



Oregon EMS and Trauma Systems Program

Office of the Oregon Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems (EMS/TS) Program
Portland State Office Building, Suite 465, 800 N.E. Oregon Street, Portland

October 2009, VOLUME 3, NO. 10

OR-2 DMAT deployed to American Samoa

On Sept. 29, 2009 at 2019 hours, OR-2 DMAT was activated to deploy to American Samoa in response to the tsunami. A 35-member team lead by Commander Helen Miller consisted of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, EMTs – Basic – Paramedic, physician assistants, a psychologist, public health and logistics and communications support staff. The team arrived in Pago Pago, American Samoa at 2300 (Portland time) Oct. 1. They billeted in the restaurant at the Trade Winds hotel. The hotel is 95 feet above sea level. On day one, Jeff Pricher went with local Public Safety to do scene damage assessments.



The team had four missions in American Samoa. They all wore multiple hats.

1. Support EMS;
2. Support LBJ Hospital;
3. Aeromedical evacuation of an infant to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu;
4. Support Public Health in the clinics and villages.



EMS support included Keith Ague, Mark Johnson, Sean Shanahan, James Thomas, Donna Wilson and Chris Crabtree (HI DMAT). They provided the third person on the three ambulances that service American Samoa. They worked eight-hour shifts, day and evening.

Mark Johnson was the flight medic along with a HI DMAT physician and nurse for the aeromedical evacuation of the infant to Tripler Army Medical Center. Greg Close, EMT I, was

the go-to guy for ambulance supplies. Every morning the team would go to procurement and restock the ambulances. Steve Myren, EMT I, was deputy command of EMS operations. Peter Mackwell, EMT P, tracked the EMS team and kept the assignment board up-to-date. Ralph Garono, EMT B, and John Gulick worked to provide the team with communication. They had little success, which frustrated them.

The physicians, nurses, pharmacists and EMTs provided care at the hospital for 100 patients a day. PAs, Nurses and EMTs provided care at the two clinics, seeing up to 30 patients a day. Public Health also went to the schools, talked with the children and did health assessments in the villages. The Public Health team consisted of Tracy DePew, EMT, Claire Lawrence, Nanette Newell, Donna Wilson and local Public Health staff.

The team members

Physicians/ PAs	Nurses	Pharmacists	EMTs	Public health/mental health	Support staff
John Brandon, Sandra Dunbrasky, Jonathan Jui, Helen Miller, Terri Schmidt, Eric Stroud, Patricia Ramos	Jamie Baxter, Susanne Carlson, David Cary, Lori Christiansen, Heather Freihieit, Gisele Garrity, W. Raelene Jarvis, Susan McCray, Theresa McSherry, Kelly Sullivan, Roberta O’Connell	Colleen Ague, Sylvia Doyle, Charles Valencia	Keith Ague, Mark Johnson, Sean Shanahan, James Thomas, Donna Wilson, Gregory Close, Tracy DePew, Ralph Garono, Peter Mackwell, Steve Myren, Jeffrey Pricher	Claire Lawrence, Nanette Newell	John Gulick

Everyone has a story to tell. The events have forever changed the lives of these responders. They now have a greater appreciation for things we take for granted. The poorest ambulance services in Oregon are better supplied than the EMS service in American Samoa. Their hearts, however, more than make up for what they lack in equipment and continuing education training.

American Samoa EMS and DMAT medics



Oregon EMS awards presented at the EMS Conference

The EMS and Trauma Systems Program had the privilege of recognizing some of the individuals who have contributed to making Oregon a better place to live. The following awards were presented at the banquet held in conjunction with the Oregon EMS Conference:

The civilian Service Medal recognizes a civilian who provides extraordinary service during the course of an EMS emergency.

Civilian Service Medal – Brad Knox, Ted Lambert, John Leary, Mark Morford, Mike Niemeyer, Tygh Parr and Brad Sieberling.

Civilian Service Medal – Penelope Smith, Seven Feathers Casino.

The community service award recognizes an EMT who has made outstanding commitment to the non-patient care aspects of a community's EMS system. Special emphasis is on EMS public information, education, community relations, community education, and prevention programs.

Community Service Medal – Miguel Bautista, Jr., EMT-B, of Willamette Valley Fire and Rescue Authority.

