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EMS

Bulletin

Office of Emergency Medical Services,
Virginia Department of Health
Winter 2015

Continuing Education Changes Effective July 1, 2016

By: Warren Short, Manager, Division of Educational Development

The content of EMS continuing education (CE) will be changing to comply with the National Registry (NR) of EMTs National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) beginning July 1, 2016. Although Virginia EMS providers are not required to maintain their NR credentials, the change will allow a seamless process for those wishing to do so, just as has been done for paramedics.

One of the changes involves the total number of hours required to recertify.

The following chart reflects current and future total CE hour requirements.

Level	Current CE Hours		New CE Hours	
	NREMT	Virginia	NREMT	Virginia
EMR/FR	72	18	16	16
EMT	72	36	40	40
AEMT/Enhanced	72	36	50	50
I-99	72	48	55	55
Paramedic	72	72	60	60

National Registry maintains a two-year certification period. Virginia will continue with our current certification periods of four years for BLS and three years for ALS.

Another change is in the various categories. The new CE has three divisions, National Continued Competency Requirements (NCCR), Local Continued Competency Requirements (LCCR) and Individual Continued Competency Requirements (ICCR).

NR distributes hours in each of these requirement areas as follows:

	National (50%)	Local (25%)	Individual (25%)	Total Hours
Paramedic	30	15	15	60
AEMT	25	12.5	12.5	50
EMT	20	10	10	40
EMR	8	4	4	16

These hour requirements will be incorporated into Virginia's EMS CE program by making the NCCR compatible with our category one requirements and combining the LCCR and ICCR into category two. Otherwise, the Virginia CE programs will work as it has for the past 24 years.

The NCCR (Virginia category one) requires specific content, although the content is not limited to only that outlined by NR. The content that must be reviewed for NCCR can be found on the NR website at:

1. National Continued Competency Program: Paramedic Education Guidelines
<https://www.nremt.org/nremt/downloads/NCCCRParamedicEducationGuidelines.pdf>

2. National Continued Competency Program: EMT Education Guidelines
<https://www.nremt.org/nremt/downloads/NCCREMTEducationGuidelines.pdf>

Although this material must be covered, it does not necessarily have to satisfy the NCCR hour requirement and allows additional information to be included.

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Congratulations to the 2015 Governor's EMS Award Winners

The 2015 Governor's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Award winners were recently announced at the 36th Annual Governor's EMS Awards Ceremony in Norfolk, Virginia. Governor Terry McAuliffe recognized 10 outstanding EMS providers and organizations from across the Commonwealth for their dedication to EMS and excellence in the field.

The awards are presented in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services Annual EMS Symposium.

This week-long training event is the largest EMS training event in the Commonwealth and one of the largest in the nation. The symposium welcomes more than 1,600 providers and issues approximately 23,000 hours of continuing education credits.

"It is an honor to present such deserving recipients with these highly coveted awards. More than 34,500 EMS providers serve the people of Virginia and potentially put themselves in harm's way by doing so every day," said State Health Commissioner Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP. "It is encouraging and inspiring to acknowledge their hard work and dedication to protect the health of all citizens."

"Each year we recognize the best of the best in prehospital care by presenting the Governor's EMS Awards, and each year I am in awe of the incredible accomplishments of these talented and devoted providers," said Gary Brown, director, Office of EMS. "It is such a pleasure and privilege to thank these award winners for their vast achievements. You have made Virginia's EMS System one of the greatest in the country and we all strive to meet your level

of excellence."

