

RESPONSE

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Many EMS Education Changes Coming to Virginia

By: Jim Chandler

New EMS continuing education requirements start in July 2016, EMT-Enhanced will convert to Advanced EMT, and Intermediate EMT isn't going away. Those are messages from the Virginia Office of EMS.

Warren Short, manager of Educational Development, and Debbie Akers, ALS training specialist representing the Virginia Office of EMS were guest speakers during the Eastern Shore EMS Council meeting in December. They addressed and clarified a host of questions regarding EMS training issues and previewed upcoming continuing education changes. Here are some highlights:

- ✔ EMT-Intermediate will be maintained in Virginia, but the state will have to come up with a testing process if National Registry discontinues support of this level of training. Only a handful of states currently use EMT-I.
- ✔ There has been a drop in statewide numbers of those who begin EMT training compared to those who test at the EMT level. Of about 5000 annual statewide course enrollees, only about half will test. OEMS staff attribute this to several reasons: many never intended to become an EMS provider but instead used EMT training for another purpose; for others, life changes "got in the way"; others did not feel prepared for testing.
- ✔ The availability of EMS training funds to help support EMT courses will be tied to an education coordinator's overall pass rates over time.
- ✔ In April there was an automatic conversion from EMT-Enhanced to Advanced EMT.
- ✔ New EMS continuing education requirements become effective July 1. Virginia is converting its CE program to comply with the National Registry of EMTs National Continued Competency Program. Virginia providers are not required to maintain National Registry credentials, but this will allow a seamless process for those who do.
- ✔ Some new continuing education terminology is being introduced: Category 1 will also be known as National Continued Competency Requirements (NCCR) and Category 2 will combine Local Continued Competency Requirements (LCCR) or Individual Continued Competency Requirements (ICCR).
- ✔ Category 1 (NCCR) will be reduced to five areas for both BLS and ALS giving medical directors and educators flexibility to meet agency and system needs as long as general area requirements are met.
- ✔ To comply with the National Registry program, four hours are being added to EMT continuing education over the four year certification period.

A complete discussion of new continuing education requirements and hours is included in the Winter 2015 EMS Bulletin posted on the Virginia EMS website. Contact the Office of EMS with questions.



TEMS, Inc. Tidewater EMS Council
FAMILY DAY AT THE BALL PARK
and Regional Awards Ceremony
SUNDAY, JUNE 19
Award Presentation - 12:20 pm • Game Time - 1:05 pm
The Tidewater EMS Council invites you to enjoy a day at Harbor Park. Baseball Bucks will be provided for food and drinks.
www.tidewaterems.org/funday
The deadline to make your reservations is Monday, June 13th at 5:00 PM. Please visit the site listed above to register you and your IMMEDIATE family members that reside with you.
Tickets will be available for pick up the day of the game. Instructions for ticket pick up will be provided by email.
NORFOLKTIDES.COM

EMTs Transitioning to New Competency Program

By: Lt. Brian McIntosh, FF/PM • Chesapeake Fire Department

On July 1, 2016 The Virginia Office of EMS will adopt the new EMS recertification requirements. Some of the most prominent changes are the required hours for recertification:

- ✔ EMT has increased the required hours from 36 to 40 but has removed the skills requirement (Both NREMT & Virginia).
- ✔ AEMT (formerly Virginia EMT-Enhanced) has increased the hours from 36 to 50 (Both NREMT & Virginia).
- ✔ EMT Intermediate (soon to be discontinued by NREMT) from 72 to 55 (Virginia will increase from 48 to 55).
- ✔ Paramedic will decrease from 72 to 60 hours (NREMT & VA).

The Virginia Office of EMS has stated that any provider who has already completed the requirements for recertification as of 30 June 2016 will still maintain their recertification status after the transition. Providers close to completing the required CE hours, need to have them posted by June 30, 2016.

