

State EMS Medical Director's News

The Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) has been in contact with many Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers in our state over the last few months regarding drug shortages. We, in EMS, are certainly not immune to this issue. The OEMS has been working at both the national and state levels to ensure that we continue to explore all options to ensure an uninterrupted medication supply.

Many of you were at the last State Emergency Medical Control Committee meeting and are aware that this committee voted to explore the idea of having several different medications in each category of medications to choose from. We are currently in the process of compiling this list. I would ask that everyone be patient, as this is an endeavor that we do not want to undertake lightly.

The drug shortage issue is complicated and multifactorial. All of the Emergency Medical Services Personnel (EMSP) and EMS providers in our state can be assured that the OEMS will continue to work with both our national and state stakeholders to help resolve this problem. The OEMS welcomes any suggestions from EMSP in dealing with this issue. Please forward any suggestions to my attention at the OEMS.

William Crawford, M.D.

Licensure Update

- There is no longer an inactive status for Alabama licensed EMSP.
 - Any licensed Intermediate who has not attended or was not successful in completing the Intermediate Medication and Procedure Course will be re-classed to the EMT level.
 - National Registry Amnesty will be available for 2012 renewals from June 1-December 31, 2012
 - All individuals renewing their license in 2013 will be required to provide a copy of their National Registry card and proof of FULL Alabama Patient Care Protocols completion. This National Registry card requirement does not apply to those who have never acquired National Registry Certification.
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Ambulance Driver Qualifications

The requirements for all ambulance drivers are: a valid drivers license, a current EVOC from an approved OEMS course, a current approved CPR course, and a certificate of completion of an approved Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course effective March 31, 2013. All EMSP who drive an ambulance must maintain an initial approved EVOC course and a refresher every two years.

EVOC Instructor Class

December 3-4, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Alabama Traffic Safety Center
Vacca Hall
985 Shelby Street
Montevallo, AL 35115

\$75.00 Class Fee (must be paid in advance)

24 seats are available and one page resume applications are being accepted now. For further information, please contact Stephanie Smith at (334) 206-5383.

Protocol Verification

Protocol verification is a combination of physical skills and scenario competency testing. Listed below are the specific skills that each level should be evaluated on by a Medical Director or Training Officer, during their licensure period to determine proficiency. New protocol scenarios will be posted on the OEMS website this month.

Paramedic

- Blind Insertion Airway Devices
- Cardioversion
- Chest Compression
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- ECG (12 lead)
- Endotracheal intubation
- External Pacing
- Hemostatic Agents
- Intraosseous Therapy

Intermediate

- Blind Insertion Airway Devices
- Cardioversion
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- ECG (12 lead)
- Endotracheal Intubation
- Hemostatic Agents
- Intraosseous Therapy

Advanced EMT

- Blind Insertion Airway Devices
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- Hemostatic Agents
- Intraosseous Therapy
- Cardiac Arrest Management

EMT

- Cardiac Arrest Management
- Spinal Immobilization (seated patient)
- Spinal Immobilization (supine patient)
- Bleeding Control/Shock Management
- Long Bone Immobilization

National Registry Amnesty

Reinstatement of National EMS Certification for Alabama EMS Licensure

Instructions for the Alabama/NREMT – Mark King Initiative

Follow These Simple Steps to Apply (2012 Alabama State License Renewals ONLY):

- Create an account on the NREMT website.
- Go to www.nremt.org, click on 'Create New Account' located near the upper left corner and follow the instructions. Request User role of: 'National certified EMS professional.'
- Login with the User name and Password you created – follow the prompts to 'Manage your NREMT profile' by completing the requested information (name, address, etc.).
- When your profile is complete, click on 'CBT Candidates.'
- Locate the 'Mark King Initiative' section in the center of the screen. Use the drop down field to select 'Alabama', click Submit.
- The system will process your request to determine your eligibility (if you are not eligible and believe you should be, please contact the Alabama Office of EMS).
- Pay the current National Registry Recertification application fee (EMT-Basic and Intermediate: \$15.00; Paramedic: \$20).
- The NREMT will issue you a National EMS Certification card and provide you with recertification requirements.
- You will continue to recertify with the NREMT throughout your EMS career as a requirement of your Alabama State License.

