



Southern Alleghenies EMS Council, Inc.

Annual Report Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Medical Direction

20 Medical Command Physicians were registered.

Four (4) Medical Command facilities were inspected and renewed.

There are six (6) currently recognized medical command facilities in the region, with an additional three (3) facilities in the application process.

There are two (2) PA DOH accredited primary stroke centers in the region.

The regional Medical Advisory Committee met three (3) times. One of these meetings was held in conjunction with physicians from EMMCO East, EMMCO West, EMSI and Southern Alleghenies EMS councils.

Systems Operations

	Renewal Services	Renewal Vehicles	New/Replacement Vehicles
BLS	11	31	2
ALS	10	37	16
QRS	13	32	5
Swiftwater Rescue			1

There are one hundred and four (104) total EMS agencies in the region with 253 vehicles – Fifty-seven (57) licensed EMS agencies, 47 QRS agencies. One (1) QRS and one (1) ambulance agencies are also dual recognized through the Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition (VRSR) program. Additionally, there is one (1) swift-water rescue agency and one (1) independent rescue agency within the region.

With the reduction in staff related to recent budget decreases and the currently open position, Southern Alleghenies EMS has received assistance from neighboring regions, primarily EMSI and Seven Mountains EMS Council in performing regularly scheduled vehicle and agency licensure renewal inspections and we appreciate their assistance.

Practitioner Services

	Certified This Year	Total In Region
EMR	4	395
EMT	22	1539
Advanced EMT	1	2
Paramedic	4	491
PHRN	0	91
Physician		14
EMS-Instructor (EMS-Instructors included in BLS and ALS provider counts)	2	66

According to the EMS Registry maintained by the Bureau of EMS, there are 2534 certified practitioners in the region.

Education

There were 11 EMS certification courses conducted within the region, with three of these courses being offered as blended programs, combining internet based lectures and learning tools with practical hands-on sessions.

Two (2) EMR program ran in the region.

Bedford 1 Cambria 1

Eight (8) EMT programs ran in the region:

Bedford 2 Fulton 0
Blair 3 Huntingdon 1
Cambria 2 Somerset 0 (Offered but insufficient registration)

One (1) Paramedic program ran in the region.

SAEMS conducted three (3) BLS psychomotor examinations and one (1) ALS psychomotor examination.

SAEMS conducted 12 first class visits.

One (1) organization is currently in the application process for recognition as an educational institute.

Conducted one (1) BLS Evaluator class.

Staff participated in the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) Educational Task Force reviewing EMS education within the Commonwealth.

Southern Alleghenies EMS Council continues to offer scholarships for EMS certification programs. The scholarship is managed by the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and provides financial support for EMS education at both the BLS and ALS levels.

Through review of certification results, it was identified that students who were successful at completing their certification course frequently did not follow through to the NREMT cognitive exam. SAEMS conducted a survey of providers to determine the reasons for not attempting the cognitive examination and found that cost was a significant issue. Based on this information the Board elected to utilize EMSOF funds to provide test vouchers for the cost of the cognitive examination to improve the number of personnel attempting the exam.

Continuing Education

426 Con-Ed courses were registered in the region with 4637 students enrolled.

Con-ed participants by county

Bedford 877	Fulton 276
Blair 768	Huntingdon 555
Cambria 2195	Somerset 1365

Four (4) continuing education sponsors were re-accredited. There are 72 sponsors in the region.

SAEMS approved 28 new continuing education course applications.

Twenty-five (25) patient actors/EMT assistants participated in NREMT psychomotor exams and received continuing education endorsement for their participation.

SAEMS hosted six (6) continuing education classes for the providers in the region.

Continuous Quality Improvement

66 Fatal Accident Reports were researched. Sixty-three (63) were returned completed.

The regional PI committee met three (3) times.

The regional PI committee established regional Performance Improvement goals and an agency PI kit that was distributed to all agencies.

The Committee is developing a process to provide hands-on support to EMS agencies in developing and improving their Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) plans

Management Systems

There were over 80,000 Patient Care Reports generated in the region and processed at SAEMS.

Patient care reporting is split between several different vendors, the primary vendor being EMSCharts, followed by MedMedia/Intermedix with the remainder submitted through vendors with a smaller catchment of agencies.

The variation in vendors makes it difficult to evaluate data consistently and across vendors without a common system to report on data collected.

Staff assisted one new vendor in receiving BEMS recognition as an approved vendor.

WMD/Emergency Preparedness Activities

One of the mandated responsibilities of the Regional EMS Councils is to assist Federal, State or local agencies, upon request, in the provision of onsite mitigation, technical assistance, and situation assessment, coordination of functions or post-incident evaluations in the event of a potential or actual disaster, mass casualty situation or other substantial threat to public health. As part of its fulfillment of these tasks, SAEMS in conjunction with the PA Department of Health, and the Bureau of EMS actively participates with the Region 13 Task Force and the Southcentral Mountain Task Force, as well as with Emergency Management officials throughout the region. During the past year, our personnel participated in the following meetings, exercises, events and real time disasters:

- Strike Team Planning (Fayette County)
- Johnstown Airport Drill
- Blair County 9-1-1 Planning Meetings
- Huntingdon LEPC Conference
- Blair County LEPC Conference
- Papal Visit Planning and Equipment Deployment
- Active Shooter Tabletop and multiple trainings
- SCMRTE Rescue Task Force education
- SCMRTE Symposium
- Support and Participation in multiple Prom Promise type events

SAEMS staff participated on Region 13 EMS Committee, MMRS Health & Medical subcommittee and Steering Committee, Southcentral Mountain Executive Committee and EMS Committee, and Blair County LEPC.