The EMS Unit Citation recognizes acts of organizations, units or specially constituted teams in providing emergency prehospital care or EMS system support activities under extreme circumstances.

Unit Citation – Benton County Sheriffs Office, City of Corvallis Benton County 911, Corvallis Fire Department, Monroe Rural Fire Protection District, and REACH Air Medical Services.

Benton County Sheriff's Office – Deputy Randy Heiner. **City of Corvallis Benton County 911** – Lynn McMurphy; Sue Stutheit and Andrew Thompson. **Corvallis Fire Department** – Will Bauscher, EMT-P; Jason Dennis; Mark Foster, EMT-B; and Joe Van Veldhuizen, EMT-B.

Monroe Rural Fire Protection District – Eric Eastridge; Captain Tim Eastridge; Brian Ellsworth, FR; Jackie Essner; Scott Lee; Orin Nusbaum, FR; Virgil Oakes; Mark Poorman; Chief Rick Smith, EMT-I; Matt Thompson, EMT-B; Captain Ron Thompson, FR; and Michelle Turner, FR. **Reach Air Medical Services** – Jan Burger; Charlie Jones; and Sam Lillie, EMT-B.

Unit Citation – Columbia Memorial Hospital, Gearhart Fire Department, Medix Ambulance and Providence Seaside Hospital.

Columbia Memorial Hospital – Floyd Baker, RN; Lori Christiansen, RN; Julie George, RN; Sue Heineck, MD; Chris Hogan, RN; Kevin Johnson, CRNA; Randy Johnson, CRNA; Jeremy McArthur, RN; Jennifer Quigley, RN; and Truman Sasaki, MD. **Gearhart Fire Department** – Ron Britton, FR; Carl Brown, FF; Tony Como, FF; Judy Curnow, EMT-I; Joey Daniels, EMT-I; Bill Eddy, EMT-I; and Travis Owsley, FF. **Medix Ambulance** – Blair Kok, EMT-P; Mike

Lang, EMT-B; Beth MacNicoll, EMT-P; Duane Mullins, EMT-P; and Levi Parker, EMT-B. ***Providence Seaside Hospital*** – Casey Berndt, RN; Kirk Cozee, RN; Tim Jobe, RN; Tim Opie, MD; and Mary Romanaggi, RN.

Unit Citation – Nestucca Rural Fire, Tillamook County General Hospital Ambulance and Tillamook County Sheriff’s Office.

Nestucca Rural Fire – Captain Levi Beachy, FR; Simon Carillo, FR; Laurie Caspell, EMT-P; Jaynie Cole, FR; Lieutenant Travis Cole, FR; Ann Cunningham, FR; John Eckhardt, EMT-B; Lieutenant Don Harrison, FR; Deputy Chief Mickey Hays, EMT-B; Deputy Chief John Kiefel, EMT-I; Patrick Maahs, FR; Neil Marquis, FR; Sherriane Remington, FR; Captain Jim Strassle; Jeneanne Upton, FR; and Jared Wakefield, FR. ***Tillamook County General Hospital Ambulance*** – George (Bill) Allen, EMT-P; Paul Fredericksen, EMT-P; Jennifer Joslin, EMT-P; Trisha Moore, EMT-P; Don Siemsen, EMT-P; Robert Singleton, EMT-P; and Nick Watts, EMT-P. ***Tillamook County Sheriff’s Office*** – Sergeant Michael Fox; Deputy Jim Horton; and Commander Eric Swanson, EMT-P.

The Lifesaving Medal recognizes an EMT who, while in an off-duty or volunteer capacity, makes an extremely noteworthy contribution to efforts that result in saving a life.

Lifesaving Medal – John Barr; Lynn Barr; Ralph Corliss, FR; Gary Hermes, FR; Vickie Hermes, FR; and John Jason, FR; of Looking Glass Rural Fire Department.

The Meritorious Service Medal recognizes an individual for a particular act of meritorious service in EMS.

Meritorious Service Medal – Elizabeth MacNicoll, EMT-P, and Levi Parker, EMT-B, of Medix Ambulances.

The EMS Commitment to Quality Award honors an EMS system or individual EMS agency, or sub-unit of an EMS agency, that has demonstrated commitment to the principles of quality improvement, customer service and excellence.

