



# EMS UPDATE

*News from the Office of EMS and Trauma*

*Volume XI, Issue I*

## STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### TRAUMA SYSTEM

The statewide trauma system continues to progress. When you read this the West Region survey should be completed and the training of West Region EMS providers underway. The Southeast region is currently on hold awaiting the applications of some of the hospitals. We still expect to complete the system statewide within a matter of weeks.

### REMOVAL OF THE KING LT-D AND LTS-D AIRWAYS FROM ACCEPTABLE BLIND INSERTION AIRWAY DEVICES

Because of a letter from the FDA stating they have not approved the King BIADs for prehospital use, we removed the device from our list of approved equipment and devices. Because the FDA did not require the company to stop selling the device, only stop marketing it, it is still available and in common use. Since the experience of everyone using the King LT-D and LTS-D airways has been positive and the FDA does not prohibit physicians using medications or devices in ways that

are "not approved" or "off label," your medical director can approve the King airway for your use and we will not question it.

### H1N1 INFLUENZA VIRUS IMMUNIZATIONS

The H1N1 vaccine shortage seems to, at least for the present, be over. The problem now is few EMS personnel are asking to be immunized. History tells us that the flu pandemic of 1918 initially began in March of that year, had death rate about the same as the regular flu and by late spring the epidemic appeared to be over. But then, in the fall, it struck again violently and virulently and with very high mortality rates. If the H1N1 follows a similar pattern we may yet have another surge with a much more deadly presentation. Because of the critical role you would be called to play in such a scenario, you must be protected from the disease. EMS personnel who are involved in direct patient care are one of the groups for priority vaccination

Happy New Year from the Office of EMS & Trauma! OEMS&T started 2010 with some changes but we are moving headstrong into the New Year with the individual license cycle through March and the provider service license cycle from April to June.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you make 2010 a prosperous year for your agency, staff, and the EMS profession as a whole.

so if you have not received your H1N1 vaccination you should check with your local Public Health Clinic or your physician for vaccination. Only one injection will be required. The good news is that though hundreds of thousands of H1N1 vaccinations have been performed there have been almost no complications from the vaccine. There have been a few allergic reactions in people allergic to egg protein but no cases of Guillian-Barre' syndrome.

## EMS UPDATE

### GRANTS

There are several funding opportunities available to emergency responders. Check to see if your agency qualifies for one of the opportunities listed below:

#### The Firehouse Subs Foundation

The Firehouse Subs Foundation can fund "life-saving" equipment for FD and EMS. Grant amount to be requested should be \$15,000-\$25,000. Their website is <http://www.firehousesubs.com/>

#### Wal-Mart Store and Sam's Club Giving Programs

Wal-Mart has increased the amount a local store can give up to \$5,000. Minimum request is \$1,000. This is a good resource for a couple of AEDs or supplemental funding for defibs or LUCAS CPR devices. This is applicable for all non-profit business segments

(hospitals, FD, LE, EMS, Schools, Non-profit organizations). The Program Resources and information can be found on the Wal-Mart Foundation website.

The Wal-Mart Foundation is proud to support the charitable organizations that are important to our customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Wal-Mart's founder, Sam Walton, introduced the philosophy, "operate globally, give back locally." Today, the Wal-Mart Foundation continues to support local, state and national organizations that provide opportunities in the communities we serve. Through our Wal-Mart Store and Sam's Club Giving Programs, Wal-Mart Stores and Sam's Clubs can recommend grants of up to \$5,000 to local nonprofit organizations.

# Special Announcement from the Office of EMS and Trauma



We are pleased to announce the Office of EMS & Trauma's new Deputy Director. Effective January 11, 2010, Gary Mackey was promoted to Deputy Director. He will still work with our EMS personnel and any licensure issues they may have, as well as, maintaining the position of Regional Liaison. Please join us in congratulating Gary on his new position.

