

*A System Designed to Save Lives*

EASTERN PA EMS COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT

*FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026*



In accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Health Rules and Regulations 28 Pa. Code § 1021.103, The regional council governing body shall submit an annual report to the Department.

Reporting requirements of Appendix A – Work Statement. Comprehensive Annual Report as related to, Coordinate and Improve the delivery of EMS in the Council's region.

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## **REGIONAL SUMMARY:**

The mission of the Eastern Pennsylvania EMS Council is to advance the development of the region's prehospital emergency medical care system and the transportation of the sick and injured. The Council serves as a strong advocate for enhancing the quality of patient care, improving access to emergency medical services, and supporting EMS practitioners through educational opportunities and training necessary to maintain compliance with the Pennsylvania EMS Systems Act.

Guided by a commitment to customer service and professionalism, the Eastern PA EMS Council remains dedicated to serving the needs of its constituents throughout the region. The Council actively collaborates with healthcare networks, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), emergency management partners, and healthcare coalitions. Through engagement, cooperation, and a multidisciplinary approach to service delivery, the Council continues to strengthen and advance the regional EMS system.

The Eastern PA EMS Council oversees a diverse six-county region encompassing urban, suburban, and rural communities. During fiscal year 2025–2026, the region included 126 licensed EMS agencies, 634 licensed EMS vehicles, and 4,677 certified EMS practitioners, all working to provide high-quality emergency medical care to the communities they serve.

In addition, the Council provides licensure oversight and support to the City of Philadelphia Fire Department EMS Division, which operates 112 licensed EMS vehicles and related assets.

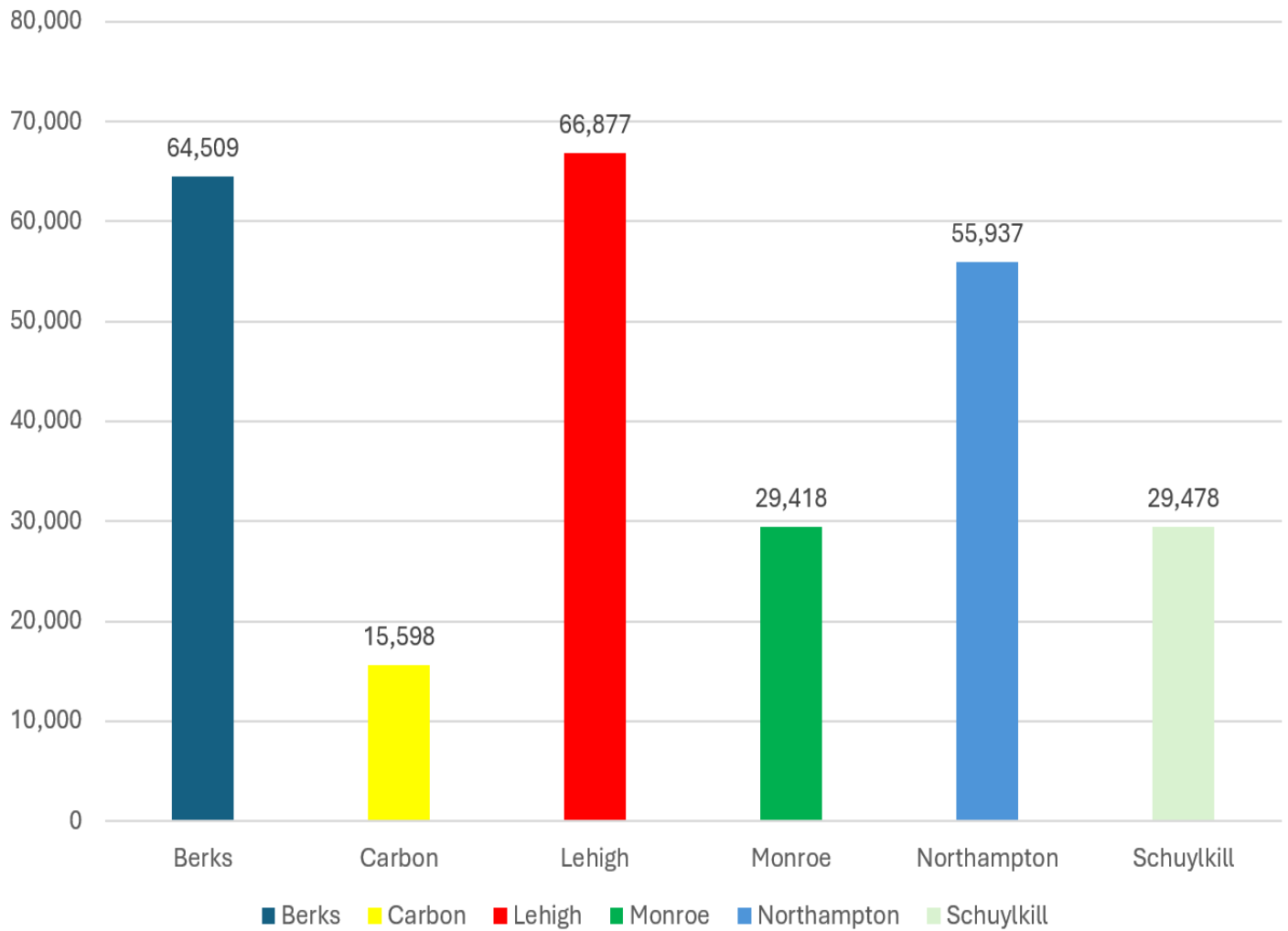
Unless otherwise noted, regional statistics presented in this report are not representative of and do not include City of Philadelphia EMS data.