EMS Commitment To Quality – Woodburn Ambulance and Woodburn Fire District.

Woodburn Ambulance – Michael Dayton, EMT-P; Mike Hoopes, EMT-P; and Stephanie Nelson, EMT-P. ***Woodburn Fire District*** – Miranda Carroll, EMT-B; Derek Dmochowsky, EMT-B; Raul Garza, EMT-I; Captain Jay Hannon, EMT-I; Captain Paul Iverson, EMT-I; Joseph Jacobucci, EMT-B; James Oswell; Lieutenant Jeremy Peil, EMT-B; Brian Will, EMT-B; and Todd Woodward, EMT-B.

The Medal of Valor recognizes acts of personal valor or heroism in the delivery of emergency medical care, which results in saving a life under extreme conditions and in extraordinary circumstances.

Medal of Valor – Matt Snauer, EMT-P, of Lane Rural Fire/Rescue.

Medal of Valor – Danielle Earle, EMT-I, and Matthew House, EMT-P.

The EMS Educator of the Year Award honors an EMS educator, either pre-service or in-service, who excels as a teacher or who has made a significant contribution to the EMS education program in Oregon.

Educator of the Year – Susan Agalzoff, EMT-P, of Seaside Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

The EMS Administrator of the Year honors an EMS system administrator distinguished through noteworthy contributions to a local, regional or statewide EMS system.

EMS Administrator of the Year – Marc Kilman-Burnham, EMT-B, of American Medical Response Northwest, Inc.

The EMS Impact Award recognizes an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the Department of Human Services' efforts to develop a statewide EMS system.

EMS Impact Medal – Brian Gross, MD, of Jackson County EMS & Heart Clinic.

The EMS Medical Director of the Year Award honors a physician who serves or has served the EMS system by providing medical direction, on-line or off-line, and who has served with distinction.

EMS Medical Director of the Year – Mohamud Daya, MD, of Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue.

The Director's Medal recognizes an individual for particularly noteworthy and substantial contribution to Oregon's EMS system.

Director's Medal – Paul Rostykus, MD, of Jackson County EMS.

Will Worrall moves to Tobacco Prevention

Will Worrall, who was the prehospital data systems coordinator, has been reassigned to the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program. Although Will has mainly worked from his desk in Portland, he has visited many agencies and remembers them warmly. We wish to thank Will for his many years of service and wish him well in his new endeavor.

Scope of practice change

The Oregon Medical Board has passed a temporary rule change regarding vaccinations. As a reminder, the OMB creates the scope of practice that governs Oregon First Responders and EMTs while the Public Health Division certifies, regulates and certifies these individuals.

The new temporary rule allows EMT-Intermediates and EMT-Paramedics to provide seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccinations to the general public until June 2010. In addition, it

allows EMT-Is and Ps to distribute medication as part of a public health distribution plan. As a temporary rule, this rule goes into effect immediately. As usual, all activity requires medical director protocol/standing orders.

Oregon 2009-2010 injury prevention/EMS mini-grants

About the program

Emanuel Medical Center and OHSU, in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Human Services, will distribute mini-grants for \$500 to \$5,000 for projects designed to prevent injuries in Oregon or improve EMS services to trauma patients throughout Oregon.

How much can we apply for?

Applicants may apply for up to \$5,000.

Who can apply?

Public EMS providers or private EMS companies with fewer than 100 employees within the Oregon trauma system or affiliated with bordering state trauma hospitals who participate in an area trauma advisory board. If agency is affiliated with a hospital in a bordering state, the agency must demonstrate the level to which they provide services for Oregon patients.

Project restrictions

All funded projects must adhere to project guidelines and reporting schedules. Proposals can come from agencies funded in the past, but projects must be new. Funding is not intended to sustain programs beyond grant year.

Timeline

Friday, Oct. 30, 2009: Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on this date.

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2009: Grantees will be notified.

Monday, Nov. 30, 2009: Grantee money will be distributed.

Friday, July 16, 2010: Project evaluation report will be due.

Funding, documentation and equipment purchase restrictions

All projects/purchases must be completed and all records, reports, receipts and invoices must be submitted to Peggie Turton by Friday, July 16, 2010.

What gets funded?

