

Public Health Ready

Erie County Department of Health



JUST IN! ERIE COUNTY WILL NOW HAVE ITS OWN AMBULANCE SERVICE

Erie County understands that the overuse of pre-hospital resources puts tremendous strain on the volunteer sector, and that a lack of ambulance availability causes unnecessary backups at hospitals. Reducing that overuse and strengthening the local ambulance network are priorities for Erie County.

Erie County EMS is embarking on a new endeavor to supply additional resources in the pre-hospital setting by establishing a **County-run Ambulance Service**. Erie County obtained its ALS first response certificate in 2016, allowing the County to respond to multiple events when additional support is necessary. We learned that more than fly cars are needed to meet demand. The mutual aid system in Erie County has been pushed to the max – with snowstorms, employee job actions and increasing call volume – but it provides little relief to the demand for ambulance services.

The County also will begin training paramedics in partnership with Erie Community College as soon as the NYS Division of EMS approves the program. Two years ago the County added advanced mobile training to our EMS training program, greatly expanding availability for this higher-level training. Since then, the County produced 37 advanced providers. Prior to the County starting its advanced program there was limited availability of this advanced program.

The County's **Nurse Navigator** program will use registered nurses to triage requests for ambulance transport and determine if the patient can be treated in ways other than being transported to the hospital. The patient will never be refused ambulance service. However, in some cases they will be given alternatives that might be just as effective, would not subject the patient to long hospital waits and could be more cost effective. The Nurse Navigator will be based at the ADI/MERS dispatch center and be available to any dispatch center in Erie County at no cost.

Newsletter Highlights

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Erie County Department of Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Be Prepared for Summer - Stay Hydrated

Welcome to summer in Western New York. At last, the warm weather has arrived!

While you enjoy being out in the sunshine and participating in fun activities, remember to stay hydrated. Two thirds of your body weight is made up of water. In the summer, increased outdoor temperatures can place additional strain on your heart and lungs. Certain conditions like diabetes, pregnancy or chronic kidney disease, along with certain medications, can also place you at additional risk for dehydration.

The first signs of dehydration can include feeling thirsty, having a headache, having a dry mouth or skin, and darkened urine. When dehydration becomes severe, you may experience confusion, fainting, a rapid heartbeat and increased breathing. These conditions can become life threatening, and you should seek medical help quickly.

To avoid becoming dehydrated, drink enough fluids every day. Along with water, there are many options for low calorie beverages such as sparkling or flavored waters, milk (including plant-based milks), vegetable juices, etc. Sports drinks, alcohol, pop and other sugary beverages add calories and have little nutritional value.

The amount of fluids you need depends on your age, activity level, body weight and other factors. If you are very active and sweating heavily, you will need to drink more. Guidelines from the Mayo Clinic recommend 15.5 cups of water/day for men and 11.5 cups of water/day for women. The goal of 8 glasses of water/day is a good goal and easy to remember. Due to the many factors involved, please check with your healthcare provider to determine the optimal amount of fluids you need to stay hydrated and enjoy the summer.

Please remember to provide water for pets, service animals & livestock.

Erie County Cooling Shelters: www.erie.gov/staycool



A Message from our Warehouse Staff

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) warehouse has helped to distribute personal protective equipment throughout many communities and municipalities within Erie County. The warehouse placed great efforts into asset distribution throughout the COVID-19 response, as well as other needs, including setting up shelters and distributing supplies during any emergency response. The warehouse maintains a stock level that would be necessary to respond to any future outbreaks, emergencies, and/or disasters. The PHEP warehouse and its staff are constantly evaluating their level of preparedness to be able to respond efficiently for Erie County communities and residents.



Trainings

EMT Certification Classes

EMS is running 5 EMT classes starting around September.