Deadline to Apply – December 31, 2012

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Alabama EMSP who renewed their Alabama state license in 2012 have until December 31, 2012 to create an account and apply for reinstatement. You must have your registry card to renew your license in 2014.

Failure to do so will disqualify you for reinstatement and you will need to re-enter the National Registry following the current entry requirements (proof of state licensure, documentation of a refresher, verification of skills, and successful completion of the current National EMS Certification examination).

Alabama EMSP who have NEVER been Nationally Registered will have to complete the same continuing education requirements as everyone else and will need to have their hours available for renewal, but will NOT have to provide a Registry card.

Mr. Mark E. King (1953-2006) was the State EMS Director for West Virginia, a former NREMT Board member and an EMS provider for over 25 years. It was a vision of his to see States move to requiring EMS providers to maintain their National EMS Certification as a part of moving the EMS profession forward and promoting National EMS Standards. It is in recognition of his vision and contributions to the EMS Community that this initiative is named in his honor.

Participation in the Mark King Initiative is authorized by State EMS Agencies who require EMS providers to maintain their National EMS Certification as a condition of their continued state certification/licensure.

National Registry Continuing Education

Individuals who have utilized the Mark King Initiative may use continuing education that has been acquired during this initial extended certification period. After this initial certification period the National Registry will only accept continuing education gained within the 24 month certification period. Training officers may use a training mechanism available on www.nremt.org.

Training Officers Register Your Agency (the employer) on the NREMT Website!

Online re-certification allows:

- certified EMS providers to document their continuing education using the NREMT website
- you to monitor the progress of their continuing education
- you to enter continuing education documentation for all providers at your agency
- electronic verification of continuing education and skills

Persons authorized to serve as a Training Officer by their employer (agency) should register their agency on the NREMT website by following these simple instructions: [How to Register your Agency](#).

User guides for the online re-certification process can be found here: [Online Recertification Publications](#).

Please note:

- Audits and verifications of agencies and Training Officers will be performed.
- There is no fee to register your agency online, this program is a service provided by the NREMT.
- There are no additional fees to Nationally Certified providers who use the online system to document their continuing education. Current re-certification application fees using continuing education are: First Responder = \$10; EMT-Basic/Intermediate = \$15; EMT-Paramedic = \$20

Emergency Medical Responder Courses

The following are approved EMR courses: OEMS approved courses offered through your regional EMS office or a course approved by the Alabama Fire College which should include the Emergency Care Provider Course. These must be on an Alabama Fire College certificate and should be dated after March 31, 2011.

Transition Courses

The National Registry website indicates that all EMSP need to complete a transition course to re-certify. The OEMS has determined that Alabama EMSP will not have to take a transition course. The OEMS will provide documentation to the Registry that confirms each EMSP has completed all required education.

Do You Have Questions for OEMS 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 - Call Katherine Dixon Hert

Air Ambulance Communications

As of January 1, 2013, the Very High Frequency (VHF) for communications between air ambulances and ground crews will move to **155.3475**. This change was made due to the high volume of traffic on the previous frequency.

