



# COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

## A

**AAA** – American Ambulance Association

**AACN** – Advanced Automatic Collision Notification

**AAP** – American Academy of Pediatrics

**AAR** – After Action Report

**ACEP** – American College of Emergency Physicians

**ACLS** – Advanced Cardiac Life Support

**ACS** – American College of Surgeons

**ADA** - Americans with Disabilities Act

**AED** – Automated External Defibrillator

**AEMER** – Alliance for Emergency Medical Education and Research

**AEMSC** - Atlantic EMS Council

**AEMT**- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician

**AHA** – American Heart Association

**AHRQ** – Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

**ALS** – Advanced Life Support

**AMI** - Acute Myocardial Infarction

**ANSI** – American National Standards Institute

**APA** - Administrative Process Act

**APCO** - Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers

**APLS** – Advanced Pediatric Life Support

**ARES** - Amateur Radio Emergency Service

**ASPR** - Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (DHHS)

**ATLS** - Advanced Trauma Life Support

**ATS** – American Trauma Society

**ATT** - Authorization to Test Letter

**AVL** – Agency Vehicle Licensure Committee (NASEMSO)

## B

**BDLS** - Basic Disaster Life Support

**BIS** - Benchmarks, Indicators and Scoring

**BLS** – Basic Life Support

**BOH** – Board of Health (Virginia)

**BOM** - Board of Medicine

**BON** - Board of Nursing

**BOP** - Board of Pharmacy

**BP** - Blood Pressure

**BREMS** - Blue Ridge EMS Council

**BSI** – Body Substance Isolation

**BVM** - Bag Valve Mask [Ambu Bag (tm)]

## C

**CAAHEP** - Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs

**CAAS** - Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (US)

**CAD** - Computer Aided Dispatch

**CAD** - Coronary Artery Disease

**CoAEMSP** – Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions

**CAH** – Critical Access Hospital

**CAMTS** – Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems

**CAP** - Civil Air Patrol

**CARS** – Commonwealth Accounting and Reporting System

**CAT1** - Category 1 Continuing Education

**CAT2** - Category 2 Continuing Education

**CBRNE** – Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive

**CCU** - Critical Care Unit

**CDC** – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US government)

**CE** – Continuing Education

**CECBEMS** – Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (national accrediting body for EMS continuing education courses and course providers)

**CERT** – Community Emergency Response Team

**CESC** – Commonwealth Enterprise Solutions Center (VITA)

**CICO** – Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator’s Office

**CIREN** – Crash Injury Research Engineering Network (funded by NHTSA)

**CFR** - Code of Federal Regulations (US)

**CFR** - Crash Fire Rescue (airports)

**CGAP** – Consolidated Grant Application Program

**CHF** - Congestive Heart Failure

**CISD** - Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

**CISM** – Critical Incident Stress Management

**CMS** – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**CODES** – Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System

