



## **Tidewater Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.**

6353 Center Drive Suite 101

Norfolk, VA 23502

---

### **SECOND QUARTER FY07 PROGRAM REPORT**

**October 1 to December 31, 2006**

EMS program planning and development as well as administrative support for the Virginia -1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team were made possible with funding provided by the Virginia Department of Health Office of EMS (OEMS), as stipulated in Commonwealth of Virginia contract #517-07-209, through financial support provided by the ten jurisdictions in the Tidewater EMS region and through other grants and contributions. Publication costs associated with the *RESPONSE* newsletter were contributed in part by the Sentara Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance Service.

The operation of the Tidewater Center for Life Support Training was provided through a contract with the Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Sustainment of and administrative support for the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (HRMMRS) was supported by per capita contributions of sixteen jurisdictions through a contract with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. Additional training, planning and equipment logistics staffing was provided through a contract with the HRPDC utilizing federal MMRS contract and grant funds.

A committee structure is utilized by the Council to achieve goals and objectives as defined in the regional EMS plan, contracts and other agreements. Quarterly activities of the various committees, staff and the Council as a whole in pursuit of these objectives are summarized herein. Committee minutes and previous reports are posted on the council's website at [www.tidewaterems.org](http://www.tidewaterems.org).

#### ***Mission Statement***

The mission of the Tidewater EMS Council is to facilitate regional cooperation, planning and implementation of an integrated emergency medical services delivery system.



#### **EMS Programs**

##### ***Medical Direction***

- The Operational Medical Directors Committee met on December 7 in an annual joint meeting with the Peninsulas EMS Council Medical Advisors Committee. Accomplishments include:
  - Discussed comparing the TEMS and PEMS protocols to identify similarities and differences. Both regions will send this matter to the appropriate committees and will meet together in the future.
  - Discussed e-learning programs, such as advanced cardiac life support, and the efficacy of these programs.
  - Approved one new medical director.
  - Discussed new protocols and approved making Solumedrol a standing order for paramedics in severe

respiratory distress.

- Staff continued the process of replacing some 185 old or broken IV boxes with newly purchased boxes.

### ***EMS Medical Operations***

- The EMS Medical Operations Committee met on October 11 and December 13. Accomplishments include:
  - Continued work on the protocol adoption process.
  - Added performance indicators on each protocol.
  - The sanctioning exams have been revised to reflect the new protocols and new AHA standards.

### ***Trauma Triage***

- The Trauma Triage Quality Improve Committee did not meet in the second quarter.
- Participated in a trauma center accreditation review at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, November 30.
- Received a trauma data report from OEMS with non-trauma center hospital deaths of trauma patients. OEMS requested the region to conduct a QI committee review of the deaths.

### ***Mass Casualty Management***

- HRMMRS is funding the purchase of eight 16-foot disaster supply trailers (4 TEMS, 4 PEMS). The trailers will be provided fully stocked, and compatible with the HRMMRS Strike Team trailers, to the following jurisdictions: Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Newport News, York County and James City County. The RFP for the trailer purchase will go out in early 2007 with anticipated receipt and placement in service by mid-summer. (Note that Virginia Beach has a disaster truck that will be used in lieu of a trailer. The contents will be provided to Virginia Beach in standardized containers and placed on the truck in locations similar to the other trailers.)
- 14 OCT 06: Conducted a RSAF grant-funded Moulage course at TEMS to develop a trained moulage cadre who can be called upon to assist at training courses, drills & exercises.
- 16 OCT 06: Provided moulage support for Sentara Norfolk General Hospital/Naval Shipyard contaminated injured patients drill.
- 23 OCT 06: Portsmouth LEPC Exercise - multiple agencies from multiple jurisdictions; primarily a law enforcement exercise. Exercise included an activation of the HRMMST to fulfill role as MCI mutual aid asset. There were approximately 800 participants. The drill produced approximately 35-40 patients including a classroom of special needs children that required evacuation by SWAT.
- 19 DEC 06: Sentara Leigh Hospital MCI Drill – Provided administrative assistance in drill design and provided moulage support on the day of the drill.
- 27 DEC 06: MCI working group met. Addressed workgroup chair replacement and one major change to the Regional MCI Plan which is the removal of references to EMSsystem and replacement with WebEOC information.
- A Mass Casualty Incident Management Instructor Training course is scheduled for January 21 with instruction to be provided by OEMS.

