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EMS



Bulletin

Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)
Virginia Department of Health
Winter 2016

The 37th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium Recap

The Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) recently hosted the 37th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium. The largest EMS training event in the state, and one of the largest in the country, welcomed 1,722 registered attendees.

The symposium offered 14 course tracks and 278 courses covering everything from hands-on training in trauma, medical and cardiac care to education for pediatrics, operations, and health and safety. Approximately 22,558 hours of continuing education credits were granted.

An improved version of the EMS Symposium app for Android was available for download in the Google Play Store and a web version of the app was available for iOS users. The app offered class schedules, evaluations, important updates, on-site event information and more.

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

In collaboration with the Norfolk Department of Public Health, a free flu shot clinic was available for all symposium attendees. Approximately 132 vaccinations were administered to attendees.



On Nov. 12, the Governor's EMS Awards Ceremony recognized excellence in EMS across the Commonwealth. The winners in 11 EMS award categories and one scholarship award were honored (see pages 2-3.)

The OEMS also collaborated with VCU Health to host 12 foreign exchange students from the Australian Catholic Uni-

versity and two employees from the Rwandan Ministry of Health.

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, volunteers and organizations who dedicate countless hours of their time and resources year after year.

Mark your calendars for the 38th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium, November 8 - 12, 2017 in Norfolk, Va.

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

To learn how you can submit a presentation to teach at the 38th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium, see page 5.

Congratulations to the 2016 Governor's EMS Award Winners

The 2016 Governor's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Award winners were recently announced at the 37th Annual Governor's EMS Awards Ceremony in Norfolk, Virginia. Governor Terry McAuliffe recognized 11 outstanding EMS providers and organizations from across the Commonwealth for their hard work and dedication to the EMS system.

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

This weeklong training event is the largest EMS training event in the Commonwealth and one of the largest in the nation. The symposium welcomed 1,722 attendees and issued approximately 22,558 hours of continuing education credits.

"Congratulations to the 2016 Governor's EMS Award winners! I am inspired by their level of excellence and commitment to Virginia's EMS system," said State Health Commissioner Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP. "Their continued dedication to protect the health and well-being of all citizens will help drive Virginia to become one of the healthiest states in the nation."

"I am so honored to recognize the vast accomplishments of these talented EMS providers and organizations," said Gary Brown, director, Office of EMS. "Working in this field is not easy because it requires long hours and holidays away from family and friends, countless time

dedicated to training and maintaining continuing education, and being ready to respond to an emergency at any time. It is because of their devotion and achievements that I am so proud of these providers and their contributions to EMS in Virginia."

Congratulations to the 2016 Governor's EMS Award winners:



The Governor's EMS Award for Excellence in EMS - Gary A. Dalton, Valley Medical Transport



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Administrator (The Kent J. Weber Trophy) - Kevin T. Stiles, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue



The Governor's EMS Award for Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS (The Frank M. Yeiser Trophy) – Paul A. Phillips, DO, Johnston Memorial Hospital and Dante Rescue Squad



The Governor's EMS Award for Nurse with Outstanding Contribution to EMS – Robin Manke, RN, VCU Health System



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Prehospital Educator – Josh Wilkinson, City of Bristol and Southwest Virginia EMS Council

Congratulations to the 2016 Governor's EMS Award Winners



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Prehospital Provider – Joshua D. Phillips, Lynchburg Fire Department



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding EMS Agency – Richmond Ambulance Authority



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS by a High School Senior (The Dr. Carol Gilbert \$5,000 Scholarship) – Nathan S. Welch, Stephens City Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health and Safety – Katherine West, Infection Control and Emerging Concepts, Inc.