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Nightingale Pilot Cautions About Drones

By: Scott Nance, Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance Services Pilot

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been hard at work over the past several years trying to figure out a way to safely allow drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) or unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), to operate in the National Airspace System over the United States. The FAA has established rules and regulations governing the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles from a simple model aircraft, all the way up to large military drones. All of these rules and regulations can be found on the FAA's website, "faa.gov". In fact, the FAA has mandated that all small unmanned aircraft weighing more than 0.55 pounds and less than 55 pounds must be registered with the FAA no later than February 19, 2016. For unmanned aircraft weighing more than 55 pounds, they have to be registered using the FAA's aircraft registry process.

Another very useful website for all drone operators is "knowbeforeyoufly.org". Know Before You Fly is an education campaign founded by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) and the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) in partnership with the FAA to educate prospective users about the safe and responsible operation of unmanned aircraft systems. Many current and prospective operators want to fly, and fly safely, but many don't realize that, just because you can buy a UAS, doesn't mean you can fly it anywhere, or for any purpose. Know Before You Fly provides prospective users with the information and guidance they need to fly safely and responsibly.

Drones, UAV, UAS, whatever name you want to call them, they are here to stay. Drones are not only fun to use for the amateur hobbyist; they have a very important role in public safety, commercial land development, farming, real estate, search and rescue; the list is endless. What's important is that the operator of the UAS operates them safely and responsibly within the rules and regulations that the FAA has mandated. The operator must also use common sense when flying their drone, if there's ever a time when the drone could cause damage to any other aircraft, personnel on the ground, or any building, it's best to safely land the aircraft and fly another day.

Nightingale, in conjunction with the Virginia State Medevac Committee, has produced an informative flyer suitable for posting in your station, or for distribution to hobby shops and RC (radio control) flying clubs in your service area. A copy of the flyer has been included with this issue of Response, but if you need more copies, please let us know. Just talk to any crewmember, or call Skip Hall at (757) 388-1782, and let us know how we can help you get the word out. If more convenient: send email to nightingale@sentara.com

Area RC (radio control) flying clubs offer excellent opportunities for community outreach, and may present many "teachable moments" where the importance of securing the airspace around a medical LZ operation can be reinforced. If you have such organizations in your agency's service area, please encourage them to contact Nightingale if they have any questions or would like more information; or forward any contact information you might have to us, and we will be pleased to reach out to them.

As always, Nightingale thanks you all for your dedicated support and for the invaluable contribution you have made to help us keep us flying safely since 1982.

**TEMS Has A New Toll Free
Telephone Number:
844-757-TEMS (8367)**

Regional EMS Council vs. OEMS What's the difference?

Do you ever have a question about something related to EMS, and you're not sure who to ask? Let's see if we can clear that up. The Office of EMS (OEMS) in the Commonwealth of Virginia is a regulatory body. Regional EMS councils are established by the Code of Virginia, § 32.1-111.4:2, and are charged with the coordination and planning of a regional EMS system. Still confused? Use the chart below as a starting point. Please note that this is by no means an exhaustive list, but a guide to help you.

My question:	 Virginia <small>OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</small> <small>Virginia Department of Health</small>	Tidewater EMS  Council
I can't get into my provider portal	Call (800) 523-6019 or http://goo.gl/5SPLqK	
I don't know how to use my portal	Call (800) 523-6019 or http://goo.gl/5SPLqK	
I'm looking for an EMT class	https://goo.gl/sZtTqH	757-963-0632
I have a question about testing		757-963-0632
My certification expired...		757-963-0632
How to join an agency		757-963-0632
I need a new certification card	Call (800) 523-6019	
Agency needs fingerprint cards		757-963-0632
I'm looking for CE classes		757-963-0632
Protocol questions		757-963-0632 Or http://goo.gl/G0x8Ji
Medication Box questions		757-963-0632 Or http://goo.gl/o0Qabu
Agency inspection or regulations questions	http://goo.gl/DvwWvA or call (800) 523-6019	
I have a question about RSAF grants	http://goo.gl/iscwu4 or call (800) 523-6019	757-963-0632
I need the CISM team		757-724-CISM (2476) (24/7 Emergency)

