

September 2015

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and this break from the rainy weather. September is Preparedness Month. We are getting into the fall months with lots of festivals and special events. Please make sure we are prepared for the cooling temperatures and falling leaves on the roads that may make things slicker than normal.

Another recertification reminder: Paramedics that are recertifying must pass the test with a score of 70 or better after 1/1/14. Paramedics not passing with a score of 70 or better after 1/1/14, must continue to take the test until that passing score of 70 is achieved.

We are often asked to provide test scores to individuals. So, let me try to explain the rationale for just indicating whether or not an individual passed or failed without the specific score. As part of our involvement with the Atlantic Council, our certification exam and process has been part of an assessment completed by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. There is a difference between reporting raw scores and scaled scores. Score reporting needs to contain information regarding the passing standard itself as well as information regarding the reliability of the scores or subscores provided in the report. Data must be summarized in a form without violating confidentiality obligations. In reporting scores, we also need to be prepared to monitor the precision of calculations used to compute assessment scores and their conversion to standardized, equated or scaled scores along with explanations of appropriate uses and misuses of reported score information. As you can imagine, reporting the pass/fail option is much simpler and less complicated.

During future spot inspections and permit inspections, OEMS and TSN staff will be working with you on compliance with ambulance marking requirements. There are a number of agencies that are currently not in compliance with Legislative Rule and OEMS policy on markings for the outside of vehicles. Vehicles will not be failed, but will need to be corrected within a reasonably acceptable amount of time. These markings were designated for the safety of crews and other vehicles on the road and based on federal requirements. Your cooperation and assistance with this issue will be greatly appreciated.

Many of you are already participating in healthcare coalitions in your local areas via regional hospital exercises, LEPCs, etc. This is crucial to a number of our community partners for grant requirements/participation. If you are not currently involved in these endeavors, please reach out to your local health department and/or hospital to get involved. I am confident that you will find benefit from these cooperative efforts.

There is a new webpage that has been included on this website. It is a Director page. You can find it by hovering your cursor over my name and title. On the Director page, you will find the slides from the Stakeholder meeting presentation, director columns, etc.