## 2009 Alabama National Registry Examination Results Test Results for 4th Quarter of 2009 (October – December)

Program Name	Program Code	Attempted the Exam	1 <sup>st</sup> Attempt Pass	Cumulative Pass (3 Attempts)	Cumulative Pass (6 Attempts)	Failed All 6 Attempts	Eligible for Retest	Did Not Complete within 2 Yrs
Alabama Fire College	AL – 200	30	63%	73%	73%	0%	27%	0%
			(19 / 30)	(22 / 30)	(22 / 30)	(0 / 30)	(8 / 30)	(0 / 30)
Bevill State Community College	AL – 205	1	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
			(1 / 1)	(1 / 1)	(1 / 1)	(0 / 1)	(0 / 1)	(0 / 1)
Bishop State Community College	AL – 210	2	50%	50%	50%	0%	50%	0%
			(1 / 2)	(1 / 2)	(1 / 2)	(0 / 2)	(1 / 2)	(0 / 2)
Calhoun Community College	AL – 215	23	96%	96%	96%	0%	4%	0%
			(22 / 23)	(22 / 23)	(22 / 23)	(0 / 23)	(1 / 23)	(0 / 23)
Faulkner State Community College	AL-226	15	67%	67%	67%	0%	33%	0%
			(10 / 15)	(10 / 15)	(10 / 15)	(0 / 15)	(5 / 15)	(0 / 15)
Gadsden State Community College	AL-235	4	75%	75%	75%	0%	25%	0%
			(3 / 4)	(3 / 4)	(3 / 4)	(0 / 4)	(1 / 4)	(0 / 4)
Jefferson State Community College	AL-245	8	88%	88%	88%	0%	13%	0%
			(7 / 8)	(7 / 8)	(7 / 8)	(0 / 8)	(1 / 8)	(0 / 8)
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College	AL-255	1	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
			(1 / 1)	(1 / 1)	(1 / 1)	(0 / 1)	(0 / 1)	(0 / 1)
Northeast Alabama Community College	AL-260	7	86%	86%	86%	0%	14%	0%
			(6 / 7)	(6 / 7)	(6 / 7)	(0 / 7)	(1 / 7)	(0 / 7)
Shelton State Community College	AL-270	5	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
			(5 / 5)	(5 / 5)	(5 / 5)	(0 / 5)	(0 / 5)	(0 / 5)
Southern Union State Community College	AL-275	12	92%	92%	92%	0%	8%	0%
			(11 / 12)	(11 / 12)	(11 / 12)	(0 / 12)	(1 / 12)	(0 / 12)

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### Test Results for 4th Quarter of 2009 (October – December)

Trenholm State Technical College	AL-280	10	40%	40%	40%	0%	60%	0%
			(4 / 10)	(4 / 10)	(4 / 10)	(0 / 10)	(6 / 10)	(0 / 10)
Tri-State Institute	AL-281	5	20%	20%	20%	0%	80%	0%
			(1 / 5)	(1 / 5)	(1 / 5)	(0 / 5)	(4 / 5)	(0 / 5)
University of South Alabama	AL-290	12	67%	67%	67%	0%	33%	0%
			(8 / 12)	(8 / 12)	(8 / 12)	(0 / 12)	(4 / 12)	(0 / 12)
Wallace Community College	AL-295	2	50%	50%	50%	0%	50%	0%
			(1 / 2)	(1 / 2)	(1 / 2)	(0 / 2)	(1 / 2)	(0 / 2)
Wallace State – Hanceville	AL-300	10	90%	90%	90%	0%	10%	0%
			(9 / 10)	(9 / 10)	(9 / 10)	(0 / 10)	(1 / 10)	(0 / 10)