Congratulations to the 2015 Governor's EMS Award winners:



The Governor's EMS Award for Excellence in EMS - Dreama Chandler, Wythe County Rescue Squad



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Administrator (The Kent J. Weber Trophy) - Kathy Eubank, Manchester Volunteer Rescue Squad, Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads



The Governor's EMS Award for Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS (The Frank M. Yeiser Trophy) - John Morgan, MD, Inova Loudoun

Hospital, Loudoun County Combined Fire Rescue System



The Governor's EMS Award for Nurse with Outstanding Contribution to EMS - Melissa Hall, RN, Mary Washington Hospital Trauma Services



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Prehospital Educator - Anne Mach, RN, Tidewater Community College



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Prehospital Provider - Anna Harmon, Ladysmith Volunteer Rescue Squad

Congratulations to the 2015 Governor's EMS Award Winners



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Telecommunications - Tammy Murcek, Fairfax County Department of Public Safety Communications

The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health and Safety – Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue



Nathaniel Paxton, Campbell County Rescue Squad



An additional award is presented at the ceremony to recognize the outstanding contributions to EMS by a high school senior. This is a scholarship award provided by the State EMS Advisory Board.

To learn more about the Governor's EMS Awards, visit: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/ProviderResources/GovernorAwards/>

This year, two high school seniors were selected for their exceptional contributions to Virginia's EMS System:

The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS for Children - Robin Foster, MD, Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Emergency Medicine

The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS by a High School Senior (The Dr. Carol Gilbert \$5,000 Scholarship) -



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Agency - Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Fire and Rescue Department



Caroline Meier, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department

The 36th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium - Event Recap

The Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) recently hosted the 36th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium. The largest EMS training event in the state, and one of the largest in the nation, welcomed 1,644 registered attendees.

This year, the symposium was comprised of 15 course tracks and 245 courses covering everything from hands-on training in trauma, medical and cardiac care to education for pediatrics, operations, and health and safety. Approximately 23, 483 hours of continuing education credits were granted.

Additionally, a two-day youth rescue camp for children ages 8 – 12 was held to teach basic lifesaving skills, and a special operational medical directors (OMD) workshop and field operations session targeted for OMDs was provided.

A new EMS Symposium mobile app for Android was launched this year to assist participants with on-site event informa-

tion, course schedules and locations, maps and more. We got lots of positive feedback and recommendations to make this app even better next year and we look forward to offering it again, on both Android and Apple devices.



In collaboration with the Norfolk City Health District and Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps, a flu shot clinic was available for all symposium attendees. Approximately 147 people were administered free flu shots.

On Nov. 14, the Governor's EMS

Awards Ceremony recognized excellence in EMS across the Commonwealth. The winners in 10 EMS award categories and two scholarship awards were honored this year!

The continued success of this event would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. Additional thanks to the many committee members, faculty and volunteers who dedicate countless hours of their time year after year. Special thanks to Norfolk Fire-Rescue for providing preplanning and on-site assistance.

Mark your calendars for the 37th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium, November 9 - 13, 2016 in Norfolk, Va.

For more information about the Virginia EMS Symposium, please visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems/symposium.

Food Safety During the Holidays

Many people celebrate with family, friends and coworkers during the holidays and food is usually a significant part of those celebrations.

The proper handling and preparation of food is important in preventing foodborne illnesses. Most foodborne illnesses result from food being contaminated when it is being prepared or served.

When preparing meals remember to

follow these safety tips:

Clean - Wash hands, cutting boards, utensils, and countertops.

Separate - Keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood separate from ready-to-eat foods.

Cook - Use a food thermometer to ensure that foods are cooked to a safe internal temperature: 145°F for whole meats (allowing the meat

to rest for 3 minutes before carving or consuming), 160°F for ground meats, and 165°F for all poultry.

Chill - Keep your refrigerator below 40°F, and refrigerate food that will spoil.

Follow these food safety tips to ensure no one misses out on the festivities: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/FoodSafety/index.htm>

2016 Virginia EMS Symposium Call for Presentations Closing Soon

By: Warren Short, Manager, Division of Educational Development



The Annual Virginia EMS Symposium is one of the nation's premier educational opportunities for EMS providers and Registered Nurses to network and obtain continuing education.

