



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Virginia Department of Health Office of EMS*

### **Notice Related to the Virginia EMS Officer I Program 2018**

The Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) is continuing to work with the State Workforce Development Committee (WDC) to develop and deploy the EMS Officer 1 (EMSO1) program in Virginia. In many aspects, preparing EMSO1 has covered new ground and has affected the time it has required to complete the project. The process of developing the curriculum for this particular education program has taken years to develop. OEMS's goal is to present a program in a format that is educational, informative, and self-sustaining once the pilot programs are launched, conducted, and evaluated. OEMS appreciates the patience and cooperation of the Virginia EMS Community as we continue to develop the EMSO1 program.

OEMS wants to provide insight into the process that the WDC and OEMS have taken in the recent years to develop the EMSO1 program. The most recent and current models of the program have many moving parts to coordinate. In March 2015, OEMS conducted an evaluation of the four (4) training modules that make up the on-line component. This initial evaluation was based upon the completion of two pilot courses, which were held in late March in Richmond and Loudoun County to ensure the program was ready for release.

In 2016, OEMS released the first major revision of the EMSO1 pilot at the EMS Symposium. This second version was well received, however there were a number of necessary modifications that became apparent. A significant amount of updates were completed prior to the next pilot offerings at the 2017 VAVRS Rescue College and 2017 Virginia EMS Symposium. This process included delivering the online modules with an audio component. The updated online modules were successfully presented at the 2018 VAVRS Rescue College and 2018 Virginia EMS Symposium.

Student reviews and critiques have been very beneficial in the continued development of the program, and the pilot phases of the program. The next steps for exiting the pilot phase, include creating a Train-the-Trainer program and recruitment of an initial instructor pool.

In conclusion, OEMS continues to work with the same continued urgency to complete this training program. Once all of the course content is on-line and released from the pilot phase, OEMS will continue to work with interested parties in evolving the advanced levels of the EMSO Programs. Again, OEMS appreciates the assistance of those members of the EMS Community who have participated in the continued development of the Virginia EMS Officer Programs. We are excited with the anticipation of observing EMS Officers prosper from this program, and leading our EMS System into the future.