The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Telecommunications – Jennifer A. Bowman, Shenandoah County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) *(No picture provided.)*



New award this year - The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Emergency Preparedness and Response (The James A. Nogle, Jr. Trophy) – Stephen P. Kopczynski, York County Department of Fire and Life Safety



The Governor's EMS Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS for Children – Wanda Willis, Harrisonburg Fire Department and Safe Kids Central Shenandoah Valley

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

Opioid Addiction in Virginia

On Nov. 21, 2016, the State Health Commissioner, the Virginia Department of Health Professions and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services announced that the opioid addiction crisis is a public health emergency in Virginia. In addition, a statewide standing order was issued for the opioid rescue medication, naloxone, in an effort to make it more widely available to the public and help lower the death rate from opioid overdose.

On Sept. 22, 2016, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a public warning to the public and law enforcement nationwide about the health and safety risks of carfentanil. Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid that is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl, which itself is 50 times more potent than heroin. DEA, local law enforcement and first responders have recently seen the presence of carfentanil in Virginia,



which has been linked to a significant number of overdose deaths in various parts of the country. Improper handling of carfentanil, as well as fentanyl and other fentanyl-related compounds, has deadly consequences. EMS and first responders need to be aware of the signs and symptoms of exposure to carfentanil as it can be transmitted by inhalation and skin absorption.

Carfentanil can require much larger doses of naloxone to reverse an overdose than EMS providers are used

to administering for opiates such as heroin. What looks like an opiate overdose that doesn't respond to naloxone, in an area where carfentanil has been reported, may still require a more aggressive treatment for an opiate overdose. As with all patients, good airway management is vital since death from opiate overdose is due to respiratory depression and hypoxia.

The OEMS has created a webpage with important information regarding the opioid addiction crisis in Virginia. In order to successfully combat it, a collaborative response utilizing many different strategies is of utmost importance. Your partnership is critical in this effort. Please share this information with your key stakeholder groups.

Be sure to visit this webpage regularly for updates: www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems/NewsFeatures/OpioidAddiction.htm

Winter Weather Preparedness

The best time to prepare for severe winter weather is now, before a major weather event strikes.

Here are several quick 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 detec-

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

Learn more tips at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/public-relations-contacts/winter-weather-preparedness/>

Submit a Presentation for the 2017 Va. EMS Symposium

Warren Short, Training Manager, Division of Educational Development

The Virginia Annual EMS Symposium is one of the nation's premier educational opportunities for EMS providers and Registered Nurses to obtain continuing education and network. You can become a participant in one of the largest EMS training events in the nation by submitting a proposal for consideration for the 2017 Virginia EMS Symposium at: https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/?p=102:LOGIN_DESKTOP::::::

The deadline to submit a presentation is Jan. 15, 2017.

Each year, more than 1600 registrants choose from 260 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 10 tracks covering Airway, Oxygenation, Ventilation, Cardiac, Critical Incident Stress Management, Communications, Critical Care, Educator, Leadership and Management, Medical, Operations, Preconference, Preparatory, Safety, Special Considerations and Trauma. Sessions generally run one hour. Pre-convention sessions vary in length from three hours up to 24-hours.

How to Submit a Proposal

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 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.

Note: You must enter all required information and click the "Submit To Committee" button in order for your proposal to be considered by OEMS.

Course Categories

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 are as follows:

Pre-Conference - These sessions are comprised of training that is offered starting Wednesday morning and continuing through Thursday. Typically these are ancillary multiday programs and programs offering certification or sessions that are longer than three 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 the OEMS and pertain to the Virginia EMS system.

Airway, Respiration, Ventilation - The Airway, Respiration, Ventilation category provides topics that involve the pathophysiology of ventilation, respiration and the use of airway,

oxygenation, ventilation devices in the management of airway, oxygenation, ventilation 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.

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 preincident, 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.

Continued on Page 11

Standards of Excellence

By: Tim Perkins, EMS Systems Planner

All EMS agencies in Virginia are required to conform to the Virginia EMS Regulations in order to operate and provide service to its community.

The Virginia Standards of Excellence (SOE) program was developed by a stakeholder workgroup of the Workforce Development Committee to identify and recognize EMS agencies that strive to operate above the standards and requirements of the Virginia EMS Regulations (12VAC5-31). The evaluation addresses several areas that collectively make up the operations of an EMS agency from several perspectives.

