



## **Update from the Office of EMS**

### **Volume XIV, Issue V**

#### **From the State EMS Medical Director**

As the year comes to an end, I would like to thank all of you for your dedication to providing quality emergency care to the citizens and visitors of our great state. We have made great strides this past year in furthering the ability of our EMSP to provide cutting edge care in the field.

Our new protocols have been approved and with them comes the ability to use both morphine and fentanyl as pain management tools. There is also a detailed process of allowing an expanded scope of practice in Alabama which includes RSI. Services wishing to follow the expanded scope should contact our office for details. I can not thank Dr. Sarah Nafziger along with the protocol committee enough for their hard work on the protocols. I would also like to thank Dr. John McMahon and Dr. Sherrie Squyres for their assistance in speaking to the State Committee of Public Health supporting the protocol for fentanyl use. Lastly, the OEMS staff doesn't get the recognition they deserve for the long hours they put in to make sure the system keeps running. I certainly offer my sincere appreciation to all of the OEMS staff for their hard work.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As always, I welcome your feedback in how we all can work together to make the EMS system better.

William E. Crawford, MD, FACEP  
State EMS Medical Director

## **Licensure and Education Information**

- All EMS students must be licensed by the State of Alabama at the previous level.
- Please remember the requirements as stated in the EMS Rules document under **420-2-1-.11 Licensed Provider Service Staffing** License Provider Services shall not allow EMSP to respond to a medical emergency with the intent to treat or transport a patient unless the EMSP are clean and appropriately dressed and wearing photo identification with the level of license, license number, and name of EMSP visible. The photo identification shall be displayed at all times unless extenuating circumstances prevent the photo identification from being available.

## **2014 License Renewal Requirements**

- **A New/Current photo** (services should upload new photo through Web Management)
- A current completed application
- National Registry card (if applicable)
- A copy of your **TYPED** (appropriate) CPR card
- Walk-ins **WILL NOT** be processed during the license renewal period. Applications are processed on a first come-first served basis.
- **Protocol Certificates are NOT required for 2014 license renewal**

## **Ambulance Driver Qualifications**

The requirements for all ambulance drivers are: a valid drivers' license, a current EVOC from an approved EMS course, a current approved CPR course, and a certificate of completion of an approved Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course, or be a previously licensed EMSP. All EMSPs who drive an ambulance must maintain an initial approved EVOC course and a refresher every two (2) years. Alabama EVOC is still a requirement; you **MUST** have a current EVOC certificate in your personnel file.





### **Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Course**

The following are approved EMR Courses:

- EMS approved courses offered through your regional office, or
- A course approved by the Alabama Fire College which should include the Emergency Care Provider Course.

### **Transition Courses**

The National Registry website indicates that all EMSPs need to complete a transition course to re-certify. The OEMS has determined that Alabama EMSPs will **NOT** have to take a transition course. The National Registry renewal application will ask “have you transitioned?” All EMSPs should respond “yes” to this question. This transition is in name only and all EMSPs should disregard any request to submit transition paperwork to the National Registry.

### **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 (service) should register their agency on the NREMT website by following [these simple instructions](#). User guides for the online re-certification process can also be found [online](#).

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.

## 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 the National Registry's website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

### 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.

#### Paramedic

- Blind Insertion Airway Devices
- Cardioversion
- Chest Decompression
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- ECG (12-Lead)
- Endotracheal Intubation
- External Pacing
- Hemostatic Agents
- Intraosseous Therapy

#### Intermediate

- Blind Insertion Airway Devices
- Cardioversion
- CPAP
- ECG (12-Lead)
- Endotracheal Intubation
- Hemostatic Agents
- Intraosseous Therapy

#### Advanced EMT

- Blind Insertion Airway Devices
- 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
- Joint Immobilization

J. Gary Mackey  
Deputy Director  
Individual Licensure Coordinator





## **Winter Safety Tips for Kids**

**Nicole Jones, MD**

**Assistant Professor of Pediatrics**

**Pediatric Emergency Medicine**

**Children's Hospital, Birmingham, AL**

### Staying warm

- Protect newborn infants from the elements. Dress them in multiple loose fitting layers.
- Older babies and young children should be dressed in one more layer than an adult would require.
- Avoid using blankets and loose fitting bedding in an infants crib as they have been associated with SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome). Footed sleepwear is preferred.

### Frostbite

- Frostbite can be defined as the freezing of body tissue.
- It is caused by prolonged exposure to freezing temperatures.
- Children are more at risk for frostbite as they lose heat faster from their skin and they are also less likely to seek shelter when playing outdoors.
- Symptoms of frost bitten skin include pain, tingling or burning sensation, numbness and then loss of muscle dexterity.
- If frostbite is suspected then immediate medical attention should be sought.
- While awaiting medical attention:
  - Remove child from cold and wet environment
  - Immerse frost bitten skin in warm, not hot, water or wrap in a warm blanket to initiate thawing.
  - If skin is at risk for refreezing before medical care is available then thawing should be avoided.

