

DECEMBER 2025

# MAINE EMS STAFF UPDATE



## OVERVIEW

This publication is intended to provide members of the Board and interested parties insight into the work of the Maine Bureau of Emergency Medical Services office in the previous month. This publication is not anticipated to be exhaustive, but instead a high-level overview of the work that has taken place.

It should serve as a jumping point for conversations and questions from the Board regarding the ongoing work that is being performed throughout the state.

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings Maine EMS,

We are staying busy as we gear up for the colder months and get through the last of our deliverables for 2025. It has been both a challenging and rewarding year for our office and as we are looking back at the different things we accomplished, I am immensely proud of our efforts and successes.

We are continuing the final wave of the 2025 Protocol roll-out. Our team has been working closely with the Medical Direction and Practices Board, and each other, to improve access and streamline the process of training our providers on the new protocols.

Maine EMS continues to work closely with our Island communities, both through the LD841 Committee led by Marc Minkler and through our EMS Education stakeholders, as we look at new and innovative ways to deliver consistent, right-sized training to those areas that need more support. I attended the most recent meeting of the Maine Island Coalition, which spotlighted several local issues related to training and staffing that were insightful. I was able to make several valuable connections and share a commitment that moving forward we would stay connected with this group through our new EMS Regional Managers and Education team.

Our CDC Partners have helped facilitate funding for our work to continue our High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) Transport network. We will be sharing more details about this and the potential for agency funding as we move into the new year.

The new Maine EMS Licensing Board has been seated and has started reviewing cases. The Licensing Board is made up of an experienced and engaged group of EMS stakeholders. This change is already showing great potential to streamline and improve the adjudication of complaints for both our office and our licensees.

As we the last bits of Fall bid us farewell, I am excited for the path and work ahead. We have another month of work to go to round out an amazing year, and I am very thankful for our Maine EMS team. I also want to send a special thank you to our EMS and Public Safety teammates, who often spend the holidays away from their families, so they can be ready to care for ours. Stay safe out there!

-Wil



# STABILIZATION & SUSTAINABILITY

## Sustainability Grant

To date, 16% of the awarded EMS agencies, not including Training Centers, have completed the Sustainability Grant Program. 37 EMS agencies' (28 transporting & 9 non-transporting) grant programs have closed out, totaling \$1,142,771.18.

The remaining five transporting EMS agencies have signed their contracts and are awaiting payment. Once they receive payment, 100% of the grant funds (to 231 of Maine's transporting and non-transporting EMS agencies) will have been disbursed.

Agencies who have submitted Final Reports and have not submitted all required supporting documentation within 60 days of submitting their Final Report will be noncompliant with their contractual agreement.

*\*This update encompasses Transporting and Non-Transporting EMS agencies; it does not include Training Center data.*

## LICENSURE

Service Licensure renewal is underway. All licenses for State of Maine Ambulance and Non-Transporting Services expire annually on November 30th. The Licensure Team has been working with the Regional Managers to reach out to services that have not renewed as of September 24, 2025.

Within the past month, Maine EMS has issued seventy-three (73) new Ambulance Operator and EMS Clinician licenses, and twenty-two (22) upgrade/downgrade applications.

The Licensing Team had the opportunity to represent Maine EMS at the National Association of State EMS Official's East Region meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey, occurring on November 18th and 19th.

## EMS LICENSING BOARD

The Licensing Board has established a regular meeting schedule on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:30, beginning January 2026. The Board will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in November & December to avoid holidays. At their second meeting, the Board started reviewing and adjudicating complaints. They have extended the delegation order for staff to issue licenses with a letter of guidance for certain circumstances involving criminal convictions for one year. They will continue to review and consider the delegation order for staff to resolve complaints in certain circumstances involving rule violations and will consider electing a vice-chairperson at their December meeting.