The EMS agencies that have been recognized as Agencies of Excellence (AOE) represent a true cross section of Virginia's EMS delivery, and range from full-time career municipal agencies, volunteer rescue squads, rural paid/volunteer mixed departments and commercial for-profit services.

This voluntary program provides information to agencies in an unbiased

way through a process using a self evaluation that identifies how the agency is performing based on criteria outlined in the SOE survey.

If requested, technical assistance is available to improve the areas that the agency has identified as not meeting the criteria. The SOE program has eight areas of evaluation:

- Leadership/Management
- Emergency Medical Dispatch
- Clinical Care Measures
- Operational Medical Direction
- Life Safety
- Community Support and Involvement
- Recruitment and Retention
- Performance and Risk

After the self evaluation process is completed, an EMS agency (if they chose) may submit their SOE documents to the OEMS for review. At that point, a site review, which includes a review team made up of representatives of peer agencies, is conducted.

After the site visit, a final determination of whether or not the agency will be recognized as an AOE is made by the OEMS. The EMS agency will receive written notification from the OEMS. If the EMS agency is not recognized at that time, a list of items to be corrected and a timeframe to make corrections will be provided and additional site visit(s) scheduled, if necessary.

Seven agencies have been recognized as AOE's: Forest View Volunteer Rescue Squad, Galax-Grayson EMS, Goochland Co. Dept. of Fire-Rescue & Emergency Services, Lifecare Medical Transports, Inc., Loudoun County Fire and Rescue, City of Manassas Fire and Rescue, and Virginia Beach Department of EMS.

For agencies that are interested in going through the SOE process, please visit the Virginia OEMS website at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Agency/SoE.htm>

FDA Administers Ban on Powdered Surgeon's Gloves, Powdered Patient Examination Gloves, and Absorbable Powder for Lubricating a Surgeon's Glove

On Dec. 19, 2016, a rule by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was announced, which determined that Powdered Surgeon's Gloves, Powdered Patient Examination Gloves, and Absorbable Powder for Lubricating a Surgeon's Glove present an unreasonable and substantial risk of illness or

injury and that the risk cannot be corrected or eliminated by labeling or a change in labeling. Consequently, FDA is banning these devices.

This rule goes into effect on Jan. 18, 2017.

For additional information on this final ruling, please visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2016-30382>

Drone Safety

By: Tim Perkins, EMS Systems Planner



Attendees of the 2016 Virginia EMS Symposium may have noticed a flyer in their registration packet dedicated to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (commonly known as drones) safety in medevac operations.

With the increased availability of drones to the public, it has become harder for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide safety recommendations and regulations, along with the medevac community to provide safety awareness education to people who own and operate drones. In addition, drones are being used for more tasks than ever, including being used to report the news.

Medevac operations have inherent challenges that put aircraft and flight crews at risk, such as unscheduled takeoffs and landings, unplanned and time sensitive emergency flights and landing zones that are in areas that aren't commonly used for takeoffs and landings by aircrafts. The addition of drone usage in areas near locations where medevac operations take place potentially adds to that risk. The damage to a medevac aircraft by a collision with a drone could be catastrophic.

The Virginia State Medevac Committee has recognized that the increased use of drones is a safety concern. The committee has made a coordinated effort involving all the medevac services that serve Virginia, as well as the OEMS, to provide information for drone operators and personnel that coordinate medevac landing zones to increase awareness and safety in the use of drones with medevac operations.

For drone operators, the main focus has been to ensure that operators are aware of FAA rules and regulations that govern the use of drones by the general public. For example, any aircraft over 0.55 pounds must be registered with the FAA.

For personnel that coordinate landing zones, having an awareness of any hazard in the area of the landing zone, and ensuring that information is relayed to the flight crew is paramount. If there is a drone in the area of the landing zone and the operator can be identified, they should be encouraged to land the drone immediately until the aircraft has both landed and left the landing zone.

