

SEPTEMBER 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

P. 2 - Director's Message

P. 3 - Maine EMS Information

Systems,

Stabilization & Sustainability

P. 4 - EMS ConnectME,

EMS for Children

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings Maine EMS!

Our team is wrapping up an absolute crusher of a month, with no slowing down in sight. We have several large-scale initiatives on-going, and one of our most important changes, the new EMS Licensing Board, coming together.

I was invited to Columbus, Ohio, and will be traveling to NREMT headquarters in early September to represent Maine EMS and participate in a focus group around future training content. It's honor to work with the team at National Registry and I am excited for the opportunity to discuss and shape the future of EMS Training with this group.

NEMSAC Dismissal: The recent dismissal of the entire National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) board by the new presidential administration may have significant implications for our industry, both nationally and at the state level. The simultaneous removal of all 25 members effectively silences the only formal advisory body that provides recommendations on behalf of EMS to the Department of Transportation and other federal agencies. This creates a substantial void in the national dialogue on critical EMS issues such as workforce shortages, patient care protocols (like whole blood), and critical funding discussions around community paramedicine. The work of the council on numerous advisories, which often inform best practices and policy, has been brought to a halt, stalling progress on key initiatives.

For the Maine EMS office, the absence of NEMSAC's guidance could lead to a lack of national direction on emerging challenges and a disconnect from federal policy development. While professional organizations representing EMS and EMS education will undoubtedly continue their advocacy efforts, the loss of a unique, federally recognized platform represents a significant setback in our ability to shape the future of emergency medical care in the United States.

Licensing Board: Our team continues to execute on the deliverables related to the formation of the Maine EMS Licensing Board. We are working hard with the current EMS Board and our committees to move all the pieces into place for this transition in last week of September. This is a fundamental change to the governance structure that executes on recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Commission and is a component of the 2035 Vision and Two-Year Plan for Maine EMS.

As we move into Fall, please be extra cautious for rapidly changing weather and roadway conditions, enjoy the gorgeous fall colors that will soon be in abundance, and stay safe out there.

-Wil



MAINE EMS INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Maine EMS has completed a major update to its support ticketing system. The new system provides a more modern interface. It can be accessed at <https://support.maineems.org/helpdesk/>

There have been several updates to MEFIRS:

- In an effort to reduce the amount of scrolling on the Patient Information screen and to better align data elements the **Estimated Body Weight in Kilograms (eExam.01)** and **Length Based Tape Measure (eExam.02)** has been moved from the Patient Information panel under the Arrival section to the Patient Assessment Panel under the Assessment panel.
- In an effort to ease data entry while allowing agencies to capture alternate residence addresses, such as seasonal residency and extended stays for employment, the patient address information has been modified so that address information is moved from the **"Patient Information"** section to a new subsequent section named **"Patient Address"**. A new section was also added named **"Other Patient Residence"**.
- At the request of New England Donor Services, and to better assess the frequency of donor services notification, we have added **"Did you make a notification to New England Donor Services?"** (Yes/No) to the PCR for calls meeting specific criteria (e.g., adult, non-traumatic arrest, termination of resuscitation in the field)
 - If **"Yes,"** the clinician will be prompted to enter the **NEDS Referral Number**.
 - If **"No,"** the clinician will be presented with a short list of **barriers to making the referral**.

STABILIZATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Grant

All Transporting and Non-Transporting agencies who were required to do 2nd quarter progress reports have submitted them. The 3rd quarter progress reports will be due October 15th, 2025. All agencies are in compliance with the grant program.

Eight transporting & non-transporting agencies have not received grant funding yet, due to pre-award verification. Issues stem around hospital merger or transitions, vendor codes, and contract signatory. The grants team is ready to award the grant funds once the pending issues are resolved.

To date, 13 agencies (eight transporting & five non-transporting) have completed the Sustainability Grant program, totaling \$355,290.94.

EMS CONNECTME

EMS ConnectME Expansion

With the EMS ConnectME trainings now available online, more agencies are adopting the program. This past month, Fryeburg Rescue became active at Level 1, and Southern Aroostook EMS and Goodwins Mills are currently working on getting set up. These new sites will be able to share EMS with potential Learners in a dozen more communities. We are so excited to have them onboard, and look forward to growing more!

EMS ConnectME by the Numbers

(8/26/2025)

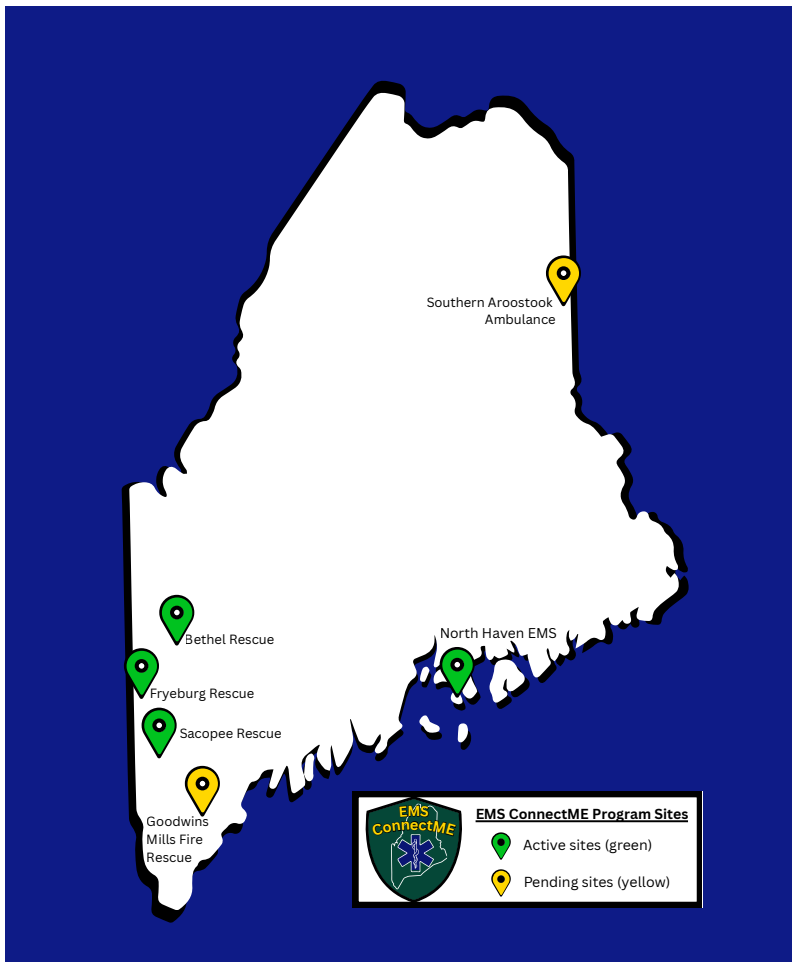
Active Sites: 4

Enrolled Learners: 24

Service Training Certificates Issued: 32

Mentor Training (I/C) Certificates Issued: 13

Mentor Training (non-I/C) Certificates Issued: 14



EMS FOR CHILDREN (EMSC)

The Maine EMS for Children program has completed the annual report to HRSA for grant reporting and metrics which has been received and approved. We continue to work on supporting education statewide, including the BLSO courses, and the 1st annual MaineHealth EMS conference in November. We are working on a survey to collect experiences with transporting patients under 29 days of age and what devices are being utilized, and we will be distributing free length-based tapes to all licensed EMS agencies in the coming weeks for use with pediatric patients.