**COG** – Council of Governments, Continuity of Government

**COIVPP** – Council on Injury, Violence and Poison Prevention (AAP)

**COOP** – Continuity of Operations Plan

**COPD** - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

**COPEM** – Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine (AAP)

**COPN** – Certificate of Public Need

**COV** – Commonwealth of Virginia

**CP** – Community Paramedicine

**CPAP** – Continuous Positive Airway Pressure

**CPR** – Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation

**CPS** – Child Passenger Safety

**CQI** – Continuous Quality Improvement

**CSDR** – Course Student Disposition Report

**CSEMS** – Central Shenandoah EMS Council

**CSHCN** – Children with Special Health Care Needs

**CTS** – Consolidated Test Site

**CVA** - Cerebro-vascular Accident

**CVCC** - Central Virginia Community College

## D

**DAN** - Diver's Alert Network

**DCC** - Danville Community College

**DDNR** – Durable Do Not Resuscitate

**DEA** – Drug Enforcement Agency (US)

**DED** – Division of Educational Development (Virginia Office of EMS)

**DERA** – Designated Emergency Response Agency

**DGIF** - Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (Virginia)

**DGS** – Department of General Services (COV)

**DHP** – Department of Health Professions (Virginia)

**DHRM** – Department of Human Resources Management (COV)

**DHS** - Department of Homeland Security

**DMAT** – Disaster Medical Assistance Teams

**DMC** – Data Managers Council (NASEMSO)

**DMRT** - Disaster Mortuary Response Teams

**DMV** – (Virginia) Department of Motor Vehicles

**DNR** - Do Not Resuscitate

**DO** - Designated Officer

**DOA** – Department of Accounts (COV)

**DOA** – Dead on arrival

**DOH** - Department of Health

**DoD** – Department of Defense (US)

**DOT** - Department of Transportation (US)

**DPB** – Department of Planning and Budget (COV)

**DRT** – Disaster Recovery Team

## E

**E911** – Enhanced 911 (the system that displays calling number and address)

**EAS** – Emergency Alert System

**EBG** – Evidence Based Guidelines

**EC** – EMS Education Coordinator

**ECC** – Emergency Coordination Center located at James Madison Bldg. (VDH) or Emergency Communications Center

**ECCC** – Emergency Care Coordination Center (ASPR)

**ECG** – Electro Cardiogram

**ED** - Emergency Department

**EHS** – Emergency Health Services

**EKG** – ElectroCardioGram (old, from German ElectroKardioGram)

**EMAC** – Emergency Management Assistance Compact

**EMAP** – Emergency Management Accreditation Program

**EMD** - Emergency Medical Dispatcher

**EMR** – Emergency Medical Responder

**EMSAT** – Emergency Medical Satellite Training

**EMS** – Emergency Medical Services

**EMSC** – EMS for Children

**EMSI** – Emergency Medical Services Instructor

**EMSR** – Emergency Medical Services Registry

**EMSTF** – Emergency Medical Services Training Fund

**EMT** - Emergency Medical Technician

**EMTALA** – Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act

**EMT-I** - Intermediate

**EMT-P** – Paramedic

**ENA** - Emergency Nursing Association

**EOC** – Emergency Operations Center

**EPC** – Emergency Pediatric Care Course (NAEMT)

**ePCR** – Electronic Patient Care Record

**EP&R** – Emergency Preparedness and Response

**ER** – Emergency Room

**ESF** – Emergency Support Function

**ETA** – Estimated Time of Arrival

**ET** - EndoTracheal (tube)

**EVOC** - Emergency Vehicle Operation and Control

## F

**\$4 for Life** – EMS Fund; Established in 1983 as \$1 for Life; increased to \$2 for Life in 1990; increased to \$4 for Life in 2004; 2008 Virginia General Assembly increased fund to \$4.25; increased to \$6.25 in 2010.

**FAA** – Federal Aviation Administration

**FAN** – Family Advisory Network

**FARC** – Financial Assistance Review Committee

**FARS** – Fatality Analysis Reporting System

**FCC** – Federal Communications Commission

**FDA** - Food and Drug Administration (US)

**FEMA** - Federal Emergency Management Agency (US)

**FHWA** – Federal Highway Administration

**FICEMS** – Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services

**FIPS** – Federal Information Processing Standard (State, County and City Code)

**FISDAP** - Field Internship Student Data Acquisition Project, documents and measures students' experiences in field, lab, and clinical settings; evaluate skill performances; generate progress reports; gain or maintain accreditation; prepare students for certification exams; manage internship schedules; and more.

**FLEX** – Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program

**FLSA** - Fair Labor Standards Act

**FOIA** - Freedom of Information Act

**FR** - First Response/First Responder

**FTE** - Full Time Equivalent

**FTL** - Field Team Leader

## G

**GA** – General Assembly

**GAB** – EMS Advisory Board, often times referred to as the Governor’s Advisory Board (GAB). The technical term used in the Code of Virginia and Virginia Administration Code for the advisory board appointed by the Governor to advise the State Board of Health concerning the administration of the statewide emergency medical care system and emergency medical services vehicles maintained and operated to provide transportation to persons requiring emergency medical treatment, and for reviewing and making recommendations on the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan is State EMS Advisory Board.