In addition, agencies should be working with their local medevac services to collaborate training on drone safety in medevac operations.

For further information, visit:
<https://www.faa.gov/uas/> or
<http://knowbeforeyoufly.org/>

VPHIB Migration to NEMSIS Version 3

The OEMS is in the process of migrating our Virginia Pre-Hospital Information Bridge (VPHIB) dataset from the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Version 2 to NEMSIS Version 3 standards (VAv3) for local, state and national collection of EMS patient care data. A schedule listing each EMS agency was created with a timeline for all EMS agencies to make this transition.

The NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) will continue to collect NEMSIS Version 2 data from the states until December 31, 2016.

As of Jan. 1, 2017, all Virginia EMS agencies must be compliant with VAv3.

For additional information or assistance with your agency's transition to VAv3, please contact J. Bryan Hodges at 804-888-9145 or email Jesse.Hodges@vdh.virginia.gov.

Ambulance Standards - What About Remounts?

By: Michael Berg, Manager, Regulation and Compliance



Just as patient care is evolving as a result of science, research and technology, so are the tools we use every day to respond and provide transportation to the patients and community we serve. Currently, the ambulance “standard” recognized in Virginia is the General Services Administration (GSA) KKK-1822 document. An Executive Order from former President Reagan required the sun setting of the GSA document, its deadline uncertain. Two different organizations have emerged with ambulance standards; National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA) and the Commission on the Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). What about remounted ambulances – they don’t need to follow the same criteria?

As the NFPA 1917 Standards for Ground Ambulances and the CAAS Ground Vehicle Standards v1 (GVS v1) was developed, there was an understanding from the agencies in Virginia that the new safety standards were not required for any remounted ambulance (removal of the patient care compartment from one chassis and remounted to a newer chassis.) The cost to update the older patient care compartments to the new safety standards would prove to be costly in some cases. The new safety standards include an upgrade to the cot reten-

tion systems, occupant restraint systems and certain equipment mounting systems. More updated standards are forthcoming regarding construction and the patient compartment to

include subflooring standards, patient compartment cabinetry and excursion zones for seated providers. All of these standards are created to provide a safer work environment for our workers and patients based on science and research.

Within the Virginia Emergency Medical Services Regulations 12VAC5-31-810, ground ambulance safety specification states in part:

“B.) A ground ambulance must be commercially constructed and certified to comply with the current federal specification for the Star of Life ambulance (U.S. General Services Administration KKK-A-1822 standards) as of the date of vehicle construction, with exceptions as specified in these regulations.” <http://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section810/>

The Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) sought clarification from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the applicability of the above regulation to remounted ambulances. The review resulted in the memorandum from June 22, 2016, noting in short, that remounts must meet the same safety standards as new ambulance construction: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems/NewsFeatures/>

[NewAmbulanceSafetyStandards.pdf](#)

The OEMS staff attends and participates on the national level (NFPA 1917 and GVSv1) to stay abreast of changes that may be forthcoming regarding the construction of new ambulances and development of safety standards. Staff also regularly interact at national conferences and with the GSA concerning changes to the current “K” specs and the anticipated retirement of the GSA document. Current versions of NFPA 1917 and the GVSv1 documents incorporate all safety standards found in the “K” specs.

The future of ambulance specifications for the remount industry is changing. Both the NFPA and the CAAS organizations are working to create safety standards that previously did not exist. The NFPA 1917 workgroups have submitted a request to begin the work on remounts at their last meeting in October. CAAS will be meeting this spring 2017 to begin their efforts on this standard. The OEMS staff is actively participating on both of these committees. There will be no remount standard from the GSA as they do not deal with such construction.

For years, there have been few changes to the patient compartment safety standards because of the lack of science and research. The OEMS will work to keep their customers apprised of any pending changes and updates when new standards are released.

OEMS Transitions to New Website Platform Effective Jan. 1, 2017



The Virginia Department of Health will transfer over to a new and improved website platform powered by WordPress on Jan. 1, 2017. The new

OEMS website address will be www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/.