Each year, more than 1500 registrants choose from 250 different programs over the five-day event. National and local educators participate to make this event one of the top prehospital educational opportunities in the country.

The Symposium averages 14 tracks covering Airway, Cardiac, Critical Incident Stress Management, Communications, Critical Care, Educator, Leadership & Management, Medical, Operations, Pre-conference, Preparatory, Safety, Special Considerations and Trauma. Sessions generally run 1.5 hours. Pre-conference sessions vary in length from three hours up to 24 hours.

The Symposium Call for Presentation Web Portal allows you to submit proposals for the annual Virginia EMS Symposium. Once you set up your account, you will be able to use this portal to submit and keep track of the status of your proposals. You can even start

a proposal and save it to finish later if necessary. Once your proposal is submitted, it will be reviewed by the Symposium Committee. If selected, you will be notified by the Virginia OEMS staff.

the Virginia Office of EMS that pertains to the Virginia EMS system.

Airway: The Airway track provides topics that involve the pathophysiology of ventilation, respiration and the use of airway devices in the management of airway compromise.

BLS Academy: The Academy is specifically designed for EMTs to comply with category 1 requirements for recertification.

Cardiology - Cardiology addresses the anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology of the cardiovascular system including risk factors and prevention strategies. Complex issues including but not limited to acute coronary syndrome, heart failure, hypertensive emergencies, vascular disorders, and cardiac rhythm disturbances are addressed in this track.

Communications - From the 911 center and delivery of emergency medical dispatch protocols to communications concerns to field responders from the 911 center, interoperability and hospital communications. New and emerging technologies and practices covering all aspects of communications are addressed in this track.

Critical Incident Stress Management - CISM focuses on ensuring the mental health and mental fitness during all times, including pre-event, event, and post-event activities. Course topics may include suicide prevention and resiliency training, as well as others.

Note: Prior to clicking the "Submit To Committee" button on the summary page, your application is considered incomplete. You must enter all required information and click the "Submit To Committee" button in order for your proposal to be considered by OEMS.

Virginia EMS Symposium categories allow for didactic as well as psychomotor activities and encourage faculty to include appropriate innovative information as part of the continuing education program. Hands-on classes are always popular educational categories include:

Pre-Conference: These sessions are comprised of training that is offered starting Wednesday morning and continuing through Thursday. Typically these are ancillary multiday programs or programs offering certification or are sessions that are longer than 3 hours. Many classes combine classroom training with hands-on activities. Classes are offered at the ALS and BLS levels.

Administrative: These programs are typically Virginia specific offered by

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Healthy Eating and Nutritional Tips

By: Connie Green, Emergency Operations Assistant Manager

As medical professionals, we know the staples of good nutrition and have a general knowledge of what we should be putting into our body. Even so, we don't always take the time to make a nutritional meal and often find ourselves grabbing something on the "go," between patients and emergency incidents. The best way to make sure you know what you are putting into your body is to make it yourself. Prior to your next shift, try packing your meals, include snacks, beverages and a few extras, so when you find yourself working harder or longer, you still have a few items for that pick me up to get you through.

General Tips:

Remember, just about everything is attached to a calorie count. Pay attention, you may be astonished with the calorie/serving ratio, especially when it comes to favorite snacks.

Water is king. Carry a refillable water bottle, which can be refilled wherever you make a stop and it is better for the environment. There are no calories in water and it will help keep that full feeling and can reduce the desire to snack. For flavor, add fresh fruit, something as simple as a lemon, lime, or orange slices.

With soda or fruit juice, pay attention to the calories per serving. Diet sodas have little to no calories; however, they often contain other ingredients that may not be desirable.

Tips for Meals:

Generally eggs, or egg whites, are a great fuel to start the day, but avoid frying or mixing in cheeses.

Chicken and fish are versatile foods



when it comes to lean protein, and for energy that is the goal. It can be prepared in many ways but be careful with adding flavors, look at the labels and check calories to be sure to know what you are putting in your body.

