

Public Health Ready

Erie County Department of Health

2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR! WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ERIE COUNTY EMS IN 2024

The Erie County Ambulance Service now has **five ambulances** strategically stationed in the southern rural parts of Erie County.

We continue to see call volumes increase, and we are expanding into community education and training that improves the ability for all residents to be the help until help arrives.

Erie County EMS is in the process of developing a **Paramedic Academy**, with a full curriculum for training and continuing education. This program will lead to additional, certified paramedics who can serve in volunteer and professional first responder roles.

EMT and AEMT classes coordinated by Erie County EMS will be offered regularly in 2024. See page 3 of this newsletter and check back on our web site often: www.erie.gov/ems.

Erie County's Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) has reestablished the **Medical Reserve Corps**, formerly known as SMART. More on MRC activities on page 4. New members with are welcome.

And for the community, PHEP instructors will teach **Hands-only CPR** at locations around the county throughout the year. Call (716) 858-7101 for more information or to schedule a class for your organization or business.

Newsletter Highlights

Happy New Year! What to expect

Your Preparedness Resolution

EMS Trainings

ECMRC Classes

Why volunteer with the ECMRC?

What first-responder level do you want to be?

Call Data from MERS



Erie County
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Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Your Preparedness Resolutions

Being prepared for emergencies is an **essential part of personal safety and well-being**. Here are some New Year resolutions focused on prepared for emergencies.

Remember, being prepared for emergencies is an ongoing process. **Consistently reevaluate and adapt your plans** to ensure they remain effective in keeping you and your loved ones safe during unexpected situations.



More at ready.gov

1. Create an Emergency Plan: Develop a comprehensive emergency plan for your household or family. Outline evacuation routes, designate meeting points, and establish communication protocols in case of separation during an emergency.

2. Assemble an Emergency Kit: Build a well-stocked kit with essentials such as non-perishable food, water, first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, a multi-tool, important documents, medications and necessities for at least 72 hours. Consider household members and pets with medical needs.

3. Learn Life-Saving Skills: Enroll in first-aid, CPR, or emergency response training courses. Gain knowledge and skills that could be invaluable during critical situations.

4. Regularly Review and Update Plans: Schedule regular drills and practice sessions for your emergency plans. Update your emergency kit and plans as needed, considering changes in family dynamics, health conditions, or your living situations

5. Backup Important Documents: Make digital copies of essential documents such as identification papers, insurance policies, medical records, and store them securely in cloud storage or on a portable drive as part of your emergency kit.

6. Secure Your Home: Take preventive measures to secure your home against potential risks. Install smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms, fire extinguishers, and consider reinforcing doors and windows for added safety.

7. Connect with Neighbors: Foster a sense of community preparedness by connecting with neighbors. Establish a network where you can assist each other in times of need, such as sharing resources or offering support during emergencies.

8. Practice Mindfulness and Mental Preparedness: Develop a mindset for dealing with stress and uncertainty during emergencies. Practice mindfulness techniques or seek counseling to build mental resilience.

9. Financial Preparedness: Set aside an emergency fund to cover unexpected expenses arising from emergencies. Review insurance policies to ensure adequate coverage for various types of emergencies, including floods.

Trainings



Erie County Medical Reserve Corps (ECMRC) Trainings

2024: 1st Quarter

- January 17: New Member Orientation
- February 21: Alphabet Soup including SNS (Strategic National Stockpile)
- February 24: AHA BLS Certification
- March 20: Pet First Aid
- March 27: Stop the Bleed

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

Download the ReadyErie App



erie.gov/readyerie



EMT Certification Classes

Erie County EMS will kick off the new year hosting 6 EMT classes.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Days</u>
Scranton Fire Hall 5395 Scranton Rd	1/13/24- 4/18/24	M/T/TH/SAT
Grand Island Fire 2275 Baseline	2/6/24- 5/16/23	T/TH/SAT
Daemen University 4380 Main St.	1/23/24- 5/16/24	T/TH/SAT
Erie County FTA 3359 Broadway	1/6/24- 5/16/24	Saturdays
Orchard Park 4222 Taylor Rd	1/6/24- 4/18/24	T/TH/SAT
LVAC 40 Embry Pl.	2/6/24- 6/20/24	T/W/SAT

For more information about this training or future EMS trainings visit: erie.gov/ems



Make a meaningful impact as an MRC volunteer.

Volunteering with the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) can be incredibly rewarding and beneficial for individuals and communities. You can directly support your local communities during times of need, such as public health emergencies, natural disasters, or community health events. **Our collective goal: working toward community health and safety.**

For those in the medical field or without any clinical background, the MRC offers valuable experience, skill development and networking opportunities with like-minded professionals, volunteers and organizations. The MRC can provide training and education sessions in various aspects of emergency response, public health, and disaster management. Your involvement level is flexible depending on personal availability and preferences. Being part of our team means being better prepared to respond to emergencies or public health crises. Call (716) 858-7101 for more information.

What First-Responder Level Do You Want To Be?



EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians), AEMTs (Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians), and Paramedics are all healthcare professionals who provide pre-hospital emergency medical care. However, they differ in terms of their level of training, scope of practice, and the medical interventions they are authorized to perform.

EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians):

- Entry-level emergency medical responders
- Have basic training in emergency care, which includes assessing patients, managing respiratory, cardiac, and trauma emergencies, and providing basic life support (BLS) interventions
- Can administer oxygen and albuterol, use automatic external defibrillators (AEDs), perform CPR, control bleeding, immobilize fractures, and assist in childbirth.
- Training typically involves around 120-150 hours of coursework.

AEMTs (Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians):

- Have more advanced training compared to EMTs, but are below paramedics in terms of scope of practice.
- Have additional education and skills, including more in-depth knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and medical procedures.
- Can perform all procedures available to EMTs, along with advanced airway techniques and the use of additional medical equipment
- Training usually involves around 400-500 hours of coursework.

Paramedics:

- Have the highest level of pre-hospital emergency medical training.
- Undergo extensive education and clinical training that includes advanced coursework in pharmacology, cardiology, and advanced medical procedures.
- Trained to perform a broad range of advanced airway management, cardiac monitoring, interpreting electrocardiograms (EKGs), and more invasive procedures.
- Training typically involves around 1,200 to 1,800 hours of coursework, including clinical rotations.

Each type of pre-hospital care provider plays a crucial role in the emergency medical services system, providing different levels of care based on the patient's needs and the resources available at the scene.

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: 60,232 DOH after-hours line answered: 1,771
 Other lines answered: 40,193 Calls dispatched: 62,673

