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# PULSE SD



SD Dept. of Health — Office of EMS & Trauma

OFFICE OF EMS & TRAUMA'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

June 2024

## Administrator's Update

By Marty Link, Office of EMS & Trauma Administrator

Welcome to the June 2024 edition of PULSESD.

I want to thank each one of you for your continued support of EMS across the great State of South Dakota. I have said this before and I will say it again, we have some of the best EMS professionals right here in South Dakota. Our culture, our way of life, our dedication, our resolve makes living in this great state so rewarding. And having such a dedicated workforce caring for the citizens of this state is certainly humbling.

There are many exciting aspects to EMS on the horizon. And some change too. As many of you know, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, our Emergency Medical Responder and Emergency Medical Technicians joined our Advanced Life Support personnel under the oversight of the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners. This change occurs in light of legislation detailed below.

During the 2024 legislative session, four bills pertaining to Emergency Medical Services moved through the legislative process and were signed by Governor Noem. These became law effective July 1st, 2024.

For reference, the bills, their titles, and a brief description can be found below.

- **SB63** An Act to revise provisions related to the licensure and regulation of ambulance services.
- **SB64** An Act to revise provisions related to the regulation of emergency medical services and associated personnel.
- **SB87** An Act to revise provisions related to the State Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners and its appointed professional councils.

To reference the bills, type the following URL into your browser of choice [www.sdlegislature.gov](http://www.sdlegislature.gov), select 2024 bills and search for the bill number.

The Department of Health (DOH) and the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners (BMOE) have been working together over the past several months to transfer, repeal, and draft new rules to coincide with the above legislation. We have been working together to modify Administrative Rule Chapters 44:05 and 20:61 and have shared these updates with EMS stakeholders across the state while also incorporating feedback. A public hearing will be scheduled later in July.

As the transition occurs, the aim of our offices is to keep you abreast of changes impacting you. This will be done via email and webinars primarily. This transition will take some time and there are bound to be questions along the way. We ask for your continued patience as we make this transition as successful as possible. [A FAQ document can be found here.](#)

*Marty*

## Regional Service Designation Grant Opportunities

By Marty Link, Office of EMS & Trauma Administrator

The department is announcing the second round of the grant, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, aimed at supporting Emergency Medical Services (EMS) across the state. This initiative, stemming from the Regional Services Designation analysis of 2023, offers \$5.8 million for EMS providers to enhance their services. Applications will open from August 1 to September 30, 2024. The grant period is October 14th to November 29, 2026.



A recorded webinar overviewing the Regional Service Designation (RSD) grant opportunity can be found [here](#). We encourage ambulance services, hospitals, and private organizations with a vested interest in EMS to view the recorded webinar and contact our office with any inquiries. Additional information pertaining to the RSD grant, statewide assessment, important dates, and eligibility requirements can also be found through the above hyperlink.

### Application Checklist | Documents that must be Completed

The following documents must be provided to complete this grant application.

- ⇒ Applicants need an Unique Entity ID (UEI). This registered number can be obtained at SAM.gov
- ⇒ Completed and signed Grant Application
- ⇒ Completed Budget
- ⇒ Defined Goals, Objectives, and Activities
- ⇒ Timeline of Deliverables
- ⇒ Completed W-9
- ⇒ 3 Signed Letters of Support from each:
  - Community Group
  - Healthcare Facility
  - EMS Agency within your Service Area

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## EMR & EMTs—How to Access Your Completed Cont. Ed. Report From Public Lookup Feature On The E-Licensing Login Page

By Lance Iversen, Office of EMS & Trauma

On July 1, 2024, EMR, EMT and EMS Instructor's E-Licensing access was inactivated and you will not be able to log into your account. If you are listed as an Ambulance Service Director, Assistant Director, or Operations Manager, your access to the E-Licensing System is active and you will log into your account as normal to renew your ambulance service license every two years, add/remove ambulances/vehicles and to do vehicle inspections.