Location	Dates	Days	Times
LVAC	8/29/23- 12/21/23	Tues, Wed Thurs, Sat.	6:30-10:30pm Sat: 8am-5pm
Doyle #2 Fire Dept	9/5/23- 1/18/24	Tues, Thurs Sat.	6pm-10pm Sat: 8am-4:30pm
Lake Shore Fire Dept.	9/5/23- 1/18/24	Tues, Thurs Sat	6pm-10pm Sat: 8am-12pm
Daemen University	9/7/23- 12/21/23	Tues, Thurs Sat	6:30-10:30pm Sat: 8am-12pm
ECTO C	9/9/23- 1/18/23	Sat, Sun	8am-4:30pm

AEMT COURSE

500 Commerce Amherst, NY	8/22/23 12/21/23	Tues, Thurs Sat.	6pm-10pm Sat: 8am-4pm
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For more information about this training or future EMS trainings visit: erie.gov/ems

Download the ReadyErie App



SCAN ME

www.erie.gov/readyerie



Erie County Medical Reserve Corps (ECMRC) Trainings

2023 3rd Quarter

July: AHA CPR (BLS) Training 4-Hour Certificate

August: NO Meeting! Enjoy the Fair!

September: AHA Basic First Aid

Hope to see you there! To become a volunteer please visit www.erie.gov/ecmrc

#BEST12DAYSOFSUMMER - Erie County Fair

Find us at the Erie County Fair - August 9-20. PHEP has a full schedule of events and activities planned in the Marketplace Building, including first aid, safety and hands-only CPR training; all hazard weather preparedness, travel preparedness, pet emergency prep and sports safety.

Trainings Completed This Year

Our EMS team takes pride in all the different levels of training we provide in our community! Below are the numbers of people we have trained in 2023 to date.

- Hands-only CPR: 784
- 4-hour CPR: 175
- BLS Certified: 325
- PALS/ACLS: 10
- Stop the Bleed: 476
- EMT: 142
- EMT Recertification: 24
- AEMT: 19
- CFR: 4
- CFR Recertification: 1



EMS History from Deputy Commissioner Greg Gill

Welcome to the Division of Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Newsletter. As the Deputy that oversees the Division, I am happy to see that we are going to be reaching out to let everyone know what the Division is working on. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is still a new field that got its real start in 1860s. During the Civil War, ambulance carts were utilized to transport injured soldiers.

In the mid 1860s the first hospital-based ambulance was developed in Cincinnati, Ohio, followed soon by a New York City service from Bellevue Hospital.



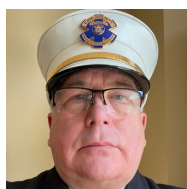
Many advances came to prehospital care over the years. However in 1966 the Division of Medical Sciences, National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council published the first document titled "Accidental Death and Disability: the Neglected Disease of Modern Society." The 37-page booklet, commonly referred to as the "White Paper," stated that accidents were the leading cause of death for persons age 1-37 years old, and the fourth leading cause of death for all ages in 1965. For people under 75 years of age, motor vehicle accidents constituted the leading cause of accidental death.

In the 1950s as a result of the Korean War, the U.S. Air Force began using helicopters to bring injured soldiers into field hospitals. This effort expanded in Vietnam and the program was credited with saving numerous soldiers because of rapid access to medical care.



The 1970s saw the evolution of the Paramedic. The first EMT-P curriculum included 400 hours of class, lab and clinical rotations in various hospital settings, followed by a 100-hour field internship. Today's standards have increased the program to nearly 2,000 hours of combined classroom and clinical work - in hospitals and in the field.

Currently there are four levels of pre-hospital care providers - Certified First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics. In our next newsletter we provide in-depth descriptions about the different levels of providers and where pre-hospital care is heading. Stay tuned!



We hope you enjoyed our second edition of our newsletter! We publish new issues every 3 months (quarterly). If there are any topics you would like to see included, email us at phep@erie.gov.

- Greg Gill, Deputy Commissioner of EMS

MERS Call Data

MERS/ADI provides 911 medical interrogation for approximately 60,000 calls annually for the City of Buffalo and surrounding Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) throughout Erie County. In 2023, these are the calls to date:

911 calls answered: **26,699** DOH after hours line answered: **644**
 Other lines answered: **10,830** Calls dispatched: **28,259**

