DC | HEALTH

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

EMS Program - Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Administration

March 19th, 2024

Spring has arrived to the District! (Thanks Phil)

Looks like the groundhog was right about the arrival of an early Spring.

Spring's arrival in Washington D.C. brings not just blooming cherry blossoms, but a distinct shift in the rhythm of our emergency calls. While winter chills bring concerns about slips and hypothermia, warmer weather ushers in a unique set of challenges for D.C.'s EMS professionals.

The most prominent change is the surge in heat-related emergencies. As temperatures rise, expect an increase in calls for heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and dehydration. These calls will likely involve both residents and the influx of tourists unaccustomed to D.C.'s humidity and eager to explore the National Mall's vast open spaces. Be prepared to respond to individuals overexerting themselves under the midday sun, particularly near iconic landmarks like the Washington Monument or the Lincoln Memorial.

Beyond the direct effects of heat, the tourist season brings a rise in calls for injuries. The

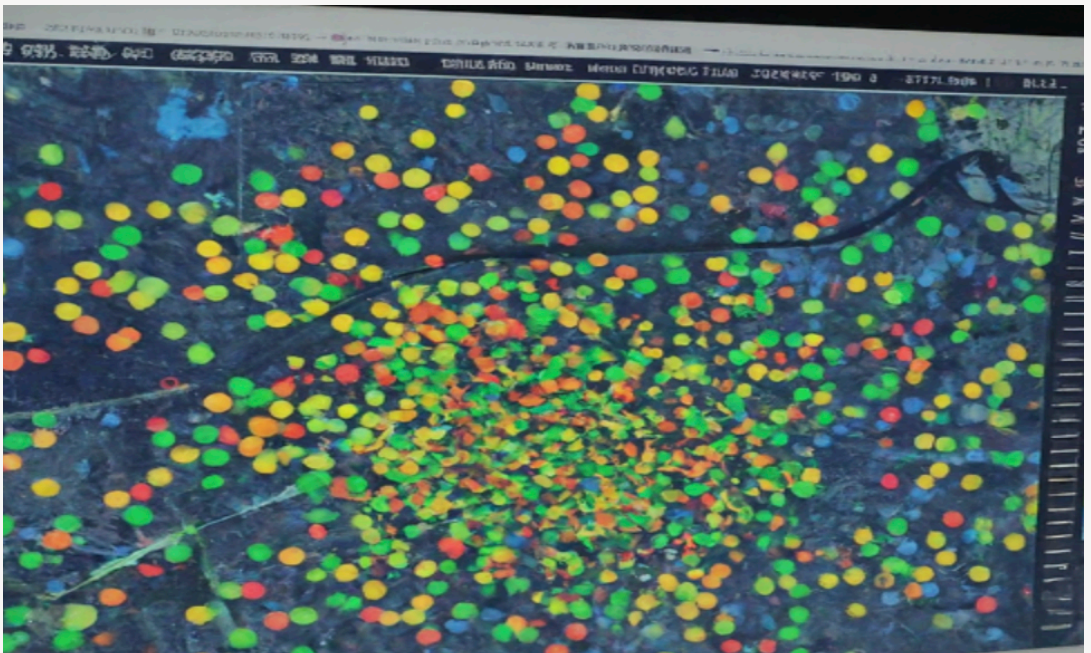
popularity of cycling the Potomac trails or renting bikes for sightseeing can lead to an increase in cycling accidents. Be alert for potential head injuries, broken bones, and road rash. Similarly, the uneven terrain and numerous steps around monuments can pose a tripping hazard, especially for older visitors. Be prepared for ankle sprains, falls, and potential head injuries.

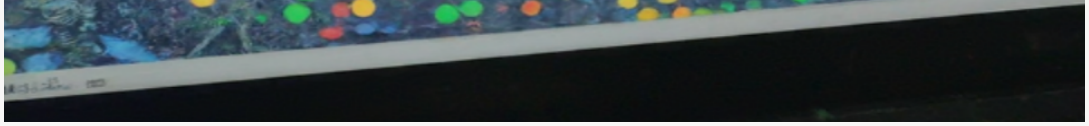
Here are some specific considerations for D.C. EMS during the spring and summer:

- **Collaboration:** Distribute safety information. Ensure first-aid stations are adequately stocked with water, sunscreen, and basic first-aid supplies.
- **Public Education:** Consider partnering with local media to raise awareness about the dangers of heat exposure and dehydration in D.C.'s unique environment.
- **Heat Preparedness:** Ensure ambulances are well-stocked with cooling supplies like intravenous fluids and cooling packs. Review protocols for treating heat-related emergencies to ensure a swift and effective response.
- **Terrain Awareness:** Be familiar with the layout of popular tourist destinations, including potential tripping hazards and areas where cyclists might be present.

