



EMSC Update

EMSC Equipment Grant Applications

Please be on the lookout for the 2nd round of EMSC equipment grant applications. They will be released before the end of the year. We look forward to providing more pediatric restraints to our transport services.

Performance Measure Service Assessment

On January 7, the EMSC Program sent out a link to all active providers in Alabama to complete the annual performance measure assessment. If you have any questions or didn't receive the link, please contact Katherine Hert (katherine.hert@adph.state.al.us).

EMSC Day 2020

EMSC Day 2020 is May 20 in conjunction with EMS Week. This year the EMSC Day event will be held at USA. Be on the lookout for more information in the newsletter as well as on social media.

As of February 3, the Alabama EMSC Facebook page will no longer be active. Please like and follow the Alabama Office of EMS Facebook page for all EMS related information.

Provider Service Inspections

These inspections were completed October-December, 2019.

A-Med Ambulance Service-Marshall County

Albertville Fire Rescue

AmStar EMS

Arab Fire Rescue

Boaz Fire Rescue

Center Point Fire and Rescue

Cottonwood Ambulance & Rescue Squad

Gallant Volunteer Fire Department

Graysville Fire & Rescue

Guntersville Fire & Rescue

Haleburg Rescue Squad

HEMSI

Hillsboro Area Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Irondale Fire Department

Lifeguard Ambulance-Morgan County

Marshall Health System-Boaz

Opp Fire Department

Regional Air Medical Services, Inc. - Walker County

SAVES Fire & Rescue

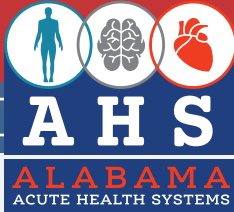
Sumiton Fire & Rescue

Survival Flight-Etowah County

Trussville Fire and Rescue

Compliance Issues

Name	Rule/Protocol	Complaint	Action Taken
Derek L. Cutcher EMSP-AEMT 1700342	420-2-1-.29	Academic Dishonesty	Suspension
Thomas D. Phillips EMSP-Paramedic 1600252	420-2-1-.29	Standards of Conduct	Suspension
EMSP-EMT	420-2-1-.30	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-EMT	420-2-1-.30	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-EMT	420-2-1-.30	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-EMT	420-2-1-.30	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-EMT	420-2-1-.30	Impairment	Suspension
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EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.30	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.30	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.30	Impairment	Suspension
Collins Chapel Fire and Rescue ALS 1 182	420-2-1-.19	Inappropriate Staffing	Surrender



Acute Health Systems

Trauma System

During the 2018, American College of Surgeons Trauma System Consultation, the lack of funding for the Alabama Trauma System (ATS) was identified as a challenge and vulnerability. Fortunately, during the last legislative session, House Joint Resolution 191, which created the Joint Committee on Statewide Trauma System Funding was adopted. The committee will meet in early 2020, to begin studying all facets of revenue measures to support the continuance and expansion of the ATS. The committee will report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Legislature prior to the 2021 Regular Session. This is an exciting opportunity for trauma care!

Cardiac System

The last quarter of 2019 was good for Acute Health Systems due to the addition of a Cardiac System Coordinator and a Stroke System Coordinator. On October 1, 2019, Kent Wilson transferred within OEMS from Education to AHS. He will establish a statewide Cardiac System beginning with a Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) and then the ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) system.

Kent completed an Associates in Applied Science in Emergency Medical Services at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Business with a minor in Health Administration at Faulkner University. He has been active in Fire and EMS since 2005. Kent has worked with GEMS Ambulance, Care Ambulance, and Haynes Ambulance/Lifelight. He has experience in critical care as a Flight Medic and holds a Flight Paramedic certification (FP-C). Kent has certifications as a volunteer fire fighter, firefighter II, and hazmat A&O.

Stroke System

On November 1, 2019, Steven Stringer joined OEMS as the Stroke System Coordinator. He will be assisting with the development, implementation, oversight, and management of the Acute Health Systems (AHS) statewide Stroke System.

Steven started in EMS in 1991 and received his paramedic license in 1993. He has been actively working on ground units for over 28 years. He started with GEMS ambulance in Butler county and retired from there in October. He started working with Baptist Life Flight in 2013, where he earned his Flight Paramedic Certification (FP-C). His base was located in Greenville and moved to Evergreen in early 2019. In June, he joined Haynes Life Flight and worked at the Troy base until October. He is also licensed in the state of Florida.

Steven attended Lurleen B. Wallace Community College in Andalusia where he received an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and an Associate of Applied Science in EMS. He then transferred to Troy State University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Geomatics.

RESCUE Exchange

We are introducing a new system to the hospital called RESCUE Exchange. This system will enable the hospital to view your patient care reports in a secure portal once submitted to the Office of EMS.

