



# LifeLine

## EMS Act 37 ... Rules & Regulations To Come

**Special points of interest:**

- EMS Act 37
- Your Con Ed
- Instructor Enrichment Modules II & III
- Symposium 2010—  
New date and location

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It's been 29 years since Pennsylvania's EMS Act, Act 45, was originally signed into law. With the stroke of his pen on August 18, 2009, Governor Edward Rendell signed Pennsylvania's new EMS Act, Act 37. The signing was witnessed by regional EMS providers from throughout the Commonwealth. Three representatives from EMMCO West, including myself, witnessed the signing. It was a great day in Pennsylvania and it promises to have more great days ahead!

Why the optimistic viewpoint? Until the signing of Act 37, PA's EMS system had been handcuffed to a host albatrosses contained within Act 45. Act 37 breathes new life into the Pa's EMS system. Another reason to be optimistic is the opportunity to have your voices and opinions heard by the developers of the new rules

and regulations for Act 37. Just as the new EMS act was formed through a consensus approach, so too will it rules and regulations. And we have just found out that at EMMCO West's Symposium 2010, in April 2010, there will be a town hall meeting with Bureau of EMS Director Joseph Schmitter ! This will be one of the first statewide town hall meetings to discuss proposed rules and regulations for Act 37.

Many of the anticipated components of the Act 37 require rules and regulations to be written. These include the new EMS agency licensing process, medical command and education institute accreditation, and the new levels of certification. All EMS providers will be permanently certified, including EVOC operators. There will be a biennial or triennial registration process

for certified EMS providers, as defined by the rules and regulations.

Meanwhile, some components of Act 37 go into effect immediately or on February 1, 2010. Most of these components are administrative in nature. Of note is the revised state EMS certification examination process. Attempts to take either the practical and written certification examinations now have restrictions as to the number of attempts before remediation or retaking the entire course occurs. Also, sanctions against EMS providers and/or EMS agencies, who are repeatedly out of compliance with the EMS Act, take effect February 1, 2010.

The most anticipated portion of Act 37 is the new levels of certification, specifically the Advanced EMT level. Identified within the national

(cont. pg. 2)

## EMS Act 37 ... Rules & Regulations To Come

(cont. from pg.1)

EMS model document, NHTSA's EMS Education Agenda of the Future, the EMT Advanced level enables specific "ALS" level skills to be performed by qualified EMTs. It's likely that PA will closely follow the skills outlined within the National Scope of Practice and National EMS Educational Standards models. Skills such as blood glucose monitoring, IV therapy, limited drug interventions, combi-tube or King Airway skills, AED, plus additional assessments and treatment modalities will likely be identified within PA's Ad-

vanced EMT Scope of Practice. The Advanced EMT level will have a significant impact on the staffing of BLS and ALS EMS Agencies. How the Advanced EMT will be integrated into the EMS system will be largely shaped by the new EMS Act's rules and regulations.

Copies of EMS Act 37 can be downloaded from "Breaking News" on the EMMCO West Internet site, [www.emmco.org](http://www.emmco.org). As soon as they are available, EMMCO West will post draft copies of the proposed Act 37 rules and regulations (likely to be in early

2010). In October and November 2009, EMMCO West will be conducting a series of Act 37 orientation sessions. Plan to come out to one of these orientation sessions and learn more about PA's new EMS Systems Act, Act 37.

It's great to be in EMS and to be a part in the formation of tomorrow's EMS system, today!

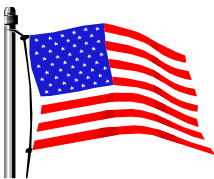
Bill McClincy  
Executive Director  
**Director's Corner**

### Hold the Date & Location—Symposium 2010

**EMMCO West Symposium 2010 is April 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> at the Ambassador Conference Center,  
Peach Street and I-90, Erie, PA.**

**This is a change..... so mark your calendars....take vacation.....**

**See you there!!**



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## Your Con Ed Corner

As the fall approaches, EMMCO West often sees an increase in continuing education classes. Here are a few points to keep in mind about con ed and your certification.