**“The Eastern PA EMS Council is responsible for a diverse six-county region that encompasses urban, suburban, and rural communities. The Eastern Region comprises 126 licensed EMS agencies, 634 licensed vehicles, and 4,677 certified EMS practitioners.**

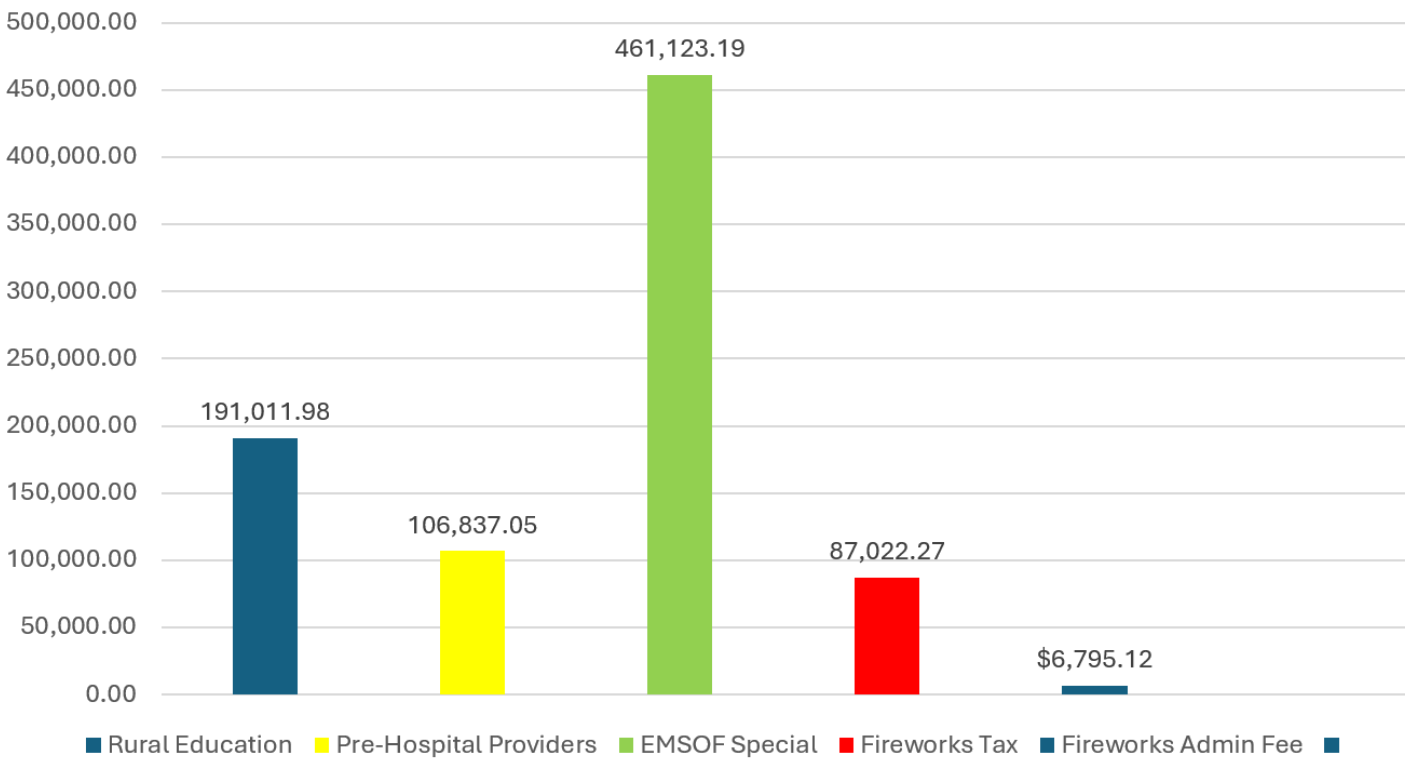
**Request For EMS Services Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026**

