

# Public Health Ready

*Erie County Department of Health*



## JUST IN! ERIE COUNTY EMS ESTABLISHES AN AMBULANCE SERVICE

Erie County Emergency Medical Services (ECEMS) Ambulance Service made its debut in late September. ECEMS is an entirely new program, built from the ground up, and set to redefine emergency services in Western New York.

With volunteer fire department membership declining steadily over recent years, a pressing need emerged for a dependable paramedic-level service. ECEMS will fill this gap, particularly in rural underserved areas where volunteers are struggling to cope with ever-increasing call volume.

The service will begin with a team of paramedics and AEMTs, each with a diverse range of experience, spanning from one year to over two decades. These dedicated professionals will have access to two fly cars and two state-of-the-art ambulances; equipped with the latest technology for patient care and safety. Additional ambulance acquisitions are in the works.

ECEMS is set to become only the second service in the state to deploy the new Stryker Xpedition power stair chair. This cutting-edge technology will significantly enhance patient transport safety and efficiency, particularly in navigating stairs and confined spaces before transferring patients to the stretcher. It also reduces the risk of injury to the ambulance team.

The future of this program shines bright with possibilities. At present, there are no limitations on what this initiative, in collaboration with public health and local municipalities, can achieve. As the ECEMS Ambulance Service responds to its first calls, it's not just a new chapter but the opening notes of a symphony of excellence, poised to become the most progressive and community-oriented EMS system in all of New York State.

## Newsletter Highlights

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**Erie County  
Department of  
Health**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



## Hiking Safety for this Fall

Fall is here and it is a perfect time to go outside and go for a walk! Erie County maintains 24 parks, some with amazing hiking trails, and state and town parks also have walking paths with incredible views! Make sure you check out what parks are close to you!

### When Hiking Always:

- Tell a friend where you are going
- Locate the local ranger's station
- Pay attention
- Check your body, clothes and pets for ticks
- Dress the part
- Pack an emergency gear kit
  - First Aid Kit
  - Flashlight
  - Compass
  - Food and Water
  - Radio or Walkie-Talkie
  - Map and GPS

### What to pack in a First-Aid Kit

- Bandages
- Gauze
- Anti-bacterial ointment
- Hand sanitizer
- Needle and thread
- Benadryl
- Ibuprofen

### Dressing for the Conditions

- Wear hiking boots or hiking sneakers
- Thick wool socks
- Gloves or mittens
- Sunscreen and head/face protection
- Waterproof and breathable jacket
- Insect repellent
- Polyester, nylon, or wool clothing
- Backpack

### The DON'Ts of Hiking

- Don't litter
- Don't wear perfume or scented lotion
- Don't touch, approach, or feed wildlife
- Don't go off the trails
- Don't forget your map and trail/park brochures



## What is Stop the Bleed Training?

No matter how fast professional emergency responders arrive, bystanders will always be first on scene. Someone who is bleeding severely can bleed to death in as little as 5 minutes. That is why bleeding control (keeping the blood inside the body) is the purpose of Stop the Bleed Training. Minutes count!

Stop the Bleed encourages bystanders to become trained, equipped and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. The public education focuses on actions to protect lives and stop the loss of life from severe bleeding. This includes:

- Actions to ensure personal safety
- How to identify bleeding as a life threat
- The use of hands to apply direct pressure
- Proper use of wound packing and tourniquets

Most Stop the Bleed courses last no more than 60 minutes. A formal presentation is followed by hands-on practice of applying direct pressure, packing a wound, and using a tourniquet to stop bleeding

# Trainings



## Erie County Medical Reserve Corps (ECMRC) Trainings

### 2023 4th Quarter

**November:** Access and Functional Needs Awareness for PODs and Shelters

**December:** End of Year Review and Holiday Festivities

Hope to see you there! To become a volunteer please visit [www.erie.gov/ecmrc](http://www.erie.gov/ecmrc)

### **Girl Scout Preparedness Day!**

On Saturday, September 16th, Erie County hosted the Girl Scouts for them to earn their first aid badge! Volunteers from the ECMRC team joined in on the fun while the girls completed various first aid stations! Great job to the Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts who participated!

## EMT Certification Classes

Erie County EMS is currently running 5 EMT and 1 AEMT class which all started around September. These classes will finish anywhere between December and January. Erie County EMS hosts classes throughout Erie County. Be sure to check our website often for information on new classes being hosted in 2024!

For more information about this training or future EMS trainings visit: [erie.gov/ems](http://erie.gov/ems)



## Download the ReadyErie App



[erie.gov/readyerie](http://erie.gov/readyerie)

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



## What is the ReadyErie App?

This free multi-purpose cell phone app provides critical information and emergency alerts through push notifications, emergency shelters locations, up-to-date evacuation route maps, the ability to create a personalized Emergency Preparedness Plan by answering 5 basic questions.

This app takes emergency planning and preparedness to the next level and gives users the information they need at the time they need it, helping them and their loved ones respond to emergencies in a safe and organized manner. Erie County can communicate directly with its citizens so they can have critical updates and alerts so they can coordinate planning with their loved ones and stay on top of the changing conditions.

## Winter Activities to Enjoy in Erie County

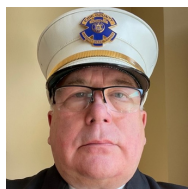
Don't hibernate this winter. There are plenty of activities you and your family can do around Erie County whether you prefer indoors or outdoors. Some popular places to go skiing, snowboarding, and sledding are **Chestnut Ridge Park** in Orchard Park and **Kissing Bridge Ski Resort** in Glenwood. There are also cross-country skiing trails at **Sprague Brook Park** in Glenwood and **Elma Meadows Golf Course** in Elma. Don't forget the ski slope and magic carpet at **Emery Park** in South Wales!

If ice skating is more your thing, **Canalside** in downtown Buffalo might be the place for you. Along with ice skating, you can also ride ice bikes and play bumper cars on the ice. The fun activities when the ice opens on or about November 20.



These popular places offer a fun time with family and friends but make sure you follow all safety guidelines provided at these locations, including wearing proper equipment such as helmets and layers of warm clothing to prevent hypothermia and frostbite.

If you're not a fan of the cold, don't miss out on some indoor activities. You can stay warm while walking through several interconnected greenhouses at the **Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens**. There's something for everyone with the many events already planned for this upcoming winter. For example, they host **Gardens After Dark: Enchanted Winter Escape**, **Orchids After Dark**, and **Kids Week**. For kids, **Explore and More Children's Museum** is a great way to spend an afternoon. For people of all ages, the **Buffalo Museum of Science** has activities and events year-round. Finally, don't forget your **local library** - books, videos, games, and a library of things give you so much to discover and learn.



We hope you enjoyed our third 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](mailto: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: 44,258    DOH after-hours line answered: 1,420  
 Other lines answered: 30,314    Calls dispatched: 45,400