### Winter health

- Cold weather does not cause the cold or the flu however viral illnesses are easier to spread when children are in school and in close proximity to each other
- Frequent hand washing can reduce the spread of illness
- It is also recommended that children receive the influenza vaccine to help prevent against this potentially serious illness



## **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—Call Mark Jackson

Service Inspections or Service Licenses—Call Hugh Hollon or Stephanie Smith

Individual Training, Testing, or Individual Licenses—Call Gary Mackey or Kempley Thomas

EMS for Children, Grants, Contracts, Website, Facebook, and Twitter—Call Katherine Dixon Hert

### **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.

### **Facebook and Twitter**

Alabama Office of EMS and Alabama EMSC are now on Facebook and Twitter. Please Like our pages and follow us on Twitter. Alabama Trauma Registry has recently joined Facebook so go like the ATR page too.

### **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 on the Newsletter page which is linked to the home page. All Alabama licensed EMSPs who have a **VALID** email address will receive notice when the newsletter has been published. Our licensure database is used to store your last submitted valid email address, but cannot accommodate unlicensed people. They will have to visit our website to view or download the newsletter.

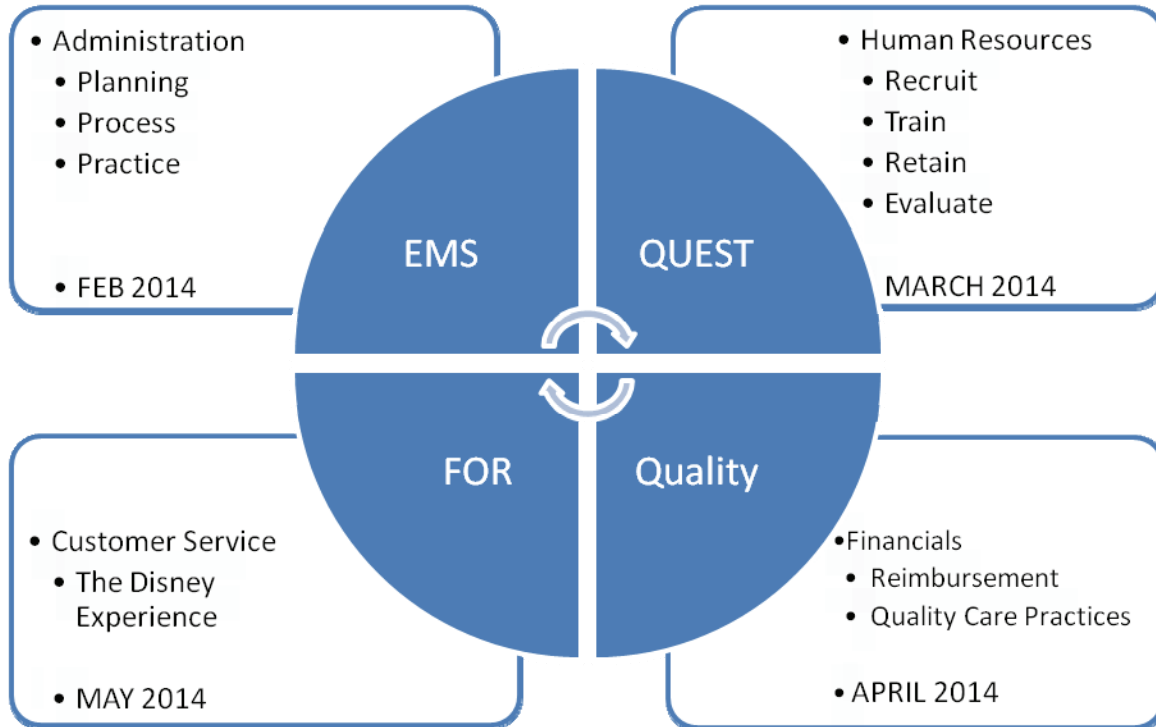
If you are not getting our newsletter announcements via email, it is because your email address was illegible or in an incorrect format or you have changed it and not updated your information with our office. You can email any changes via [emsinquiry@adph.state.al.us](mailto:emsinquiry@adph.state.al.us) or call office staff at (334) 206-5383.





# EAST ALABAMA EMS, INC

## 2014 EMS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Four Full, Intensive, Educational, and Exciting Days of Learning for EMS Chiefs, Managers, and Directors

Dates set at this time in 2014 -- Feb 20, March 20, April 17, and May 15

Classes will be in the Calhoun County, AL area (Feb, March, & April at Oxford Civic Center and May 15 at Jacksonville State University)

Presenters include representatives from J. Fitch & Associates, AIDT (Alabama Industrial Development Training), The Holdsworth Group, and The Disney Institute.

The cost will be \$500 per participant. Includes all four classes plus Lunch, Snacks, and Materials. 24 con-ed hours will be issued upon completion of course.

Contact: East Alabama EMS, Inc

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Allan Pace 205-763-8400 [apace.ems@centurytel.net](mailto:apace.ems@centurytel.net)

Space is limited for The 2014 Class. Registration Deadline is Friday, January 31, 2014