### ***Hospital Diversion and Surge Capacity***

- Participated in bi-monthly meetings to discuss surge capability (held in conjunction with the HRMMRS Healthcare Committee).
- Hospitals continued utilization of EMSsystem web-based software to report ambulance diversion needs.
- Distributed monthly EMSsystem ambulance diversion reports to medical directors, ED nurse managers and EMS leadership.
- Began preparations for a transition from EMSsystem to WebEOC for reporting ambulance diversion. Staff and hospital representatives attended WebEOC training held at the TEMS office on December 11.

### ***Performance Improvement Programs***

- The quality improvement committee met on Oct 12 and discussed performance improvement projects including stroke management and trauma management. Committee members are evaluating a software

product which may be useful as a regionwide tool in managing all performance improvement programs.

### **Public Information and Referral**

- Published one *RESPONSE* newsletter with a circulation of 2270.
- Distributed a final allocation of Bereavement Booklets to EMS agencies from a previous mass printing.
- Presented EMS recruitment information during a presentation to Commonwealth Challenge students, November 30.
- Maintained and distributed EMS information and training brochures as requested.
- Maintained and continually updated the council's web site [www.tidewaterems.org](http://www.tidewaterems.org). Submitted monthly Meeting and Event Calendar postings, and other postings of regional EMS interest, to the council's listserv <temslist@vaems.org>.

### **System Funding**

- Conducted RSAF grant review and grading in PD 23 October 11 and PD 22 October 12.
- Attended state FARC committee grant review, November 7-8.

### **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)**

- Coordinated a regional CISM Team with 13 mental health and 36 peer volunteer members.
- Provided a central point of team access for all emergency workers in the Tidewater region. Daytime access: 757 963-0632. Nights, weekends and holidays: 757 622-1309.
- Held a team meeting on November 6.
- Responded to 13 requests for CISM interventions and 2 requests for education.

### **Regional EMS Awards Program**

- Four of the region's 11 nominees received state EMS awards: Kathleen Colantuono, RN, of Chesapeake received the 2006 Nurse with Outstanding Contributions to EMS award. Barry J. Knapp, II, MD of Virginia Beach received the Outstanding EMS Physician award. Laura L. Walker, DM (candidate) of Portsmouth received the Outstanding EMS Administrator award. Michael Griffin, EMT-E of Capron won the Outstanding Pre-Hospital Provider award.

### **Education, Training, Testing and Instructor Network**

- Provided a central point for all state EMS test registrations in the region and conducted EMS test sites on Oct 14, Nov 28 and Dec 9.
- Conducted oral interviews for 25 ALS students on 10/12, 10/17, 10/25, 10/26, 11/16, 11/20, 11/21, 11/22, 11/27 and 11/28.
- Conducted written exams for 8 ALS providers entering the region or for retest purposes.
- Handled more than 40 telephone, email and Internet inquiries on the availability and location of basic and advanced EMS training programs.
- Provided information to 13 out-of-state providers with questions regarding recognition and/or reciprocity in Virginia.
- Council staff provided extensive logistics, educational and equipment support to the annual Virginia EMS Symposium, November 8-12. Local agencies and providers, especially Norfolk Fire Rescue, Virginia Beach EMS, Chesapeake Fire and the Eastern Virginia Medical School, provided extensive logistics support. A regional representative was selected for participation on the 2007 symposium program committee.
- Conducted an AMLS provider course on December 2-3 for 15 students. Rescheduled the instructor portion of the course for January.
- Conducted a Moulage course for 15 students on October 14.
- Continued to promote BLS and ALS continuing education availability on the TEMS and Eastern Shore websites.

