



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

### **Volume XVII, Issue III**

I hope this finds everyone enjoying their summer. I hope that everyone has gotten use to the new protocols and are following them. If you see something that you would like us to consider for the next revision then let me know and we can put your suggestions on our list for consideration.

As we are all aware of the attacks on law enforcement officers, let us remember that we as public servants need to be vigilant on scenes as well. We are working alongside law enforcement and as such we may be at risk for violence as well. Let us all be careful.

Please contact our office with any ideas or concerns you may have. As always, I appreciate your dedication and commitment to providing stellar care to our patients.

William E. Crawford, M.D.,FACEP  
State EMS Medical Director  
Alabama Dept. of Public Health  
Office of EMS



## **Provider Service News**

During the 2016 Legislative session, a law was passed increasing fees throughout the Department of Public Health. The Office of EMS was included in this legislation. Effective August 1, 2016, fees for both individual and provider licenses will increase.

- Individual EMSP 24 month license (initial and renewal fee) will increase from \$10 to \$12.
- Air or Ground Provider Service 12 month license (initial and renewal fee) will increase from \$25 to \$30.

If there are any questions, please contact the Office of EMS at 334-206-5383.

Vickie Turner, Licensure Coordinator

# ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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(334) 206-5300 • FAX (334) 206-5520 Web Site: <http://www.adph.org>

## NEWS RELEASE

Starting Aug. 1, applicants for certain licenses or permits must demonstrate U.S. citizenship or lawful presence in the U.S.

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Karen Bishop, (334) 206-5209

The Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act requires every person or sole proprietorship applying for certain licenses or permits to either demonstrate U.S. citizenship, or, if the person is an alien, to prove lawful presence in this country. The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) recently became authorized to use the federal government's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program. ADPH will verify an applicant's immigration status or naturalized/derived citizenship status using the SAVE Program.

To comply with this law, ADPH requires the following for an initial permit or renewal application beginning Aug. 1:

- A signed declaration
- A legible photocopy or digital copy of a document demonstrating U.S. citizenship or lawful presence in the U.S.

A business entity must provide a declaration of business ownership structure if the type of ownership or business entity is not clearly indicated on the application.

Permits and licenses affected include the following:

- Food service establishment permits
- Hotel/motel permits
- Emergency medical service personnel and medical provider licenses
- Radioactive material licenses

"We cannot process an application without the signed declaration and the appropriate supporting documentation," Karen Bishop, ADPH Assistant General Counsel, said. "Please check the lists of documents that demonstrate U.S. citizenship and qualified alien status on our website and bring the appropriate documents with you when you make an application. You may send a legible photocopy of the document if you are applying or renewing by mail."

ADPH will only verify the status of the individual who is licensed or permitted. Demonstration of U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent residence is only required one time. To learn more about this Alabama law, view a listing of each of the ADPH permits and licenses subject to this law, and download the declaration form,





## **Continuing Medical Education Courses**

As of January 1, 2016, there are three ways to obtain approval for continuing medical education for EMSP in the state of Alabama

- State of Alabama approved (through the Regional Office)
- Nationally recognized course (ACLS, PALS, etc.)
- CECBEMS approved

If you plan to teach any continuing medical education in Alabama you must complete the course approval process. This should be accomplished through your EMS Regional office. You must obtain an application to be completed and returned to the Regional office for approval.

If your course is approved, you will be issued a state approval number. This number must be printed on the certificate. If you submit a certificate without an appropriate approval number, the National Registry will reject your continuing medical education.

## **Alabama e-PCR Submission Requirements**

### **Some e-PCR Points of Clarification:**

1. It is a requirement to complete a patient care report on every emergency medical 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 168 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.
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 have 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.





## 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.

## 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 includes the Emergency Care Provider Course.

## **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 Stephen Wilson  
Provider Service Licenses—Call Vickie Turner or Kembley Thomas  
Individual Licenses—Call Vickie Turner or Stephanie Smith  
Individual Training or Testing—Call Vickie Turner  
EMS for Children, Website, and Social Media—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.