Chesapeake Fire Department Opens Camp Fury For The First Time

By: Mandy George, FF/ PM, Chesapeake Fire Department

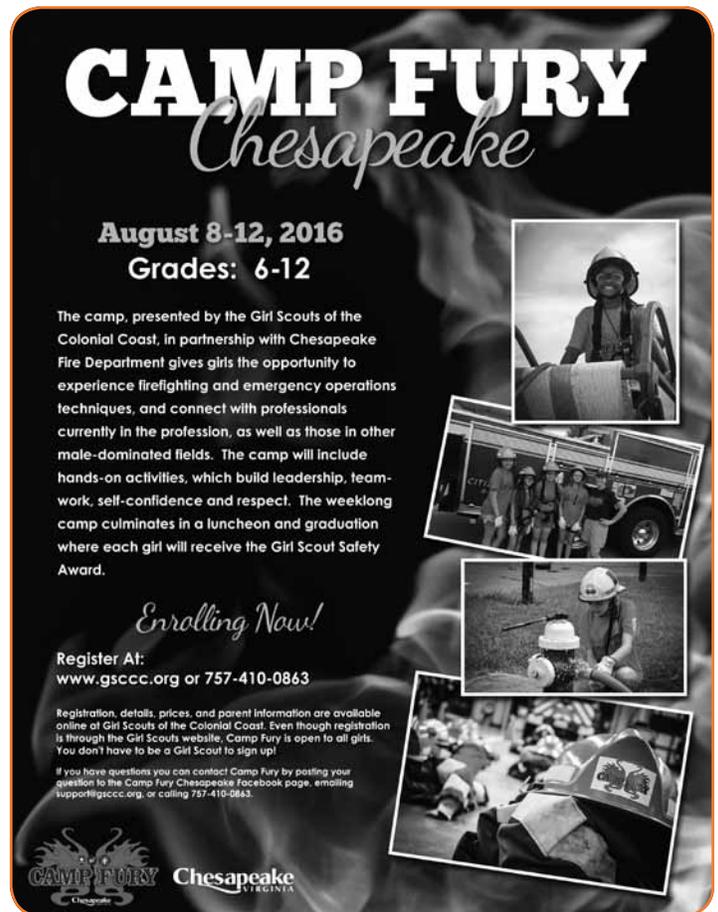
Every fire department recruitment officer has a goal of increasing the diversity of women and minorities in their department. The officers seek a strong pool of candidates to hire and to retain. Women who can do the job, who want to move up the career path and women with the ability to mentor others are great candidates.

According to the "IAFF Diversity Initiative: Achieving and Retaining a Diverse Fire Service Workforce," cadet and explorer programs that "build alliances with organizations, offer special programs for girls to teach them non-traditional skills and show non-traditional career options" are one of the most effective recruitment methods for all minority groups and for women. Camp Fury Chesapeake and Camp Fury Hampton are two local examples of these types of programs.

The Camp Fury program originated in Tucson, AZ in 2009. It is a collaborative program that provides hands-on activities that promote the development of leadership skills, teamwork, respect, and self-confidence. At Camp Fury, girls train alongside firefighters and law enforcement personnel to learn fire and EMS skills, police tactics and crime scene investigation techniques, and perform physical fitness drills. They meet women who are breaking down barriers and stereotypes in these male-dominated career fields.

In our area, the Hampton Fire Department has successfully put on two Camp Fury summers in partnership with the Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast. Registration is open now for this camp scheduled for July 25-29 2016. The Chesapeake Fire Department has partnered with the Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, Norfolk Fire-Rescue, and the Chesapeake Police Department for the first annual Camp Fury Chesapeake. Registration is now open for the camp scheduled for August 8-12 2016.

Both programs are similar, but they vary their schedules and activities. If you know of any young ladies interested in EMS, fire, rappelling, police, FBI, or leadership activities and they are in grades 6 to 12, please consider signing them up for one or both camps. This amazing camp experience is as much about the future of the Brotherhood and Sisterhood of Public Safety as it is about having fun!