## **Other Regional Planning and Management**

- Conducted a meeting of the Board of Directors on October 19. Accomplishments include:
  - Authorized development and circulation of a Request for Proposal from a qualified consultant to review the council's structure and programs and to make recommendations to the board.
  - Appointed a committee to develop "talking points" in expectation to an upcoming statewide study of the regional EMS council system.
  - Approved 2007 board meeting dates: January 25, April 19, July 19 and October 18.
  - Acknowledged years of service by Eastern Shore Operational Medical Director Geoffrey Gubb, MD and requested a letter be sent to him recognizing those efforts.
  - Elected Barry Knapp to fill an unexpired term representing the City of Norfolk.
  - Received and accepted the FY06 Audit of Financial Statements. Forwarded a copy of the audit to OEMS, HRPDC and EVMS.
- Completed and have publicly available a copy of the annual federal 990 form.
- Completed and widely distributed the FY2006 Annual Report.
- All council reports, protocols and minutes were also posted on the council's web site. Provided OEMS with board and committee rosters, bylaws, committee descriptions, meeting dates, and administrative policies.



## **Eastern Shore EMS Council**

- Dr. Geoffrey Gubb resigned as Operational Medical Director and Dr. Richard Hatch assumed the reigns.
- Oct 12 – Conducted an ES EMS Council Meeting.
- Dec 14 – Held ES EMS Council Dinner.
- Held monthly ALS Continuing Education classes.
- Planned for an upcoming January EMT-Enhanced Course.
- Offered several EVOC courses.
- 7 EMTs' certifications expired; recertified 6 EMTs
- Gained a new regionally sanctioned Paramedic and Intermediate.
- Worked with Tangier Island Volunteer Fire Department on efforts to provide First Responder/EMT training in the near future.
- The council office provided bookkeeping services for the Eastern Shore EMS Council.



## **Tidewater Center for Life Support Training**

- Under contract with the Eastern Virginia Medical School, managed the Tidewater Center for Life Support Training and maintained status as a training center for the American Heart Association and the American Health and Safety Institute and offered the American College of Surgeons' Advanced Trauma Life Support courses.
- Conducted a meeting of the TCLS Advisory Board on December 12. Reviewed FY06 program and financial results and discussed the BLS program expansion and marketing efforts.
- Conducted a training site committee meeting on November 19.



## **Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (HRMMRS)**

- In association with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and the Peninsulas EMS Council, provided oversight and management of the HRMMRS.
- Deployed the MMRS Strike Team in support of a Portsmouth LEPC exercise October 23. Exercised team activation and team assembly as well as the role as a mutual aid asset.
- Maintained a MMRS Strike Team (MMST) member database and training information system.
- Began development of a revised "load plan" for MMST trailers and trucks to accommodate increased equipment and supplies as well as packaging to compliment future disaster trailer packaging.
- Maintained a MMRS pharmaceutical cache inventory database system.
- Completed replacement of expiring WMD antidotes in EMS and reserve kits.

- Conducted meetings of the Oversight Committee October 26 and December 8.
- Upgraded a subscription to the MIR3 web-based automated team notification system to 25 notification ports to expedite notification of Strike Team members. Conducted user training.
- Sponsored a series of three radiological (REACTS) training courses for 200 hospital and other medical personnel, October 31-November 2.
- Planned for and coordinated a regional radiological tabletop exercise on November 29. Continued planning for a functional exercise scheduled for February 15 and full scale exercise on April 3.



## Virginia – 1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)

- Conducted team meetings on October 17, November 21 and December 19.
- Planned for January 2007 on-call month and responded to a request for a strike team deployment to provide medical support for the President Ford funeral in late December/early January in Washington, DC.
- Initiated planning for team deployment to the Langley Air Show in April and Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May.
- Leadership and other members participated in several Disaster Medical Action Planning courses developed by the team's Plans Chief.
- Participated in training to utilize the web-based MIR3 automated team notification system (owned by HRMMRS) to notify members of NDMS standby alerts and other urgent notifications, and appointed workgroup to develop team procedures for system utilization..
- Received and reviewed applications for team membership and submitted "locally approved" applications for federal intermittent employment approval. As of December 31 the team had 114 team-approved members with 73 of those federally approved. The federal intermittent employee approval process was suspended as the NDMS program began to transition from the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Health and Human Services. The team is currently classified as a Type 3 (Augmentation) Team.