VHF Radio Update

The OEMS and Center for Emergency Preparedness have collaborated in the upgrade of the **Hospital Emergency Administrative Radio** (HEAR) system in all medical direction facilities. Listed below are the access tones for use during emergency situations when other communications systems fail. **The following information should be programmed for hospitals located in their area:**

| LICENSEE | COUNTY | CH. GUARD | CALL SIGN |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| SPRINGHILL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | MOBILE | 210.7 | WQOL212 |
| UNIV OF SO AL MEDICAL CENTER | MOBILE | 146.2 | WQOV201 |
| PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL | MOBILE | 131.8 | WQOV201 |
| JACKSON MEDICAL CENTER | CLARKE | 110.9 | WQOL212 |
| MONROE COUNTY HOSPITAL | MONROE | 100.0 | WQOV201 |
| EVERGREEN MEDICAL CENTER | CONECUH | 167.9 | WQOK961 |
| D.W. McMILLAN MEMORIAL | ESCAMBIA | 127.3 | WQOU652 |
| ANDALUSIA HOSPITAL | COVINGTON | 91.5 | WQOV201 |
| ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL | COFFEE | 82.5 | WQOL212 |
| MEDICAL CENTER ENTERPRISE | COFFEE | 100.0 | WQPY557 |
| FLOWERS HOSPITAL | HOUSTON | 151.4 | WQOL212 |
| SOUTHEAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER | HOUSTON | 103.5 | WQOV201 |
| DALE MEDICAL CENTER | DALE | 71.9 | WQOL214 |
| ATTENTUS TROY LLC DBA TROY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | PIKE | 218.1 | WQOL221 |
| EAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER | LEE | 123.0 | WQOL214 |
| RUSSELL HOSPITAL | TALLAPOOSA | 118.8 | WQPY557 |
| CLAY COUNTY HOSPITAL | CLAY | 146.2 | WQPZ543 |
| COOSA VALLEY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER | TALLADEGA | 82.5 | WQPY557 |
| CITIZENS BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER | TALLADEGA | 192.8 | WQOK958 |
| STRINGFELLOW MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | CALHOUN | 206.5 | WQOK958 |
| ST VINCENTS ST CLAIR HOSPITAL (PELL CITY) | ST CLAIR | 141.3 | WQOL250 |
| CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER | CHEROKEE | 82.5 | WQPZ543 |
| GADSDEN REGIONAL HOSPITAL | ETOWAH | 114.8 | WQOV200 |
| RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | ETOWAH | 85.4 | WQOK958 |
| DEKALB REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | DEKALB | 136.5 | WQOK958 |
| HIGHLANDS MEDICAL CENTER (JACKSON CO. HEALTHCARE AUTH.) | JACKSON | 179.9 | WQPZ543 |
| PARKWAY MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL | MORGAN | 146.2 | WQOU652 |
| CULLMAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | CULLMAN | 179.9 | WQOV200 |
| ATHENS LIMESTONE HOSPITAL | LIMESTONE | 127.3 | WQOU652 |
| DECATUR GENERAL HOSPITAL | MORGAN | 123.0 | WQOU652 |
| LAWRENCE MEDICAL CENTER | LAWRENCE | 94.8 | WQOK944 |
| HELEN KELLER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | COLBERT | 162.2 | WQOK944 |