EMR and EMTs – You will be able to access your completed continuing education that you have in your account from the date of your last issued certification to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This is your Education – My Report from within your E-Licensing Account.

To access this, go to the E-Licensing login page: <https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login>, click the "Lookup" button on the upper left side of the page and do a public lookup of yourself.

Click your name, then select "Education Report". This will generate your report where you can then print or download a pdf copy. To print and/or save a pdf version of your report, click the "Print Report" button on the upper right hand side of the page.

## Comfort One - Advance Directives and Medical Orders

By DOH Office of EMS & Trauma

Advance directives and medical orders are forms and authorizations that allow you to direct physicians to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment. They allow you to tell doctors and those close to you what you wish to be done should you need life-sustaining treatment. If you don't have an advance directive, doctors may use machines, such as respirators, to keep you alive.

Comfort One in South Dakota provides quick identification of patients who choose not to receive life-prolonging treatment (chest compressions, breathing tubes, shock, etc.) by emergency personnel. Patients wear a special bracelet or have a document that states these requests and that the emergency team should only provide comfort measures. The Comfort One form must be signed by your physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.

### Comfort One Bracelet

- Physicians and medical centers can request Comfort One forms by calling [605-773-4031](tel:605-773-4031) or emailing [Cyndi.Hammer@state.sd.us](mailto:Cyndi.Hammer@state.sd.us).
- Completed forms should be sent to: South Dakota Department of Health, 600 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501.
- Individuals wishing to register for Comfort One should request the form from their healthcare provider.

The Comfort One bracelet costs \$44.70, is optional, and can be used for identification in place of the Comfort One form. This is a great option for those away from home as an alternative to carrying the Comfort One EMS Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Directive.

A fully completed Comfort One form must be submitted to obtain the bracelet. This form must be completed with assistance from your medical professional and must be signed by both the patient or personal representative and the medical professional. The information will be placed in the Comfort One database maintained by the South Dakota Department of Health and will include the bracelet number should that option be selected.

The bracelet is a brass base with gold plating and the charm logo is bronze with gold plating. The gold plating is non-magnetic and is hypoallergenic. The bracelet is approximately 8" long, and links may be removed as needed by a jeweler.

**Mail the completed Comfort One application and your check or money order for \$44.70 to: Office of Rural Health/ EMS South Dakota Department of Health 600 East Capitol Ave. Pierre, SD 57501**

Please make checks payable to the Office of Rural Health – EMS.

Questions? Please call [\(605\) 773-3361](tel:605-773-3361)



## National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training (TIM)

By DOH Office of EMS & Trauma & SDDOT

Every minute of every day, incident responders put their lives at risk responding to traffic incidents. In the year 2020, even with significantly lower traffic, 46 responders were killed. In the year 2021, 65 responders were killed, which is over a 40-percent increase from the previous year. The year 2022 showed a positive correction, with 50 line-of-duty deaths in the United States. Untold is the far greater number of life-altering injuries responders incur each year while working at a traffic incident scene. The National TIM Responder Training course is a key part of mitigating deaths and injuries across the responder community.

The 4-hour National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training course teaches every responder community how to safely and quickly clear traffic incidents. Traffic incident responders include emergency medical service (EMS), transportation and public works, fire and rescue, law enforcement, towing and recovery, and other professionals who support traffic incident management.

Efficient incident response requires seamless collaboration and coordination among responders to meet the needs of those injured, ensure the safety of responders and road users, quickly clear the incident, and prevent secondary crashes.

TIM training is being offered in communities throughout South Dakota. You can find more information at: <https://dot.sd.gov/tims>.



## South Dakota Department of Health State Health Improvement Plan and State Health Assessment

By Mariah Pokorny, Deputy Division Director, DOH Division of Licensure & Accreditation

In our commitment to advancing the well-being of all individuals in South Dakota, we recognize the importance of integrating our endeavors with comprehensive state-wide plans. Highlighting this synergy, we are proud to introduce the [South Dakota State Health Improvement Plan \(SHIP\)](#) and the [State Health Assessment \(SHA\)](#) — cornerstone frameworks that steer our collective journey towards better health outcomes.