**261,817**

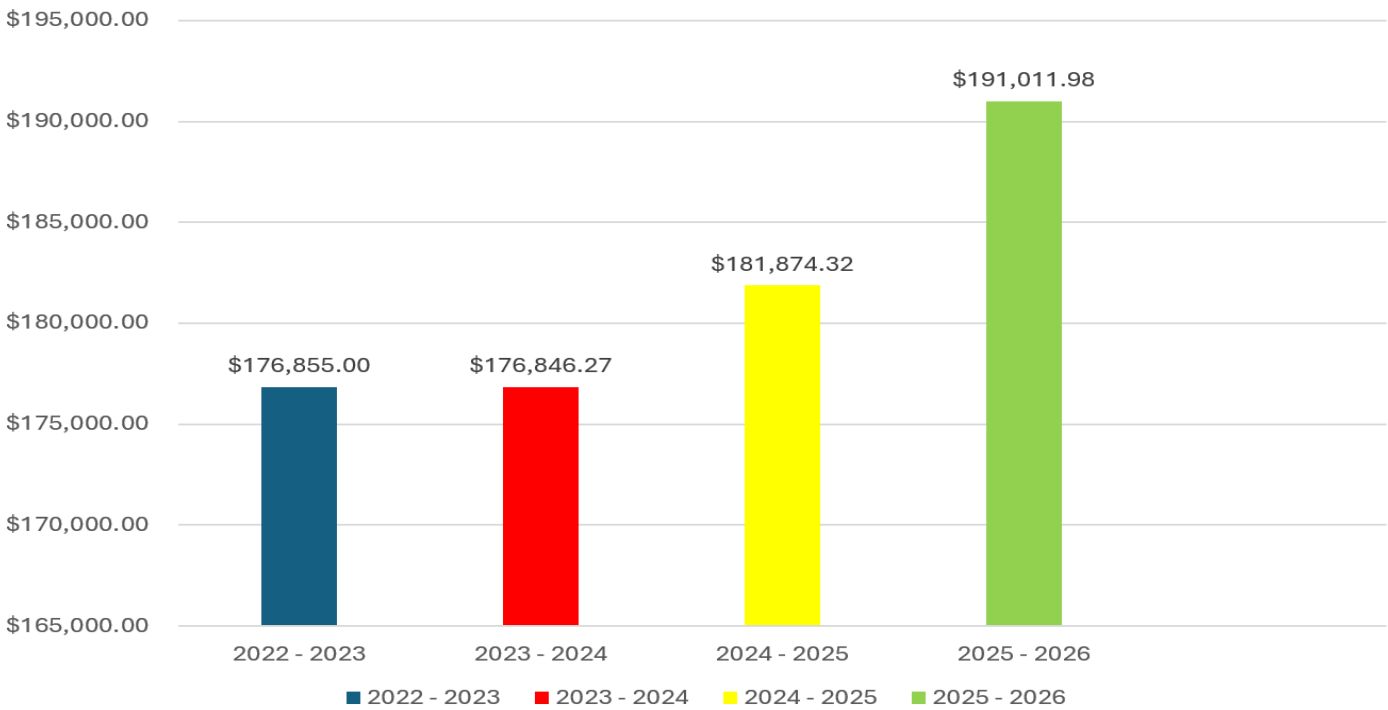
**PCR Submissions FY 2025 - 2026**



Funds Invested EMS Agencies & EMS Practitioners  
\$852,789.61



Rural Funds Invested



## **Board of Directors \ Health Council Officers**

President: Dr. Bryan Wilson

Vice President: Mr. Edward Coleman

Treasurer: Mr. Chris Basile CPA

Secretary: Ms. Carrie Frey

### Directors, Eastern PA EMS Council

| <b>NAME</b> |                                 | <b>NAME</b> |                              |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1           | <u>Mr. Adam Garger</u>          | 19          | <u>Ms. Taylor Hunt</u>       |
| 2           | <u>Mr. Matthew Brett</u>        | 20          | <u>Mr. Mervin Wertz</u>      |
| 3           | <u>Mr. Christopher Gulick</u>   | 21          | <u>Mr. Edwin Hillegass</u>   |
| 4           | <u>Mr. Mark Wiekrykis</u>       | 22          | <u>Ms. Kristie Wentling</u>  |
| 5           | <u>Dr. Anthony Halupa</u>       | 23          | <u>Dr. Samantha Williams</u> |
| 6           | <u>Mr. Craig Deppe</u>          | 24          | <u>Vacant</u>                |
| 7           | <u>Mr. Jared Yeastedt</u>       | 25          |                              |
| 8           | <u>Mr. Jeff Fritz</u>           | 26          |                              |
| 9           | <u>Dr. Thomas Stauffer</u>      | 27          |                              |
| 10          | <u>Mr. Anthony Tucci</u>        | 28          |                              |
| 11          | <u>Mr. Jeff Yanochko</u>        | 29          |                              |
| 12          | <u>Mr. Bryan Fritz</u>          | 30          |                              |
| 13          | <u>Mr. Greg Drake</u>           | 31          |                              |
| 14          | <u>Mr. Bryan Nelson</u>         | 32          |                              |
| 15          | <u>Ms. Anna Marie Robertone</u> | 33          |                              |
| 16          | <u>Mr. John Semonich</u>        | 34          |                              |
| 17          | <u>Mr. Robert Mateff</u>        | 35          |                              |
| 18          | <u>Dr. Robert Gyory</u>         | 36          |                              |

**1. Regional EMS Council Staff:**

**Executive Director**

**Mr. John G. Kloss**

[illegible]

## 2. Regional Medical Director(s)

1

Dr. Jeff Kuklinski

Lehigh Valley Health Network

Dr. Duane Siberski