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| RUSSELLVILLE HOSPITAL, LLC | FRANKLIN | 210.7 | WQOY827 |
| LAKELAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL | WINSTON | 218.1 | WQPG686 |
| FAYETTE MEDICAL CENTER | FAYETTE | 82.5 | WQPY557 |
| VAUGHN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | DALLAS | 127.3 | WQOK944 |
| TOMBIGBEE EMS | MARENGO | 82.5 | WQPG686 |
| RUSH FOUNDATION HOSPITAL | LAUDERDALE,MS | NONE | WPTC846 |
| NORTHWEST MEDICAL CENTER | MARION | 151.4 | WNAL326 |
| SHELBY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER | SHELBY | 103.5 | WQOK944 |
| MEDICAL WEST (UAB WEST) | JEFFERSON | 136.5 | WQOL250 |
| UAB HIGHLANDS | JEFFERSON | 225.7 | WQOL250 |
| UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA HOSPITAL | JEFFERSON | 186.2 | WQO7827 |
| ST VINCENTS EAST (BIRMINGHAM) | JEFFERSON | 218.1 | WQPG686 |
| BROOKWOOD MEDICAL CENTER | JEFFERSON | 179.9 | WQOL250 |
| BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER - PRINCETON | JEFFERSON | 131.8 | WQOL250 |
| TRINITY MEDICAL CENTER | JEFFERSON | 173.8 | WQOL221 |
| ST. VINCENTS BIRMINGHAM | JEFFERSON | 162.2 | WQPY557 |
| DCH REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | TUSCALOOSA | 210.7 | WQOK944 |
| NMMC - HAMILTON | MARION | 141.3 | WQPZ543 |
| JONES, TEDDY DBA WALKER BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER | WALKER | 110.9 | WQOY827 |
| ELIZA COFFEE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | LAUDERDALE | 100.0 | WQPG686 |
| MEDICAL CENTER BLOUNT (ST. VINCENTS BLOUNT) | BLOUNT | 186.2 | WQOK958 |
| CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF ALABAMA | JEFFERSON | 141.3 | WQOL374 |
| CHILTON MEDICAL CENTER | CHILTON | 141.3 | WQOL250 |
| CRENSHAW COMMUNITY HOSPITAL | CRENSHAW | 123.0 | WQOL221 |
| EUFAULA HOSPITAL CORP DBA LAKEVIEW COMM. HOSP. | BARBOUR | 173.8 | WQOL221 |
| PRATTVILLE BAPTIST HOSPITAL | AUTAUGA | 100.0 | WQOK961 |
| JACKSON HOSPITAL & CLINIC INC | MONTGOMERY | 77.0 | WQOK961 |
| BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER (SOUTH) | MONTGOMERY | 94.8 | WQOK961 |
| COLUMBIA EAST MONTGOMERY MEDICAL CENTER (BAPTIST EAST) | MONTGOMERY | 103.5 | WQOL221 |
| L.V. STABLER HOSPITAL | BUTLER | 203.5 | WQOY827 |
| SOUTH BALDWIN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | BALDWIN | 77.0 | WQOL212 |
| SHOALS HOSPITAL | COLBERT | 82.5 | WQPZ543 |
| CHOCTAW COUNTY HOSPITAL (BUTLER, AL) | CHOCTAW | 107.2 | WQPZ543 |
| JOHN PAUL JONES (CAMDEN) | WILCOX | 167.9 | WQOK959 |
| THOMAS HOSPITAL (FAIRHOPE) | BALDWIN | 107.2 | WQOK959 |

COMMSERV DID NOT GO TO THE HOSPITALS BELOW

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|--|----------|-------|---------|---------------|
| HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL (UAB SCHOOL OF MEDICINE) | MADISON | 127.3 | WQOU652 | NOT CONFIRMED |
| HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN | MADISON | 67.0 | ? | |
| CRESTWOOD HEALTHCARE, LP | MADISON | 225.7 | WQOU652 | NOT CONFIRMED |
| MARSHALL MEDICAL CENTER SOUTH | MARSHALL | 203.5 | WQOV200 | NOT CONFIRMED |
| MARSHALL MEDICAL CENTER NORTH | MARSHALL | 107.2 | WQOV200 | NOT CONFIRMED |
| MADISON HOSPITAL | MADISON | 71.9 | ? | |

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Update

Stuffed Animal Donations

A generous woman in Montgomery wanted to donate her daughter's clean and loved stuffed animals to EMS provider services for use in the event of a pediatric emergency. The EMSC Program is in the process of working on a distribution plan. We also want to have a stuffed animal donation drive in conjunction with EMSC Day in May. I think this will give us time to get the media, legislature, and any available EMSPs involved so we can recognize the EMS profession and the work you do for children in the pre-hospital setting.

EMSC Program

The competitive grant application has been submitted. Hopefully we will receive the Notice of Grant Award in January or February so we can start off the new four-year grant cycle effective March 1, 2013. There are a number of new projects tied into the grant application and you will be hearing more about them as we get closer to March.

