

# Emergency Medical Services Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## 2009 Annual Report



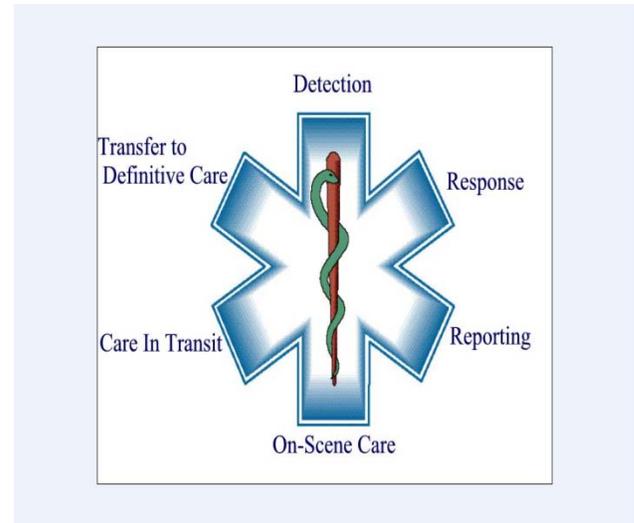
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## Mission

Pennsylvania's Emergency Medical Services goal is to prevent and reduce premature death and disability by providing a comprehensive statewide EMS system. Pennsylvania's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services is dedicated to providing high quality emergency medical care to the residents and visitors to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and enhances the ability of the EMS system to meet its current and future needs.

## Program Overview

- The Department of Health is the lead agency for emergency medical services in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- The Department's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (BEMS) is responsible for the statewide development and coordination of a comprehensive system to prevent and reduce premature death and disability.
- Pennsylvania's Emergency Medical Services system is defined by the EMS Act of 2009, (Act #37) Pa C.S. §8101-8157, regulations, and the Statewide EMS Development Plan is currently being updated.
- The Commonwealth's EMS system includes: 16 regional EMS councils; Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council, the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation and the two Poison Control Centers.
- More than 54,000 EMS personnel responding on 978 licensed ambulance services submitted over 1.8 million patient care reports in 2009.



## Objectives

**Recruitment** - Working to attract people who demonstrate a well-developed sense of civic responsibility and those known to be community-minded, for providing the best emergency care and treatment to the citizen and visitors of the Commonwealth

**Retention** - Ongoing initiative to provide and promote maintenance of quality and qualified Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support responders, in other words, "Keeping the Best!"

**Recognition** - To ensure that each EMS provider is recognized for their dedication and commitment to serve the people who call the Commonwealth home or to our visitors.

**Reimbursement** - Maintain an effective and efficient EMS system that is appropriately responsive to the EMS funding and demand, and to provide meaningful tools for future operational needs

**Relationships** - To facilitate provision for a state-of-the-art Emergency Medical System through networking and coordination among all providers and participants in the EMS system

**2009 Activities and Accomplishments**

- H1N1 Program Vaccine Administration by Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Personnel
- Nearly 1,000 EMS provider were identified, educated and at the ready for deployment to vaccine sites across the commonwealth. From the peak of the outbreak into mid December over 691 vaccinator positions were fill by EMS Providers accounting for more than 6,337 man hours.



- Patient Tracking Dashboard is being fully developed in 2009 in response to the demonstration project over the last two years.



**Ambulance Services**

Ambulance services are licensed to provide care at two levels in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Quick Response Units (QRS)	511
Basic Life Support (BLS)	589
Advanced Life Support (ALS)	373
Air Ambulance Services	16

There are 1519 recognized services in Pennsylvania.

- In March of 2009, the Bureau of EMS, in cooperation with the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, rolled out an updated version of the Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition Program (VRSR). New updates to the program include revising the training requirements to reflect current curriculums available and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) training and certification standards. A swiftwater component was added that reflects national typing standards based on national standards for swiftwater rescue teams.
- More than 400 EMS Personnel from Pennsylvania were deployed to support the G-20 Summit held in Pittsburgh in September 2009.

## Certification and Education

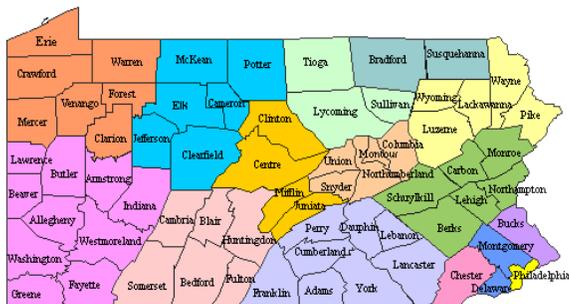
The Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services certifies First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), EMT-Paramedics (EMT-Ps) and Rescue Technicians, and recognizes prehospital Registered Nurses, Health Professional Physicians, and Medical Command Physicians.