- **Injury prevention programs related to injuries and demographics found in the grant applicant's community/region and;**
- **Equipment or purchase of training materials/programs that will benefit trauma patients in the community served.**

For more information and for application packet, contact Peggie Turton at 503-494-7305 or turtonp@ohsu.edu.

POLST Registry rules hearing

The establishment of the Oregon Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Registry rules hearing is scheduled for Nov. 25, 2009, at 3 p.m. in Room 1A of the Portland State Office Building located at 800 N.E. Oregon Street.

The purpose of the registry is to collect and disseminate POLST information to help ensure that medical treatment preferences for individuals nearing the end of life are honored. The intent of the rules is to require physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants to submit POLST forms signed on or after Dec. 1, 2009.

Mobile Training Unit update

As a reminder, the new categories for recertification as well as the expanded hours for recertification are now in effect. The total hours required for this recertification period are 12 hours for First Responders; 24 hours for EMT-Basics; 36 hours for EMT-Intermediates; and 48 hours for paramedics. All certification levels are also required to demonstrate proficiency in specific skills. A summary of the hours, subject categories and skill competencies may be downloaded at <http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/rules.shtml>. Scroll to the subheading “Oregon Administrative Rules” and click on the “Appendix 1” link. A copy this summary is also included in this newsletter.

Earlier this month Donna responded with Oregon DMAT (Oregon Disaster Medical Assistance Team) to American Samoa during the aftermath of a large tsunami in the area.

Donna will teach the following classes in October and early November:

- Oct. 28: Airway skills at Jordan Valley Ambulance;
- Nov. 6-7: Miscellaneous EMS topics in Richland;
- Nov. 12 – OB at Mist-Birkenfield.

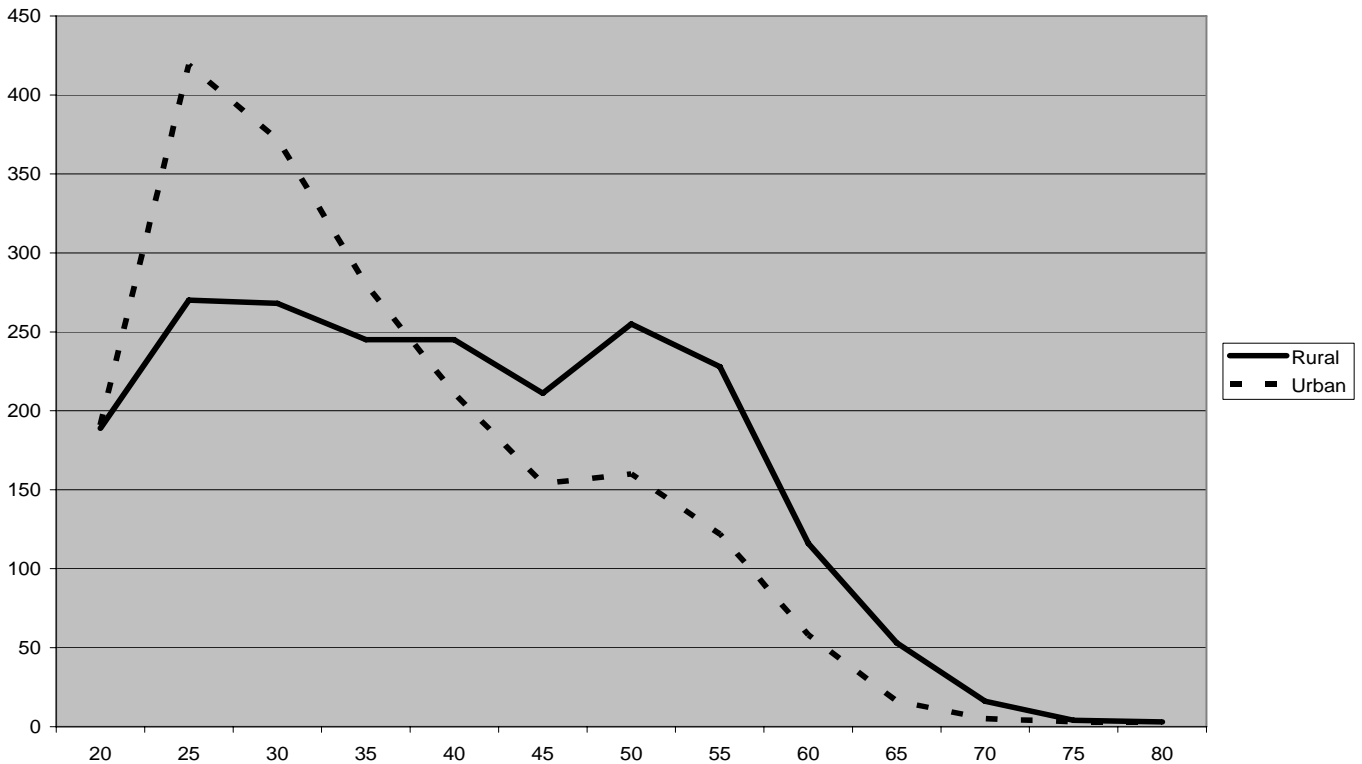
Leslie will teach the following classes in October and early November:

