

A System Designed to Save Lives

EASTERN PA EMS COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024



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 PA EMS Council is to further the development of the region's pre-hospital emergency care and transportation of the sick and injured. The EMS Council advocates for advancing the quality of patient care, improving patient access to care, and assisting practitioners securing educational programs, and training to maintain compliance with the EMS Systems Act. With an emphasis on customer service and professionalism, the Eastern PA EMS Council is committed to serving our constituents from across our region. Additionally, the EMS Council is engaged with our Healthcare Networks, PSAPs, Emergency Management partners and our Health Care Coalitions. Our engagement, cooperation, and the willingness to support a multi-disciplinary delivery of services remains our core mission as we develop our regional EMS system.

The Eastern PA EMS Council maintains responsibility for a diverse six (6) county region which encompasses urban, suburban, and rural communities. The Eastern region is comprised of one hundred thirty - three (133) licensed EMS agencies, five-hundred forty-eight (548) licensed vehicles, and three thousand nine hundred sixty-six (3,966) certified EMS practitioners. (a decrease of 9.2% as compared to FY 22-23)

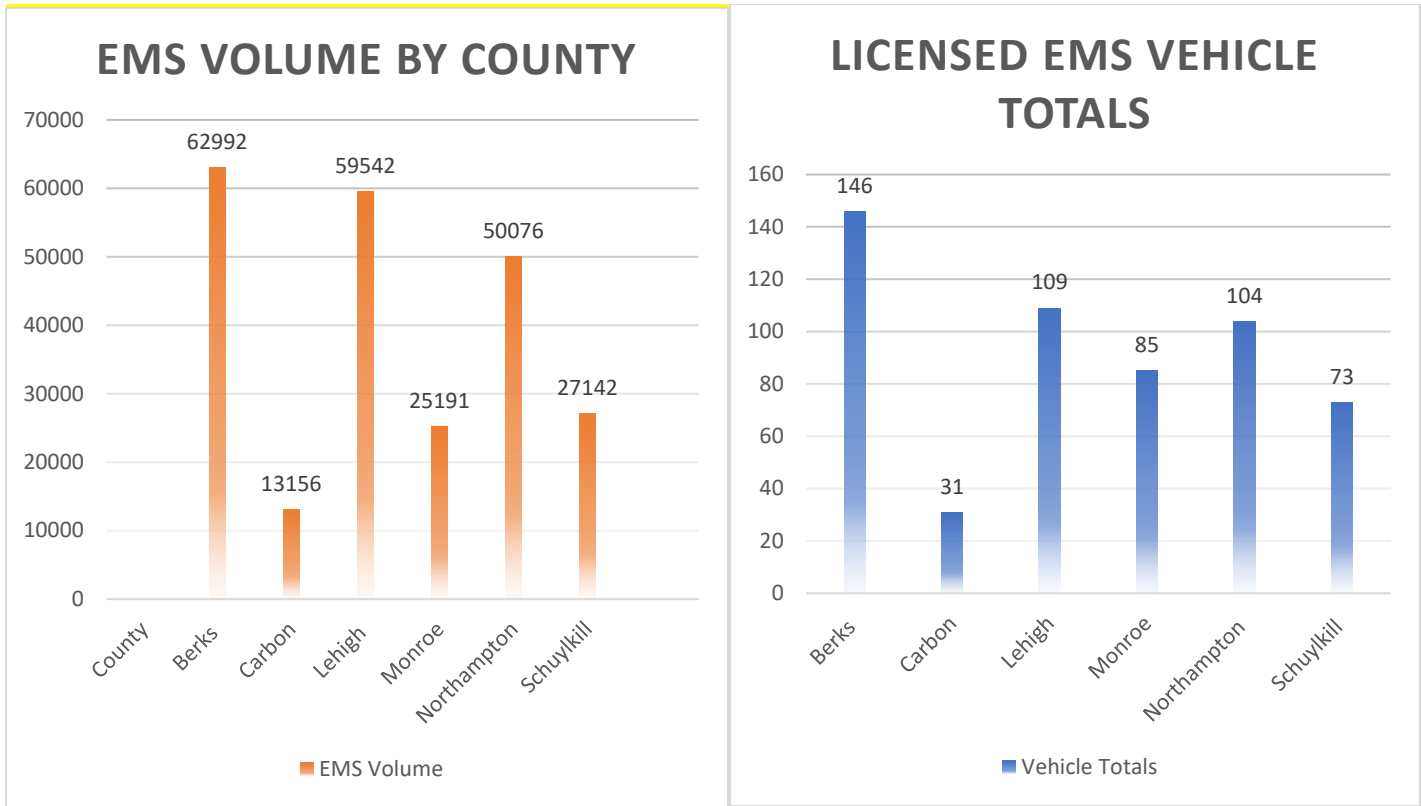
Additionally, the region proudly supports the City of Philadelphia Fire Department, which operates 104 licensed EMS assets, providing management and oversight during the scheduled triennial process and with the addition of vehicles and assets to the fleet when applicable.