CAMP FURY
Chesapeake

August 8-12, 2016
Grades: 6-12

The camp, presented by the Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, in partnership with Chesapeake Fire Department gives girls the opportunity to experience firefighting and emergency operations techniques, and connect with professionals currently in the profession, as well as those in other male-dominated fields. The camp will include hands-on activities, which build leadership, teamwork, self-confidence and respect. The weeklong camp culminates in a luncheon and graduation where each girl will receive the Girl Scout Safety Award.

Enrolling Now!

Register At:
www.gsccc.org or 757-410-0863

Registration, details, prices, and parent information are available online at Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast. Even though registration is through the Girl Scouts website, Camp Fury is open to all girls. You don't have to be a Girl Scout to sign up!

If you have questions you can contact Camp Fury by posting your question to the Camp Fury Chesapeake Facebook page, emailing support@gsccc.org, or calling 757-410-0863.

CAMP FURY Chesapeake
A REGION

On another note, this program could also use additional partners to help assist in funding the scholarships, T-shirts, pins, challenge coins, lunches, and snacks. If you or your business is interested in making a donation of any kind, please contact Firefighter Paramedic Mandy George, Program Manager for Camp Fury Chesapeake at 757-450-9532 or mageorge@cityofchesapeake.net.

To register please go to www.gsccc.org or call 757-410-0863 or email support@gsccc.org

Thank you!

References:

Fox, Kathryn, Chris Hornick and Erin Hardin. "Achieving and Retaining a Diverse Fire Service Workforce." Diversity Initiative. 2006. Document.

EMTs Transitioning...

continued from page 1

EMT-Enhanced providers, have officially transitioned to Virginia Advanced EMT. The certification letter has changed from "J" to "C", if you are and Enhanced Provider make sure that you are processing your CE's under the new certification. New Advanced cards are being mailed addresses on file with OEMS. Please note that your expiration date has **NOT** changed. You will still expire on the same date as your previous EMT-Enhanced card.

The Virginia Office of EMS will be providing frequent press releases as the transition date approaches. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Brian McIntosh at bmcintos@cityofchesapeake.net or your departmental EMS training officer.

The Virginia Office of EMS will issue all providers with a certificate, upon meeting the recertification requirements for NCCP, LCCP, and ICCP. This certificate will be accepted by the NREMT for recertification, so you won't have to fill out all the classes you completed as in past years. You are still responsible for ensuring that you do not exceed the distributive (computer-based) education requirements as set for by NREMT.

With the transition to the NCCP which includes a local (LCCP) and individual (ICCP) component, there will no longer be Category 1 (Mandatory) or Category 2 (Flexible) course topics.

Questions? Go to the NREMT Training Officer Guide that explains everything about recertification for National Registry at: <https://www.nremt.org/nremt/downloads/2015NCCPTOGuide.pdf?20050914094153>

Training Contacts

Chesapeake Fire

Capt. Lawrance Mathews / 673-8741

Eastern Shore

Hollye Carpenter / 678-0411

Franklin

Tim Dunn / 562-8581

Isle of Wight Rescue

Lt. Louis Durkac / 357-2587 x203

HRMMRS

Judy Shuck / 963-0632

Nansemond - Suffolk Rescue

Doug Schneider / 539-6870

Medical Transport LLC

Daniel Green / 962-6813

Norfolk Fire/Rescue

Robert Brant / 441-5252 x304

NorthStar First Response

Ashley Staley / 410-7518

Portsmouth Fire Rescue

Amy Ward / 393-8123

Southside Regional Fire Academy (SRFA)

Janet McDaniel / 393-8155

Suffolk Fire

Kim Barrett / 514-4546

TCC VA. Beach Campus

Jason Ambrose / 822-7335

TCLS - CPR, First Aid

Gordon Degges / 446-5926

EVMS - ACLS/PALS

Sasha Edwards / 446-8457

TEMS

Jay Porter / 963-0632

Virginia Beach

Chief Jason Stroud

385-5057

Paul D. Camp Community College

Gerald Griffith, Program Coordinator

757-569-6732

Expansion, Modernization Planned For Sentara Norfolk General Hospital

Project will add floors, expand ER and ORs, consolidate ICUs and modernize neonatal ICU