- Oct. 20: EMS incident management (MCI) in Myrtle Point;
- Oct. 24-25: PHTLS in Monument;
- Oct. 27-28: Spinal immobilization and splinting skills in Leaburg;
- Nov. 3-4: PHTLS in Klamath Falls;
- Nov. 16: Pediatrics and medical topics in Millington;

Nov. 17-20: Miscellaneous EMS topics at Cal-Ore Life Flight.

Further details on the above courses may be found at <http://home.teleport.com/~ohdmtn/mtu/>.

Age Classes, EMT-Basics (Residence Address)



Ambulance inspections

DHS-EMS/TS has started ambulance service and vehicle inspections. The inspections schedule includes November in Klamath County and December in Tillamook County. Not every agency in these counties will be inspected.

Ambulance agencies in these counties can prepare for inspections by downloading the inspections forms from the DHS-EMS Web site. Questions or concerns regarding licensed ambulance services can be directed to Justin Hardwick at justin.hardwick@state.or.us or 971-673-0576.

EMS Program activity

SEPTEMBER 2009 EMT STATISTICS

BASIC EXAMS	FAILED	PASSED
Written exams	29	74
Practical exams	28	113
INTERMEDIATE	FAILED	PASSED
Written exams	1	1
Practical exams	0	0
PARAMEDIC	FAILED	PASSED
Written exams	2	18
Practical exams	0	0
RECIPROCITY	BASICS	PARAMEDICS
Applications received	8	3
Certificates issued	13	2
RECERTIFICATION AUDITS	Audit required	Complete
Basic	17	5
Intermediate	0	0
Paramedic	5	1

EMT/First Responder recertification process

The EMS Office is conducting a rapid process improvement on the EMT and First Responder recertification process. This will include an in-depth analysis of the way recertification applications are handled. One part of this analysis is conducting a survey of EMTs, First Responders and EMS agencies to receive feedback. Look for the survey on our Web site soon.

Flex Webinar Learning Series

The Flex Webinar Learning Series is offered by the Oregon Office of Rural Health on selected Tuesdays at noon. Presentations last approximately one hour.

To register, email Kassie Clarke at clarkek@ohsu.edu for the link to join the Webcast.

Upcoming presentations include:

- **Oct. 20 – OHSU locum tenens: Connecting physicians to community needs,** presented by Joe Ichter, Oregon AHEC Program Office.
The Oregon Health & Sciences University has launched the development of a locum tenens service specifically for rural Oregon physician practices and healthcare facilities. Using existing OHSU faculty and resident providers, the Locum Tenens Program will give contracted sites an at-cost option for temporary practice coverage in several clinical areas, which will first include family practice and general surgery. Full outpatient clinic and periods of evening and weekend call are included within the scope of services. Our goals include increasing access to care, assisting rural providers through practice relief, and building clinical support relationships across Oregon.
- **Oct. 27 – Designing restorative environments for patients and healthcare providers: An introduction to healing gardens and creating low-cost wellness features,** presented by David Sacamano, ASLA, LEED® AP, and Jason Wells, LEED® AP, both of HDR Inc.
This presentation will provide viewers with an introduction to the principles used in designing healing and therapeutic gardens. Focus will be placed on both specific and general guidelines while highlighting the numerous benefits they offer to healthcare facilities. Additional emphasis will be placed on opportunities for integrating low-cost wellness and sustainable design features on existing sites, including critical access facilities.
- **Dec. 1 – Limitations and opportunities: Health professional shortage designation as a community resource,** presented by Nancy Abrams, DMD, primary care planner, DHS Health Systems Planning.
Federal shortage designations affect rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers and critical access hospitals. They can sometimes be used as a recruitment tool. Learn more about them and how they work.