This year the Eastern PA EMS Council implemented a Zone Based Licensure program, effectively reducing drivable hours and mileage by almost 47%. The program, in cooperation with EMS Agency leadership, provided pre-scheduled licensure inspection dates, and utilizing mapping technology, dramatical reduced travel, while improving customer service,

**Serving a population of 1,492,482 citizens across the six county Eastern PA
EMS Council region, our Regional EMS Practitioners responded to**

238,099

Requests for EMS Services in Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024



In addition to the traditional responsibilities defined in the Eastern PA EMS Councils grant, the regional Council also supports, coordinates, and provides the additional following services, as we strive to enhance the state of the commonwealths EMS System.

The Eastern PA EMS Council has partnered with the Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency, providing fiduciary support and management of funds specific to the 2024 Lehigh Valley Emergency Management Conference.

The EMS Council partnered with both the Philadelphia and Delaware County regional EMS Councils, providing fiduciary oversight of the 2024 PA Fireworks Tax funding and payment disbursement program.

The Eastern PA EMS Council continues to coordinate the licensure and inspections of the City of Philadelphia Fire Departments professional fleet of licensed 104 EMS assets.

The Eastern PA EMS Council hosts one of the commonwealth’s three EMS Emergency Preparedness Specialist. This party maintains responsibility for eighteen (18) counties in Eastern PA.

The Council is also host to the annual CODE EMS Conference which features fifty (50) EMS centric educational sessions, including a Health Care Coalition sponsored Rescue Task Force training program over the course of this three (3) day event and awarded 2418 continuing educational credits to over 500 EMS practitioners, representing 36 counties from across Pennsylvania in 2023 as we strive to expand the availability of quality educational programs.

Board of Directors \ Health Council Officers

President: Dr. Bryan Wilson
Vice President: Mr. Bryan Evans
Treasurer: Mr. Chris Basile CPA
Secretary: Mr. Edward Coleman

Directors, Eastern PA EMS Council

<u>NAME</u>		<u>NAME</u>
1	<u>Dr. Zachary Matuzsan</u>	19 <u>Dr. Jeff Kuklinski</u>
2	<u>Matthew Brett</u>	20 <u>Kyle Albrecht</u>
3	<u>Shawn Silvoy</u>	21 <u>Edwin Hillegass</u>
4	<u>Maria Wescoe</u>	22 <u>Dr. Jonathan Trager</u>
5	<u>Greg Drake</u>	23 _____
6	<u>Craig Deppe</u>	24 _____
7	<u>Jared Yeastedt</u>	25 _____
8	<u>Jeff Fritz</u>	26 _____
9	<u>Dr. Thomas Stauffer</u>	27 _____
10	<u>Carrie Frey</u>	28 _____
11	<u>Jeff Yanochko</u>	29 _____
12	<u>Bryan Fritz</u>	30 _____
13	<u>Joel Calarco</u>	31 _____
14	<u>Bryan Nelson</u>	32 _____
15	<u>Ann Marie Robertone</u>	33 _____
16	<u>John Semonich</u>	34 _____
17	<u>Robert Mateff</u>	35 _____
18	<u>Dr. Aaron Ratner</u>	36 _____