Flipbooks

The flipbooks are being distributed by the Regional Directors. Because of the requirements in the Funding Opportunity Announcement, the Program will not be printing anymore. However, Mrs. Hert hopes to distribute the protocols as an electronic document accessible on smart phones, tablets, and e-readers.

Requests for Information from Regional Offices

OEMS 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.

Newsletter Reminder

The newsletter is free to anyone as long as they have internet access to our web page 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 EMSP 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 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.

Upcoming Events

4th Annual Greater Gulf Coast Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Symposium

March 14-15, 2013

Space 301, Centre for Living Arts

Mobile, Alabama

6th Annual William A.L. Mitchell Endowed Lectureship

March 14, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Space 301, Centre for Living Arts

Mobile, Alabama



Guest Lecturer:

Demetrios Demetriades, MD, PhD, FACS

Professor and Vice Chairman of Surgery

Director of Trauma/SICU

Keck Medical Center

University of Southern California School of Medicine

For further information please contact: sbutt@usouthal.edu

“Bronchiolitis--A Reminder That All That Wheezes Isn’t Asthma”

As we move into the fall and winter seasons it is useful to review the common presentation of bronchiolitis.

Background - Bronchiolitis is a lower airways disease that primarily affects children under the age of two years old. The most severe disease is seen in infants less than 6 weeks of age. Other risk factors for severe disease include prematurity, congenital heart disease, underlying lung disease and neuromuscular disorders. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the most common cause of this respiratory illness.

Signs and symptoms

- Cough
- Nasal congestion
- Wheeze or rales
- Fever
- Tachypnea
- Increased work of breathing (grunting, head bobbing, nasal flaring, retractions)
- Hypoxia
- Apnea

Management

- Hydration (oral or IV)
- Nasal suctioning with normal saline
- Antipyretics
- Continuous pulse-oximetry
- Supplemental oxygen as needed

Key Points - Bronchiolitis is a common cause of respiratory distress in children. It is most often seen in the fall and winter months. The mainstay of treatment is supportive care with a primary focus on maintaining adequate oxygenation and hydration.

Courtesy of Nicole Jones, M.D.
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Attending
Children's of Alabama

Provider Service News

Services in Regions Two (East), Five (Southeast), and Six (Gulf) have license expiration dates of December 31, 2012. A total of 133 services are approaching this renewal date. The Provider Licensure application is available at www.adph.org/ems. The application is designed so that fields may be filled via a desktop. Upon completion, print the application, obtain necessary signatures, include required plans and the \$25.00 fee, and mail the application to the OEMS. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.

The web-based application is also available on the web site. Complete all fields, make the \$25.00 licensure payment (additional \$4.00 convenience fee) by credit card, and submit the application electronically. Please make sure you submit the [Provider Electronic Patient Care Report Agreement](#) and the [EMS Web Management Form](#). These completed forms can be faxed to (334) 206-5260 or e-mailed to Ms. Kem Thomas at Kembley.Thomas@adph.state.al.us. It is the provider's responsibility to keep all required plans, with current signatures readily available, at the service location.

The OEMS is already hard at work processing early applications. Please have renewal applications into the OEMS by December 20, 2012. Any applications received after December 20th could cause a delay in receiving your renewed license. **Remember, ambulance service operators and non-transport providers shall not cause or permit vehicles to be operated with Advanced Life Support (ALS) equipment, fluids, or medications on board after the expiration date of an ALS license unless a renewed license has been physically received by the provider.** In the event a license has not been renewed prior to the expiration date, third party payers may be notified by the OEMS.

If an ALS Service Providers' license has not been renewed prior to the expiration date, the I.V. Fluid/Medication Supply/Re-Supply participating pharmacy or pharmaceutical supplier will be notified by the OEMS. All fluids and/or medications must be immediately returned to the supply/re-supply participating pharmacy or pharmaceutical supplier. **All ALS equipment must be removed from any vehicle and secured at its base station until a renewed license has been received from the OEMS.**

Alabama Law for Volunteer First-Responder Vehicle Operators

Many communities rely on volunteer fire departments for their fire protection and EMS response. Alabama State Troopers often work alongside volunteer firefighters and EMS volunteers, and appreciate the efforts of these volunteers.