This new platform offers a variety of features, most notably including a responsive design, which allows users on a mobile phone/device, tablet or desktop computer to easily access our website. This new platform also reduces the workload needed to maintain a website, which will allow information to be updated quicker for visitors to utilize.

Additionally, the new website is search

engine-optimized, which means users will be able to find the information they are looking for faster and easier by using the search function at the top of each webpage.

The Office of EMS is in the process of converting its website over to the new WordPress platform. The estimated date of completion is the end of December 2016. Once the conversion is complete, be sure to bookmark our new website address: www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/.

FirstNet Public Safety Broadband

By: Carol W. Adams, VAPSBN Program Assistant,
Office of the Commonwealth Statewide Interoperability Coordinator

Have you heard of FirstNet, the future of public safety broadband? FirstNet was established from the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, to provide emergency responders with the first high-speed, nationwide network dedicated to public safety.

What kind of questions might you have regarding FirstNet?

- How will it benefit first responders in my locality?
- How will the network be accessed and what will it cost?
- Will I need special equipment to access the network?
- In addition to data access and distribution, how else can FirstNet support First Responders?
- Is this a federal or state run program?
- How does a locality participate?
- Is this a “one and done” network or

will it be sustained and, if so, how?

- How secure will be the network?
- Will it be limited to emergency conditions or can it be used for day-to-day functions or large gatherings?

FirstNet's build-out of a nationwide public safety broadband network is coming. This network is designed to be committed to public safety, providing broadband access for first responders to receive data and other facts pertinent to an emergency response. The network will make sure those on the frontlines, as well as, command and control personnel to have up-to-date, immediate access to critical information.

Virginia has individuals dedicated in support of a Virginia Public Safety Broadband Network (VAPSBN),

inclusive of FirstNet, to assist providing you with information through outreach and education. Available for individual locality or regional outreach, members of the Virginia team are available to visit your agency or region to brief local leaders and first responders.

To schedule an outreach meeting or event, contact Carol Adams at carol.adams@vdem.virginia.gov or call 804-432-5877.



Food Safety Tips for a Happy Holiday Season

By: Lauren Cunningham, Public Relations Coordinator, Office of Risk Communication and Education

Whether you are celebrating at home or dining out, there are simple steps you can take to keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy this holiday season.

Preparing a holiday meal at home? Prevent foodborne illness by washing hands and surfaces frequently, avoiding cross-contamination, cooking foods to proper temperatures, and refrigerating foods promptly. If you are cooking a holiday turkey, follow these four tips to take the guesswork out of preparation:

Thawing: Thaw poultry in the refrigerator, in a sink of cold water (changed every 30 minutes), or in a microwave. Frozen turkeys are safe indefinitely, but thawing turkeys must defrost at a safe temperature. Poultry left out for more than two hours at room temperature can creep into the danger zone between 40°F and 140°F, where bacteria can grow rapidly.

Handling: It's flu season! Be sure to thoroughly wash your hands to prevent the spread of germs, using soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. This will help prevent the spread of bacteria from raw poultry, too. Don't forget to also thoroughly wash utensils and work surfaces to protect your food and family!

Stuffing: If you stuff the turkey, do so just before cooking. Bacteria can survive in stuffing that has not reached 165°F and possibly cause food poisoning, so use a food thermometer to make sure the stuffing's center reaches this temperature. For optimum safety,

cook your stuffing in a casserole dish for even cooking.

Cooking: Set your oven to at least 325°F, and place the completely thawed turkey with the breast side up in a 2 to 2-1/2 inch deep roasting pan. Cooking times will vary depending on weight, so use a food thermometer inserted into the center of the stuffing and the thickest portions of the breast, thigh, and wing joint to make sure the bird has reached a safe internal temperature of 165°F. Let the turkey

2. Make sure that the restaurant is clean. If not, you may want to visit a different establishment.

3. Check that your food is cooked thoroughly, and send back any undercooked food as it may contain harmful bacteria if not cooked adequately.