1. Regional EMS Council Staff:

Executive Director John G. Kloss

<u>STAFF POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>Deputy Director</u>	<u>Jason T. Smith</u>
<u>EMS Specialist – Licensure Coordinator</u>	<u>Jonathan Henritz</u>
<u>Emergency Preparedness Coordinator</u>	<u>Christopher Confalone</u>
<u>EMS Specialist -Provider Services</u>	<u>Presently Vacant</u>
<u>EMS Specialist – Education & Certification</u>	<u>April Liskowacki</u>
<u>Business Manager</u>	<u>Penman Neel</u>
<u>Administrative Support Specialist</u>	<u>April Zehr</u>

2. Regional Medical Director(s)

	<u>NAME</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Dr. Alex Rosenau Lehigh Valley Health Network</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Dr. Duane Siberski Penn State Health - St. Joseph</u>

3. Financial Statement of income and expenses:

	Budget	Budget	Budget	Total	Expended
	General Allocation	Rural Education	Equipment	Budget	
Personnel	\$368,750	\$176,839	\$15,300	\$560,889	\$534,462
Consultants/Subcontracted Services	\$26,002	\$0	\$86,825	\$112,827	\$111,825
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies	\$21,806	\$0	\$0	\$21,806	\$18,282
Travel	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Other Costs	\$142,229	\$176,846	\$0	\$319,075	\$333,031
Total	\$561,287	\$353,685	\$102,125.00	\$1,017,097	\$1,000,100

NOTE: THE AMOUNTS SHOWN ABOVE ARE PRELIMINARY END OF YEAR TOTALS, WITH ANTICIPATED ADDITIONAL SAF FUNDS PENDING, 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, development of regional Video Laryngoscopy project.	\$86,825.00
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	
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.	
	\$176,846.27

*Note – Regional EMS Council projects additional SAF funding are pending as of the writing of this report, it is the primary objective of the EMS Council to seek, and secure authorization to invest additional funds into regional initiatives, thus the findings in this report are subject to change.

5. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	Date 2020
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	6
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	2
Public Education CPR Events	1
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	4
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	6

Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:

The Eastern PA EMS Council continues to promote CPR training in schools and communities across the region. Additionally, the Council engages schools and promotes Stop the Bleed initiatives throughout the region.

6. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	358
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	14
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	4

Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:

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.

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	4
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	13
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	2
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	0

Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	1
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Medical Direction Narrative:

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

8. Systems Operations

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	12
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	3
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	9
Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	5
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	0
Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	12
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	42
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	3
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	34
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	395
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	2
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	36
Certification Class Visits Conducted	51
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	1
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	3

Systems Operations Narrative:

In an effort to enhance, and increase accessibility to EMS Psychomotor testing, the EMS Council established a re-testing site at the Regional office, effectively increasing candidate opportunities.

9. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	13
Coalition Northeast HCC Meetings Attended (EPC Role)	11
Coalition Southeast HCC Meetings Attended (EPC Role)	14
Redundant Communications Exercices Attended / Conducted	13
Tabletop Exercises Attended / Conducted	3
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	2
Special Event Plans Submitted	2
Responses / Deployments	12
Strike Team Agencies	N - A

Emergency Preparedness Specialist Program Year End Review - Accomplishments

Asset Maintenance and Inventory Control

Providing service and assistance to six (6) partnering regional EMS Councils across eighteen (18) counties and providing asset maintenance and deployment support to EMS West and the Emergency Health Services Federation Emergency Preparedness Coordinators. The Emergency Preparedness Specialist provided additional support, maintenance, inventory control and work associated with:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air Conditioning Trailer - Generators - Heater Trailer - Light Towers - MESS Trailers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobile generators - MSEC Trailers - Mobile Surge tent systems - Strike Team assets - CCP Trailers
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Emergency Responses - Deployments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCP Trailer -York County Fair July 2023 CCP Trailer - Troy Fair July 2023 CCP Trailer – Orefield Middle School FSX August 2023 CCP & MSEC Staging Only - Monroe OEM (standby for Pocono NASCAR Race) July 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC Trailer - Heritage Mills Schuylkill County July 2023 Generator - Reading WWII Weekend June 2024 Maple Grove Raceway - Assist with EMMET Setup September 2023
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Functional / Full Scale Exercises

LCEMS – Full Scale Active Shooter Exercise. NEHCC Post Acute TTX.	PAR Exposition Bethlehem PA. Pleasant Valley Manor Nursing Facility TTX Monroe County PA.
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Emergency Preparedness Activities – Heater Trailer Deployments