Penn State Health - St. Joseph

### 3. Financial Statement of income and expenses:

| Eastern PA EMS Council             |                    |                 |               |                    |                 |                 |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2025-2026                          |                    |                 |               |                    |                 |                 |              |
| Statement of Expenses              |                    |                 |               |                    |                 |                 |              |
|                                    |                    |                 |               |                    |                 |                 |              |
| Category                           | Budget             | Budget          | Budget        | Budget             | Total           | Expended        | Remaining    |
|                                    | General Allocation | Rural Education | Equipment     | SAF#5<br>Fireworks | Budget          |                 |              |
| Personnel                          | \$ 399,165.86      | \$ 205,536.57   | \$ 33,315.16  | \$ -               | \$ 638,017.59   | \$ 631,239.16   | \$ 6,778.43  |
| Consultants/Subcontracted Services | \$ 20,250.00       | \$0.00          | \$0.00        | \$0.00             | \$ 20,250.00    | \$ 20,250.00    | \$ -         |
| Equipment                          | \$0.00             | \$0.00          | \$ 601,598.59 | \$0.00             | \$ 601,598.59   | \$601,598.59    | \$ -         |
| Supplies                           | \$ 27,734.76       | \$0.00          | \$0.00        | \$0.00             | \$ 27,734.76    | \$ 26,939.64    | \$ 795.12    |
| Travel                             | \$ 175.00          | \$0.00          | \$0.00        | \$0.00             | \$ 175.00       | \$ 92.35        | \$ 82.65     |
| Tuition Reimbursements (SAF#5)     | \$0.00             | \$0.00          | \$0.00        | \$108,724.25       | \$ 108,724.25   | \$ 108,721.94   | \$ 2.31      |
| Other Costs                        | \$ 173,015.25      | \$ 191,050.00   | \$ -          | \$ 6,795.12        | \$ 370,860.37   | \$ 368,228.61   | \$ 2,631.76  |
| Total                              | \$ 620,340.87      | \$ 396,586.57   | \$ 634,913.75 | \$115,519.37       | \$ 1,767,360.56 | \$ 1,757,070.29 | \$ 10,290.27 |