### 2009 Results – BASIC

Program Name	Program Code	Attempted the Exam	1 <sup>st</sup> Attempt Pass	Cumulative Pass (3 Attempts)	Cumulative Pass (6 Attempts)	Failed All 6 Attempts	Eligible for Retest	Did Not Complete within 2 Yrs
Alabama Fire College	AL-200	231	65%	71%	71%	0%	29%	0%
			(149 / 231)	(165 / 231)	(165 / 231)	(0 / 231)	(66 / 231)	(0 / 231)
Bevill State Community College	AL-205	36	58%	64%	64%	0%	36%	0%
			(21 / 36)	(23 / 36)	(23 / 36)	(0 / 36)	(13 / 36)	(0 / 36)
Bishop State Community College	AL-210	20	80%	80%	80%	0%	20%	0%
			(16 / 20)	(16 / 20)	(16 / 20)	(0 / 20)	(4 / 20)	(0 / 20)
Calhoun Community College	AL-215	89	81%	85%	87%	0%	13%	0%
			(72 / 89)	(76 / 89)	(77 / 89)	(0 / 89)	(12 / 89)	(0 / 89)
Chattahoochee Valley Community	AL-222	9	56%	78%	78%	0%	22%	0%
			(5 / 9)	(7 / 9)	(7 / 9)	(0 / 9)	(2 / 9)	(0 / 9)
Enterprise-Ozark Community College	AL-225	36	47%	58%	58%	3%	42%	0%
			(17 / 36)	(21 / 36)	(21 / 36)	(1 / 36)	(15 / 36)	(0 / 36)
Faulkner State Community College	AL-226	53	64%	70%	70%	0%	30%	0%
			(34 / 53)	(37 / 53)	(37 / 53)	(0 / 53)	(16 / 53)	(0 / 53)
Gadsden State Community College	AL-235	48	54%	65%	67%	0%	33%	0%
			(26 / 48)	(31 / 48)	(32 / 48)	(0 / 48)	(16 / 48)	(0 / 48)
Jefferson State Community College	AL-245	69	72%	77%	78%	0%	22%	0%
			(50 / 69)	(53 / 69)	(54 / 69)	(0 / 69)	(15 / 69)	(0 / 69)
Lawson State Community College	AL-250	1	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
			(0 / 1)	(1 / 1)	(1 / 1)	(0 / 1)	(0 / 1)	(0 / 1)
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College	AL-255	19	95%	95%	95%	0%	5%	0%
			(18 / 19)	(18 / 19)	(18 / 19)	(0 / 19)	(1 / 19)	(0 / 19)
Northeast Alabama Community College	AL-260	37	57%	59%	59%	0%	41%	0%
			(21 / 37)	(22 / 37)	(22 / 37)	(0 / 37)	(15 / 37)	(0 / 37)
Northwest Shoals Community College	AL-265	25	88%	92%	92%	0%	8%	0%
			(22 / 25)	(23 / 25)	(23 / 25)	(0 / 25)	(2 / 25)	(0 / 25)
Shelton State Community College	AL-270	23	70%	74%	74%	0%	26%	0%
			(16 / 23)	(17 / 23)	(17 / 23)	(0 / 23)	(6 / 23)	(0 / 23)
Southern Union State Community College	AL-275	28	79%	86%	86%	0%	14%	0%
			(22 / 28)	(24 / 28)	(24 / 28)	(0 / 28)	(4 / 28)	(0 / 28)
Trenholm State Technical College	AL-280	70	47%	53%	54%	0%	46%	0%
			(33 / 70)	(37 / 70)	(38 / 70)	(0 / 70)	(32 / 70)	(0 / 70)
Tri-State Institute	AL-281	17	6%	6%	6%	0%	94%	0%
			(1 / 17)	(1 / 17)	(1 / 17)	(0 / 17)	(16 / 17)	(0 / 17)
University of South Alabama	AL-290	63	71%	78%	83%	0%	17%	0%
			(45 / 63)	(49 / 63)	(52 / 63)	(0 / 63)	(11 / 63)	(0 / 63)
University of West Alabama	AL-301	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
			(0 / 2)	(0 / 2)	(0 / 2)	(0 / 2)	(2 / 2)	(0 / 2)
Wallace Community College	AL-295	24	67%	75%	75%	0%	25%	0%
			(16 / 24)	(18 / 24)	(18 / 24)	(0 / 24)	(6 / 24)	(0 / 24)
Wallace State – Hanceville	AL-300	20	75%	75%	75%	0%	25%	0%
			(15 / 20)	(15 / 20)	(15 / 20)	(0 / 20)	(5 / 20)	(0 / 20)

### 4th Quarter 2009 Results - Paramedic

Program Name	Program Code	Attempted the Exam	1 <sup>st</sup> Attempt Pass	Cumulative Pass (3 Attempts)	Cumulative Pass (6 Attempts)	Failed All 6 Attempts	Eligible for Retest	Did Not Complete within 2 Yrs
Calhoun Community College	AL-215	13	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
			(13 / 13)	(13 / 13)	(13 / 13)	(0 / 13)	(0 / 13)	(0 / 13)
Gadsden State Community College	AL-235	15	47%	47%	47%	0%	53%	0%
			(7 / 15)	(7 / 15)	(7 / 15)	(0 / 15)	(8 / 15)	(0 / 15)
Jefferson State Community College	AL-245	3	67%	67%	67%	0%	33%	0%
			(2 / 3)	(2 / 3)	(2 / 3)	(0 / 3)	(1 / 3)	(0 / 3)
Northwest Shoals Community College	AL-265	6	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
			(6 / 6)	(6 / 6)	(6 / 6)	(0 / 6)	(0 / 6)	(0 / 6)
Trenholm State Technical College	AL-280	3	33%	33%	33%	0%	67%	0%
			(1 / 3)	(1 / 3)	(1 / 3)	(0 / 3)	(2 / 3)	(0 / 3)
University of South Alabama	AL-290	14	64%	71%	71%	0%	29%	0%
			(9 / 14)	(10 / 14)	(10 / 14)	(0 / 14)	(4 / 14)	(0 / 14)

