

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

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## Improving Communication Cited As a Priority

The Office of Emergency Services (OEMS) has been listening to you. This newsletter is the first phase of a multi-phase roll out of a new and improved OEMS effort to improve communication between the State and local EMS.

The goal is to share information that you need in the field to empower you with information that will help you make the best decisions for your agency.

As part of our efforts to improve communication, local EMS agencies should expect to hear about more changes coming in January 2015 and April 2015.

### *Did you know?*

The state medical protocols review and revision have been completed. Training on these protocols will be provided September through December. The new protocols will become effective January 1, 2015.

## Recertification Requirements Explained



There has been much discussion and debate over the past couple of years related to recertification requirements. The Office of Emergency Services (OEMS) has heard your concerns.

The EMS Advisory Council (EMSAC) has been re-engaged to provide subject matter expertise. OEMS today is announcing that requirements for Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) and Basic Life Support (EMT) recertification have been agreed upon by the EMSAC, OEMS, and Bureau for Public Health leadership.

### **Paramedic Recertification:\***

(Advanced Life Support)

- 1) 72 hours of continuing education to include a 48 hour refresher course and 24 hours of additional elective hours.
- 2) No state test will be required for those individuals who have already taken and passed the state test. All remaining individuals will be required to take the state assessment until it is passed with a score of 70. The state assessment can be taken monthly to obtain a passing score.
- 3) A National Registry score of 70 is required for initial certification as a paramedic.

### **EMT Recertification:\***

(Basic Life Support)

- 1) 48 hours of continuing education to include a 24 hour recertification class and 24 hours of additional elective hours.
- 2) Mandatory hours as required by Federal/State guidelines.
- 3) An EMT assessment developed by the CEC and administered by a state approved Training Center

\* (Full details are available online at [www.wvoems.org](http://www.wvoems.org)).

WEST VIRGINIA  
Department of

**Health &  
Human  
Resources**

**BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Office of Emergency Medical Services

# Remembering 9/11 with Dedicated Service

The upcoming anniversary of 9/11 is upon us and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor the first responders of West Virginia. Thank you for all that you do and for the sacrifices that you make to ensure the residents of West Virginia receive the highest quality care during emergencies. These individuals are most vulnerable and you step in with care and compassion to provide treatment. We appreciate you!

There are a number of EMS personnel who are currently certified for more than 25 years. This is such an amazing accomplishment! You have seen so many changes over the course of your tenure. We salute you! We want to make recognition of EMS personnel an ongoing effort. Please share with us the stories of extraordinary EMS personnel in your agencies or stories of the amazing things that your agency is doing.



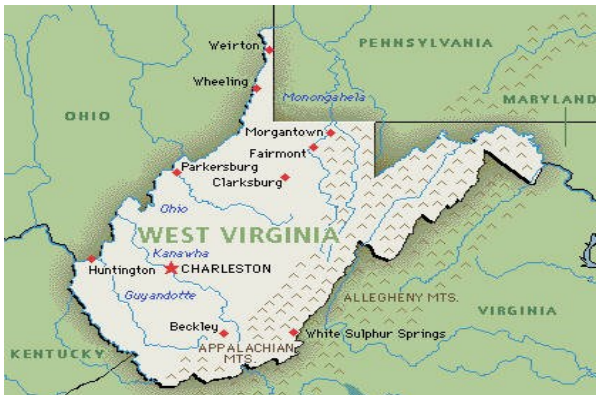
There is so much good work going on out in the field, we want to make sure your stories are heard. Residents need to hear about the good work that your agency is doing across West Virginia.

**“Pausing to say thank you for your continued service.”**

**Melissa Kinnaird, Interim Director OEMS**

## Regular Visits to Local EMS Agencies Planned

OEMS staff will be coming out to visit agencies on a regular basis. We have lost that personal contact and need that to make appropriate improvements to our system. We want to hear about the issues that you face and how we can help make you stronger for a better EMS system.



## Coming Soon:

**Legal recognition** – We are working on a more streamlined process to recognize certified individuals from other states to practice in West Virginia.

**Administrative Certification** – We are developing a certification for those individuals no longer working in the field, but in an administrative capacity that still requires certification.



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