

# Emergency Medical Services Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## 2011 Annual Report



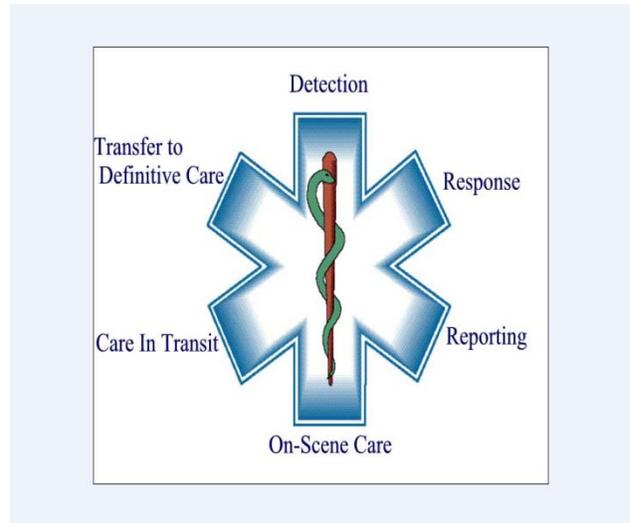
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## Mission

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 Emergency Medical Services System Act, (Act #37) Pa C.S. §8101-8157, regulations updated published October 14, 2000, and the Statewide EMS Development Plan.
- The Commonwealth's EMS system includes 16 regional EMS councils; the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council and the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation and the two Poison Control Centers.
- Approximately 60,041 EMS personnel and 1,633 licensed ambulance services responded to over 1.9 million patients in the year 2011.



## 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 maintaining quality and qualified Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support responders ... Keeping the Best!

**Recognition** – To ensure that each and every first responder, emergency medical technician, paramedic, health professional in Pennsylvania is commended for his or her outstanding service to the people of the Commonwealth

**Reimbursement** – Maintain an effective and efficient EMS system that is appropriately responsive to the EMS funding and demand and provides meaningful tools for future operational needs.

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

## 2011 Activities and Accomplishments

- **Statewide Ambulance Inspections:** The Bureau of EMS, in conjunction with the 16 Regional EMS Councils, successfully conducted statewide inspections on EMS vehicles and personnel throughout the Commonwealth on April 28, 2011. Inspections took place at 121 hospitals and clinics from 9am until 3pm. The safety inspections validated that EMS Agencies, who operate in Pennsylvania, have the required



equipment and personnel on each vehicle. Bureau and Regional EMS staff checked ambulances for emergency oxygen delivery equipment, emergency suction equipment and Automatic Emergency Defibrillation (AED) equipment, as well as, correct staffing. Our neighboring state of New Jersey also conducted statewide safety inspections on April 28. This is the first time safety inspections were conducted at the same time statewide. Within 10 days, Regional EMS staff followed-up on those inspections that found deficiencies to ensure that the deficiencies were corrected.

- **Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan:** On Thursday, 4/21/11, the Bureau of EMS successfully implemented its COOP Plan during the water main break in the city of Harrisburg. The staff was relocated and the Bureau's operations were able to continue with little difficulty. An After-Action Review was conducted by the Bureau to identify issues and improvements to the Plan.

- **Pennsylvania EMS Strike Teams** Two deployment to New Jersey in response to EMAC requests for Hurricane Irene to aid in evacuations and 911 assistance.
  - Friday, 8/26/11 ten strike teams, 47 ambulances and 124 personnel. EMS Strike Teams came from Southeast, Northeast and Central Pa. EMS units returned Saturday morning.
  - Sunday, 8/28/2011 five strike teams, 25 ambulances and 131 personnel, from various regions of Western Pennsylvania.



- On Sunday (08/28/11) 5 EMS Strike Teams (25 ambulances and 125 EMS Providers) were deployed back to New Jersey to return people to healthcare facilities. Some units also assisted with emergency response operations to support New Jersey 911 system. As of Wednesday (08/31/11) at 8pm, all units were returning to PA. Hundreds of patients and individuals were transported during this time. All EMS Units were returned by 8pm on August 31, 2011.
- Patient Tracking Dashboard was used during responses during strike team activations 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)	572
Basic Life Support (BLS)	669
Advanced Life Support (ALS)	376
Air Ambulance Services	16

There are 1633 recognized services in Pennsylvania.



## 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	5,476
EMTs	38,739
EMT-Ps	12,130
PHRNs	1,566
Physicians	336
Medical Command Physicians	1794
EMS Instructors	2,660

## Poison Control Centers



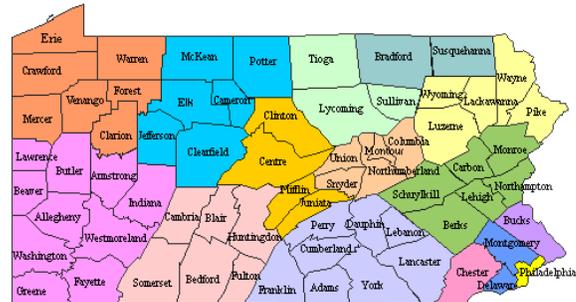
Pennsylvania's Poison Control System includes nationally accredited Poison Control Centers in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.



- 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.
- Fiscal Year 2011 the two Poison Control Centers responded to 173,680 calls.

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 moneys. 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

### 16 Regional Councils of Pennsylvania



### Fiscal Operations

The Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Bureau of EMS distributed financial support to the EMS system across the Commonwealth in fiscal year 2010-2011.

Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund (EMSOF)	\$11,313,706
Regional Planning (Federal)	\$398,300
EMS Strike Teams (Federal)	\$967,500
Other Funds	\$931,700

### Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund (EMSOF)

EMSOF moneys 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

### Partners

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

## EMS Expenditures 2010 - 2011

EMSOF - \$11,313,706

Federal - \$2,297,500

Total - \$13,611,206