- Chandler Hall (Bucks County) November 2023
- Laurel Lakes (Franklin County) November 2023
- Wernersville St Hosp (Berks County) November 2023
- Standby Only x 3 January 2024
- Standby Only x 1 February 2024
- Standby Only x 1 March 2024
- Schuylkill Center February 2024

HCC Participation

Participation in NE and SE Meetings	HCC Regional / Zone Meetings
EPC Secretary for NE HCC	EPC Chair for Training / Education SE HCC
Executive Director – EMS Co-Chair for NE HCC	Planning Meetings

Planning Meetings

Lehigh Valley Disaster Planning Work Group	Juvare EMTrack Workgroup
ASPR REACT MITRE RISC Tool 2.0 Planning Committee	ESF-8 Strategic Planning Group (Chair Domain 5)
Inclusion of Individuals with Access and Functional Needs	Statewide Advisory Committee on Preparedness (SACP)
ASPR REACT Group (RISC 2.0 Planning)	Urban Heat Island Planning Team

Presentations

SEHCC Symposium: “Using AI for TTX” & TTX Severe Weather April 2024	SEHCC Symposium: “Using AI for TTX” & TTX Severe Weather April 2024
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Training – Facilitate / Support – Exercise Support

LVIA Airport August 2023	CODE EMS Conference October 2023
Parkland House MSEC November 2023	LCEMSA: Full Scale Active Shooter Exercise
Redundant Communications Drills	Southeast HCC Symposium (Co coordinator)

SACP

EPC Program Overview October 2023
 FEMA K0051 – Exercise Program Management November 2023
 R-0147 – EMS Incident Operations March 2024
 Lehigh Valley EM Conference April 2024
 PA-DHS G108 – Community Mass Care and Emergency Assistance January 2024
 PA-BEPR HPP Symposium April 2024

NEHCC Workshops
 Grant Writing Workshop May 2024
 COOP Workshop May 2024
 PA-BEPR WE STEP Symposium May 2024
 HCLE 2000 Business Continuity for Healthcare June 2024

Ancillary Support

CIU 20 District-wide Emergency Preparedness Meetings
 County Level Ambulance Association Meeting attendance as requested or needed.
 ESF-8 Planning Meeting
 ESF-8 Support for multiple winter weather events.
 Lehigh County EMA Conference
 City of Allentown Community Health Needs Assessment

10. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
7/19/2023	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Board of Directors meeting
9/20/2023	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Annual meeting
11/15/2023	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Board of Directors meeting
1/17/2024	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Board of Directors meeting
3/20/2024	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Board of Directors meeting
5/15/2024	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Board of Directors meeting

11. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
6/27/2023	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Medical Advisory Committee meeting
10/12/2023	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Medical Advisory Committee meeting
1/17/2024	15:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Medical Advisory Committee meeting
4/23/2024	16:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Medical Advisory Committee meeting

12. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
6/5/2023	13:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Performance Improvement meeting (schedule conflict, thus hosted just prior to start of FY 2023 – 2024)
9/18/2023	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Performance Improvement meeting
12/18/2023	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Performance Improvement meeting
3/25/2024	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Performance Improvement meeting

13. Regional Accomplishments:

The Eastern PA EMS Council recognizes the importance of regional collaboration, partnerships, and the continual development of our evolving EMS System. Our regional Council strives to deliver premier customer service with timely, accurate, and responsible outcomes. During fiscal year 2023 – 2024, the EMS Council continued to provide exceptional service, opportunities, and engagement across our six (6) county region and instituted a variety of successful campaigns and programs.