### 2009 Results - Paramedic

Program Name	Program Code	Attempted the Exam	1 <sup>st</sup> Attempt Pass	Cumulative Pass (3 Attempts)	Cumulative Pass (6 Attempts)	Failed All 6 Attempts	Eligible for Retest	Did Not Complete within 2 Yrs
Bevill State Community College	AL-205	10	30%	30%	30%	0%	70%	0%
			(3 / 10)	(3 / 10)	(3 / 10)	(0 / 10)	(7 / 10)	(0 / 10)
Calhoun Community College	AL-215	32	94%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
			(30 / 32)	(32 / 32)	(32 / 32)	(0 / 32)	(0 / 32)	(0 / 32)
Enterprise-Ozark Community College	AL-225	6	50%	83%	83%	0%	17%	0%
			(3 / 6)	(5 / 6)	(5 / 6)	(0 / 6)	(1 / 6)	(0 / 6)
Faulkner State Community College	AL-226	7	71%	86%	86%	0%	14%	0%
			(5 / 7)	(6 / 7)	(6 / 7)	(0 / 7)	(1 / 7)	(0 / 7)
Gadsden State Community College	AL-235	15	47%	47%	47%	0%	53%	0%
			(7 / 15)	(7 / 15)	(7 / 15)	(0 / 15)	(8 / 15)	(0 / 15)
Jefferson State Community College	AL-245	27	74%	89%	89%	0%	11%	0%
			(20 / 27)	(24 / 27)	(24 / 27)	(0 / 27)	(3 / 27)	(0 / 27)
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College	AL-255	5	60%	60%	60%	0%	40%	0%
			(3 / 5)	(3 / 5)	(3 / 5)	(0 / 5)	(2 / 5)	(0 / 5)
Northeast Alabama Community College	AL-260	7	57%	86%	86%	0%	14%	0%
			(4 / 7)	(6 / 7)	(6 / 7)	(0 / 7)	(1 / 7)	(0 / 7)
Northwest Shoals Community College	AL-265	17	65%	76%	82%	0%	18%	0%
			(11 / 17)	(13 / 17)	(14 / 17)	(0 / 17)	(3 / 17)	(0 / 17)
Shelton State Community College	AL-270	7	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%
			(7 / 7)	(7 / 7)	(7 / 7)	(0 / 7)	(0 / 7)	(0 / 7)
Southern Union State Community College	AL-275	14	43%	57%	57%	0%	43%	0%
			(6 / 14)	(8 / 14)	(8 / 14)	(0 / 14)	(6 / 14)	(0 / 14)
Trenholm State Technical College	AL-280	27	59%	74%	74%	0%	26%	0%
			(16 / 27)	(20 / 27)	(20 / 27)	(0 / 27)	(7 / 27)	(0 / 27)
University of South Alabama	AL-290	30	63%	67%	67%	0%	33%	0%
			(19 / 30)	(20 / 30)	(20 / 30)	(0 / 30)	(10 / 30)	(0 / 30)
Wallace Community College	AL-295	17	29%	59%	59%	0%	41%	0%
			(5 / 17)	(10 / 17)	(10 / 17)	(0 / 17)	(7 / 17)	(0 / 17)
Wallace State – Hanceville	AL-300	4	25%	75%	75%	0%	25%	0%
			(1 / 4)	(3 / 4)	(3 / 4)	(0 / 4)	(1 / 4)	(0 / 4)

## Emergency Medical Services Advanced Airways by OEMS&T<sup>1</sup> Regions Through November 6, 2009<sup>2</sup>

Intubations <sup>3</sup>	Total	OEMS&T Region 1 <sup>1</sup> (North)	OEMS&T Region 2 <sup>1</sup> (East)	OEMS&T Region 3 <sup>1</sup> (BREMSS)	OEMS&T Region 4 <sup>1</sup> (West)	OEMS&T Region 5 <sup>1</sup> (Southeast)	OEMS&T Region 6 <sup>1</sup> (Gulf)	OEMS&T Region Unknown
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter '09 <sup>2</sup>	715	117	67	86	26	165	135	119
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter '09 <sup>2</sup>	690	144	60	70	48	124	136	108
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter '09 <sup>2</sup>	619	139	51	60	34	120	121	94
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter '09 <sup>2, 4</sup>	513	98	44	46	35	85	102	103

### NOTE:

As noted in the table above, there are relatively low numbers of advanced airways being performed by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel as reflected by Electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) data. For benchmarking purposes, reported statewide data shows around 4,215 cardiac arrests compared to the 2,537 advanced airways reported. There are many possible reasons that the data is this way; EMS personnel are not following protocol, EMS personnel are not documenting the procedures as required, there are an extremely high number

of non-resuscitated cardiac arrests, or the software being used by some agencies is not configured to the current acceptable NEMSIS compliance. That's a lot to consider as we strive for accurate and reliable data submissions. More information will be forthcoming.

<sup>1</sup>OEMS&T = Office of EMS and Trauma Regional Designations.

<sup>2</sup>Data is for the 2009 calendar year and is current as of 11/06/2009 and is based upon the Dispatch\_Notified\_Date\_Time datapoint.

<sup>3</sup>Former queries for Intubations included the following selections: Airway-Combitube, Airway-Intubation Confirm CO<sub>2</sub>, Airway-Intubation Confirm Esophageal Bulb, Airway-

Nasotracheal Intubation, and Airway-Rapid Sequence Induction. As a result of an EMSIS Server database update, current queries for Intubations include: Airway-Direct Laryngoscopy, Airway-Intubation of Existing Tracheostomy Stoma, Airway-Nasotracheal Intubation, Airway-Orotracheal Intubation, Airway-Rapid Sequence Induction, Airway-Video Laryngoscopy, Airway-Intubation Confirm Colorimetric ETCO<sub>2</sub>, Airway-Confirm Esophageal Bulb, Airway-Combitube Blind Insertion Airway Device, Airway-King LT Blind Insertion Airway Device and Airway-Laryngeal Mask Blind Insertion Airway Device.