**NOTE:** THE AMOUNTS SHOWN ABOVE ARE PRELIMINARY END OF YEAR TOTALS, AND ARE NOT FINAL AUDITED AMOUNTS

### 4. Special Project Funding:

Projects, as determined by the Department to be appropriate and necessary for the implementation of a comprehensive statewide EMS system. The amounts listed below are included in the categorical totals shown above.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                   |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Regional Performance Improvement campaign, continual development of regional Video Laryngoscopy project, IV infusion pumps, 12 Lead ECG BLS                                                       | \$567,960.24 |
| Regional Rural Education program invested in multiple initiatives across our region, expanding access to education, improvements to training sites, and global enhancement of training equipment. |              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$191,011.98 |

## 5. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

|                                                                     |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan          | Date<br>2020 |
| Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings      | 6            |
| Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events                             | 2            |
| Public Education CPR Events                                         | 3            |
| Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts                         | 2            |
| Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials) | 6            |

The Eastern PA EMS Council continues to promote CPR, Stop The Bleed, and other training opportunities in schools, industry, and communities across the region. The Eastern PA EMS Council joined our partners in education, participating in five EMS Awareness programs in schools across the region.

## 6. Continuous Quality Improvement

|                                                                       | Quantity |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee            | 207      |
| Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region | 20       |
| Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met                         | 6        |

The EMS Council Regional Performance Improvement committee convenes quarterly and reviews Ketamine, Etomidate usage records and continues the expansion of a regional PI data software program, FirstWatch to improve various protocols and the expansion of the program.

## 7. Medical Direction

|                                                  | Quantity |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Pediatric Trauma Centers Accredited Level 1 or 2 | 1        |
| Accredited Level I Trauma Centers                | 3        |
| Accredited Level II Trauma Centers               | 2        |
| Accredited Level III Trauma Centers              | 1        |
| Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers               | 7        |
| Accredited primary Stroke Centers                | 13       |
| Comprehensive Stroke Centers                     | 3        |
| Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers              | 0        |

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals | 0 |
|------------------------------|---|

The Eastern PA EMS Council maintains two (2) Regional Co-Medical Directors, both of which are actively engaged in regional, state, and national programs specific to the continued development of our EMS System.

## 8. Systems Operations

|                                                            | Quantity |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies                  | 21       |
| Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles                  | 25       |
| Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors | 8        |
| Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes          | 4        |
| Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities    | 3        |
| Number of Safety Inspections Conducted                     | 29       |
| Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection      | 52       |
| Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards            | 5        |
| BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted                     | 27       |
| Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.          | 488      |
| ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted                     | 16       |
| Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested           | 128      |
| Certification Class Visits Conducted                       | 59       |
| Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted              | 0        |
| Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau | 6        |

## 9. Emergency Preparedness Activities

|                                                                               | Quantity |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance) | 12       |
| Coalition Northeast HCC Meetings Attended (EPC Role)                          | 10       |
| Coalition Southeast HCC Meetings Attended (EPC Role)                          | 4        |
| Redundant Communications Exercises Attended / Conducted                       | 12       |
| Tabletop Exercises Attended / Conducted                                       | 4        |
| Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted                        | 2        |
| Special Event Plans Submitted                                                 | 3        |
| Responses / Deployments                                                       | 4        |
| Strike Team Agencies                                                          | 5        |

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### Emergency Preparedness Specialist Program Year End Review - Accomplishments

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#### Asset Maintenance and Inventory Control:

Providing support, service, and technical assistance to seven (7) partnering regional EMS Council across 14 counties. Supporting asset maintenance and deployment services on demand to EMS West and Federation Emergency Preparedness Coordinators. The EMS Preparedness Specialist provided additional support, inventory control, and maintenance for the following deployable mobile assets:

- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) units
- Portable Electrical Generators
- Mobile Heater Trailer
- MSEC Trailers
- Casualty Collection Point Trailers
- MESS Mobile Food Service Trailer
- Deployable Mobile electrical generators & light towers