4. Properly handle leftovers by refrigerating within 4 hours of eating. Eat leftovers within 3 to 4 days from purchase.

For more information, check out CDC's blog for more Holiday Food Safety Tips at: <https://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2015/11/8867/>



stand 20 minutes before removing all stuffing from the cavity and carving the meat.

Planning to dine out for the New Year holiday? Follow these four tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent food poisoning:

1. Check inspections online for the restaurant you plan to go to. Restaurant inspection data for Virginia is available by health district at: <http://healthspace.com/Clients/VDH/VDH/web.nsf>

Submit a Presentation - Continued From Page 5

By: Warren Short, Manager, Division of Educational Development

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.

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 - In addition to offering information to assist with the day-to-day operations of the EMS agency, topics include but are not limited to at risk populations, pediatric transport, safety, affective characteristics, crew resource management and research.

Pediatric - This track separates general pediatric trauma, medical and airway classes into a single track so that these highly sought after topics can be easily found. Note: With the Virginia CE program now mirroring the National Registry, many of the pediatric topics are included in the Trauma, Medical, Airway - Ventilation - Oxygenation,

and Operations area numbers.

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.

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

RSAF Grant Awards to be Announced Jan. 1, 2017

By: Amanda Davis, Grants Manager

The Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) Grant Awards for the grant cycle that closed Sept. 15, 2016, will be announced Jan. 1, 2017, on the Virginia Office of EMS website at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Agency/Grants/index.htm>. Applicants will also be able to check their EMS-Grant Information Funding Tool (E-GIFT) account for their grant status.

The next RSAF Grant cycle begins Feb. 1 – March 15, 2017. 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. Please note: All applications must submit their application through E-GIFT.

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

DDNR Regulations Updated to Include POST Definition

As of Nov. 19, the Durable Do Not Resuscitate (DDNR) regulations were updated to include a definition of a physician order for scope of treatment (POST). This update was an action that was a result of the periodic review of 12VAC5-66.

To view this information in depth, visit: <http://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter66/section10/>

For more information regarding this update or training available for POST, please contact Michael Berg

at 804-888-9131 or Michael.Berg@vdh.virginia.gov, or Cam Crittenden at 804-888-9141 or Camela.Crittenden@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 - Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) Grants Announced
- Jan. 2 - Office Closed for State Holiday
- Jan. 4 - Training and Certification Committee
- Jan. 5 - Medical Direction Committee
- Jan. 5 - EMS for Children Committee
- Jan. 13 & 16 - Office Closed for State Holidays
- Jan. 15 - 2017 Symposium Call for Presentations Deadline

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				

- Feb. 2 - State EMS Advisory Board Executive Committee
- Feb. 2 - Financial Assistance and Review Committee (FARC)
- Feb. 2 - Emergency Management Committee
- Feb. 3 - Legislative & Planning Committee
- Feb. 3 - VAGEMSA
- Feb. 3 - Communications Committee
- Feb. 3 - State EMS Advisory Board
- Feb. 20 - Office Closed for State Holiday
- Feb. 21 - 26 - Virginia Fire and Rescue Conference
- February - American Heart Awareness Month

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

New OEMS Customer Satisfaction Survey

The Office of EMS will be instituting a customer satisfaction survey, beginning January 1, 2017.

Please tell us how we're doing; let us know what a great experience you've had with our office or improvements that can be made in order to help make your customer experience better.

We want to hear from you, please take our survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPP8YRL>.

Connect With OEMS Online!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Virginia-Office-of-Emergency-Medical-Services-153545858005772/

Twitter: www.twitter.com/virginiaems

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

New OEMS Website Address: www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/

EMS Challenge Question

What is the deadline date for the 2017 Call for Presentations for the 38th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium?

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

Congratulations to the Summer 2016 EMS Challenge Question winner, **Mike Verdu** with **New Kent Fire-Rescue**.

*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 emstchasst@vdh.virginia.gov.

Gary R. Brown, director,
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