<sup>4</sup>Data represents the Dispatch\_Notified\_Date\_Time datapoint range from 10/01/2009 through 11/06/2009 23:59.

## EMSC UPDATE

The Alabama EMSC Program will be submitting the New Competing grant application January 29, 2010. There are 11 states/territories applying for \$130,000 each year for the three year grant cycle.

As soon as we receive the notice of grant award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), we will resume pediatric specific activities throughout the state and work toward 100% compliance with the Performance Measures.

## NEWSLETTER REMINDER

The newsletter is free to anyone as long as they have internet access to our web page [www.adph.org/ems](http://www.adph.org/ems). The newsletters can be found under the Notices and Events link found in the menu bar or to all Alabama licensed EMS personnel who have a valid email address. Our licensure database is used to store your last submitted **valid** email address, but cannot accommodate unlicensed people. They will have to visit our web site to view or download the newsletter.

If you are not getting our newsletter via email it is either because the email address was sent to us in an illegible or incorrect format or you changed it and

did not update it through our office. You can email any changes via [emsinquiry@adph.state.al.us](mailto:emsinquiry@adph.state.al.us) or call office staff at 334-206-5383.

Also, you may have a spam blocker set up on your email. Our office has no way to manually or automatically address this issue. Multitudes of emails are "kicked back" to our office email system with message asking us to complete a number of tasks to be allowed to send you an email. As long as you have this set up on your pc, you will not be able to receive our newsletter.

# COMPLIANCE AND INVESTIGATIONS | NOVEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2009

<b>Name</b>	<b>Complaint</b>	<b>Rule/Protocol</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
EMT – Basic/Driver	Impairment	420-2-1-.21	License Suspension
Matthew Greene EMT – Basic/Driver	Exceeding Scope of License	420-2-1-.12	License Action Pending
Shahn Washington EMT – Paramedic/Driver	Performing ALS Procedures w/o Medical Control	420-2-1-.14	License Suspension
EMT – Basic/Driver	Impairment	420-2-1-.21	License Surrender
Northstar Paramedic Service Jefferson	ALS Issues	420-2-1-.15	Probation
Northstar Paramedic Service Tuscaloosa	Pt Transportation Issues	No EMS Violation	No Action Taken
Birmingham Fire & Rescue	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies Found	Portable Suction Tip, Portable O <sub>2</sub> , Reflectors/Flares, Tri-Bandage, Oxygen Mask, IV Drip Set, No Smoking Sign, Patient Rain cover, Bed Pan, Trauma Dressing, Bio-Hazard Bags, Syringes, Urinal, Vaseline Gauze, Flashlight, Short Board, Glucometer, Pulse Ox, Nasopharyngeal Airways, Sanitation Issues, Activated Charcoal, Oral Glucose Paste		
Center Point Fire & Rescue	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies Found	Reflectors/Flares, Trauma Dressing, Vaseline Gauze, Oxygen Mask, Bio-Hazard Bags, IV Cannulae, Needles, Tourniquets, IO Needles, ABD Pads, Tri-Bandage, Portable Suction Unit, Nasopharyngeal Airways, IV Drip Sets, Fire Extinguisher, Emergency Lights, CO <sub>2</sub> Monitoring Equipment, On Board O <sub>2</sub> , Sanitation Issues		
Expired Medications	Atropine, Dopamine, and Lidocaine		
Concord Fire Department	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	1 Unit Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Pediatric B/P Cuff, CO <sub>2</sub> Monitoring Equipment		
Hoover Fire Department Jefferson	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	ABD Pads, Tri-Bandage, Burn Sheets, Oxygen Masks, IO Needles, Burn Sheets, Butterfly Needles, IV Pressure Infuser, IV Drip Sets, ET Tubes, Traction Splint, Vaseline Gauze, Shears, BVM, Emesis, CO <sub>2</sub> Monitoring Equipment, Reflectors/Flares, Bio-Hazard Bags, Nasopharyngeal Airways, Needles, Flashlight, Bed Pan, Urinal, Emergency Lights, Turn Signals, Horn		
Hueytown Fire & Rescue	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Oxygen Masks, IO Needles, Burn Sheets, ABD Pads, Vaseline Gauze, Syringes (18-25), 1cc Syringes		
Lifecare of Alabama Morgan & Jefferson	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Glucometer, BVM, Oxygen Masks, IO Needles, Suction Unit Tip		
Expired Medications	Atropine, Diazepam, and Furosemide		
Lifeguard Ambulance Service	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	ABD Pads, ET Tubes, Nasopharyngeal Airways, Oxygen Masks, CO <sub>2</sub> Monitoring Equipment, Bio-Hazard Bags, Reflectors/Flares, Assorted Splints, IV Drip Sets, Shears IO Needles, Emergency Lights		
Midfield Fire Department	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Vaseline Gauze, Bio-Hazard bags, Oxygen Masks, IV Drip Sets, Trauma Dressing, Tri-Bandages, Goggles, ABD Pads, IV Pressure Infuser, IO Needles, Reflectors/Flares, OB Kit, Nasopharyngeal Airways, Patient Rain cover, Traction Splint, Shears, Burn Sheets, BVM, IV Cannulae, Soft Bandages, Portable Oxygen		