Much like marinades and spices, condiments (such as ketchup, mustard, and salad dressing) have calories. Look up your favorite restaurant's salad calorie content, you may be amazed that "eating healthy" can have you adding more weight than a chicken sandwich. When choosing a salad – get the dressing on the side and dip your fork in the dressing before collecting your bite of salad. Also, consider eliminating cheeses, croutons and bacon bits.

Tips for In-Between Meals:

Most snack foods are very satisfying to the taste buds, easy on the wallet, and hard on the calorie count and waistline. Choose protein bars, fresh fruits, nuts, or yogurt, but watch the labels on the protein bars. Generally, look for bars below 180 calories with at least 10 grams of protein. Try unsalted sunflower seeds or cashews and peanuts as a quick snack and have a small handful during downtimes or try yogurt with fresh fruit or granola.

There is no magic answer. Look at each label and think of each calorie as a charge on your credit card. Every time you use that card you know you will have to pay the bill.

To pay this bill you need more time dedicated to the gym, treadmill, pool or bicycle.

These tips were developed by the Provider Health and Safety Committee, Nov. 2015. More Safety Training Bulletins are available at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/EO/SafetyTrainingBulletins.htm>

For additional information about provider health and safety, please contact Connie Green, assistant manager, Emergency Operations at 804-888-9156 or by email Constance.Green@vdh.virginia.gov.

New Governor's EMS Award Category Announced



The Virginia Office of EMS announces a new award category for the 2016 Governor's EMS Awards cycle, the Outstanding Contribution to EMS Emergency Preparedness & Response - The James A. Nogle, Jr. Trophy.

This new award category was created in memory of former Office of EMS Emergency Operations Manager James A. Nogle, Jr.

The criteria and eligibility for this award are as follows:

Criteria: Any individual, EMS organization or EMS response group within the Commonwealth of Virginia that has demonstrated comprehensive and/or significant accomplishments for programs that provide preparedness, response and recovery from natural, manmade and preplanned events, which cause a significant impact on the agency and the community. These activities should directly relate to and impact the provision of emergency medical care during these events.

Eligibility: Any individual, EMS organization or EMS response group within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Examples of programs meeting eligibility for this award would include; Disaster Response Teams, Community Emergency Response Teams, Continuity of Operations Planning, Mass Casualty Incident Training programs, pandemic planning, surge event planning. Eligible applicants include persons or entities developing or managing such programs.

To learn more about the awards program, please visit <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/ProviderResources/GovernorAwards/>.

Petition asks White House for EMS LODD Memorial

In an effort to establish a memorial for EMS workers who die in the line of duty, the National EMS Memorial Foundation is collaborating with the White House in an online petition to show support for H.R. 2274.

The bill will ensure that a commemorative work is created in the nation's capital that will recognize the EMS providers who died in the line of duty, and will honor the dedication of EMS members nationwide.

SIGNATURES NEEDED BY JANUARY 4, 2016 TO REACH GOAL OF 100,000 (98,831)

Learn more about the petition at: http://www.ems1.com/ems-advocacy/articles/37264048-Petition-asks-White-House-for-EMS-LODD-memorial/?nlid=&utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_t=TopNewsRight5Title&utm_campaign=EMS1Member

**This excerpt was originally published by EMS1.com in an article posted Dec. 8, 2015.*

Continuing Education Changes Effective July 1, 2016

Continued From Page 1

By: Warren Short, Manager, Division of Educational Development

The LCCR and the ICCR will be combined in the Virginia version and reflects category two CE. Hours obtained beyond those required in the NCCR (Va. cat. one) will continue to roll over into the Va. cat. two component.

Category one (NCCR) components will be reduced to five areas for both the ALS and the BLS. The new areas will be:

A. For BLS Recertification Requirements

The new continuing education program follows the current methodology, only affecting the number of areas necessary for category one (NCCR) as well as a total change in the number of CE hours required to recertify for each level.