### **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.





## Compliance Issues

| Name   | Rule/Protocol                             | Complaint  | Action Taken |
|--|---|--|--------------|
| Miranda Adams<br>EMSP-Paramedic<br>1200080     | 420-2-1-.09<br>420-2-1-.28<br>420-2-1-.30 | Patient Care Issues                                  | Remediation  |
| Chance H. Cooper<br>EMSP-Paramedic<br>1400185  | 420-2-1-.09<br>420-2-1-.28<br>420-2-1-.30 | Patient Care Issues                                  | Remediation  |
| Jacob A. Garrison<br>EMSP-Paramedic<br>1600100 | 420-2-1-.09<br>420-2-1-.28<br>420-2-1-.30 | Patient Care Issues                                  | Remediation  |
| Holly H. Hesler<br>EMSP-AEMT<br>1300067        | 420-2-1-.09<br>420-2-1-.30                | Guilty of Misconduct                                 | Remediation  |
| Anthony R. Marcus<br>EMSP-Paramedic<br>0300182 | 420-2-1-.30                               | Crimes of Moral<br>Turpitude<br>Guilty of Misconduct | Suspension   |
| Gregory B. Scott<br>EMSP-EMT<br>1600028        | 420-2-1-.30                               | Crimes of Moral<br>Turpitude<br>Guilty of Misconduct | Surrender    |
| EMSP-EMT                                       | 420-2-1-.29                               | Impaired EMSP  | Suspension   |

## **Compliance Issues continued**

| <b>Name</b>    | <b>Rule/Protocol</b>                      | <b>Complaint</b>    | <b>Action Taken</b> |
|----------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| EMSP-Paramedic | 420-2-1-.29                               | Impaired EMSP       | Suspension          |
| EMSP-Paramedic | 420-2-1-.29                               | Impaired EMSP       | Suspension          |
| EMSP-Paramedic | 420-2-1-.29                               | Impaired EMSP       | Suspension          |
| EMSP-Paramedic | 420-2-1-.09<br>420-2-1-.28<br>420-2-1-.30 | Patient Care Issues | No Violation Found  |
| EMSP-Paramedic | 420-2-1-.09<br>420-2-1-.28<br>420-2-1-.30 | Patient Care Issues | No Violation Found  |





## Provider Service Inspections

The inspection reports for the following services can be found on Compliance Issues page of the Office of EMS [webpage](#). These inspections were completed April-June, 2016.

Atmore Ambulance

Care Ambulance-

Chilton County

Care Ambulance-

Dallas County

Care Ambulance-

Lowndes County

Care Ambulance-

Macon County

Care Ambulance-

Perry County

Care Ambulance-

Russell County

Childersburg Fire & Rescue

Clanton Fire Department

Conecuh County EMS

D.W. McMillan EMS

Escambia County EMS

Excelsior Ambulance Service-  
Macon County

Excelsior Ambulance Service-  
Montgomery County

Goodwater Ambulance  
Service

Haynes Ambulance-Troy

International Paper

Jemison Fire

Kellyton Fire & Rescue

Prattville Fire Department

Sylacauga Ambulance Service

Thorsby Fire Department

Troy Fire Department

# **Culture of Excellence**

**Care Ambulance-Lowndes County**

**Care Ambulance-Perry County**

**D.W. McMillan EMS**

**Escambia County EMS**

**Excelsior Ambulance Service-Macon County**

**Goodwater Ambulance Service**

**Haynes Ambulance-Troy**

**Jemison Fire Department**

**Kellyton Fire and Rescue**

**Prattville Fire Department**

**Sylacauga Ambulance Service**

**Thorsby Fire Department**

**Troy Fire Department**





**2016 ALABAMA EMS CHIEF'S CONFERENCE**  
**SEPTEMBER 07-08, 2016**  
**OXFORD, ALABAMA**

East Alabama Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (EAEMS)-Region 2 is proud to announce that the 2016 Alabama EMS Chief's Conference will be held on September 07-08, 2016 at the Oxford Civic Center, Oxford, Alabama. This historic event is presented by the Alabama Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services and the State EMS Regional Agencies.