# EMS FOR CHILDREN (EMSC)

## Highlights and Activities

- Educational Webinar – “Pediatric Fever”: On October 28, Maine EMS helped support a free webinar titled “Pediatric Fever in the Anti-Vax Era” presented by Dr. Maia Rutman (Dartmouth Hospital, NH Regional Director Pediatric Emergency Medicine). This program reviewed EMS and ED processes of evaluating and managing unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated children with fever
- Protocol Update FAQ Released: On October 31, Maine EMS released the version 3.0 FAQ document for the 2025 Prehospital Care Protocols. This affects all EMS clinicians in the state, including those caring for children. This FAQ helps ensure clarity and readiness for the upcoming December 1 rollout of the new protocols, and several pediatric-relevant items are addressed (e.g., bolus dosing for children, other pediatric details).
- Attended and supported the MaineHealth EMS Conference:
  - Covered the costs and attendance at the all day BLSO course
  - 20 EMS-C scholarships were awarded for the upcoming MaineHealth EMS Conference. These scholarships, through federal funding, help support pediatric readiness by enabling EMS/children-care providers to attend relevant regional training, providing community involvement and professional development focused on pediatric emergency care.
  - A reduction in cost for all in person attendees by \$50 was offered and helped cover costs related to the various pediatric topics
  - Marc Minkler presented on Newborn Emergencies
  - Minkler also assisted the MaineHealth team with practical stations on supraglottic airway management, and immobilization.
- Participated in a Handtevy Instructor Course sponsored by Gorham Fire Department
- Attended the NASEMSO East region meeting. Topics covered included updates from NREMT on processes, testing, and certification, state updates from East region partners, the Pediatric Emergency Care Council meeting, regional goals, Compact review and update and other networking.
- Marc Minkler was also an invited speaker at the National Conference on EMS and presented 2 sessions on Pediatric Toxicological Emergencies and Pediatric Shock. He also attended various courses on obstetrics, trauma, 2025 AHA Guideline updates and triage and will be using ideas and concepts to develop further courses for Maine.
- Working with HRSA on next steps and updates as they returned after Government shutdown on Nov 21

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### LD841 - Island EMS Workgroup

This workgroup met on November 5, 2025 on Isleboro (and virtually), where they received a presentation from Penobscot Island Air, discussed aspects of managing EMS operations, and developed a meeting schedule. The next meeting is scheduled for 2pm on December 1, 2025 at Maine DOT.

A survey on EMS was sent to Island leadership or, in the absence of an EMS agency on that island, to Island town officials.

# EDUCATION

Maine EMS education has been directly involved with the delivery and support of the following EMS initial and continuing education. The programs, conferences and committees, and other specific duties, include; the National EMS Management Association's (NEMSMA) Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP), and the Field Training Office (FTO) programs; the Maine Health EMS Conference; the Texas A&M Extension (TEEX) Management of Points of Distribution (MGT-319) program (2 classes, Dexter and South Portland, Maine) two site visits to assist Licensed Training Centers in their yearly reports; attended two NAEMSO committee meetings (Education and Critical Care; six regularly scheduled MEMS internal meetings; assist the Regional Managers with the approval CEH request; on-going review of submitted initial licensing curriculum; met with two vendors regarding hybrid initial education program options; three accreditation site visits for three of the paramedic programs (EMCC, KVCC, and NMCC) in conjunction with the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs (CoA); completion of the fourth protocol update and the delivery of the 2025/2026 Maine Protocol on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## REGION TWO

The Region Two Council is fully represented with the addition of two hospital representatives: Dr. Jodi Conrad from MaineHealth - Franklin and Dr. Sean Billodeau from Central Maine Medical Center. The Council appointed Dr. Tim Pieh as their Associate Regional Medical Director and Dr. Seth Ritter for the Board and MDPB to consider approval as the Regional Medical Director. They nominated Steve Almquist (Auburn Fire) and Chris Moretto (Winthrop Ambulance) to apply for the Governor's appointment to the EMS Board. The Council will begin considering internal structure and bylaws in December.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH (EMD)

Melissa attended the Regional Atlantic Association of Professional Communications Officers (APCO) conference in Connecticut in November. In addition to quality education and networking, she had a chance to meet with CAD vendors to start working to understand a data flow interface between CAD and ProQA (the EMD and EFD protocol software) which ensures that address information is readily available in ProQA to automatically query nearby AEDs in the PulsePoint AED Registry add-on. Working with EMD Centers, their IT staff, and CAD vendors will ensure that all necessary parties understand the goal of integrating PulsePoint AED technology in the EMD workflow, and their role in accomplishing it.