NORFOLK, VA – Sentara Norfolk General Hospital is launching a five-year expansion and modernization project to bring its facilities up to modern standards and enhance the 525-bed hospital's reputation as a mid-Atlantic referral center. The \$199M project will add three floors each to two existing wings, expand the emergency department, expand and modernize 18 operating rooms, replace a 48-bed ward-style Special Care Nursery with a state-of-the-art unit and consolidate 54 ICU beds on two floors. Sentara Norfolk General is a destination medical center for the most complex patients, home to Hampton Roads' only Level I Trauma Center and the primary teaching hospital for Eastern Virginia Medical School.

"We are proud to provide world-class care, but our patients and clinicians deserve more modern facilities," said Kurt Hofelich, president of Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. "We are investing in the future to improve the patient experience, prepare for new technologies and bolster our position as a mid-Atlantic referral center."

Patients from 28 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Germany and other countries have traveled to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital in recent years for cardiac, cancer, neurology and urology care. Sentara Norfolk General Hospital was ranked the #1 hospital in Virginia by U.S. News & World Report in 2013 and 2014.

"This is a big project that will be disruptive and noisy at times, but the long-term benefit will be immense," Hofelich predicted. "Sentara Norfolk General Hospital's clinical programs and quality outcomes are already on par with the most respected hospitals in the country and our facilities will be on par as well."

Planned improvements include:

- ▶ Three floors added to Kaufman wing (housing new Labor & Delivery and post-partum rooms.)
- ▶ 48-bed Special Care Nursery (Neonatal ICU) with private and semi-private rooms.
- ▶ Three floors added to River Pavilion wing.
(Top two floors to house 54 consolidated ICU beds.)
- ▶ Expansion and modernization of 18 operating rooms
(from an average 400 s.f. to an average 600 s.f.)
- ▶ Expansion and modernization of the Emergency Department and Level I trauma center.

Construction began in March 2016, with a projected completion date in 2020. The work is expected to affect traffic flow on the bustling campus, which accommodates up to 18,000 cars, trucks, buses and ambulances per day. Eastern Virginia Medical Center, as the campus is known, is also home to Eastern Virginia Medical School and Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters. Tight quarters on the shared campus dictate that expansion goes up, rather than out, hence a total of six new floors on top of two existing wings, which will be accomplished using a million-pound construction crane – 200 feet tall with a 300 foot boom.



Expansion, Modernization Planned...

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“We are in close touch with our campus partners, surrounding neighborhoods and other stakeholders,” said Robert Firestone, vice president of operations for Sentara Norfolk General and facility project manager for the expansion. “We

are working to ensure timely communication, access to the campus and minimal inconvenience for our outpatients, visitors and EMS partners.”

One specific communication will be with medical and military helicopters flying into Sentara Norfolk General, due to the 200 foot-tall crane. Sentara Norfolk General is home base for the Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance and the helipad accommodates up to 1,200 landings per year. Plans call for a helipad on the roof of Kaufman wing with a dedicated elevator to the trauma center in the emergency department.

Sentara Norfolk General Hospital includes several connected buildings of varying ages, ranging from a service wing built in the 1950s to Sentara Heart Hospital, which opened in 2006.

Mindful of the Ghent neighborhood’s tendency to flood, the expansion project includes the latest protective measures against sea level rise in collaboration with the City of Norfolk’s Resiliency initiative. Some of the hospital’s CT scanners and other radiology equipment will be moved to the third floor during construction. All six of the hospital’s emergency generators will be above grade when the project is complete. The modernized Kaufman and River Pavilion towers will include window glass with variable tinting, similar to eyeglass lenses, to conserve energy on air conditioning on hot days.

HDR Architects designed the project. Whiting-Turner is the primary contractor.