For more information, contact the Virginia Office of EMS, Division of Educational Development at 800-523-6019, 804-888-9120 or email

the division staff at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Training/Staff.htm>.

Area #	National Continued Competency Requirements (NCCR)	Hours Required	
		EMR	EMT
11	Airway, Oxygenation and Ventilation	2.0	4.0
12	Cardiovascular	2.0	6.0
13	Trauma	1.0	2.0
14	Medical	3.0	6.0
15	Operations		2.0
TOTAL NCCR HOURS		8	20
Local Continued Competency Requirements (LCCR) Individual Continued Competency Requirements (ICCR)			
LCCR/ICCR HOURS		8	20
TOTAL HOURS		16	40

B. For ALS Continuing Education Requirements – All Levels

AREA #	DIVISION HOURS PER CERTIFICATION LEVEL			NCCR
	Paramedic E	Intermediate I	AEMT C	
16	4	3	4	Airway, Ventilation and Respiration
17	10	10	6	Cardiovascular
18	4	3	2	Trauma
19	7	7	6	Medical
20	5	5	2	Operations
	30	28	20 + 5	MANDATORY CORE CONTENT TOTAL
	30	28	20	NCCR HOURS REQUIRED PER LEVEL
			5	Additional NCCR hours from Paramedic List
	30	27	25	LCCR + ICCR Hours
	60	55	50	TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED PER LEVEL

ACS Trauma System Recommendations

By: Robin Pearce, Trauma/Critical Care Coordinator

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) conducted a statewide assessment of Virginia's Trauma System, Sept. 1-4, 2015. The ACS uses the Model Trauma System Planning and Evaluation Guide, which utilizes a public health approach to trauma system development and maintenance.

The ACS Trauma Systems Evaluation and Planning Committee Trauma System Consultation Report is available for download at: http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Files_Page/trauma/ACSVirginiaTSCReport2015.pdf

The consultation team performed an "exit interview" with a verbal overview of items they deemed as priority issues in Virginia. The video of that exit interview is available for download at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/NewsFeatures/ACSVideo.htm> or via

YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YrNpTHxc-U>

The Trauma System Oversight and Management Committee will meet to discuss the ACS recommendations in February 2016, date to be determined, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott in Glen Allen, Va.

This will be an open public meeting, which will be announced on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall meetings and public hearings website at: <http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/meetings.cfm?time=future>

For more information about the ACS Trauma System visit, please contact Robin Pearce, trauma/critical care coordinator at Robin.Pearce@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-888-9100.

EMS Scene Safety Vigilance

By: Connie Green, Emergency Operations Assistant Manager

As recent events have so tragically demonstrated, providers in EMS continue to face ongoing threats in an uncertain world. A preplanned, integrated response by all first responder disciplines is required in order to maximize effectiveness and improve the survivability of those injured in such attacks.

The following documents can help keep responders safe and vigilant during response and help them to report and respond to suspicious or dangerous activities.

If You See Something, Say Something campaign: <http://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/about-campaign>

EMS Operational Considerations for Active Shooter and MASS Casualty Incident: http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Files_Page/EmergencyOperations/ActiveShooter&ComplexAttackResources.pdf

For more info, please contact Connie Green, assistant manager, Emergency Operations at 804-888-9156 or email Constance.Green@vdh.virginia.gov.

EMSAT

SCHEDULE

January 20, 2016

Psychiatric Interventions

ALS Area 89, BLS Area 05

February 17, 2016

DNR-Post Palliative Care

ALS Area 72, BLS Area 02

March 16, 2016

New AHA Guidelines

ALS Area 72, BLS Area 05

April 20, 2016

Transport Ventilators

ALS Area 71, BLS Area 03

You can receive Continuing Education (CE) credits for viewing EMSAT courses at approved sites in Virginia or online. For more information, call 804-888-9120 or visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems.