The theme for this year's annual Chief's Conference is "Preparing for Our Future". We plan to have presentations and discussions regarding but not limited to the following topics: Mobile Integrated Healthcare, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communications, Healthcare Reimbursement, and Community Paramedicine.

With the changes in healthcare, educational and training opportunities should be the focus for providing good quality patient care. This year's conference features quality and knowledgeable speakers.

**Asbel Montes**, Vice President of Governmental Relations and Reimbursement Acadian Ambulance – Asbel oversees Acadian's revenue cycle management, contract management, business office process improvements and government relations for state and federal reimbursement policy initiatives.

**Richard Belle**, BS, NRP, Continuing Education Manager Acadian Ambulance – In 2013 Acadian Ambulance began pursuing Mobile Integrated Healthcare opportunities and Richard played an integral role from the beginning developing clinical education, policy, procedure, and protocols. Since then, Richard has assumed responsibility for the development and implementation of Mobile Healthcare by Acadian programs. He has successfully launched programs in Louisiana and Texas and continues to pursue opportunities throughout Acadian Ambulance's areas of operations.

**Kevin McGinnis**, MPS, EMT-P – Kevin has been an EMS system builder since 1974. He currently serves as the Community Paramedicine Chief of North East Mobile Health Services in Maine. He is also Program Manager for Rural EMS and community paramedicine, public safety communications and other projects for the National Association of State EMS Officials. Kevin serves to represent the national EMS community in national public safety communications venues. He is the Past Chairman of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's SafeCom Program and continues to serve on its Executive Committee. In August, 2016, Kevin was named by the U. S. Secretary of Commerce to a second three-year term on the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board of Directors. He was named by the *Government Technology/Solutions for State and Local Government* magazine as one of its 2013 'Top 25 Doers, Dreamers & Drivers in Public-Sector Innovation'.

Please contact the East Alabama EMS Regional Office for registration details at 205.763.8400 or visit our website at [www.eastalabamaems.com](http://www.eastalabamaems.com).





## New Compliance Specialists with the Office of EMS

The Office of EMS has recently had two Compliance Specialists join our Compliance Division. You will begin seeing these new faces of the Office of EMS soon. They will be out visiting your services conducting Provider Service, Ambulance, and ALS inspections.

The Office of EMS is pleased to introduce our newest employees, Beverly Edwards and Jamie Gray.

Beverly comes to the Office of EMS from Rural Metro Ambulance service. She has been in EMS for 26 years and is a seasoned professional in the area of EMS. She was first introduced to the world of EMS by her best friend and late husband Charles Edwards. They met at the VA Hospital in Birmingham, AL while he was a corpsman in the Navy and she was a UAB nursing student. She transferred over to EMS and quickly became hooked by the Star of Life.

In 1990, she started working for Hank's Ambulance Service as an Intermediate and became a Paramedic in 1991. She has evolved her skill-set over the years with roles ranging from Paramedic, Staff Trainer, and CISD peer, to Public Education Manager, TCC Supervisor and Clinical Manager. Throughout her career, Beverly's focus has been on how to serve and train strangers, co-workers, and her family via her talents and passion in EMS. Like her dad always told her- "sometimes your career just finds you!"

Beverly lives in Alabaster, AL. She is the proud parent of a son who lives in Atlanta and a daughter who attends high school in Birmingham, AL.

Jamie comes to the Office of EMS from Haynes Ambulance. He is originally from the Elmore County area and is a Captain with the Elmore Fire Department where he has been a member for over 18 years. After high school, Jamie moved to Troy, AL to attend Troy University where he received his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. After completing his degree, he returned to the Elmore County area and began his EMS career as a Dispatcher for Haynes Ambulance of Alabama.