## **Emergency Preparedness Engagements, Activations, Asset Distribution Activities:**

- Asset support of the Berks County Reading Air Show / WW2 Weekend operations
- Asset support, Dover PA polling station
- Engagement, Allentown Lehigh County IPPW meetings
- Engagement, Lehigh County, Dorney Park Full Scale MCI Exercise
- Engagement, VOAD & HCC asset display & awareness
- Engagement, PA Statewide redundant communications Exercise
- Engagement Lehigh County Medical Reserve Corps / Community Emergency Response Team
- Engagement, Lehigh Valley International Airport Functional Exercise
- Asset support, St. Luke's University Health Network D&L Marathon
- Asset support, PA Special Medical Assistance Team Western Shelter exercise
- Engagement, Regional Juvare in-person / virtual training programs
- Engagement, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Pocono Raceway Functional Exercise
- Engagement, Lehigh County CERT, East Side Youth Center Functional POD Exercise
- Asset support, Carbon County Prison, heater trailer deployment
- Engagement, Regional Trailer Operations training
- Engagement, Participation State Advisory Committee Preparedness meetings
- Asset support, Multi-country asset deployment and support of Strike Team assets, FIFA World Cup operations
- Engagement, Participation in Northeast (NE) and Southeast (SE) Zone Meetings
- Engagement, Health Care Coalitions zone meetings

#### **10. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings**

| DATE:      | TIME  | LOCATION                                                 |
|------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 7/16/2025  | 18:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Board of Directors meeting        |
| 9/17/2025  | 18:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Annual Board - Membership meeting |
| 11/19/2025 | 18:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Board of Directors meeting        |
| 1/21/2026  | 18:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Board of Directors meeting        |
| 3/18/2026  | 18:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Board of Directors meeting        |
| 5/20/2026  | 18:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Board of Directors meeting        |

#### **11. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting**

| DATE:      | TIME  | LOCATION                                                  |
|------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 10/16/2025 | 14:45 | Eastern PA EMS Council Medical Advisory Committee meeting |
| 12/12/2025 | 13:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Medical Advisory Committee meeting |
| 1/14/2026  | 13:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Medical Advisory Committee meeting |
| 5/20/2026  | 13:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Medical Advisory Committee meeting |
|            |       |                                                           |

#### **12. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting**

| DATE:      | TIME  | LOCATION                                               |
|------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 11/11/2025 | 13:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Performance Improvement meeting |
| 2/23/2026  | 13:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Performance Improvement meeting |
| 3/31/2026  | 13:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Performance Improvement meeting |
| 5/28/2026  | 13:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Performance Improvement meeting |
| 6/23/2026  | 13:00 | Eastern PA EMS Council Performance Improvement meeting |

### **13. Regional Accomplishments:**

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The Eastern Pennsylvania EMS Council recognizes the importance of regional collaboration, strategic partnerships, and the ongoing development of our evolving EMS system. Our Council is committed to delivering exceptional customer service through timely, accurate, and responsible support. During fiscal year 2025–2026, the Council continued to provide high-quality services, educational opportunities, and meaningful engagement throughout our six-county region. In addition, we successfully implemented a variety of initiatives, campaigns, and programs that strengthened regional EMS operations and enhanced support for our stakeholders.

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#### **The Eastern PA EMS Council:**

- Initiated investment campaigns across our rural counties, purchasing and installing EMS Simulation training equipment at our EMS educational institutes.
- Continues regional initiatives specific to video laryngoscopes, IV Infusion Pumps, AED units, BLS 12 Lead ECG units and other lifesaving equipment, distributing equipment across the region.
- Hosted community training events specific to Stop the Bleed at local high schools and places of worship.
- Assessed rural county EMS program needs, investing \$191,011.98 into education, training, tuition cost, and sophisticated simulation equipment.
- Hosted VFIS Trailer Operations program for local emergency service providers.
- Hosted EMS Awareness Programs, promoting the EMS Profession at five regional schools.
- Participated in the Monroe County Public Safety Day, promoting the EMS Profession.
- Supported local Boy Scout Troop, providing First Aid Training and Awareness program.
- Partnered with Northampton County to expand upon an established Narcan distribution program.
- Region continues to embrace local partnerships with community groups, fostering relationships and expanding awareness of the EMS System.
- Participated in the Northampton Community College 2026 Safety Fair.
- Supported four (4) regional EMS Agencies seeking and securing authorization to provide pre-hospital blood programs.
- Provided technical support during the 2026 Pocono NASCAR Event, support MACC Operations Center.
- Initiated and supported development of an AEMT Dispatch protocol in Monroe County.
- Education Division committed to the development and utilization of simulation technology at rural BLS training institutes.
- Continues to provide guidance and technical support to our regional PSAPs.