To view EMSAT webcasts, click on <http://podcasts.whro.org/oems/>.

Winter Weather Preparedness

By: The Virginia Department of Health

The best time to prepare for severe winter weather is now, before temperatures drop significantly and staying safe and warm becomes a challenge.

Early Predictions for 2015 – 2016 Winter Season:

Winters in Virginia can vary each season and predicting severe winter weather far in advance is very difficult. However, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting a winter influenced by El Niño conditions. This year's El Niño, among the strongest on record, is expected to influence weather and climate patterns this winter. This year it will indicate above-average precipitation and below average temperatures. Seasonal outlooks do not project where and when snowstorms may hit or provide total seasonal snowfall accumulations. Snow forecasts are dependent upon the strength and track of winter storms, which are generally not predictable more than a week in advance. Snow, icy roads and cold temperatures can make winter dangerous. Make sure you and your loved ones are prepared for hazardous weather this winter by ensuring emergency plans and supplies are in place.

The Virginia Department of Transportation provides weather advisories on current road conditions and weather forecasts. Travelers can easily access weather information by dialing 511 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This information is also available on the website at www.virginiadot.org.

Here are several steps you can take to keep yourself and your loved ones safe

this winter.

Have an emergency kit prepared with supplies such as an alternate fuel source for heating your home, flashlights and batteries in your home and car, blankets, food that needs no cooking or refrigeration, a three day supply of water, prescription medicines, a battery operated radio and flashlights, battery powered cell phone chargers, snow shovel etc. Learn more about preparing a winter preparedness plan by visiting, www.readyvirginia.gov.

Winterize your home by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weatherstripping doors and windows. In addition, if you use woodstoves or fireplaces to heat your home, remember to have them professionally serviced and cleaned.

Check batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide monitors.

Prepare your vehicle with emergency supplies and have maintenance service on your vehicle as often as the manufacturer recommends.

Car Safety

Severe snow storms may limit visibility and create hazardous road conditions. If you must travel during severe weather, consider checking road conditions by visiting <http://www.511virginia.org/>. Should you become stranded, staying in until help can arrive is the safest thing to do.

Be sure to prepare an emergency kit for your car with items such as:

- Blankets
- First Aid Kit
- Windshield scraper
- Booster cables
- Mobile phone/charger
- Tool kit
- Bag of sand or cat litter (to pour on snow for added traction)
- Tow rope
- Collapsible shovel
- Water
- Canned, dried foods and a can opener
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Canned compressed air with sealant (for emergency tire repair)
- A brightly colored cloth to tie to the antenna as a signal to rescuers

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is poisonous to breathe. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up when the exhaust from grills or generators is not properly vented. The gas emitted by these sources can linger for hours, even after the generator or grill has shut off. Operate all gasoline-powered devices such as generators outdoors and never bring them indoors.

If you suspect that you are experiencing CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately. Leave the home immediately and seek medical attention. Depending on the level of exposure, symptoms of carbon monoxide may resemble the flu.

More winter weather preparedness tips: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/Alerts/WinterWeather/>

2016 Va. EMS Symposium Call for Presentations Closing Soon

Continued from Page 5

By: Warren Short, Manager, Division of Educational Development

Educator - Whether a novice or experienced educator, this track is for educators who will learn the latest in educational methodology, alternative teaching methods, student motivation, engagement and interaction and tips and tricks on how to design your curriculum and evaluation tools to enable your students to succeed.

Health and Safety - Health and Safety provides information on provider health and safety as it relates to pre incident, incident, and post incident activities, including (but not limited to) physical fitness, nutritional health, ambulance safety/design, impact of shift work, and roadway incident safety.

Leadership and Management - Leadership provides tools and techniques for EMS management and supervisors. It is also appropriate at the provider level to share valuable information that will help with their upward mobility and career planning at the EMS Agency level.