SAEMS maintains emergency preparedness equipment for support and response to significant events, including:

-  Medical Surge Equipment Cache (MSEC)
-  Casualty Collection Point (CCP)
-  Strike Team Trailer
-  Medical Support Trailer (MRC)
-  2014 Kawasaki Mule with Med-bed Capability
-  8K Tow-behind Generator and Light Tower

Utility Trailer 20 Foot

In response to a request for guidance from 911 centers, SAEMS is developing and revising standardized operating procedures and response guidance for multiple/mass casualty incidents through the regional Communications Committee.

Organizational Management/Regional Activities

SAEMS hosted the Regional EMS Awards Dinner/Dance with 185 providers and/or family members attending. Awards were presented for Outstanding Community Service (individual), Outstanding EMS Educator, Outstanding Telecommunicator, Cardiac Arrest Saves, & Stork Awards for assisting in delivering infants in the field.

SAEMS hosted Leadership Training focusing on recruitment and retention for all agency leaders. Fifty (50) leadership personnel participated.

SAEMS staff participated in the National EMS Memorial Service in Washington, D.C. in support of the Janice Keen-Livingston family.

SAEMS staff participated in EMS Night at the Bedford Speedway in addition to other agency and education institute events.

SAEMS staff helped staff the event and attended the 2016 EMS Update Conference held at Seven Springs in cooperation with EMSI and EMMCO East.

The Board of Directors approved changes to the Southern Alleghenies EMS Council Bylaws addressing membership and other issues.

Staff attended a legislative meeting conducted by local Representatives to discuss issues related to fire and EMS.

Staff assisted Cambia County EMA and County Commissioners with meeting related to EMS financial status, recruitment and retention of personnel.

LODD Support

Staff continued to provide support and coordination for a line-of-duty death that occurred in the Johnstown area. Staff continues to work with the family to apply for and coordinate Federal and Commonwealth LODD benefits, and attended the National EMS Memorial in Washington D.C. in support of the family.

Safety Initiative

At the request of the Bureau of EMS, SAEMS spearheaded the Statewide EMS Safety initiative that initially focused on Traffic Incident Management Training (TIM). A press conference was held with Director Gibbons and several media outlets to announce the initiative and to conduct the first TIM training in memory of Janice Keen-Livingston.

Additional courses were scheduled in partner regions, with five courses scheduled within the fiscal year.

Southern Alleghenies also conducted an additional National Association of EMT's Safety Course which was attended by 30 people.

Impact of Budget Impasse

The Commonwealth Budget Impasse had a significant impact on Council operations as it extended through the fall of 2015. Southern Alleghenies EMS Council was forced to active a \$100,000 line of credit, and was in the approval process for an additional \$50,000 at the time that funding was released. We decreased out operating costs significantly, including minimalizing business travel, requesting delays in payment from outstanding vendors and delaying purchase of all but essential equipment and supplies. As the impasse continued the determination was made to lay-off staff pending restoration of funding. Both our Secretary and EMS Specialist-Education were temporarily laid off through January 1, 2016. The line-of-credit resulted in the expense of funds for interest payments, that were drawn from contract funds.

Cost Saving and Consolidation

Additional measures to minimize cost and maximize efficiency are being evaluated and continue, including the cooperation and coordination efforts through the affiliation with EMSI and EMMCO East regional councils.

At the direction of the Bureau of EMS, Southern Alleghenies continues to evaluate cost-saving and consolidation possibilities with surrounding regions and conducted a meeting with EMSI, EMMCO East, EMMCO West and Seven Mountains EMS Councils to discuss possible opportunities. The Board of Directors continues to evaluate possible options.

During Fiscal year 2015-2016, SAEMS received a total budgeted amount of \$589,783 from the Department of Health and spent the entire amount to support the EMS system in its six-county region. An independent financial audit will be released in the fall of 2016.

The budget amount awarded to Southern Alleghenies EMS Council continues to decrease on an annual basis. The following represent the contract amount for fiscal years 2010-2016:

Fiscal Year	BEMS Contract Amount
2010-2011	\$922,633
2011-2012	\$807,369
2012-2013	\$793,396
2013-2014	\$709,494
2014-2015	\$627,660
2015-2016	\$589,783

Regional Projects

The Board of Directors of Southern Alleghenies EMS Council have determined that the most appropriate use of Prehospital Provider (EMSOF) funds is through regional projects that provide benefit to a large portion of the region. The original budgeted amount for Prehospital Provider Equipment (EMSOF) in the 2015-2016 fiscal year was \$25,000. Through cost savings and reallocations, the total funds expended in the EMSOF category was \$53,723. The Board approved the following regional projects:

- 🔧 NREMT Testing Vouchers to assist students with the cost of the NREMT cognitive examination;
- 🔧 NREMT Testing Site to permit students to take the NREMT cognitive examination at our office;
- 🔧 Recruitment and Retention-development of programs and materials to support agency recruitment and retention efforts, including working with EMMCO West to further develop and expand the <http://www.answering-the-call.us/> recruitment website;
- 🔧 Recruitment and Retention Leadership Training-Conducted course which 50 management level providers attended focused on management and recruiting and retaining personnel;
- 🔧 CO Monitors-safety related program to ensure that each agency has access to CO monitors for their first-in bag to warn of high CO levels
- 🔧 Transfer of Care Forms-purchase of TOC forms to minimize the cost to agencies of these forms.

Staff

Carl Moen	Executive Director
Lori Driscoll	Program Manager
Rachelle Tippery	EMS Specialist-Education
Deborah Mellott	Secretary

SAEMS Board of Directors 2015-2016

Executive Board

Tim Reitz, President (Cambria County)
Tom Stoudnour, Vice President (Bedford County)
Terry Ruparcic, Treasurer (Somerset County)
Brian Barton, Secretary (Fulton County)
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