

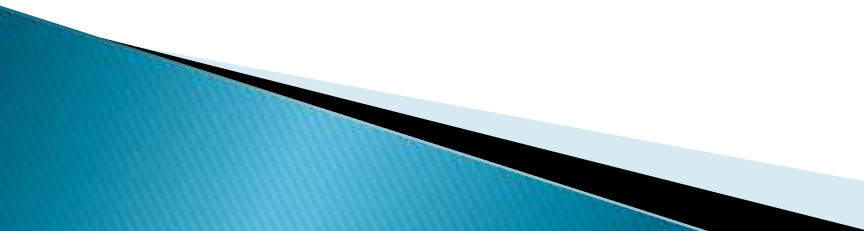
Putting The Right Person In The Left Seat

NASEMSO Conference
September 19, 2013, Nashville,
Tennessee

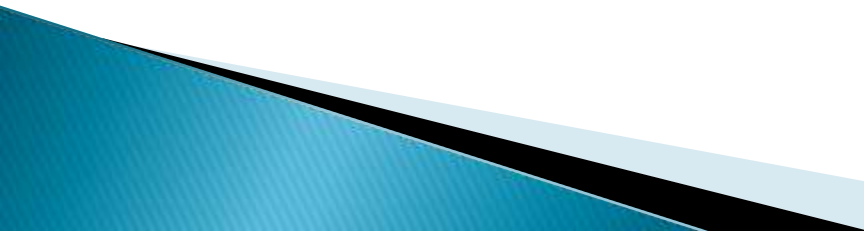
Joseph Schmider
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Program Overview

1. Perspective...
 2. Pennsylvania's Current Issue
 3. Driver Selection
 4. Driver Education & Training
 5. Maintaining Driver Proficiency
 6. Leadership Perspective on Safe Vehicle Operations
 7. The Future for Pennsylvania
- 

Objectives

- ▶ Identify the essential components for driver eligibility and driver selection.
 - ▶ Identify the components of comprehensive driver education and training.
 - ▶ Identify SOPs and Best Practices for POV operations, rollover prevention, and intersection safety.
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Why Is It...

The tool used the most....
...Is the one trained with the least?



Fire LODDs Annually

Average 100 firefighters / year
25 % (average) die responding to and
returning from incidents

EMS Collision Related Line of Duty Deaths

- ▶ 74% of all EMS fatalities are transportation related
 - Source: Occupational fatalities in EMS, Annals of Emergency Medicine 2002
- ▶ 0.7 deaths per week
 - Source: “The Hazards of Providing Care in Ambulances” , Jul 23 2009 JEMS



Ambulances

A Dangerous Environment

- ▶ **NHTSA Fatality Reporting System**
 - 3,200 crashes per million miles driven
 - 8x the rate of cars and light trucks
- ▶ 60% of crashes occurred during emergency response
- ▶ 58% of the fatalities occurred during emergency response

Pennsylvania's Experience



The Situation At Hand!

- ▶ High incidence of emergency vehicle collisions
- ▶ Estimated fatality rate (for all manner of death)
- ▶ Average occupational fatality rate (civilian) 5 per 100,000
- ▶ 12.7 per 100,000 EMS Providers
- ▶ 14.2 per 100,000 Police Officers
- ▶ 16.5 per 100,000 Firefighters



Three Principles Of Safe Emergency Vehicle Operations

Driver Selection

Driver Education & Training

Maintaining Driver Proficiency

Challenges!