Medevac - Intended for both ground EMS providers, as well as flight crews.

Presentations will focus on: safety, resource utilization, careers in air medical services, and case studies.

Medical - Medical applies assessment findings with principles of epidemiology and pathophysiology to formulate a field impression and implement a comprehensive/disposition plan for a patient with a medical emergency.

Operations - Operations is most appropriate for supervisors, managers and EMS administrative staff. It offers information to assist with the day-to-day operations of the EMS agency. This could also be attractive for both ALS and BLS providers who are interested in management and supervisory training.

Preparatory - Preparatory includes training on medical and legal issues, specialty care, documentation, communication and ethics.

Special Considerations- This category is comprised of classes that cover Special Populations such as Bariatrics, Geriatrics, Pediatrics, and OB/GYN.

Trauma - Trauma applies assessment findings with principles of epidemiology and pathophysiology to formulate a field impression and implement a comprehensive/disposition plan for a patient with a trauma related emergency.

The 2016 Virginia EMS Symposium Call for Presentations will close Jan. 31, 2016. To be considered as an instructor at this renowned event, please submit your presentations at: <https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/symposium/?p=102:1:8165874119817>

For general questions about the Virginia EMS Symposium Call for Presentations, please contact Warren Short, manager, Division of Educational Development at Warren.Short@vdh.virginia.gov.

If you are having difficulty accessing the Call for Presentation system or any other IT questions regarding the application, please contact Monica Tolliver at 804-888-9175 or email at Monica.Tolliver@vdh.virginia.gov.

RSAF Grant Awards to be Announced January 1, 2016

Amanda Davis, Grants Manager

The Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) Grant Awards for the grant cycle that closed September 15, 2015 will be announced January 1, 2016 on the Virginia Office of EMS website at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Agency/Grants/Index.htm>

The next RSAF Grant cycle begins Feb. 1 – March 15, 2016. Items eligible for funding include EMS equipment and vehicles, computers, EMS management programs, courses/classes and projects benefiting the recruitment and retention of EMS members.

For more information about the RSAF Grant Program, contact Amanda Davis, grants manager at 804-888-9106 or email Amanda.Davis@vdh.virginia.gov.

Calendar of Events

January						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- Jan. 1 - New Year's Day - Closed
- Jan. 15 - Lee-Jackson Day - Closed
- Jan. 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Closed
- Jan. 20 - EMSAT Psychiatric Interventions

February						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

- Feb. 5 - State EMS Advisory Board
- Feb. 15 - George Washington Day - Closed
- Feb. 24-28 - 2016 VFCA Virginia Fire & Rescue Conference
- Feb. 17 - EMSAT DNR - Post Palliative Care
- February - American Heart Awareness Month

EMS Challenge Question

When is the 2016 EMS Symposium Call for Presentations Deadline?

Email the correct answer to emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov and you may be one of the lucky winners that will receive a prize from the Office of EMS.

Congratulations to the Summer 2015 EMS Challenge Question winners, **Lisa Chandler**, Lower King & Queen Fire - EMS and **Bill Walker**, Plaza Volunteer Rescue Squad, Virginia Beach, Va.

*Note: The answer to the EMS Challenge Question can be found in this edition of the *EMS Bulletin*.



The Virginia Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services publishes the *EMS Bulletin* biannually. If you would like to receive this publication via email, please send your request to emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov or sign up to join our email list at www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems.

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Meeting dates are subject to change at any time. Visit the OEMS website at www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems for the latest event information.

Quick Updates

Holiday Office Closures

Please note: The Virginia Office of EMS will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday, Dec. 24 - 25, 2015.

The Office will also be closed in observance of the New Year's holiday, Jan. 1, 2016.

We wish everyone safe and happy holidays and a healthy New Year!

Connect With OEMS Online!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-EMS/153545858005772

Twitter: www.twitter.com/virginiaems

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/VirginiaEMS/>