## Pennsylvania's Prehospital Practitioners

First Responders	5,302
EMTs	34,670
EMT-Ps	11,948
PHRNs	1,734
Physicians	300
Medical Command Physicians	1,640
EMS Instructors	3,642

## Partners

- Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council
- Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation
- American Trauma Society, PA Chapter
- Poison Control Centers
- 16 Regional Emergency Medical Services



## Poison Control Centers



Pennsylvania's Poison Control System includes nationally accredited Poison Control Centers in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.



- Poison Control Services are available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.
- The Pennsylvania Poison Control System is part of the national Poison Control System using a single **1-800-222-1222** number to provide poison control services.
- Average cost of each Pennsylvania poison exposure call is \$28. Studies have demonstrated for every \$1 invested in Poison Control Centers there is a \$7 savings in health care costs as referenced in Public Law 106-174.
- Poison Control Centers have integrated their communication and database systems and developed a plan to address surge needs to ensure a full back up of the system.

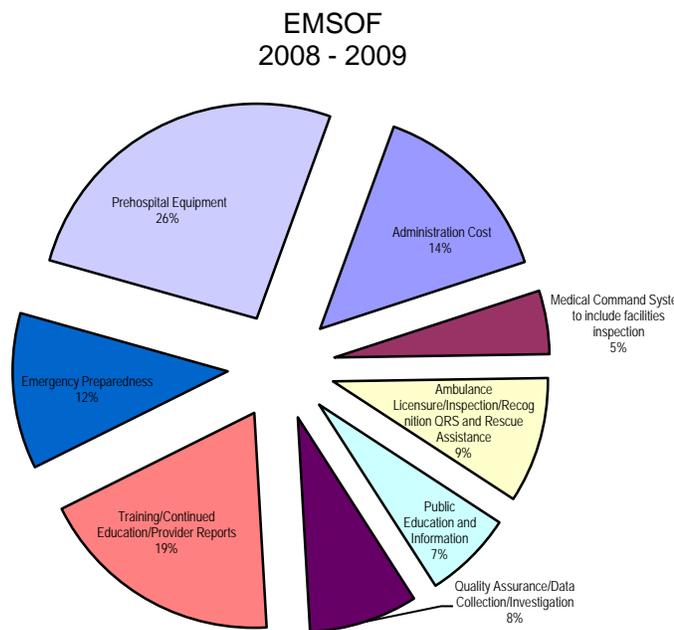
- In 2009 the two Poison Control Centers responded to more than 207,000 calls.

### Fiscal Operations

The Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Bureau of EMS distributed financial support to the EMS system across the Commonwealth in fiscal year 2008-2009.

Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund (EMSOF)	\$11,521,966
Regional Planning (Federal)	\$960,000
EMS Strike Teams (Federal)	\$750,000
Other Funds	\$2,598,372

### EMSOF Spending 2008-2009



### Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund (EMSOF)

EMSOF monies are to be used to provide funding to maintain, improve and develop the quality of the EMS system within this Commonwealth. The Department finds that EMSOF is not sufficient to fully fund the EMS system. Therefore, it gives notice, under 28 Pa.Code § 1001.22(d), that recipients of EMSOF funding from regional EMS councils may be required to contribute funds toward all purchases, acquisitions and projects for which the Department permits the use of EMSOF monies. The Regional EMS Councils utilize EMSOF funding for the initiation, evaluation, expansion, maintenance and improvement of EMS systems, which are in accordance with the Statewide EMS development plan and the EMS Act. A solid financial base is necessary to develop and maintain a system, which provides EMS access to the public and delivers services when needed. The role of EMS is expanding to include prevention efforts, participation in trauma and medical research, as well as partnering with other health related partners on both the local and state levels.

### Pediatric Trends

The highest frequency reason for a 2009 pediatric ambulance call was medical (47%).

The most frequent ALS pediatric treatment in 2009 was an EKG (51%), followed by Peripheral IV (34%) and medication administration (9%).

The most frequent medication provided a pediatric patient in 2009 was Albuterol