- ▶ *Driver Error* is a leading cause of emergency vehicle collisions
- ▶ *Our Goal*
 - Safety...
 - Above all, do no harm

Driver Selection



Driver Selection Considerations

1. **Age**

- Should not be under 18 years of age
- 26,001 GVW & Federal DOT regulations

2. **Health**

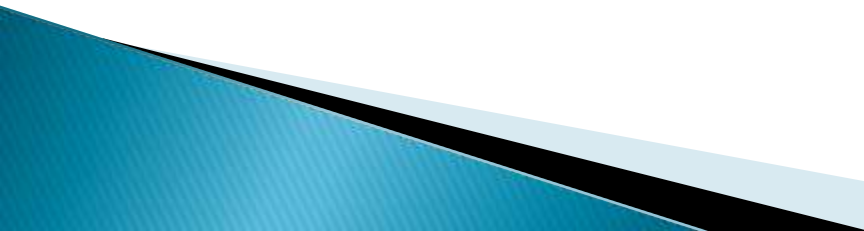
- Baseline (Initial) medical evaluation to determine ability to operate an emergency vehicle
- Periodic medical evaluations...

3. **Driving Record (MVR)**

PA DOH EMS Rules & Regulations

28 Pa Code §1005.10(d)(4)(vii)

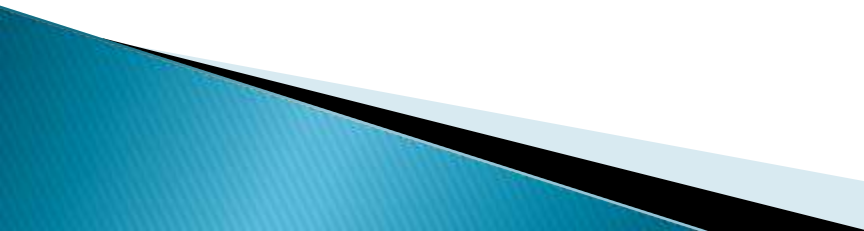
Ambulance drivers

- ▶ At least 18 years of age.
 - ▶ Valid driver's license.
 - ▶ Observes all traffic laws.
 - ▶ Not addicted to, or under the influence of, alcohol or drugs.
 - ▶ Free from physical or mental defect or disease that may impair the person's ability to drive an ambulance.
 - ▶ Successful completion of an EVOC course of instruction approved by the Department.
- 

Emergency Vehicle Operator Motor Vehicle Driving Record (MVR)

- ▶ Establish a standard for evaluating MVRs
- ▶ Check motor vehicle records (MVRs) **before** a person can begin training
- ▶ Check MVRs annually (best practice)
- ▶ Every year make a **photocopy** of each emergency vehicle driver's operator's license
- ▶ Policy requiring prompt employer notification of moving violation

Personal Vehicle Operators and MVRs

- ▶ Check motor vehicle records (MVRs) **before** a person can begin responding
 - ▶ Check MVRs annually
 - ▶ Every year make a **photocopy** of each POV operator's license & vehicle insurance
 - ▶ Policy requiring prompt employer notification of moving violation
 - ▶ Obtain copy of vehicle insurance
- 

PA DOH EMS Rules & Regulations

- ▶ Has not been convicted...
 - within the last 4 years of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or,
 - within the last 2 years, has not been convicted of reckless driving or had a driver's license suspended.
- ▶ The person will not be considered to be a responsible person until...
 - the designated time has elapsed
 - and the individual, after the conviction or suspension of license, repeats an emergency vehicle operator's course of instruction approved by the Department.

Three Principles Of Safe Emergency Vehicle Operations

Driver Selection

Driver Education & Training

Maintaining Driver Proficiency

Comprehensive Emergency Vehicle Driver Training

- 1. Classroom Instruction**
 - 8 hours (6 contact hours)
 - Successful passing of written test
- 2. Competency Course Completion**
 - Specific Vehicle
 - Task Evaluation
 - Successful completion of course
- 3. Street and Highway Driving**
 - 10 hours (suggested)
- 4. Testing / Evaluation**

Education & Training Subject Areas

- ▶ Extent of the issue
- ▶ SOPs
- ▶ Legal aspects
- ▶ Vehicle dynamics
- ▶ Physical forces
- ▶ Defensive driving
- ▶ Safe operations
- ▶ Maintenance



Purpose of a Competency Course

- ▶ Assist in the training of a candidate driver
- ▶ Qualify a candidate driver for the street & highway portion
- ▶ Verify the competency of an existing driver