The SHIP emerges as a collaboration with a broad spectrum of stakeholders across the state, complementing our strategic ambitions at the Department of Health. Both the SHIP and our internal strategic plan draw their essence from the in-depth analysis provided by the SHA, focusing our collective efforts on overcoming the health challenges prevalent within our state.

The SHA, meticulously completed in 2023 amidst the challenges posed by COVID-19, lays out a detailed wide view of our health environment. It was developed through thorough data analysis and active engagement with community stakeholders, pinpointing the critical areas that require our immediate attention. This document not only showcases our commitment to transparency and community participation but also marks a significant step towards our goal of achieving departmental accreditation by the end of 2024.

We also invite our external stakeholders to engage with an enlightening video on the [SHIP/SHA](#). This resource delves into the findings and discusses how they influence our unified efforts to improve health outcomes across the state.

As we progress, the role of the Department of Health, in conjunction with our statewide partners, becomes increasingly vital. The SHIP and SHA are living documents, evolving with new insights and feedback, symbolizing our collective resolve to foster a healthier, more equitable future for South Dakota.



## Frontier and Rural Medicine

By Avera St. Benedict Health Center

Each year Avera St. Benedict hosts two FARM (Frontier and Rural Medicine) students for a ten month rotation as part of their medical school curriculum. As part of the program they work together on a project that benefits our community. We are proud to share that our previous FARM students won the Community Project Award while providing valuable skills to assist our EMS team.

Congratulations Gaven and Kaihlen and thank you for providing this education to our community! They are the future of rural medicine!

### Community Project and Award

The project from **Kaihlen Smith** and **Gaven Bowman**, both class of 2026, was titled "Bridging the Gap From Rural Trauma to Rural Healthcare: Fire Department Education Sessions." Many rural communities rely on volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel in emergency response scenarios.

This project allowed volunteer firefighters to be taught the skills necessary to assist EMS in an impactful way. Kaihlen and Gaven, in close collaboration with the Parkston Fire Department and EMS, organized three training nights that provided further training for skills including airway management, triage, LUCAS device application, tourniquet management, extrication scenarios, and decontamination.



## EMS Week

By Rapid City Scheels



To All EMS,  
Thank you for your service.



## EMS Awareness

By SD DOH Social Media

**EMS Testimonial** Social media text: Meet Kris Escott, EMTP at Faith Ambulance! Kris shares what makes being a part of the EMS community so special. From helping the people in her community and surrounding areas to sharing her training and knowledge, Kris loves the variety and autonomy that EMS provides. Inspired by Kris's story? Consider joining the EMS team and making a difference in your community!

Learn about EMS: <https://ow.ly/c2Jw50RN6Vz>



**Helmsley AED First Responder Project** Social media text: Discover the power of partnership in emergency response! The Helmsley Charitable Trust is committed to enhancing the capabilities of first responders with cutting-edge equipment and technology. Every second counts in a crisis, and thanks to our collaborative efforts, help arrives faster and more prepared.

Learn more about this initiative: <https://doh.sd.gov/.../helmsley-aed-first-responder-project/>

Watch how we're making a difference <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QF7J-N2Rzb0>

## Heroes Next Door: South Dakota EMS Stories | Nicole Neugebauer

Social media text: Meet Nicole Neugebauer, EMT and Director of the Douglas County Armour Ambulance! Nicole shares her inspiring journey and what it's like to be an EMT. From balancing her job at Douglas County Memorial Hospital to responding to emergency calls, her story is a testament to dedication and the joy of helping others. Watch Nicole's testimonial and be inspired to make a difference in your community!

Learn about EMS: <https://ow.ly/4Bcs50RPhZa>





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Pierre, SD 57501  
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## South Dakota Office of EMS & Trauma

IMPROVE  
SUPPORT  
STRENGTHEN



## Office of EMS & Trauma Contacts

[EMS.sd.gov](http://EMS.sd.gov)



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