



Friday, May 15, 2020

To: EMS Certified & Licensed Persons
From: Kraig Kinney, State Director and Counsel of EMS
Re: EMS Updates

Yesterday, the first EMS Commission meeting was held since January. We had a few technical issues that we hope to resolve before the next meeting, and I apologize to anyone that was not able to view the meeting.

We will have the usual minutes, but I wanted to share the important issues that were addressed in the meeting:

- Scope of Practice discussion. A requested was made to reconsider mechanical CPR devices. Currently, devices approved by a medical director may be utilized by EMTs, AEMTs, and paramedics. EMRs are not included in either the national or the Indiana scope of practice. After a discussion, the EMS Commission tabled the matter to allow for a better determination of the need at the EMR level for the mechanical CPR devices.
- Non-Rule Policy for EMS Continuing Education: This policy guides the IDHS certifications staff and give guidance to certified personnel at all levels on how continuing education may be obtained.
- Non-Rule Policy for Certification Renewal Dishonesty: This policy creates a tiered system on how certified personnel will be sanctioned if they commit renewal dishonesty from no obtaining signatures before doing on-line renewal to not having sufficient hours to listing false information.
 - Note that the EMS Commission discussed how these incidents leading to sanctions are found. Most are through a random audit. IDHS does receive a few a year where someone brags to others that report the concern. Finally, EMS provider organizations have been very cooperative with IDHS when they determine fraud has happened. Those organizations are obligated to report any disciplinary sanctions taken against an affiliated person that restricts, suspends or revokes the affiliation to IDHS within 30 days. Thus, if an organization determines that continuing education was inaccurate and orders the person to attend documentation training or even suspends the person, then there is a duty to report it to IDHS.
- New continuing education forms were approved for all levels, EMR, EMT, AEMT, and paramedic. The EMS Commission modified the forms slightly so they will be modified and will be available on the IDHS website soon. The reason for the change is primarily the renewal skills for EMT have changed, but all the forms are also now in consistent format.
- New standards for special recognition by the EMS Commission for service, performance, and line of duty deaths were adopted and are available on the IDHS EMS Website.

- Announcements from the EMS Commission meeting:
 - March 31, 2020, expiration date certification and licensure renewals were further extended until June 4, 2020, by Governor's Executive Order. Affected accounts have been updated in ACADIS. Note that there have been no extensions, and none are planned for all June 30, 2020, expiration date certifications and licensure.
 - The Indiana Emergency Response Conference remains in planning for September.
 - The 2020 Legislative final update on EMS related bills was given and an overview is available on the IDHS EMS website.
 - ACADIS training updates:
 - Mikel Fort is working on LMS content for the AEMT medication additions that were approved previously by the EMS Commission.
 - The Hazmat Awareness ACADIS program that is used by many EMS programs to give an introduction to hazardous materials is experienced technical challenges and is being retired. A replacement has already been developed and is being processed by the IDHS.
 - Special recognitions that were given or adopted:
 - Mel Tucker, Paramedic Emeritus after 44 years of service in EMS.
 - Dale Bancroft, Paramedic Emeritus and Primary Instructor Emeritus for decades of service in education while also remaining active in functioning as a paramedic.
 - John Schoffstall, Paramedic Emeritus after a line of duty death related to COVID-19 after twenty years of service in EMS with Terre Haute Fire Department.
 - Dr. Steve Champion, EMS Commissioner Emeritus for service to the EMS Commission from 2012 until his recent passing from cancer. Dr. Champion was also one of the first of the new generation of EMS medical directors in the State of Indiana—having served in EMS during his college days at DePauw University and working at Putnam County Operation Life.