**BLS certifications** expire on the first of the month not the end of the month. If your continuing education credit is not completed before the 1st of the month, you will expire! In general, there is no extension or grace period. You will be eligible for the reinstatement process, but will be expired until you can complete that process.

**ALS certifications-** ALS personnel are required to complete 18 hours of continuing education each calendar year. This requirement is pro-rated for your **first year only** of certification (1.5 hours per month you were certified). Your service medical director is not permitted to waive these requirements.

ALS services may require additional continuing educational require-

ments or impose other time lines for the completion of continuing education.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure that EMMCO West has a copy of your current CPR card on file. While some training officers, con ed sponsors and instructors will submit rosters to our office, it is ultimately your responsibility to ensure we have a copy of your most recent card. Copies of CPR cards that are submitted to our office should contain your certification number, so we can ensure you get credit.

To ensure that you get credit when you take a con ed class bring your certification card or number with you. Con ed sponsors have deadlines to complete paperwork at the end of a class. They have been instructed not to award credit to individuals who do not have their certification numbers with them when they register for the class.

The LMS and the DOH Portals are two different websites. The LMS is free online continuing education. Through the DOH Portal you can check your con ed credit, print status reports, and update your email and mailing address.

LMS classes download each Monday. If you have taken classes on the LMS check the DOH Portal the following Monday to see if your classes are downloading properly. If not give EMMCO West a call so we can resolve the issue.

Con Ed sponsors are required by regulation to provide you with a document stating you completed a con ed session. This is critical for the reinstatement process. Contact the con ed sponsor if you do not receive proper documentation.

Submitted by Melissa  
Thompson

## EMMCO West Website & FACEBOOK

The EMMCO West website [www.emmco.org](http://www.emmco.org) contains information about EMS in NW PA, links to EMS related websites, events and specialty class information and lots more. Please wonder your way through the site and let us know how we may improve it.

EMMCO West is now on FACEBOOK. Check us out....another way to communicate!

## EMS Act 37 Town Meetings

Interested in learning about the new EMS act? EMMCO West will be conducting informative town meetings on the newest legislation affecting EMS providers and agencies. Look for us at the following locations:

Location	Date	Time
Youngsville VFD	October 26, 2009	6pm-9pm
EMMCO West	November 2, 2009	1pm-4pm
Edinboro VFD	November 5, 2009	6pm-9pm
UPMC Seneca Place	November 9, 2009	6pm-9pm
Titusville Redevelopment Authority	November 14, 2009	9am-12pm
Erie-Dept. of Public Safety	November 18, 2009	6pm-9pm
Mercer VFD	November 18, 2009	6pm-9pm
Clarion Hospital	November 19, 2009	6pm-9pm

## Photo ID—Wallet Cards

EMMCO West, Inc. is continuing the processing of photo identification and signatures, as part of the PA Department of Health EMS certification processing. On the new plastic EMS certification identification cards, you can have your photo and signature electronically captured and imprinted onto your certification card.

- Stop in the EMMCO West office (Meadeville, PA), M – F between 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- No appointments are necessary
- Bring the following verification items with you:
  - (1) Form of Photo ID (i.e. Drivers License, Passport, or School ID.)
  - Current PA DOH EMS Certification (First Responder, EMT, Paramedic, PHRN)
  - Current CPR certification

Please note, if your certification expires 6 months or less at the time of your photo being taken, we will upload your photo and signature onto the PA Department of Health EMS Registry system. Upon completion of recertification as an EMS Practitioner a new plastic certification card will be issued with your photo and signature imprinted on it.

Submitted by Trisha Skelton

## EMMCO West Staff Would Like to Visit

EMMCO West, Inc staff is going to expand upon an outreach program that was started during EMS Week 2009. During EMS week, EMMCO West staff made visits to different services during the week to say thank you for all that you do.