## Kent J. Weber Emergency Response Training and Simulation Center

- Continued acquisition of equipment and supplies, as well as development of simulation scenarios, in preparation for future course offerings.
- Conducted simulation and manikin moulage training for staff members and several contract instructors.
- Reviewed the business plan and discussed the need to employ a full time center director.
- Ordered 10 laptop computers for in-house and mobile training needs.



## Alliances and Other Activities

### *Special Operations*

- Tidewater Regional Technical Rescue Team:
  - No regional call outs this quarter.
  - New metal cutting tool [Plasma Cutter] placed in service on VBFD Squad 10. Chesapeake FD with same tool already in service on Squad 15.
  - A new technical rescue truck was placed in service by Virginia Beach Fire Department supporting responses to trench collapses, confined space incidents, and structural collapses and other ongoing team expenses.
  - Staff provided bookkeeping services for the team including processing of registration payments and various invoices for the annual heavy rescue school.
- Urban Search and Rescue – FEMA VATF2:
  - No deployments this quarter.
  - Ongoing work parties continue at the FEMA warehouse involving the arrival of the 2nd cache.
  - Component specific drills for Rescue, Search, Logistics, Hazmat, Canine, and Medical were conducted.
  - The Medical component still has 2 physician openings; currently looking for physicians outside the EPT group due to the burden placed on EPT during deployments.

- Canine testing for new canines for all task forces in the US&R system scheduled for Virginia Beach in November.
- Structural Collapse Technician School sponsored by VATF-2, October 14-23 with 135 students from across the United States and Canada.
- Two members of the K-9 /Search component attended specialized training in California.
- VATF-2 hosted a Plans course November 13-17, 2006 at the Fire and EMS training center for task force members from all 28 teams across the country. 45 members attended the course including 2 Plans/TIS component members from VATF-2.
- Annual Task Force Maintenance will be conducted January 16-21, 2007. All Task Force members will complete Mask Fit test, EKG and personal and equipment updates.
- Regional HAZMAT Team:
  - No Regional calls this quarter.
  - Quarterly drill conducted in November on Radiological Emergencies, hosted in Norfolk involving members from Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach.
- Marine Incident Response Team (MIRT):
  - Regional Team responded to the following incidents:
    - 9/30/2006 - Engine room fire aboard the *Maresk Doha* located at the Lynnhaven Anchorage. Fireboats from Va. Beach, Norfolk and Portsmouth responded.
    - 10/27/2006 - Fire aboard the EX USS Gilmore that was being dismantled at Baybridge Marine Services located in the City of Chesapeake. Provided manpower and equipment to the Chesapeake Fire Department.
    - 11/17/2006 - Assisted USCG Sector Hampton Roads in coordinating local response vessels to assist with the search and rescue of a windsurfer missing off the coast of Virginia Beach. Vessels from Va. Beach Fire and EMS, Norfolk Fire, Hampton Fire, Portsmouth Fire and VBPB marine units assisted the USCG by providing search coverage of the Chesapeake Bay from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel east toward the Atlantic Ocean. The surfer was spotted from a USCG helicopter about 15 miles off of Cape Henry. He was alive and well.
  - Conducted Marine quarterly training with Norfolk Fire Department.
    - Review of Zodiac Operations during past storms.
    - Review of POK Foam System.
    - Distress Flare Practical.
  - VBFD new fireboat remains under construction.

### **Other**

- Participated in a meeting of the EMS Councils' Regional Directors Group on November 16 in Glen Allen.
- Attended a meeting of the state EMS Advisory Board, including a regional town hall forum, on November 8 in Norfolk.
- Provided facilities for monthly meetings and classes for Tidewater Search and Rescue.
- Provided an overview of the council programs to management staff at Norfolk Fire Rescue, December 14.
- Staff attended various development programs on team building, management and grantsmanship.