Sentara Healthcare, based in Norfolk, VA, celebrates more than 125 years in pursuit of its mission to improve health every day. Sentara is an integrated not-for-profit system of 12 hospitals in Virginia and North Carolina, including a Level I trauma center with Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance. The Sentara family also includes four medical groups, ambulatory campuses, post-acute care services, the physician-led Sentara Quality Care Network, the Sentara College of Health Sciences, Optima Health Plan members in Virginia, Alabama and Ohio, and a team of professionals nearly 30,000 strong. Sentara is strategically focused on continuous improvement in quality, safety, and the patient experience.

SAVE THE DATE

Taking Care Of Our Own Health and Wellness Conference. October 20-23 2016 in Chesapeake. Featuring OSHA designated infection officer courses, Critical Incident Stress Management training and responder health and safety

Registration will be available August 1, 2016



Strike Team Provides Sheltering Assistance

By: David Long,
HRMMRS Program Manager

In this edition of “The ‘7 Capabilities of the HRMMST” series we describe the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Strike Team’s (HRMMST) Functional/Medical Needs

Sheltering Assistance. The HRMMST can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to assist emergency managers and shelter planners in meeting access and functional needs in general population shelters and medical needs in medical shelters.

Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) are services that enable children and adults with or without disabilities who have access and functional needs to maintain their health, safety, and independence in a general population shelter. This includes personal assistance services (PAS), durable medical equipment (DME), consumable medical supplies (CMS), and reasonable modification to common practices, policies and procedures. Individuals requiring FNSS may have sensory, physical, mental health, cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their capability to function independently without assistance. Additionally, the elderly, women in the late stages of pregnancy, and individuals requiring communication assistance and bariatric support may also benefit from FNSS.

The HRMMST In conjunction with both ESF #6 (Mass Care, Housing, and Human Resources, which provides direction for coordinating mass care services during the response and recovery phases of a natural or man-made disaster), and ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services, which covers providing for the medical needs of members of the “at risk” population) can supplement and enhance the capabilities to provide care to those with medical and functional needs before, during, and after an incident. To enhance this capability, the HRMMST and a Shelter Support Unit (SSU) will provide much needed equipment and personnel to provide this essential services.

When incorporating the HRMMST and the SSU into a shelter, some additional considerations should include:

- ▶ Easy access for those that are stretcher bound to be brought in and taken out of the facility;
- ▶ Areas for surge beds to include a cot for care-givers;
- ▶ Privacy areas for medical interventions;
- ▶ A designated “emergent care” area;
- ▶ Staging area for medical equipment and medications;
- ▶ Triage/medical screening area;
- ▶ Communications procedures; and
- ▶ Additional power outlets for medical equipment

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RESPONSE



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NEWS BRIEFS

The Tidewater EMS and Emergency Nursing Education EXPO 2016, took place in Suffolk March 17-20 2016. The four- day conference offered continuing education courses for 185 ALS and BLS providers and emergency nurses. Attendees enjoyed "Eat and learn" sessions on Life Threatening Cardiothoracic Injuries and Stroke Care and Strategies. Trauma Skills challenge offered practice on difficult airway, chest decompression and packing GSWs. Emergency nurses took advantage of the offered Emergency Nursing Pediatric Courses. Casino night and a ticket raffle were enjoyed by all. **SAVE THE DATE** for the 2017 EMS and Nursing Education Expo scheduled for March 16-19, 2017.

The **HRMMST is accepting applications** for 22 open EMS specialist positions. Contact Stephanie Hackett 757-963-0632 for information and an application.

ICS 300 courses: June 22-23 and October 26-27.

ICS 400 courses: August 24-25 and December 7-8.

MCI I courses: June 11 and November 5

To register for any of the above courses visit the www.tidewaterems.org and click on the course date on the training calendar.

The 10th Annual Healthcare Organizations Emergency Preparedness Seminar (HOEPS) took place on April 12 and 13, 2016 Chesapeake. The 125 attendees learned about civil unrest, pediatrics in disasters, the Virginia Healthcare Alerting and Status System, patient tracking, incident command for long term facilities, active shooter response, disaster mental health and more.



**National Emergency Medical Services Week
May 15 - 21, 2016**