By understanding the specific challenges of D.C.'s tourist season, we can be better prepared to respond to the influx of calls and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for both residents and visitors. Let's work together to keep the flow of D.C.'s "symphony of sirens" focused on less seasonal threats.

Emergency Medical Services: Saving Lives, Informing Public Health, and Bolstering Disaster Response in Washington D.C.





In a complex healthcare system like Washington D.C.'s, their impact goes beyond immediate response – the data you collect during patient interactions offers a goldmine of information that shapes public health initiatives.

EMS: Navigating the D.C. Healthcare Landscape

Washington D.C.'s healthcare system is a complex tapestry woven with a mix of public and private institutions, federal agencies, and academic medical centers. This intricate network, while offering a wide range of specialties and resources, can also present challenges for navigation and access.

EMS personnel, constantly on the move throughout the city, bridge the gap between these diverse healthcare entities. They encounter individuals in all walks of life, from bustling government buildings to underserved neighborhoods. This unique position allows them to not only deliver emergency medical care but also identify trends and patterns in health across the city's varied demographics.

For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, EMS data provided real-time insights into how the virus spread across different D.C. neighborhoods. Analyzing call volumes and patient symptoms helped public health officials track outbreaks in specific areas and allocate resources effectively, ensuring a more tailored response for the city's diverse population. This exemplifies EMS's role in disease surveillance and outbreak management within a complex healthcare landscape.

The Power of EMS Data

The data collected by EMS during patient care holds immense potential for improving public health in Washington D.C. Here's how:

- **Identifying Health Disparities:** By analyzing EMS call data across different D.C. neighborhoods, public health officials can identify areas with higher rates of specific illnesses or injuries. This information allows for targeted public health interventions and prevention campaigns to address health disparities within the city.
- **Optimizing Resource Allocation:** Analyzing call data helps D.C. authorities understand the geographical distribution of health needs, informing decisions about ambulance service placement to ensure efficient response times across the city's diverse geography.
- **Improving Community Health Outcomes:** By pinpointing areas with high rates of chronic conditions or social determinants of poor health, EMS data empowers

public health professionals to tailor outreach programs and preventive measures to underserved communities within D.C.

- **Early Detection and Response:** EMS plays a key role in early detection and response to public health emergencies. Data on carbon monoxide poisoning calls, for example, can alert authorities to potential gas leaks in specific neighborhoods.

EMS and the National Response Framework: A Powerful Alliance

The National Response Framework (NRF) is a critical guide for disaster response. Emergency Support Function #8 (ESF #8) focuses on Public Health and Medical Services, aiming to minimize and prevent health emergencies during large-scale disasters. Here's where EMS plays a crucial role within D.C.'s complex healthcare system:

- **Immediate Medical Care:** EMS personnel are often the first responders, providing life-saving care and stabilizing victims for transport to definitive care facilities, navigating the city's network of hospitals and specialized centers.

- **Boosting Healthcare Capacity:** During disasters, existing hospitals in D.C. can become overwhelmed. EMS can provide surge capacity by setting up field treatment centers or mobile medical units, ensuring additional medical care options within the city.

- **Supporting Evacuation Efforts:** EMS plays a vital role in evacuating injured or ill individuals from disaster zones, transporting them to safe areas or preparing them for air or long-distance medical transport coordinated through ESF #8.

- **Data Collection and Sharing:** EMS data collected during a disaster can be vital for ESF #8. Information on injuries, illnesses, and resource needs informs public health interventions, resource allocation, and tracking of potential disease outbreaks within the city.

