

Dear XXXX,

Good morning from Richmond. We wanted to reach out and provide you with some updates from Richmond.

Debbie's Vacation (say what?)

ACE Division Director, Debbie Akers, has finally decided to take it easy for 10 days of sun and sand. She will be taking a cruise south of the border—a much deserved break. Once she leaves port and sets sail, she will have no way of accessing her state e-mail—that is if she doesn't want to set off alarm bells with VITA.

As this message is being transmitted to each of you, Debbie will have already unplugged from Skynet. Soooooooooo....

If you email, text or make use of older technology and try to call her, there will be no answer. E-mail messages will receive an out of office message and not be answered until at least April 22. Calling her office phone will get you an out of office message which will not be received and a return call made until April 22. And as for texts sent to her personal or office cell phone, they will return a 'Delivered' notification, but no 'Read' status will appear.

Therefore, you are stuck with Chad for the next two weeks. So please, DO NOT, for the sake of Debbie's sanity when she returns:

- e-mail Debbie, get her out of office message and then forward the same message to Chad for a reply, or
- send an e-mail to Debbie and CC Chad or vice versa, or
- send an e-mail addressed to both Chad and Debbie.

All inquiries, regardless of the subject matter—except for personal stuff—should be addressed to Chad at chad.blosser@vdh.virginia.gov.

Course Requests (Approvals)

While the EMS Portal is a cutting-edge, innovative technology, it has also introduced some challenges that need to be addressed. Many EC's have become accustomed to the speed and efficiency of the Portal when submitting course requests. And as each month passes, some have continued to push the envelope. It has become more common for course requests to be submitted 5-days or less before the start date—some have been submitted 24 hours or less before the start date.

Given that there are only two of us, we find ourselves needing to revert to the 30-year-old policy of 30-days advance notice to the Office. This will allow us to manage the workload more effectively and ensure timely review and approval of all submissions.

To make it easy to remember, the new policy is "30 and 30" - 30 days advance notice, 30-year-old policy.

On average, 41 course requests come in per day, 7 days a week. Approximately 40% of these are for Custom CE Programs, which can take upward of 35-45 minutes or more per request to create. This significant time commitment is the primary reason for needing to reinstate the 30-day advanced notice requirement.

We appreciate your understanding and adherence to this updated policy.

Virginia Office of EMS Director Search

We are excited to announce that the Director of the Office of EMS (OEMS) position has been posted. We are inviting the EMS stakeholders of Virginia to share this posting within your networks both across the Commonwealth and nationally.

The individual who is chosen to take on this role will be in a position to effect tremendous influence on the future of Virginia's EMS system. The recent challenges in OEMS from a financial management perspective have brought to the forefront the need for a strong leader with a vision for the future of EMS in Virginia.

This leader will have the opportunity to be the lead ambassador for OEMS, to be a critical partner to our Regional EMS Councils and EMS Agency stakeholders, to be a strong advocate for fiscal and organizational accountability, and to be a change maker as we take a hard look at the role of OEMS in the greater discussion of public health in Virginia.

As OEMS enters this rebuilding phase, we are excited about the possibilities that this new leader can bring forward.

Scan this QR code to take you directly to the application or view the job posting at the link below.
<http://jobs.virginia.gov/cw/en-us/job/5012963?!ApplicationSubSourceID=>

Share this notice far and wide!

National Continued Competency Program

The National Registry is in the process of rolling out a new continuing education (CE) program called the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP). The National Continued Competency Program encourages Nationally Certified EMS personnel to pursue life-long education while also providing state and local agencies the freedom to customize continuing education to meet local operational needs.

The National Registry continues to make improvements and we were one of the many organizations that came together to support the development of evidence-based guidelines.

National Component Requirements

- Expiration dates through Sept. 30, 2025: [Download the 2016 NCCP Model \(PDF\)](#)
- Expiration dates on or after March 31, 2026: [Download the 2025 NCCP Model \(PDF\)](#)

A workgroup from TCC has put together a document that details the new CE breakdown for Auxiliary Programs which approved earlier this week by TCC and the MDC. This will move to the EMS Advisory Board for approval in early May. The proposed new Virginia Continuing Education Program can be found here: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/23/2024/04/NREMT-VA-2025-CE-Standardized-Course.pdf>

Virginia EMS Scholarship Program

As of March 4, 2024, the scholarship program reached its authorized \$1.3m budget. OEMS will not be able to award any further scholarships this fiscal year (FY24). Retroactive applications for courses held prior to June 30, 2024 will not be permitted.

Virginia EMS Symposium

As the Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) continues to face financial challenges and works towards a sounder fiscal strategy, it has been determined there will be no statewide EMS Symposium held in 2024. OEMS understands the importance of in-person training and has collaborated with Virginia's Regional EMS Councils and other EMS partners to continue offering additional educational opportunities and resources.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to ~~Debbie~~ or myself.

Best,

Chad

Chad Blosser

Education Program Manager

Division of Accreditation, Certification & Education

Office Still Reading? of Emergency Medical Services

Phone: (804) 888-9124

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