For more information on the Flex Webex Learning Series or to view past recordings, please visit our Web site at www.ohsu.edu/ohsuedu/outreach/oregonruralhealth/events/flex-webinar-learning-series.cfm.

Pediatric simulation training

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009
9 a.m. to noon

The Oregon EMS & Trauma Systems Program and EMS for Children Program are working in collaboration with Oregon Department of Transportation Safety, OHSU/Emergency Medicine,

and Oregon Office of Rural Health to improve the education and training of prehospital and hospital personnel in the care of seriously injured pediatric trauma victims. The project focuses on improving the system of care children receive from the scene of an emergency to the hospital emergency room. The project also gives prehospital providers opportunities to practice on-scene stabilization and transport of pediatric trauma victims using wireless simulation-based training.

EMS providers in the Hood River area are invited to observe a motor vehicle crash (MVC) pediatric simulation training exercise to be held from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009, at the Hood River Inn. The training exercise will involve pediatric patients involved in a motor vehicle crash. Responders to the crash scene will practice extrication, on-scene stabilization and transport to the local emergency department and prepare a patient for transport on Life Flight.

The training exercise is a preconference event for the 2009 Oregon Transportation Safety Conference to be held at the Hood River Inn from Tuesday, Oct. 27, to Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009. Hood River Fire and EMS, Providence Hood River Hospital, and Life Flight Network will participate in the training exercise. EMS providers and conference attendees are welcome to observe the training exercise.

Life Flight will also conduct a brief landing zone safety training at the simulated crash scene at the conclusion of the simulation exercise and be on hand to answer questions.

For more information on this project, please visit the Web site to view videos, news coverage and photos of previous pediatric simulations throughout Oregon at www.oregonemsc.org/.

Participants and observers of the pediatric simulation are invited to join the conference for the rest of the day; lunch, two training sessions and dinner will be provided. Please contact Kelly Kapri, ODOT, TSD EMS program manager, at 503-986-3293.

Upcoming events

Building the Oregon stroke system of care connecting rural and urban populations to improve outcomes

Oct. 23, 2009, 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Riverhouse Resort & Conference Center, 3075 N. Business 97, Bend, OR 9770.

Heads up – Registration is open at www.actsoregon.org !

You are invited to join Oregon Department of Transportation Safety Division and ACTS Oregon at this year's Oregon Transportation Safety Conference, "Facing the Challenge of Change," Oct. 27-28 at the Best Western Hood River Inn. This conference

is for emergency medical services personnel, traffic engineers, law enforcement officers, child passenger safety technicians, community traffic safety advocates and others. More information on EMS sessions coming shortly. To register, visit www.actsoregon.org.

State Trauma Advisory Board meeting

Nov. 6, in the Portland State Office Building, 800 N.E. Oregon St., Room 1-B, Portland. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Oregon EMS for Children State Advisory Board meeting

Dec. 4, in the Portland State Office Building, 800 N.E. Oregon St., Portland. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m.

State EMS Committee meeting

Dec. 4, in the Portland State Office Building, 800 N.E. Oregon St., Portland. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The **10th Annual EMS for Children Conference** is scheduled for May 21-22, 2010, at the Lane Community College Center for Meeting and Learning. To be notified when information becomes available about the conference schedule and registration, go to www.oregonemsc.org/conference. If you are interested in presenting a topic or exhibiting or in sponsorship opportunities, contact Philip Engle, philip.p.Engle@state.or.us.



The second **EMS Leadership Symposium** sponsored by the Oregon Office of Rural Health will once again be held concurrently with the EMSC Conference on Friday, May 21. Conference details for both events will be forthcoming.

The **EMS Supervising Physician and Agency Managers Forum** is planned for next May, also in conjunction with the EMSC Conference.

Resources	Staff contacts
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OREGON EMS AND TRAUMA SYSTEMS PROGRAMS

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