Name	Complaint	Rule/Protocol	Action Taken
Minor Heights Fire District	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Tri-Bandages, Oxygen Masks, Portable Oxygen, ET Tubes, BVM, ABD pads, Ped B/P cuff, IO Needles, CO <sub>2</sub> Monitoring Equipment, Nasopharyngeal Airways, IV Drip Sets, Activated Charcoal		
Expired Medications	Adenosine and Vasopressin		
Mountain Brook Fire Department	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Oxygen Masks, BVM, IV Drip Sets, Reflectors/Flares		
Northstar Paramedic Service Jefferson	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	2 Units Grounded
Deficiencies Found	Oxygen Masks, Traction Splint, Goggles, Face Masks, Portable Suction Unit, Flashlight, Emesis, ABD Pads, Portable Suction Tip, BVM, Butterfly Needles, Shears, Bed Pan, Urinal, Burn Sheets, No Smoking Signs, Blankets, IV Pressure Infuser, Load Lights		
Expired Medications	Adenosine, Atropine, Benadryl, Vasopressin, Epinephrine, Sodium Bicarbonate, Thiamine, Calcium Gluconate, Furosemide, Lidocaine, Oral Glucose Paste		
Palmerdale Fire District	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Oxygen Masks, Fire Extinguisher, IV Drip Sets		
RPS Jefferson	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Oxygen Masks, ABD Pads, Patient Rain Cover, Flashlight, IV Drip Sets, Emesis, Reflector/Flares, Blankets, Adult Stethoscope, Bed Pan		
Expired Medications	Furosemide, Sodium Bicarbonate, Diazepam, Activated Charcoal, Normal Saline		
Rural Metro Ambulance Service – Jefferson	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	3 Units Grounded
Deficiencies Found	Goggles, Portable Suction Tip, Oxygen Mask, IV Drip Sets, Bed Pan, Shears, Patient Rain Cover, CID's, CO <sub>2</sub> Monitoring Equipment, Pulse Ox, Nasopharyngeal Airways, Blankets, Reflectors/Flares, Face Mask, Portable Suction, Flashlight, Ped B/P Cuff, IO Needles, Urinal, Soft Bandages, LBB, Bio Hazard Bags, Ped Stethoscope, Burn Sheet, Portable Oxygen, Headlights, Backup Lights, Horn, Mirror, Sanitation Issues		
Trussville Fire Department	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Assorted Splints, ABD Pads, Tri-Bandages, Oxygen Mask, IV Drip Sets		
US Steel	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Load Lights		
Expired Medications	Aspirin		
Vestavia Hills Fire Department	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	Multiple Units Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Oxygen Masks, IV Drip Sets, Tourniquets, CO <sub>2</sub> Monitoring Equipment		
Warrior River Fire Department	Ground Vehicle Issues	420-2-1-.10	1 Unit Inspected
Deficiencies Found	Reflectors/Flares, Nasopharyngeal Airways, Oxygen Mask		

**Morphine Issue:** It has come to the attention of the Office of EMS & Trauma that some ALS services are carrying and using Morphine without proper documentation on-site supporting that usage. A recent inspection found that a service had used Morphine but the required documentation was at another location, not on-site. Please make sure that all of your records are on-site, not at the corporate office, for inspection purposes.

**Ambulance Reimbursement Issue:**

**Rhode Island Ambulance Company Pays State \$303,000**

Jan. 5 – NORTH PROVIDENCE – A Thelma Street ambulance company has repaid \$303,000 to the Rhode Island Department of Human Services to account for improperly billing Medicaid.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>January 5, 2010. EMS Responder.com, the online home of EMS Magazine. Retrieved January 7, 2010 from www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News

# Rural Health Conference

March 24 and 25

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, along with the Alabama Rural Health Association and the Alabama Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma, are hosting the Alabama Rural Health Conference on March 24 and 25 at the Marriott Legends at Capitol Hill.



**CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:**

- Provide the latest news on health care reform and how it will impact rural providers
- Trends in Healthcare IT and what it means to rural health care delivery
- Healthcare IT plans in Alabama and information on the new regional extension center
- EMS updates on CPAP and ResQPOD
- Rural Health Clinic information – how do you establish a RHC, what are the issues with reimbursement

**AUDIENCE:**

- Rural Health Care Providers
- Rural Hospitals
- EMS
- Rural Health Clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Rural Health Stakeholders
- Health Care Providers

**Continuing Education Credits (CEUs and CME):** Applications have been made for continuing education for hospital administrators, nursing home administrators, nurses, social workers, Emergency Medical Services personnel, physicians and pharmacists.

Registration information is available on-line at [www.adph.org/ruralhealth](http://www.adph.org/ruralhealth)

**Early Bird Registration Deadline:**

February 24, 2010, prepayment required  
**\$125 Full Conference Registration**  
**\$75 One Day Conference Registration**  
 (March 24 preconference or March 25 conference)

**Regular Registration Deadline:**

March 22, 2010  
**\$175 Full conference Registration**  
**\$125 One Day Conference Registration**

Registration is now available at [www.adph.org/ruralhealth](http://www.adph.org/ruralhealth) and [www.adph.org/ems](http://www.adph.org/ems).

The Office of EMS & Trauma recently completed the renewal process for providers in Region 2 (East), Region 5 (Southeast), and Region 6 (Gulf). A total of 131 services renewed their license and now have a December 31, 2010 expiration date.

Below are the latest numbers for licensed Provider Services in Alabama:

- 305 Active Services
- 187 ALS Transports
- 106 ALS Non-Transports
- 12 BLS Transports
  
- 169 Licensed Services in Regions 1, 3, and 4
- 131 Licensed Services in Regions 2, 5, and 6
- 5 Out-of-State licensed services

**Congratulations to the following services for making the latest "Culture of Excellence" list:**

- Argo Fire and Rescue
- Dothan Fire Department
- Irondale Fire and Rescue
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Tactical Team
- Mount Olive Fire and Rescue
- Northstar Ambulance Tuscaloosa
- Tuscaloosa Fire Department

## INDIVIDUAL LICENSE RENEWAL

For those services that renew the license for their employees we have developed an On-line mechanism called "Batching" that allows the service to pay once when renewing numerous individual licenses. If your service is interested contact Gary Mackey and he and Alabama Interactive can have the process setup for you. Agencies that are already utilizing the Batching process are: Pelham Fire Dept, Gadsden Fire Department, Calera Fire, Vestavia Hills Fire and Mead West-Vaco Paper Co.

Please look at your EMT license expiration date then ask your partner to look at their EMT license expiration

date, and even ask EMTs you don't like to check their expiration date.

**BECAUSE**

**If your license expires and you do NOT renew it prior to June 1st you must again qualify for licensure by successfully completing the appropriate licensure examination and the National Registry of EMT written and practical exam.**

When renewing your license please go to our website [www.adph.org/ems](http://www.adph.org/ems) and print out the latest individual renewal license application, changes have been made.

## IN-ACTIVE LICENSE

An individual who is not practicing as an EMT but wishes to retain the option to return to Active status sometime in the future.

These individuals must stay current in our system by providing an application and the required fee for license renewal, and must renew each cycle.

When returning to Active status, all coned requirements for that cycle are required. Driver is required to be maintained or a new EVO-Ambulance or AO course must be completed.



# CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

## **EMT Requirements for the renewal of your EMT license prior to March 31, 2010**

- Application
- 24 Hours of EMS related con-ed – obtained during your license cycle
- Full Protocol Certificate 08 or 09 – EMT Protocol Review ( all 101 pages) w/ scope of practice
- Protocol Update Certificate 09 – changes to the Full protocols
- Current CPR card
- EVOC Refresher – if a driver
- License Fee

## **EMT-Intermediate Requirements for the renewal of your Intermediate license prior to March 31, 2010**

- Application
- 36 Hours of EMS related con-ed – obtained during your license cycle
- Full Protocol Certificate '08 or '09 – EMT Protocol Review w/ skills and scenario verification certificate

- Protocol Update Certificate '09 – changes to the Full protocols certificate
- Current CPR card
- EVOC Refresher – if a driver
- License Fee

## **EMT- Paramedic Requirements for the renewal of your Paramedic license prior to March 31, 2010**

- Application
- 48 Hours of EMS related con-ed – obtained during your license cycle
- Full Protocol Certificate '08 or '09 – EMT Protocol Review w/ skills and scenario verification certificate
- Protocol Update Certificate '09 – changes to the Full protocols certificate
  - Current CPR card
  - EVOC Refresher – if a driver
  - License Fee

**\*\*\*On-line renewal is now available\*\*\***

### **New Year's Resolutions: Being Your Best On and Off the Job**

Leigh Ann Pritchett, BS Nutrition  
UAB Dietetic Intern  
Nutrition and Physical Activity

You love your job, most EMS providers do. The adrenaline rush of the siren going off and jumping on the truck, there's nothing like it in the world. EMS providers do so much for those in their communities and often neglect the one person who is most important on their emergency runs, themselves. It is no surprise that heart disease, specifically heart attacks, is the number one killer of EMS providers in the United States today. If you have risk factors for heart disease, it is critical to take measures to improve and maintain good cardiovascular health. As EMS providers, it is better to take care of yourselves so that you can continue to help the citizens in your communities. Individually, you want to maintain good health to be able to provide for your family. As the New Year unfolds, make a point to begin with a fresh start. Take more time out for yourselves and get healthy to be your best on and off of the job. Here are a few steps on preventing heart disease and obtaining your best overall health.

