloquin April 29-30, 2023, a Paramedic from Snohomish County in Washington traveled at her own expense to complete the PHTLS Instructor teaching requirement, completing the final step in that process and became a newly certified PHTLS Instructor - along with plans to start organizing PHTLS courses at the fire/EMS agency where she performs EMS duties. Another example is a paramedic at Clark County Fire District #6. He contacted us to register and pay full tuition with the understanding that the ODOT/DMV-TSO funding does not support non-Oregon emergency responders. After consideration, if others attending does not prevent an Oregon participant from participating, of course, Oregonians are the only EMS practitioners that we can support through this grant.

Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario is actively planning to host PHTLS classes and to have strong Instructor candidates complete the PHTLS Instructor certification process. One of their faculty also performs EMS duties in Parma, Idaho. He has expressed the same need Oregon has for emergency responder training to people that care for rural crash victims. He intends to become an Instructor/Coordinator and wants to team with us to facilitate the delivery of PHTLS in Idaho.

This desire to partner with bordering states has been included in the 3HSP. Starting with Washington, Idaho and finally California. Again, Oregon ODOT/TSO will not be funding their training, but partnering for better interstate care for motor vehicle crash victims on our bordering roads.

The natural next-step is to team with leaders in other NHTSA Region 10 states; to guide them in the process of modeling a program after the best-practices we have established with this Project. How wonderful it would be to benefit victims or rural crashes in Washington, Idaho and California!

HIGH DEMAND AND CRUCIAL NEED FOR ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONDER TRAINING

The Prehospital Trauma Life Support course is only one of many specialized continuing education opportunities that can be delivered to emergency responders. For example, the Emergency Pediatric Course (EPC) trains EMSPs to care for pediatric patients, including those injured in rural crashes. However, crashes are not the only emergency responders handle on rural roadways. Injuries from other mechanisms are dealt with. For example, a road construction worker that sustains an injury; a citizen injured while dealing with a vehicle mechanical problem; gunshot wounds tied to crimes and road rage incidents. It is also common to be called for medical emergencies on rural roadways that involve patients of all ages, such as seizures, fainting, heart attack, cardiac arrest, and severe allergic reactions.

As with the PHTLS course, these other classes simply are not available to rural/frontier emergency responders. Yet the need is great. Other courses we can deliver include:

- Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS)
- Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) – *includes training on caring for pediatric victims of trauma, including crashes on rural roadways.*
- Geriatric Education for EMS (GEMS) -- *includes training on caring for geriatric victims of trauma, including crashes on rural roadways.*
- EMS Safety -- *includes safe operations on all roadways.*
- Psychological Trauma in EMS Patients (PTEP)
- All Hazards Disaster Response (AHDR)
- EMS Vehicle Operator Safety (EVOS) -- *excellent training for driving emergency vehicles, during inclement weather, crash prevention, safe positioning at road crash scenes.*
- Mental Health Resilience Officer
- NAEMT Refresher courses for EMTs, Advance EMTs, EMT-Intermediates and Paramedics – *satisfies CE requirements for EMSPs maintaining their State EMS license and national EMS certification; virtual delivery that reaches rural and remote locations.*
- Principles of Ethics and Personal Leadership
- Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC)
- Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC)

Details about all of these courses are available at naemt.org/education. You can also read the current [NAEMT Course Catalog](#).

One additional note. While our focus has been on training emergency responders, the other body of people that assist victims of rural crashes are citizens. Training for citizens exists and it would be most ideal to make said training available at low-cost to the

public. These are the people that are present at the time of the incident or soon thereafter, prior to emergency responders arriving. Examples of such training are

- [Stop The Bleed](#)
- [First On The Scene](#)
- Adult, child and infant CPR

MISCELLANEOUS CONSIDERATIONS

Here is information on various aspects of this outreach education to rural emergency responders.

