



TO: Alaska EMS Providers
FROM: Mark Miller, EMS Unit Manager
DATE: November 13, 2014
SUBJECT: EMS Interim Guidance

The Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Health, Section of Emergency Programs EMS Unit is providing the following information to EMS providers and instructors. This interim guidance, in effect until further notice, is the culmination of extensive partnerships, including the Alaska Council on EMS (ACEMS), the ACEMS Training Subcommittee, the Regional Council Directors Group, and the 2014 NHTSA Assessment Team.

National EMS Education Standards Adopted

- ✓ EMS educators will now follow evidence-based EMS guidelines consistent with *National EMS Education Standards* core content for EMT courses. Among other improvements and updates, adoption of National Standards allows Alaska to participate in reciprocity with other states. The adoption of National EMS Standards was championed by the State of Alaska and adopted by the Alaska Council on EMS (ACEMS), the ACEMS Training Subcommittee, the Regional Council Directors Group, as well as the State EMS Office.

Provider and Instructor Test Changes

- ✓ Written examinations to recertify EMT-1s, EMT2s, and EMT-3s are temporarily suspended, beginning with EMT certifications expiring December 31, 2014.
- ✓ All EMT-1 instructors must pass the new EMT-1 State Certification Exam by March 31, 2015 or prior to applying to teach an EMT-1 level course.

Online certification requirements for EMTs and EMS instructors

- ✓ All EMS providers need to create or claim an online account within the Alaska EMS Certification Management (Public Portal) system to complete their certifications. EMT students and EMT-1s may use the online system for initial certifications and renewals expiring December 31, 2014. The online system will be available soon for EMT-2s and EMT-3s.
- ✓ Paper applications will also be accepted for EMTs expiring December 31, 2014; however, paper applications will take substantially longer to process.
- ✓ Instructions for online and paper certification are posted on the EMS unit webpage, <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Emergency/Pages/ems/default.aspx>

The EMS Office staff extends a special thanks to the Alaska Council on EMS (ACEMS), the ACEMS Training Subcommittee, Regional Coordinators and Directors, and Ken Zafren, M.D., State EMS Medical Director, for their contributions. Please do not hesitate to call the EMS office at (907) 465-8741 with questions.