We are going to begin scheduling visits with different staff members. Trish will be contacting your service to set up a date and time that will work into your schedule. If you have something special happening at your station and you would like EMMCO West to be there, call to see if that can be arranged. The visits will be worked around a time that is convenient with your service.

We want to have the opportunity to visit with you, the street level practitioners, and to see what is going on in the field from your perspective.

Submitted by Trisha Skelton

## Missed Calls

EMMCO West's QI committee measures missed calls in order to get a handle on the stress in the system that we are currently not able to handle with existing personnel and resources.

This is not punitive, however there are regulations related to reporting out of service and in the new EMS Act, staffing is 24/7 unless the service is part of an approved county level staffing program.

Your service needs to be aware of this.

Please be honest in the reporting of missed calls, we are interested in all calls to which another service had to respond for a call to which you were on a call and to which you normally would have been dispatched (if you have access to that information).

The reporting form will be changing, there is no

need to submit calls in which there was a delayed response, however your service might be interested in continuing to monitor that.

Missed call reports are due to EMMCO West by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. A separate mailing will be going to all services with a revised form and cover letter.

Submitted by Chris Heile

## NEMSIS

Pennsylvania is in the process of transitioning to a national EMS data set (NEMSIS) which can be exported from your PCR program.

If you have not switched over to your vendor's NEMSIS approved version of their software, you need to do so now.

CIA's (QuickTrip) Pennsylvania NEMSIS version is not yet available.

Services will need to upload files via the WebCur uploader unless you have a

program that does not require you to send files to the region (like EMS Charts or EMStat). This requires internet access. If this is impossible, we will need to make other arrangements for transferring the files to EMMCO West securely.

If you have trouble sending files to EMMCO West, perhaps you can find someone in your service or your community who can assist you. Other-

wise, it may make sense to switch to a vendor in which we receive the files automatically. You could also encourage your vendor to come up with a transfer solution which doesn't require a great deal of computer knowledge on your part.

Paper forms are to be used only under extraordinary circumstances.

Submitted by Chris Heile

## Warning — Broselow Tape Includes Error

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices warns that Broselow Tape 2007 Edition A contains a dosage error. The Wisconsin EMS office issued an alert in June explaining that this edition (and only this edition), of the tape, which calculates pediatric medication dosages based on the child's weight, states that the glu-

cagon dosage for children weighing 3-4 kg through white zone should be 0.5mg/kg/dose. The *correct* glucagon dosage for children weighing 3-5 kg is 0.5 mg. The erroneous tape also states that for children with weights within the tape's blue through green zones, the dosage should be 1 mg/kg/dose with a maxi-

mum dose of 1 mg. The correct glucagon dosage for children in blue through green zones is 1 mg. The ISMP advises "correcting" 2007 Edition A tapes by using a black pen to block out "/kg/dose." Broselow Tape 2007 Edition B does *not* contain this error.

## EMMCO West Critical Incident Stress Management Team

They answer the phone at all hours of the day and night. They drive for hours to get to a service in need. They listen to people tell their stories about the “worst call”, they just responded to. Who are “they”? They are the team members of the EMMCO West Critical Incident Stress Management team. These highly trained team members attend regular training sessions at EMMCO West office and at specialty

training courses recognized by International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

The EMMCO West Critical Incident Stress Management (C.I.S.M.) Team is a free resource available for all Dispatch, EMS, Fire, and Police personnel. The team can be activated 24/7, 365 days a year by calling (814) 337-5380. In the event of activation, only certified team members will be dispatched by the team coordi-

nator. All interventions are private and confidential.

If you would like information about joining the EMMCO West C.I.S.M. team or your service would like information regarding the “C.I.S.M. Pre-Incident Planning” course, please contact the team coordinator Michelle Eaton at (814) 337-5380 or by e-mail at [michelle@emmco.org](mailto:michelle@emmco.org).

Submitted by Michelle Eaton

## CISM—Thank You

Often volunteer team members put in hours of service with little recognition. EMMCO West would like to take this time to recognize a few members of the EMMCO West Critical Incident Stress Management team.