#### **1. Lose Weight**

Losing weight is the best way to start overall good physical health. Overweight individuals are at higher risk for developing diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and certain types of cancer. Obesity can cause your heart to work under strain and at an increased rate which can lead to long-term effects and damage to your heart. Carrying around excess weight can also cause your body an extended time to cool down after working on the scene. These factors can put you at an increased risk for heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Working in extreme environments such as the ones EMS workers work in everyday can cause your body to work harder than usual. A combination of work strain on the body and excess weight can cause the body to work into overdrive which can cause a number of complications.

*Continued on page 10*

## 2. Stop Smoking

Smoking puts an individual at a much higher risk for a heart attack and stroke. This habit is one of the most preventable causes of heart disease. If you do smoke, it is important that you quit. There are many resources to help you quit smoking. One great resource is a quit smoking hotline, 1-800-QUIT NOW; there are also books and support groups that are very helpful. If you do not smoke, then do not start. It is easier to say no now than after you have started. Second hand smoke is just as harmful, if not more damaging to your lungs, so try to avoid those who are smoking. Cancer reports verify the toxic atmospheres in which EMS providers often work, so why breathe in smoke when you do not have to?

## 3. Exercise

Your heart is one of the most important muscles in your body. The best way to develop and strengthen your heart is through exercise. Exercising helps strengthen your heart by increasing blood flow and circulation throughout your body. Exercise also lowers cholesterol levels and helps reduce stress. Just 30 minutes of moderate exercise, such as walking, 3 to 4 days a week can make a big difference on your life and overall health.

## 4. Eat Healthy Food

EMS providers may not get healthy meals at the station. In fact, these meals are often high in fat, cholesterol, sugar, salt/sodium, and preservatives. These are the types of foods that can damage your heart and cause retention of excess fluids. The result leads to a sluggish feeling which slows you down at work. Instead, eating foods that are high in Omega-3 Fatty Acids are great for your heart and help reduce cholesterol levels. You can obtain Omega-3's by consuming foods such as fish and nuts. Meals high in fiber, fruits, and vegetables will help provide the nutrients and energy that the body needs to help you achieve working to your best ability.

## 5. Lower Your Stress Levels

EMS providers live busy and stressful lives. When it comes to stress, there may be some things you cannot change. If you are trying to be a perfectionist in everything you do, stop. It is impossible to be perfect, so take what you have and make the best of the situation. The key to reducing overall stress is finding out what de-stresses you. A wonderful tool to reduce stress is exercise. Another great way to reduce stress levels is to find and participate in a hobby that you enjoy. Just remember that it is important to take things one step at a time and take a little time for yourself.

Take the quiz below to see at what risk you are for heart disease or heart problems:

1. Are you a non-smoker who tries to avoid second hand smoke?  Yes  No
2. Are you physically active on most days for at least thirty minutes?  Yes  No
3. Do you mainly choose lower-fat foods (fruit, vegetables, cereals, lean meat and lower-fat dairy products) at home, at work, and in restaurants?  Yes  No

*Continued on page 11*

4. Do you keep your weight in a healthy range by exercising and eating healthy foods?  
 Yes  No
5. Do you drink alcohol moderately (maximum of 1-2 alcoholic drinks per day) or not at all?  
 Yes  No
6. Are you coping well with stress in your life?  Yes  No
7. Do you have friends or family to turn to if you need help?  Yes  No
8. If you have high blood pressure or high blood cholesterol are you trying to lower it by exercising and eating healthy foods and taking the medicine as prescribed?  
 Yes  No

Add up how many questions you answered "No" and see what risk you are at for developing Heart disease/heart problems.

- Less than 2 – Low Risk
- 2-4 – Moderate Risk
- 4-6 - High Risk
- 6-8 – Very High Risk

### **DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR OEMST STAFF?**

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

Complaints, Investigations -  
Call Mark Jackson

Service Inspections or Service  
Licenses - Call Hugh Hollon or  
Kem Thomas

Individual Training, Testing or  
Individual Licenses -

Call Gary Mackey or  
Stephanie Smith

EMS for Children, Grants,  
Contracts, Equipment Orders –  
Call Katherine Hert