**GCS** – Glasgow Coma Scale

**GED** - General Equivalency Diploma

**GEMS** - Geriatric Education for Emergency Medical Services

**GIS** – Geographic Information System

**GPS** - Global Positioning System

**GSA** – General Services Administration (US)

**GSW** – Gunshot wound

## H

**HAN** – Health Alert Network

**HazMat** – Hazardous Material

**HEMS** – Helicopter EMS

**HHS** – Department of Health and Human Services

**HIPAA** - Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996

**HITS** – Highway Incident & Transportation Systems Committee (NASEMSO)

**HMERT** – Health and Medical Emergency Response Teams

**HPP** – Hospital Preparedness Program (DHHS)

**HRSA** – Health Resources and Services Administration

**HTR** - Heavy and Tactical Rescue

## I

**IAEMSC** – International Association of EMS Chiefs

**IAFC** - International Association of Fire Chiefs

**IAFF** - International Association of Fire Fighters

**IAOC** – Internal Agency Oversight Committee (VITA)

**IC** - Incident Commander

**ICD-10** – International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision

**ICE** – In Case of Emergency

**ICISF** – International Critical Incident Stress Foundation

**ICS** - Incident Command System

**ICO** - Infection Control Officer

**ICP** - Infection Control Plan

**ICU** - Intensive Care Unit

**IFB** – Invitation for Bid

**IM** – Intramuscular

**IMT** – Incident Management Team

**I/O** – Intraosseous Infusion

**ISS** – Injury Severity Score

**IOM** – Institute of Medicine

**IT** – Information Technology

**ITDR** – Information Technology Disaster Recovery

**ITLS** - International Trauma Life Support

**IV** - IntraVenous

## J

**JAMA** - Journal of the American Medical Association

**JCREC** – Joint Committee on Rural EMS Care

**JEMS** - Journal of Emergency Medical Services

**JCHC** – Joint Commission on Health Care

**JLARC** – Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission

**JNEMSLF** – Joint National EMS Leadership Forum

**JSRCC** - J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College

**JTCC** - John Tyler Community College

## K

**KED** - Kendrick Extrication Device

**KTBI** – (Keeping the Best) EMS Workforce Retention Toolkit and Workshops

## L

**L&D** - Labor and Delivery

**L&P** – Legislation and Planning Committee (state EMS Advisory Board)

**LEO** - Law Enforcement Officer

**LFCC** - Lord Fairfax Community College

**LFEMS** – Lord Fairfax EMS Council

**LMS** – Learning Management System

**LOC** - Level of Consciousness (in Glasgow scale)

**LODD** – Line of Duty Death

**LZ** - Landing Zone (aeromedical)

# M

**MAST** - Military Anti Shock Trousers or PASG (Pneumatic Anti-shock garment)

**MCHB** – Maternal and Child Health Bureau

**MCI** – Mass Casualty Incident

**MDC** – Medical Direction Committee

**MDC** – Medical Directors Council (NASEMSO)

**MDT** - Mobile Data Terminal(s) or MDC – Mobile Data Computer

**MEC** - Medical Education Campus

**MECC** - Mountain Empire Community College

**MEDEVAC** – Medical Evacuation, aka helicopter EMS, aero medical services, air ambulance

**MHA** – Masters of Health Administration

**MHz** - MegaHertz, unit of frequency

**MI** - Myocardial Infarction

**MICU** - Mobile Intensive Care Unit

**MIH** – Mobile Integrated Health

**MMRS** – Metropolitan Medical Response System Program

**MOA** – Memorandum of Agreement

**MOI** - Mechanism of Injury

**MOU** – Memorandum of Understanding

**MPH** – Masters of Public Health

**MRI** - Magnetic Resonance Imaging

**MSDS** - Material Safety Data Sheet

**MSV** – Medical Society of Virginia

**MVA** - Motor Vehicle Accident

**MVC** – Motor Vehicle Crash (formerly known as Motor Vehicle Accident)

# N

**NAEMSE** – National Association of EMS Educators

**NAEMSP** – National Association of EMS Physicians

**NAEMT** - National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (US)

**NASAR** - National Association for Search and Rescue

**NASEMSO** - National Association of State EMS Officials

**NCIC** – National Criminal Information Center

**NDMS** - National Disaster Medical System (US)

**NEDARC** – National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center

**NEMSAC** – National EMS Advisory Council (NHTSA)

**NEMSMA** – National EMS Management Association

**NEMSIS** – National EMS Information System

**NENA** - National Emergency Number Association (9-1-1)

**NFA** - National Fire Academy (US)

**NFFA** – National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

**NFIC** - National Fire Information Center

**NFIRS** - National Fire Incident Reporting System

**NFPA** - National Fire Protection Association

**NFPA** - National Flight Paramedic Association

**NG** – Northrop Grumman

**NG Tube** – Nasogastric Tube

**NHTSA** – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**NICU** – Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit

**NIH** – National Institutes of Health

**NIMS** – National Incident Management System

**NIOSH** - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (US)

**NPRP** – National Pediatric Readiness Project

**NRHA** – National Rural Health Association

**NOIRA** – Notice of Intended Regulatory Action

**NOSORH** – National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health

**NOVA** – Northern Virginia EMS Council

**NP** - Nurse Practitioner

**NR** - National Registry

**NRB** – Nonrebreather Mask

**NRC** – EMSC National Resource Center

**NRCC** - New River Community College

**NREMT** - National Registry Emergency Medical Technician test (US)

**NREMT** – National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

**NREMT** - Nationally Registered EMT (US) REMT is preferred

**NRHA** – National Rural Health Association

**NRP** - Neonatal Resuscitation Program

**NSC** - National Standard Curriculum

**NTIMC** – National Traffic Incident Management Coalition

**NTSB** - National Transportation Safety Board (US)

**NUG** – National Unified Goal

**NVCC** - Northern Virginia Community College

**NVFC** - National Volunteer Fire Council

**NVOAD** - National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters

**NWS** – National Weather System

## O

**OAG** – Office of Attorney General

**OCP** – Office of Commonwealth Preparedness

**ODEMSA** - Old Dominion EMS Alliance

**OEMS** – Office of Emergency Medical Services

**OFM** – Office of Financial Management (VDH)

**OHR** – Office of Human Resources (VDH)

**OIM** - Office of Information Management (VDH)

**OMB** – Office of Management and Budget (US)

**OMD** – Operational Medical Director

**OPGS** – Office of Purchasing and General Services (VDH)

**OR** - Operating Room

**OSHA** - Occupational Safety and Health Administration

## P

**PA** - Physician Assistant

**PADI** - Professional Association of Diving Instructors

**PALS** - Pediatric Advanced Life Support

**PASG** - Pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment

**PAT** – Regional EMS Council (Process Action Team)

**PCC** – Poison Control Center

**PCD** – Physician Course Director

**PDC** – Professional Development Committee

**PEA** – Pulseless electrical activity

**PEARS** - Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition and Stabilization

**PECARN** – Pediatric  
Emergency Care Applied  
Research Network

**PECC** – Pediatric Emergency  
Care Council (NASEMSO)

**PEMS** – Peninsulas EMS  
Council

**PEPP** – Pediatric Education for  
Prehospital Professionals

**PHCC** - Patrick Henry  
Community College

**PHI** - Protected Health  
Information

**PHTLS** - Pre-Hospital Trauma  
Life Support

**PIC** – Performance  
Improvement Coordinator

**PITLS** - Pediatric International  
Trauma Life Support

**PIO** - Public Information  
Officer

**PMD** – Commonwealth Project  
Management Division (VITA)

**POV** - Privately Owned Vehicle

**PPE** - Personal Protective  
Equipment

**PPV** – Positive Pressure  
Ventilation

**PR** - Public Relations

**PSAP** - Public Safety  
Answering Point (911)

**PUG** – Practical exam Users  
Guide (VA OEMS)

**PUM** – Public Utility Model

**PVCC** - Piedmont Virginia  
Community College

Q

**QA/QI** – Quality  
Assurance/Quality  
Improvement

R

**RACES** - Radio Amateur Civil  
Emergency Services

**R&C** – Regulation and  
Compliance (Virginia Office of  
EMS)

**R&R** - Recruitment and  
Retention

**RCC** - Rappahannock  
Community College

**REMS** – Rappahannock EMS  
Council

**REPLICA** – Recognition of EMS  
Personnel Licensure Interstate  
CompAct

**RFP** – Request for Proposals

**RFS** – Request for Service

**RHP** – Rural Health Plan

**RN** - Registered Nurse

**RS** - Rescue Squad

**RSAF** – Rescue Squad  
Assistance Fund

**RSI** - Rapid Sequence  
Intubation

**RT** - Respiratory Therapist

**RTL** – Return to Locality (26%  
portion of EMS funds returned  
to the local government for  
EMS purposes.)

**Rx** - Prescription

S

**SACS** - Southern Association of  
Colleges and Schools  
(education accreditation)

**SAR** – Search and Rescue

**SAVER** – System Assessment  
and Validation for Emergency  
Responders

**SCBA** - Self Contained  
Breathing Apparatus

**SCHEV** - State Council on  
Higher Education in Virginia