- 1) EM-23-24-01 DDD Expenditures
 - a) Faculty and Staff travel and lodging
 - i) Course Coordinator, Instructors, moulage technician, simulated patient actors, adjunct faculty, Instructor candidates
 - ii) Travel as mileage reimbursement
 - iii) Lodging as allowable government rate reimbursement per Travel Rules
Reference dated January 1, 2023
 - b) Faculty
 - c) Moulage technician and simulated victim
 - d) Textbook and Course Manual required by NAEMT
 - e) Online learning modules additional for hybrid course
 - f) Props and supplies
 - i) Simulation aids
 - ii) Skills stations
 - iii) Moulage
 - g) Postage for mailing books to students
 - h) Instructor development
 - i) Required NAEMT Instructor Preparation course
 - ii) Instructor update training
 - iii) Travel, lodging and payment for teaching at a course to complete Instructor monitoring requirement
 - iv) Affiliate Faculty mentoring, monitoring/evaluation of Instructor candidates
 - i) Oregon EMS Association (OEMSA) personnel grant administration
- 2) Student Course Fee
 - a) Average of \$50-\$60 for 1-day courses
 - i) PHTLS hybrid Provider
 - ii) PHTLS Refresher
 - iii) PHTLS for First Responders
 - b) Average \$75 for 2-day courses
 - i) PHTLS Provider

- c) Covers costs that are match items in the grant budget and are not recovered elsewhere
 - i) PHTLS CAPCE Continuing Education Certificate surcharge by NAEMT
 - (1) \$10 for 1-day classes, \$15 for 2-day courses
 - ii) Food for participants, faculty and staff
 - (1) \$25-\$35 per student
 - iii) Lodging costs not reimbursed by grant
 - (1) Average \$25 per attendee, varies with seasonal rates and locality
- 3) Fee Assistance
 - a) Fee assistance is provided by grant funds offsetting the cost of the courses by paying for items noted in Item #1 of this outline
 - b) Fee assistance is only provided to emergency responders that meet criteria for grant support
 - c) Breakdown
 - i) 100% of eligible attendees benefit
 - ii) No fee assistance application process
 - iii) Eligible participants are identified through the registration process
 - d) Standard PHTLS courses typically cost in excess of \$300, plus the books, and require people to travel to the course, typically held in larger urban locations far from rural areas
 - i) Our current full price is \$250 paid by anyone that does not meet grant criteria

OREGON LEADERSHIP ESTABLISHING THE PRECEDENT

The leadership within the Oregon EMS Education Foundation and key partner, the Oregon EMS Association, are professionals with the experience and credentials to pave the way for this Project to grow and create a succession plan.

BRAD KASTNER

Mr. Kastner is a retired Battalion Chief/Paramedic from Hillsboro Fire Department. He currently holds the role of NAEMT's Oregon Education Coordinator. That being the case, Brad has statewide responsibility for maintaining quality improvement of NAEMT courses. While that involves PHTLS emergency responder training, it also means he oversees all other NAEMT courses, such as Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC), Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS), Geriatric Education for EMS Providers, and several other nationally accredited CE for EMS providers. Brad serves as the President of the Oregon EMS Association and is on the Board of the Oregon EMS Education Foundation.

DAWN POETTER

Mrs. Poetter is a Paramedic, as well as the director for Education For Life, the former education division of Metro West Ambulance in Hillsboro, Oregon. Dawn was the NAEMT Education Coordinator for Oregon prior to Brad's assignment to that role. She is

also Affiliate Faculty for PHTLS. That role includes training new PHTLS Instructors, with the responsibility of evaluating Instructor candidates as their last step to becoming a certified PHTLS Instructor.



SCOTT COOPER

Mr. Cooper is a Paramedic/Firefighter and is currently a volunteer lieutenant with Stayton Fire District. Scott responds to rural crashes on Highway 22 and other rural roads in the south Marion County area. He also works part time as a lead Paramedic for Turner Fire District. Scott is a designated PHTLS Affiliate Faculty. He has actively performed the task of assisting PHTLS Instructor candidates via this Project to carry through an Instructor apprenticeship and monitored them at their final evaluation. In 2023, Scott has mentored and evaluated six individuals that became PHTLS Instructors through this ODOT/DMV-TSO Rural EMS Training Project, all of whom have taught, and are scheduled to teach upcoming classes. Scott's credentials: Oregon and National Paramedic | NAEMT Affiliate Faculty for PHTLS and GEMS | Instructor/Coordinator for EPC, AMLS, EMS Safety, PTEP, AHDR | AHA Training Faculty for BLS. ACLS, PALS | NFPA Fire Instructor II | Speaker/Educator for Conferences and Meetings | Expert Witness for EMS.