Supplemental Over-the-Road Driving

- ▶ Comply with NFPA 1002 and/or NHTSA's National Standard Curriculum – Ambulance
- ▶ Successfully Complete Competency Course First
- ▶ Minimum of Ten (10) Hours of Highway Driving

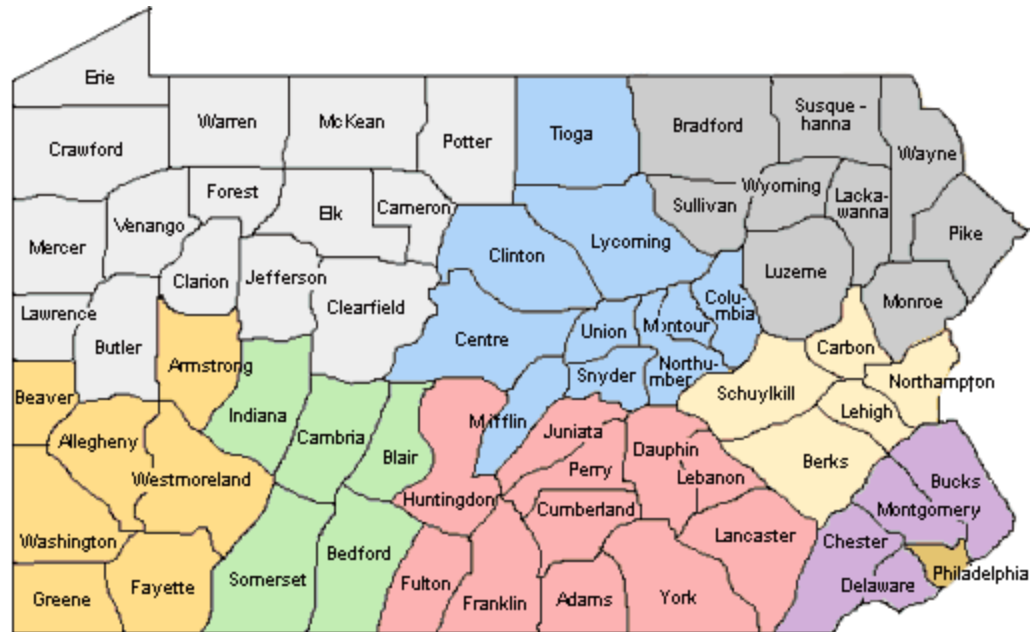


Driving Considerations

- Train to your area...
- Rain
- Snow and Ice
- Leaves
- Excessive Heat
- Loose Gravel & Stones



Discuss State EV Laws



Three Principles Of Safe Emergency Vehicle Operations

Driver Selection

Driver Education & Training

Maintaining Driver Proficiency

Refresher Training

- ▶ Annual Classroom Education
- ▶ Annual Over the Road Evaluation




Annual Classroom Education

- ▶ Two training classes annually
 - NFPA recommendation
 - EMS recommendations vary by state
- ▶ Evaluate your department
 - Losses
 - Near misses
 - National issues
- ▶ Identify and access training programs



Annual Over The Road Evaluation

▶ Department level decision

- Number of emergency calls driven
 - Environment
 - Years of driving
 - Any infractions
 - Overall employment experience
- 

Key Risk Areas

Design

Safety Belts

Backing

Personal Operated Vehicle Safety

Rollover Prevention

Intersection Safety

Pennsylvania's Approach CEU Program

- Partnership...
- Training & Education Programs
 - Covers 1600+ PA EMS and QRS Agencies
- Format
- Focus is **Prevention**

Bottom Line!

The Best Safety Device in Any Vehicle is a
Well-Trained & Educated Driver



Driving Awareness

Knowing where you are...

What you are doing at all times...

And, what is going on around you!

*Many people come and go in our lives,
but the best remembered are those who
dedicate their lives to helping others*

Thanks For Your Time and
For All That You Do!



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