Emergency Medical Service Personnel (EMSP) are required to submit an electronic patient care report (ePCR) to the Office of EMS (OEMS) for each patient encounter within 72 hours of the encounter. The information is to be entered into the Recording of Emergency Medical Services Calls and Urgent-care Environment (RESCUE) state software system upload or via an approved vendor. Due to the time allowed for ePCR submission, the report is often not available to hospital personnel upon EMSP departure.

The OEMS has worked with the RESCUE software development team to develop a secure site (RESCUE Exchange) for each hospital to have

designated and secure webpage for their staff to retrieve a PDF version of the ePCR, once it is submitted to OEMS. RESCUE Exchange was pilot-tested by several hospitals during the summer and fall of 2019 and it is now ready to be offered to other hospitals. There is no cost to participate and all hospitals are welcome to participate.

Each hospital has an assigned facility code which is a data point on the ePCR. When the ePCR is submitted to the state, a copy of the record is sent to the secure site with the associated facility code. If an ePCR does not include a facility code or has the incorrect facility code that record will not be accessible via the RESCUE Exchange system.

RESCUE Exchange participants are encouraged to follow up with OEMS if they identify that ePCRs are not being found in the system for patients being brought to their facility by EMSP.

I am pleased to announce that Jamie Gray has been promoted to Deputy Director of the office.

In addition to his new duties he currently oversees the development, implementation, and management of the compliance section including managing inspections, investigations, complaints, medical directors, along with rule and protocol regulation. Jamie also serves as the Alabama Opioid Assistance Project Director, Vice-Chair of the Alabama Mutual Aid System Advisory Council, Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Council, Opioid Crisis Advisory Council, Data Driven Prevention Initiative Advisory Council, and the Chair of the National Association of State EMS Officials Personnel Licensure Council.

He began in emergency services in 1998 at Elmore Fire Department and holds certifications in Firefighter I, Haz-Mat A&O, Fire Service Instructor, and EMS Instructor, and continued into full time EMS in 2010 with Haynes Ambulance of Alabama as a dispatcher and subsequently progressed to the Paramedic level.

Jamie attended Troy University where he received his Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and later continued his education at Trenholm State Community College in Montgomery where he received his Paramedic and an Associate of Applied Science.



Alabama e-PCR Submission Requirements

Some e-PCR Points of Clarification:

1. It is a requirement to complete a patient care report on every response. This office is already monitoring submission rates and comparative data suggests that many agencies are not reporting all runs as required. Please submit all required runs to avoid noncompliance.
2. Each record must be submitted electronically within 72 hours or less. The goal is to eventually narrow that down to within 24 hours. The 24 hour reporting allows Public Health to monitor surveillance trends as required by the Federal emergency preparedness guidelines.
3. Our IT staff is always available to assist you with your e-PCR needs. If you need assistance, you may call Chris or Lori at 334-206-5383. You may get a voice recording depending on the call volume. They will eventually get back to you. If you do not hear from them within a reasonable time, you may wish to email them (emsis@adph.state.al.us).
4. Collecting and importing data is paramount only to reporting reliable data. Reliable data is accurate and contains no errors. When one looks for shortcuts and/or skips data entry in areas that has been discovered to have no validation rules, it dilutes the integrity of the data, not to mention falsifies a legal document. Please make sure you enter data accurately.
5. Alabama became a NEMSIS version 3.4 compliant state beginning January 1, 2018.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Do You Have Questions for OEMS Staff?

This is another reminder to those of you calling our office (334) 206-5383:

Complaints, Investigations, and Inspections:

Call Jamie Gray

Licensure: Call Stephanie Smith, Kembley Thomas, or Vickie Turner

Individual Training or Testing: Call Chris Hutto

EMS for Children, Website, and Social Media: Call Katherine Dixon Hert

EMS Data/NEMSIS: Call Gary Varner

Requests for Information from Regional Offices

The Office of EMS would like to request that you comply with any request for information from your regional office. Some Directors are still having issues receiving information and data as requested by the State office. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation and compliance.

Reporting Requirements

A licensed EMSP shall perform his or her job duties and responsibilities in a manner that reflects the highest ethical and professional standards of conduct. Actions that are in violation of the standard of conduct will be considered misconduct and are subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including license revocation.

Please be reminded that, according to Rule 420-2-1-.28 (6h), All licensed provider services shall provide notification and written documentation within three working days to the OEMS regarding any protocol or rule violation, which includes but not limited to, items listed in 420-2-1-.29 (2).

Also, be reminded that, according to Rule 420-2-1-.30 (6), All licensed provider services shall provide notification and written documentation about any individual who meets the definition of an impaired EMSP.