

Maine EMS Exam Committee Meeting

Tuesday June 28, 2011

Muskie Conference Room, Augusta

Minutes

Present: Gary Utgard, Sally Taylor, Jeremy Damren, Joanne LeBrun

Absent: Jeff Regis, Peter Carbonneau, Shaun St. Germain,

Guests: N/A

Staff: Drexell White, Kerry Pomelow

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

Drexell reported that Jeff Regis, Leah Mitchell and Shaun St. Germain had notified him that they would not be in attendance.

A. Assign Timekeeper – Sally Taylor

B. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda – None

2. Minutes – April 26, 2011 Meeting Minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the April 26, 2011, meeting, were reviewed.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the April 26, 2011, meeting (Damren; second by Taylor – carries 2-0-2 Utgard, LeBrun)

3. Old Business

A. EMT-Basic Skill Sheet Instructions – Equipment Requirements

Committee members discussed the format of the equipment list. Drexell indicated that the list he is to draft will include the equipment required and the expectations for the equipment (e.g., full oxygen tanks, functional K.E.D. straps).

Discussion followed about how issues with equipment can be reported. Sally suggested an area on the Practical Skills Evaluation (PSE) Incident report be included, rather than creating another reporting tool.

Drexell will check with the Fire Marshal's Office regarding compressed gas storage.

B. 2013 Paramedic Accreditation – Testing Implications

Drexell reported that he had been in touch the State of Michigan, which is in the process of developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for development of a Paramedic cognitive examination. The RFP should be released later this year. Michigan had made the decision to use an alternative to NREMT in 2009; the State licenses 25,000 EMS providers.

There are a handful of other states such as South Carolina and Florida that have developed alternative testing for its providers

4. New Business

A. Use of NREMT AEMT Exam at the EMT-Intermediate Level.

The Committee reviewed the June 23, 2011, memo from Drexell White entitled *Use of NREMT AEMT Test for Maine EMT-Intermediate State Licensing Exams*.

The Maine EMS Education Committee will be recommending the National Education Standards (NES) for Advanced EMT (AEMT) – with Maine “add-ons” consistent with Maine EMS protocols – to the Maine EMS Board at its August 2011 meeting.

The committee discussed the necessity of testing for the Maine “add-ons” to the NES such as cardiac monitoring, intramuscular injections and laryngeal mask airway (LMA). The current Maine psychomotor and cognitive tests evaluate candidates in the aforementioned areas (with the exception of the LMA, which does not appear in the current Maine EMS psychomotor test).

Joanne LeBrun suggested using the NREMT AEMT exam “as-is” for the EMT-Intermediate level as:

- The NREMT AEMT process is established and clear to instructors
- Although cost is a consideration, it is secondary to ensuring a consistent and defensible examination process
- All AEMT content and competencies are based on the NES
- Competencies associated with Maine “add-ons” may be accomplished by including an evaluation tool in the education modules (for Maine “add-ons”) being developed by the Education Committee.
- Provides a clean reciprocity process – reciprocal candidates with NREMT AEMT certification need only complete the Maine education and evaluation for “add-ons”

Committee members agreed with Joanne’s observations, citing several “add-ons” over the years that have successfully been evaluated as part of the education process (e.g., Continuous positive airway pressure [CPAP], Laryngeal mask airways [LMAs], Adult Intraosseous infusion).

Implementation timing was discussed, considering that the Education Committee’s recommendation is to require the Maine Education Standards (MES) – which consists of NES plus Maine “add-ons” – beginning January 1, 2012.

Sally Taylor suggested that:

- All Maine EMT-I classes commencing on or after January 1, 2012 must be tested using the NREMT AEMT psychomotor and cognitive exams;
- Any individual testing on or after June 1, 2012 must be tested using the NREMT AEMT psychomotor and cognitive exams (After 5/31/2012, any individual who completed an EMT-I course that used the Maine EMS curriculum in effect prior to January 1, 2012, would need to take MES transition modules in order to sit for the exams);

It was also suggested that persons trained under the “new” MES, candidates should take the NREMT AEMT exam (i.e., individuals during the AEMT phase-in could not opt to take the “old” Maine EMS written and practical exam – that is based on the Maine EMS curriculum that preceded the MES for EMT-I - instead of the NREMT AEMT exam).

It was also suggested that prior to implementation that a joint meeting of the Education Committee, Exam Committee, Training Centers and designated Instructor Coordinators would be beneficial to acquaint everyone with the new education and testing process.

Motion: That the Exam Committee recommends that the Maine EMS Board approve:

- ***The National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) psychomotor and cognitive exams as the State licensing exam for Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate candidates (EMT-I), effective for all Maine EMT-I candidates who complete Maine EMT-Intermediate classes that commence after December 31, 2011;***
- ***That individuals who have completed Maine EMT-Intermediate programs that are not based upon 2011 Maine Education Standards (MES) for EMT-Intermediate, have until May 31, 2012 to complete EMT-Intermediate psychomotor and cognitive testing under the current Maine EMS psychomotor and cognitive test for EMT-I;***
- ***That after May 31, 2011, individuals who have completed Maine EMS-approved EMT-Intermediate programs that are not based upon 2011 MES for EMT-Intermediate, must complete Maine EMS EMT-I transition modules and be subject to testing using the NREMT AEMT psychomotor and cognitive exams; and***
- ***That, effective August 3, 2011, the Board approve the NREMT AEMT psychomotor and cognitive exams as meeting the testing requirements for licensure as a Maine EMS EMT-I (Taylor; Utgard – Carries - Unanimous)***

Next Steps – Drexell will send an overview of the Exam Committee’s proposal to Maine EMS Training Centers, Advanced Life Support Instructors and Exam and Education Committee members and invite comment to be included with the proposal to be forwarded to the Maine EMS Board.

5. Next Meeting

Committee members are asked to keep Tuesday July 26, 2011 scheduled for an Exam Committee meeting, should one be necessary. Otherwise, the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 27, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at Maine EMS in Augusta.

7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White