- The Eastern PA EMS Council continues to partner with the City of Philadelphia Fire Department to provide licensure inspections of the department’s EMS Fleet of over 104 licensed EMS assets.
- The Council participated in the Ambulance Association of PA Workforce Challenges Task Force meetings.
- The Council hosted the debut of the Stryker LifePak 35, welcoming EMS Leadership from across the region.
- The Council successfully placed over 100 BLS Check & Inject Epi- Kits across the region.
- The Council engaged in a Video Laryngoscope campaign, providing new devices to agencies that had no such technology, and enhancing the needs of agencies in need of additional, or replacement devices.
- The Council coordinated the development of an AEMT Dispatch protocol in Lehigh County.
- The Councils Education division created and implemented a scheduling platform for students to sign up for upcoming BLS Psychomotor exams, improving overall efficiency and accountability.
- Working with the Bureau of EMS, the Councils Educational division created a bridge program between the Outdoor Emergency Care program to EMT.
- The Council assessed rural county EMS agency’s needs, investing \$176,846.27 into Education, training, and equipment.
- The 2023 CODE EMS Conference was hosted, awarding 2418 continuing education credits to EMS practitioners.
- The Council staff continues to attend and support county EMS Association meetings across region.
- The Council initiated and hosted its first EMS Association meeting with partners from across Schuylkill County.
- The Councils Education division created a multi-functional FAQ brochure designed to assist newly certified individuals navigate the processes within the EMS System.
- The Council staff participated and supported the Bureau of EMS with the development and implementation of the first hybrid EMS Instructor Methodology in the Commonwealth.
- The Council implemented in-house psychomotor testing offerings, in an effort to reduce time for students to secure a secondary opportunity to re-test.
- The Council continues to provide guidance and technical support to our regional PSAPs.
- The Council’s 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.
- The Council collected, compiled, and reviewed 100% of SAI specific PCRs.
- The Council attends and supports Lehigh County Fire Chiefs Association meetings, providing support and assistance, as necessary.

- The Council based Emergency Preparedness Specialist serves eighteen (18) 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.
- The Council participated in the annual Northern Valley EMS Legislative luncheon.
- The Council participated in a Bureau of EMS sanctioned redraft of the Vehicle Rescue Program.
- The Council assisted multiple municipalities with EMS specific concerns and or in the provision of education on EMS operations and deployment.
- The Council Director represents the EMS Council on the Burn Prevention Networks Advisory Council.
- The Council continually monitors PA Legislative activities websites and meetings, sharing information with our regional partners.
- EMS Council, partnered with the NE Health Care Coalition and hosted a regional MCI training program.
- The Council Director maintains a seat on the Valley Preferred, Spirit of Courage nominating committee.
- The Council staff monitors both BLS & ALS Educational facilities for compliance and posting of required information on their respective media outlets.
- The Regional CISM Team retains relationship and participation in the national ICISF program.
- The Council completes quarterly audits of CPR & EMSVO Certifications.
- The Council staff maintains active participation with Bureau of EMS workgroups specific to updating licensure, medical command, and educational processes.
- The Council supported multiple regional events through the provision of emergency preparedness assets, supplies, and equipment.
- The Council participated in the City of Allentown, Bureau of Health, After Action Review of COVID Operations.
- The Council staff continues to participate in statewide MAC meetings and conference calls.
- The Council staff supported EMS recruitment and retention efforts at the PA Farm Show hosted January 2024.
- Regional Director maintains Co-Chair position (EMS) within the Northeast Healthcare Coalition.
- The regional CISM team continues to offer services, training, and educational services across regions.
- The Council reassessed, and updated Independent Contractor processes, creating efficiencies, and reducing duplications of efforts.
- The Council staff provided technical support to Hegins EMS(Schuylkill) Smithfield Township (Monroe) Board of Directors and / or County Supervisors.
- The Council initiated Zone Based Licensure program, effectively reducing vehicle mileage and hours of travel specific to licensure inspections.
- The Council updated and renewed its Continuance of Operations Plan, distributed amongst participating agencies.
- The Councils CODE EMS Conference partnered with the NE Health Care Coalition to include offerings specific to HCC operations at the 2024 conference.
- The Council staff maintains regular attendance with two (2) Health Care Coalitions, both East Central and Northeast.
- The Council hosts both monthly and on-demand Basic Vehicle Rescue testing at the council office.
- The Council staff supports and is engaged in the Lehigh Valley International Airport required Tabletop Exercise (TTX).
- The Council continues to support and engage in the Northampton County Community College Safety Training and Educational campaigns.

On behalf of the Eastern PA EMS Council staff, we thank our Board of Directors, and the many resolute EMS practitioners, physicians, PSAPs and community members and leaders that support our regional efforts as we pursue the continued development of our ‘System Designed to Save Lives’