- Performance Improvement committee continues to review each administration of Ketamine, validating utilization and clinical necessity. The region continues to expand the First Watch Performance Improvement program to further develop and enhance data collection and overall performance improvement campaigns across the region.
- 2025 CODE EMS Conference was hosted, awarding 2,136 continuing education credits to EMS practitioners.
- Staff continues to attend and support county EMS Association meetings across region.
- Continues to support the Philadelphia Fire Department, performing all aspects of EMS licensure for Philadelphia Fire Department EMS units.
- Supported and sponsored the PA Ambulance Association 2025 EMS Leadership program.
- Created a psychomotor Exam Evaluator Refresher Training program for our dedicated regional evaluators, emphasis on providing a continuum of consistent and balanced offerings.
- Worked with established mental health practitioners, expanding awareness, and access to mental health care for EMS Practitioners.
- Participated in moulage training program, utilizing this capability as the region continues to expand access to EMS Simulation labs and training.
- Conducting in-house psychomotor testing, as necessary, in an effort to reduce inherent delays students may encounter as they pursue the opportunity to re-test.
- Emergency Preparedness Specialist serves fourteen (14) counties in the eastern portion of the Commonwealth, providing traditional asset maintenance, ensuring a state of readiness and coordinating educational opportunities across multiple regional geographical boundaries.
- Partnered with both the Philadelphia and Delaware County regional EMS Councils, providing fiduciary oversight and the distribution of 2025 - 2026 PA Fireworks tax funding.
- Participated, and presented at the annual Northern Valley EMS legislative luncheon.
- Created, hosted an Understanding the EMS COMPACT session for practitioners.
- Continue to work with regional agencies in the development of County Level or Broader EMS plans.
- Executive Director participated and represented the EMS Council on the Burn Prevention Networks Advisory Council.
- Continually monitors PA legislative activities websites and meetings, disseminating information with our regional partners.

- Provided Evaluators for a Lehigh County, Dorney Park Full Scale MCI Exercise.
- Council Director maintains a seat on the Valley Preferred, Spirit of Courage nominating committee.
- Council Director maintains seat on the Northeast Health Care Coalition Executive Committee.
- Redefined psychomotor examinations, effectively improving efficiency and candidate satisfaction.
- Staff maintains active participation with Bureau of EMS workgroups specific to updating, medical command, and educational processes.
- Participation in Bureau of EMS Round table meetings.
- Staff continues to participate in statewide MAC meetings and conference calls.
- Regional CISM team continues to offer coordinated responses, training, and educational services across regions.
- CODE EMS Conference partnered with the NE Health Care Coalition to include offerings specific to HCC operations at the 2025 conference.
- Provides support to the North Whitehall Townships First Responder Youth Training program.
- Regional Director serves with the Ambulance Association of PA Provider Foundation, and the scholarships committee.
- Hosts both monthly and on-demand Basic Vehicle Rescue testing at the council office.
- Staff supports and is engaged in the Lehigh Valley International Airport required Tabletop Exercise (TTX).
- Continued engagement with both Monroe & Northampton County EMS Association teams, developing AEMT dispatch criteria.

**“The Eastern PA EMS Council remains committed to evaluating and addressing the needs of rural county EMS programs, with investments totaling \$191,011.98 in education, training, tuition support, and state-of-the-art simulation equipment.”**

On behalf of the Eastern PA EMS Council staff, we extend our sincere gratitude to our Board of Directors and the dedicated EMS practitioners, physicians, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), community partners, and local leaders whose unwavering support contributes to the success of our regional initiatives. Through your commitment, collaboration, and service, we continue to advance and strengthen our regional EMS system.

Together, we remain focused on the continued development of:

- High-quality patient care and outcomes
- Accessible and effective Emergency Medical Services
- Professional education and workforce development
- Regional preparedness and system resiliency
- Collaborative partnerships that enhance public safety and community health

## ‘System Designed to Save Lives’