Kim Kennedy has been with the EMMCO West team for over 15 years. Kim has attended many specialty courses over the years, continuing to build on her knowledge of stress and stress reactions. She has responded to services all over the EMMCO West region at their time of need.

Jeanna Phelps has been with the team for over 10 years. Jeanna has often responded to calls with only an hour notice of activation, often canceling plans to be there for a service in need.

Helen and Dennis Winger have both been with the team for over 10 years. This married couple has responded to activations, as a couple or as individuals depending on the circumstance. They are always prepared to respond.

Bill Boyer has been with the team for over 10 years.

Because of Bill’s many years of EMS service, he has been a valuable resource for activations involving different types of calls.

Marcia Rossman-Reed has been with the team for over 10 years. Marcia lives in the southern part of the EMMCO West region, but has often made the two or three hour drive to help a service in need.

Thank you to all EMMCO West C.I.S.M. members. You are a wonderful resource for providers in need!!

Submitted by Michelle Eaton

## Symposium 2010

**EMMCO West Symposium 2010 is April 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> at the Ambassador Conference Center, Peach Street and I-90, Erie, PA.**

**This is a change in date and location..... so mark your calendars....**

**See you there!!**

## EMS Instructors—Instructor Corner

### Instructor Enrichment Module II & III Dates

Time is running out for Department of Health certified EMS Instructors to attend Modules II, and III. Module I is currently available online at the Learning Management System website.

EMMCO West staff members have been hosting Module II and III sessions in different counties throughout the 2009 year. Remember as stated in previous newsletters, e-mails, and snail mailings all Department of Health certified EMS Instructors must attend Modules I, II, and III prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 to be eligible for recertification. If you haven't yet completed Module II or III, the following dates and locations are still open for registration. You must pre-register prior to attending by contacting Michelle Eaton at (814) 337-5380 or via e-mail at [michelle@emmco.org](mailto:michelle@emmco.org).

October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	8 am till 5 pm	Module II & III	Sheffield VFD
November 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2009	8 am till 5 pm	Module II & III	EMMCO West office
December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	6 pm till 10 pm	Module II	EMMCO West office
December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	6 pm till 10 pm	Module III	EMMCO West office

### Symposium 2010—Call for Speakers

Symposium 2010 April 8-10 at the Ambassador Conference Center (Peach Street and I-90, Erie, PA)

EMMCO West invites those interested in speaking at Symposium 2010 to submit presentation proposals.

Proposal must include:

Presenter's Name, Lecture Title, Lecture time Frame, Brief overview of lecture, contact information for presenter (s), fee for service if required.

We encourage you to develop your proposal understanding that:

- Most of the attendees at symposium 2010 will be functioning as EMTs and /or First Responders at the Basic Life Support Skill Level
- Attendees at the Symposium prefer hands-on courses that challenge them to make correct patient decisions
- Attendees will normally enroll in a class that offers continuing education credit and prefer those classes that offer PA EMS medical/trauma CEUs.

Please send proposals to [mthompson@emmco.org](mailto:mthompson@emmco.org) or Melissa Thompson, EMMCO West, 16271 Conneaut Lake Road, Suite 101, Meadville, PA 16335 no later than October 30, 2009.

### A Few Class Statistics

Stats for period starting 1/1/2009 and ending 9/15/2009 within the EW region

Number of classes ending - BVR-Tech 6; FR 3; Bridge 1; EMT 11; Paramedic 4  
 Number of students course completed - BVR-Tech 105; FR 23; Bridge 14; EMT 157; Paramedic 16  
 Number of students passing state exams - BVR-Tech 64; FR 6; Bridge 11; EMT 119; Paramedic 8

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*The bottom line is  
patient care.*

# **New State EMS Act is passed— Act 37**

August 18th, 2009 , the governor of PA signed into legislation ACT 37.

Look in this issue for Town Meeting dates being held to review the new EMS Act

**Looking to the future.....Learning from the past.**

## **Emergency Medical Services**