This information is being provided to educate volunteer fire and EMSP as to their responsibilities and legal considerations while responding to calls for service in an effort to keep them -- and the community they serve -- safe.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: As a volunteer firefighter, may I use red lights and a siren in my personal vehicle when responding to service calls?

A: No. Alabama State law restricts the use of emergency lights and siren to designated emergency vehicles.

Q: Who can designate a vehicle as an "emergency vehicle"?

A: Alabama State law (code T32-5A-115) states that only the director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety or police chief of an incorporated city has the authority to designate a vehicle as such.

Q: Will the director of ADPS designate a personal or privately owned vehicle as an "emergency vehicle"?

A: No. Only a "publicly owned" vehicle will be considered for designation as an "emergency vehicle."

Q: As a volunteer firefighter or volunteer EMSP operating a privately owned vehicle, am I able to violate such traffic laws as speed limit, red lights, stop signs, etc., when responding to calls for service?

A: No. While operating a privately owned vehicle, you are required to obey all laws.

Q: If I am qualified and am driving the department's fire truck or other emergency vehicles to a call with lights and siren activated, am I allowed to violate traffic laws?

A: State law allows emergency vehicle operators, while responding to emergency calls, to violate traffic laws ONLY while demonstrating due regard for public safety. (For example, when responding to an emergency call and you encounter a red light, you may only go through that intersection AFTER you have determined such movement can be made safely).

Q: While operating an emergency vehicle to an emergency call, am I required to have lights AND siren activated?

A: Yes. State law requires that an emergency vehicle have at least one lamp (red for fire/EMSP, blue for police) AND an audible siren to be in compliance with the law.

Q: Can I have emergency lights on my personal vehicle if it is parked at an incident scene road side?

A: Yes, you may do so as long as the vehicle is parked on the side of the road and not in motion.

Q: Can a sheriff authorize an emergency vehicle in his/her county?

A: No. Under Alabama law, ONLY the director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety or the chief of police of an incorporated city has the authority to designate a vehicle as an "emergency vehicle."

Section 32-1-1.1 defines an "emergency vehicle" as:

(3) AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE. Such fire department vehicles, police vehicles and ambulances as are publicly owned, and such other publicly or privately owned vehicles as are designated by the Director of Public Safety or the chief of police of an incorporated city.

Section 32-5A-115

Operation of vehicles on approach of authorized emergency vehicles; signals on emergency vehicles; duty of emergency vehicle driver.

(a) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle equipped with at least one lighted lamp and audible signal as is required by law, the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

(b) This section shall not operate to relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with regard for the safety of all persons using the highways.

(c) Authorized emergency vehicles shall be equipped with at least one lighted lamp exhibiting a colored light as hereinafter provided visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle and a siren, exhaust whistle, or bell capable of giving an audible signal. The color of the lighted lamp exhibited by police vehicles may be red or blue and the color of the lighted lamp exhibited by the fire department and other authorized emergency vehicles, including ambulances, shall be red. No vehicle other than a police vehicle will use a blue light. An amber or yellow light may be installed on any vehicle or class of vehicles designated by the Director of Public Safety, but such light shall serve as a warning or caution light only, and shall not cause other vehicles to yield the right-of-way. This provision shall not operate to relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway nor shall it protect the driver of any such vehicle from the consequences of an arbitrary exercise of such right-of-way. (Acts 1980, No. 80-434, p. 604, §4-106; Acts 1981, No. 81-803, p. 1412, §1.)

**For more information, please contact the
Alabama Department of Public Safety's Public Information/Education Unit
(334) 242-4445.**