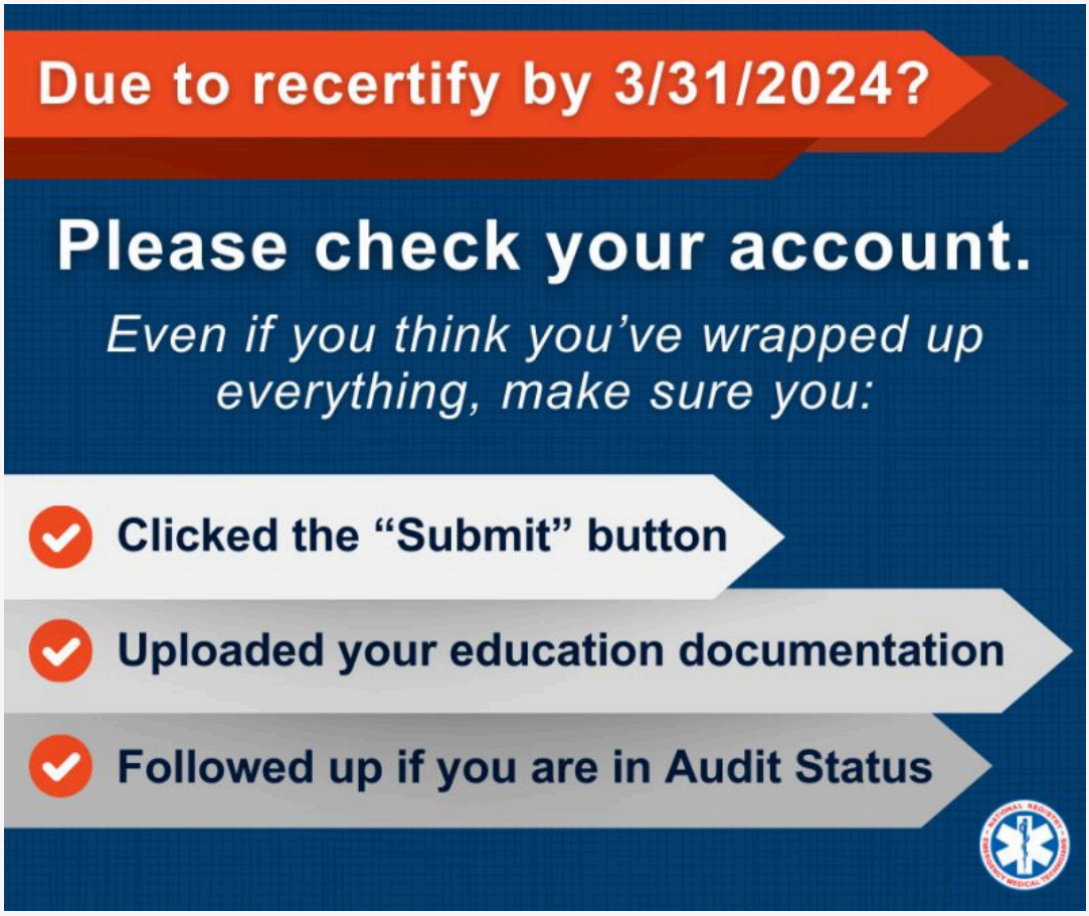
A Shared Future for Public Health in D.C.

Collaboration between EMS, public health, and emergency management is crucial to unlock the full potential of EMS data and maximize its impact on ESF #8 within D.C.'s intricate healthcare system. Sharing data securely and establishing clear communication channels allows for a more comprehensive response to disasters and public health emergencies.

EMS friends, we extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued data contributions. This valuable information strengthens public health initiatives, bolsters disaster response capabilities, and ultimately fosters a healthier future for all residents of Washington D.C. As technology evolves, EMS data collection and analysis will become even more sophisticated. By working together, we can leverage this data to create a more proactive and effective public health system that serves the unique needs of the city's diverse

population.

The NREMT Renewal Deadline is approaching!



The recertification deadline is approaching soon. To ensure your status is current, please log in to your account and verify your recertification completion.

Even if you believe you've already submitted it, we recommend double-checking to avoid any last-minute issues.

The EMS Program has landed in our new home.

The DC Health EMS Program started a new chapter last month at it's new location in historic Anacostia! DC Health now sits at 2201 Shannon Place, SE. Our team spent the last few weeks exploring the robust capabilities of the new command center, getting to know the building itself, and meeting some of our amazing community neighbors.

As some of our EMS providers may be aware, Anacostia boasts a rich history. Previously known as Uniontown, it was one of DC's earliest suburbs. In 1877, renowned abolitionist Frederick Douglass, often referred to as "the sage of Anacostia," purchased Cedar Hill, the estate of Uniontown's developer, and lived there until his passing in 1895. Today, Cedar Hill remains standing as the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, a testament to Anacostia's historical significance.

The EMS Program is excited to be part of this vibrant community and looks forward to continuing to serve the District residents from our new home.

District EMS Certification Patches are available!

In an earlier newsletter, we promised that we would share with you any vendors currently carrying the DC EMS certification patches.

As promised.

Vendor: Click here to visit Uniform Insignias!

Vendor: Click here to visit 911 Patches!

If any other vendors choose to carry the patches, we will include them in future newsletter editions.

Current Job Opportunities for DC EMS Providers

Emergency Medical Technician Instructor

Qualifications

Education: High School diploma or equivalent

Certification: CPR and National Registry EMT

Experience: 5 years of field experience as a practicing EMT or paramedic. Must possess a minimum of 3 years' experience as a primary classroom instructor providing training

No security clearance required but must pass background.

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Instructor provides instructional services.

The instructor will provide expert skills and knowledge to deliver instruction to TFC students, focusing on ensuring students achieve the necessary skills mandated by the course curricula and course objectives

Contract work -three months at a time; Monday to Friday 5pm to 9pm

Periodic bonus for passing results from students

Job Types: Part-time, Contract

Pay: $30.00 - $37.00 per hour

Expected hours: 20 per week

License/Certification:

- NREMT (Required)

Ability to Relocate:

- Washington, DC 20032: Relocate before starting work (Required)

Work Location: Hybrid remote in Washington, DC 20032

Apply to TFC!