During his time as a Dispatcher, he also attended Trenholm State Community College in Montgomery, AL where he received his certification as an EMT and began working on an ambulance there in Montgomery. Jamie later returned to Trenholm to complete his certification as an Advanced EMT and then began teaching as an Adjunct Instructor in the EMS Department, along with working as an Advanced EMT with Haynes Ambulance of Elmore County. He also became a member of the Alabama 1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team with the National Disaster Medical System, and received many instructor certifications including: AHA Instructor, NAEMT Instructor, EVOC Instructor, and National Alternative Fuel Response Instructor. Jamie completed his Paramedic certification along with an Associate in Applied Sciences Degree at Trenholm State Community College.

Please go check your equipment and be prepared when they come visit your service.





## **OSHA Fines IL Ambulance Service nearly \$300,000**

The sheer magnitude of this recent OSHA citation directed at an IL ambulance service is so staggering that NASEMSO shared it with their membership and we are sharing with our providers. Largely related to the blood borne pathogen standard, the ambulance service was served notice of 24 violations and has 2 weeks to comply. The violations are for failure of the company to:

- Establish an exposure control plan for bloodborne pathogens and other potentially infectious material.
- Make Hepatitis B vaccination series available to employees.
- Train workers about chemical and bloodborne pathogen hazards and precautions.
- Develop an emergency response plan.
- Dispose of, clean or launder contaminated personal protection equipment.
- Train workers in operations level emergency response.
- Communicate decisions on the use of personal protective equipment to employees.
- Develop a respiratory protection program to protect against infectious diseases.
- Train workers about the use of hazardous chemicals in their work area.
- Conduct an exposure determination for bloodborne pathogens.
- Provide injury and illness logs to inspectors within four hours.
- Mark, keep clear and properly light emergency exits.
- Follow electrical safe work places. Investigators found opened breaker panel boxes, extension cords used as fixed wiring, exposed light sockets.
- Train workers in the use of fire extinguishers.

The full OSHA press release is available [online](#).





## NASEMSO Poster Abstract for Alabama EMS for Children

### Connecting school aged children with EMS personnel in an EMS Week/EMSC Day project

**Katherine Hert, Ann E. Klasner, MD, MPH**

**Introduction:** The Alabama EMSC Program wanted to support our EMS personnel during EMS Week. Little has been done in the past to celebrate EMS Week in the State of Alabama. The federal EMSC program, through the Family Advocacy Network, suggested the state programs send thank you notes that were written and/or colored by school aged children around the state.

**Objective:** The primary objective of this project was to send thank you cards to each licensed service in the State of Alabama. This represents approximately 300 cards.

**Methods:** Utilizing a key stakeholder from the EMSC advisory group, contact was made with the Alabama Association of School Nurses. The project was outlined in an email communication and 37 schools expressed interest in the project. The Alabama EMSC Program sent pre-printed thank you cards to each of the schools with a return envelope so the cards could be distributed to each EMS region. Through email communication, the Alabama EMSC Program maintained contact with the Alabama Association of School Nurses and the 37 school nurses who expressed interest in the project. When packets from the school were returned to the Office of EMS, the cards were counted and logged. The EMS region affiliated with each particular school was determined and the thank you cards were sent to the EMS services in that particular region. Each packet included the school children completed thank you notes and a thank you from the Office of EMS with the name of the schools that submitted the cards. The Alabama EMSC Program Manager also attended an event at Children's of Alabama to present thank you cards to providers as they brought patients into the emergency department.

**Results:** The initial objective was to obtain one card for each provider service in the state (n=312). The response to this project was overwhelming. In a 4 week period, 4348 cards were distributed to 37 schools and systems throughout the state. 2695 cards were returned by the Office of EMS and ultimately distributed to 312 licensed services (8-10 cards per service). This response was 8 times greater than our original objective.

**Conclusion:** Our original project not only met, but exceeded its intended goal. We plan to continue this project in the future. Utilizing lessons learned from this project next year's goal will be to provide one thank you card per provider (n = 12,000).