OVERCOMING LIMITING FACTORS TO PHTLS COURSE DELIVERY IN OREGON

As we carry out our mission to rural areas, one reality is that rural agencies are commonly housed in smaller buildings than the more urban ones. That means less space to hold the class, creating a limiting factor to course delivery. However, through proactive efforts by host agency personnel in their communities, alternate sites have been secured. Another factor is the required student-to-Instructor ratio of 6:1. That ratio has to be maintained by the course Coordinators when preparing classes. Thus, the availability of PHTLS Instructors to travel to rural locations directly impacts how many participants we can accept. Fortunately, through this Project, new Instructors that reside in rural places are being trained, increasing the potential to hold this emergency responder training with faculty that are not traveling 2+ hours one way. This further supports the delivery of PHTLS courses because *more opportunities to teach are provided to Instructors*. In turn, PHTLS Instructors can *meet the minimum requirement to teach 4 courses every two years to maintain their Instructor status*. Historically, many Oregon PHTLS Instructors had their certifications lapse simply because there were not enough classes available to teach, especially within a reasonable travel distance. Another thing worthy of note is that, of the PHTLS courses that have been available in Oregon prior to this Project, many were only provided to the host's personnel and not open to the public. It has been common for PHTLS training to be delivered within an organization, or college settings as part of EMS training programs. Please see the screenshot below taken August 14, 2023, of the current PHTLS courses offered in

Oregon. As you can see, of the nine classes listed, five are not available to the EMS community. Please note that *the four that are open to the public are ones that we have scheduled as part of this Project.*

	Program Type	Course Type	Coord. Name	Start Date	End Date	Open To Public	City	US State
	PH... ▾	All ▾		<input type="text"/>  ▾	<input type="text"/>  ▾	All ▾	<input type="text"/>	OR ▾
View Details	PHTLS	9th Edition Refresher	Lauren Enright	11/03/2023	11/03/2023	No	Clackamas	OR
View Details	PHTLS	10th Edition Provider	Scott Cooper	10/24/2023	10/25/2023	Yes	Hermiston	OR
View Details	PHTLS	9th Edition Refresher	Marcus Allen	10/23/2023	10/23/2023	No	Medford	OR
View Details	PHTLS	10th Edition Provider	Scott Cooper	09/09/2023	09/10/2023	Yes	Klamath Falls	OR
View Details	PHTLS	9th Edition Refresher	Lauren Enright	08/18/2023	08/18/2023	No	Clackamas	OR
View Details	PHTLS	9th Edition Refresher	Marcus Allen	10/27/2023	10/27/2023	No	Medford	OR
View Details	PHTLS	10th Edition Provider	Scott Cooper	08/23/2023	08/24/2023	Yes	Cascade Locks	OR
View Details	PHTLS	10th Edition Provider	Lauren Enright	09/06/2023	09/11/2023	No	Clackamas	OR
View Details	PHTLS	10th Edition Provider	Scott Cooper	12/02/2023	12/03/2023	Yes	Cave Junction	OR

CONCLUSION

The benefits of the ODOT/DMV-TSO Rural EMS Training Grant are far reaching and exceeding our expectations. It also brings to light how vast the need is for CE that can be delivered to rural and frontier emergency responders. Especially nationally accredited courses such as PHTLS, AMLS, EPC and GEMS. Expanding this program to Idaho, Washington and California is a natural next step that can enable leaders and educators to have the same success we have had in Oregon. In turn, increasing the amount of rural crash victims saved by emergency responders by tremendous numbers!

Scott Cooper
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[Oregon EMS Association](#)
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