**SCHIP** – State’s Child Health  
Insurance Program

**SHHR** – (Virginia) Secretary of  
Health and Human  
Resources

**SHHS** – Secretary of Health  
and Human Services

**SIDS** - Sudden Infant Death  
Syndrome

**SIEC** – State Interoperability  
Executive Committee

**SITREP** - Situation Report

**SMA** – Statewide Mutual Aid

**SMART** – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely (measures of performance in an evaluation process)

**SME** – Subject Matter Expert

**SNS** – Strategic National Stockpile

**SOB** - Shortness of Breath

**SOG** – Standard Operating Guidelines

**SoP** – Scope of Practice

**SOP** – Standard Operating Procedures

**SORH** – State Offices of Rural Health

**SQ** – Subcutaneous

**SSM** - System Status Management

**STEMI** – ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction

**SVCC** - Southside Virginia Community College

**SVT** – Supraventricular tachycardia; an EKG rhythm

**SWaM** – Small, Woman Owned or Minority business

**SWCC** - Southwest Virginia Community College

**SWESC** – Southwest Enterprise Solutions Center (VITA)

**SWOT** - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

**SWVEMS** – Southwest Virginia EMS Council

## T

**TBI** – Traumatic Brain Injury

**TCC** - Tidewater Community College

**TCC** – Training and Certification Committee (state EMS Advisory Board)

**TEMS** – Tidewater EMS Council

**TIA** - Transient Ischemic Attack (mini-stroke)

**TIM** – Traffic Incident Management

**TJEMS** – Thomas Jefferson - EMS Council

**TMC** – Trauma Managers Council (NASEMSO)

**TNCC** - Thomas Nelson Community College

**TNCC** – Trauma Nurse Core Course (ENA)

**TPAM** – Training Program Administrative Manual

**TRAINVirginia** – Training Finder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network (Learning Management System)

**TRB** – Transportation Research Board

**TSA** – Transportation Security Administration (US)

**TSAG** – Transportation Safety Advancement Group

**TSOMC** – Trauma System Oversight and Management Committee

## U

**USAR** – Urban Search and Rescue

**USFA** – United States Fire Administration

**UASI** – Urban Areas Security Initiative

## V

**VAA** – Virginia Ambulance Association

**VAC** - Virginia Administrative Code

**VACO** – Virginia Association of Counties

**VAVRS** – Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, Inc.

**VAGEMSA** – Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators

**VaCEP** – Virginia Chapter of the College of Emergency Physicians

**VCCS** - Virginia Community College System

**VDEM** - Virginia Department of Emergency Management

**VDFP** – Virginia Department of Fire Programs

**VDOT** – Virginia Department of Transportation

**VDH** – Virginia Department of Health

**VENA** – Virginia Emergency Nurses Association

**VERT** – Virginia Emergency Response Team

**VFCA** – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association

**VFIB** – Ventricular fibrillation; an EKG rhythm

**VFD** - Volunteer Fire Department

**VFIRS** – Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System

**VHAC** – Virginia Heart Attack Coalition

**VHCC** - Virginia Highlands Community College

**VHF** - Very High Frequency (radio)

**VHHA** – Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association

**VHI** – Virginia Health Information

**VITA** – Virginia Information Technologies Agency

**VML** – Virginia Municipal League

**VMRC** – Virginia Marine Resource Commission

**VMS** – Variable Message Sign

**VNA** – Virginia Nurses Association

**VoIP** – Voice over Internet Protocol

**VPPF** – Virginia Professional Firefighters

**VPHIB** – Virginia Pre-hospital Information Bridge

**VRHA** – Virginia Rural Health Association

**VRS** - Volunteer Rescue Squad

**VRS** – Virginia Retirement System

**VSC** - Virginia Standard Curriculum

**VSP** – Virginia State Police

**VSTR** – Virginia Statewide Trauma Registry

**VSSTF** – Virginia Stroke System Task Force

**VWCC** - Virginia Western Community College



**WCC** - Wytheville Community College

**WDC** – EMS Workforce Development Committee

**WMD** – Weapons of Mass Destruction

**WSP** – Wireless Service Provider

**WVEMS** – Western Virginia EMS Council



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