Volume 7 | Issue 3 | 2026

# CMEMSC Newsletter

## THE REGION II RESPONDER

CENTRAL MASS EMS
REGION 2

## Nominations are Open for the 2026 EMS Awards

May 5th this year is not just Cinco De Mayo, it is the **Central Mass EMS Annual Meeting and EMS Awards night**. Our ceremony has grown into a wonderful night out. It is a chance to network with other EMS and public safety professionals from across the Region. We have a little bit of Council business to conduct but our favorite part of the night is having the privilege of presenting awards to the best in our industry.

Our winners are treated to a delicious meal and presented a beautiful plaque. There are 13 nomination categories. You can find them on this form. Nominations close on April 1st.

**Above**: At our 2025 ceremony we presented the **Director's Award** to Sterling Fire Chief David Hurlbut for his dedication to Central Mass EMS over his 40-year career with the. **Below left**: Dom Singh received the **EMS Leadership Award** for his tireless work to improve EMS at his organization as well as across the Commonwealth. These were two very deserving individuals for sure! **Below right:** It was also an honor to present the citizen bystander award to the lay person that steps up and out of their comfort zone to come to the aid of a fellow citizen. Celeste Johnson was instrumental in saving the life of a customer at her place of employment. What an honor it was to recognize her heroism.

**Central Mass EMS Corporation**
361 Holden Street, Holden, MA 01520
Office: 508-854-0111; Fax: 508-853-3672
**CMED 24/7: 508-854-0100**
**www.cmemsc.org**; information@cmemsc.org

March

# Second Annual Central Mass EMS Legislative Briefing

Our first attempt at our Legislative Briefing in January got snowed out with 22' of fluffy white stuff, but the weather was sunny, albeit cold on March 2nd. Several representatives, senators and legislative aids joined us for an informative presentation and Q&A session where we highlighted the financial plight of the EMS Councils and the challenges threatening our EMS system. We were excited to also have more than 2 dozen supporters from all facets of EMS. Area ER doctors and nurses joined along with private and fire-based EMTs, AEMTs, Paramedics, and several fire chiefs. Executive Director Dixson described the work of the EMS Council and the major budget shortfalls that forced the closure of the Region 3 Council and threaten all the other Councils. Currently the state expects the offices to sustain on only $100,000 per year. Council President Hall highlighted the challenges that EMS in our state faces and how lacking the system is overall. Vice President and Auburn Fire Chief Coleman finished with an overview of several legislative bills that directly impact EMS operations and emphasized the importance of supporting them.

# The Regional EMS Councils Need Your Assistance

As stated above, the state funded the EMS Council line item at only $100,000 per council which is less than half of what it should be. The Governor's Budget is currently in review and debate. There is a chance to increase the line item in the House and then the Senate Budget. This is where you come in. **We need supporters to email or call their State Representatives and Senators** and ask them to support the increase of Line Item 4510-0790. This will allow the Councils to continue to do the work that is required in the Mass General Laws and EMS Regulations. Most importantly though, it allows us to continue to serve and support our EMS agencies and providers. It only takes a few minutes. You can find your legislator's contact information by simply typing in your town HERE. We have also created a **short template** that has the line-item number and our request that can be added to an email or used as talking points. We also generated a list of some of the bills we have been following through the process. **Click HERE** for the list and see if there is legislation that you feel led to as your representatives to support too.

## Legislative & Community Relations Committee

Want to keep a pulse on this stuff? The Region 2 subcommittee meets monthly on the **3rd Wednesday of each month at 4 pm**. The committee worked to plan this legislative briefing and often discuss EMS related bills, funding issues and community outreach initiative. Guest speakers often give the committee details on happenings at the state house or direction on how to support important issues. The meetings are hybrid and open to all. We always encourage new attendees, and corporate members can send an email to request voting membership. Find more information on our website.

# MCI Tabletop Drill

CMEMSC and Worcester CMED were well represented at a recent tabletop exercise in Worcester. We were excited to be able to have Ashley join as a CMED operator. These experiences certainly help prepare operators for the work they will do during an incident and allows them to offer their perspective during the drill. Pretty sure the room décor will give away the location of this exercise.

# March 13, 2026-Infection Control Officer Training

Every agency is required to have a designated infection control officer (DICO). If that is you, do you have the training you need to do the job comfortably? Join us our DICO workshop!

**Topics include:**

Hospital policies & response
Annual training requirements
Required and optional testing
Roles & responsibilities & laws
Practical for fit testing
Necessary documentation

**Sign Up Information. Our in-person attendance is full but there is still room to join us virtually. Sign up is still required. Click HERE or scan the QR code to register.**

# REDCAP COVID & Flu Vaccine Reporting

Vaccination status reporting for EMS agencies is due soon. Data should be submitted once per respiratory virus season by May 15th. The respiratory virus season is considered from October 1st through March 31st. Previous issues with the reporting site have been fixed and you can find it HERE. This reporting is for services not individuals. Lack of compliance with the reporting could result in a serious deficiency for an ambulance service.

# Free Online Infection Control Training-New Code

This **FREE** self-paced training is a perfect complement for the DICO training workshop. **Click the photo** or scan the QR code below. **NOTE: New QR Code.** Some of the QR code generator programs cause the QR codes to expire without warning. It's gotten us before too. Sneaky.

## Updates & Open Comment Period for Multiple ARs

Because many of the protocol changes this year effect medications and equipment, there are multiple Administrative Requirements updated. Each one is linked below to the new document. The old documents for comparison are still listed on the OEMS website. The ambulance and EFR equipment lists offer a 60-day open comment period for licensed services to offer input.

- AR 5-399 EMS First Response (EFR) - BLS Vehicle Equipment List
- AR 5-401 Basic Life Support (BLS) Equipment List
- AR 5-402 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Equipment List

Ambulance service licensees authorized representatives may submit any comments to Silva Cameron, no later than 5 PM on March 30, 2026.

The ambulance medication list was also updated and can be viewed here: AR 5-400 Required Medications on Ambulances.

## Place YOUR STP 2026.1 Printed Book Orders

We are collecting orders for printed copies of the **2026.1 Statewide Treatment Protocols** books. The protocols are not due to be implemented until June, so we are planning to send. the order to the printer in mid-March. They typically only take a week or 2 to print. Get your orders in now to guarantee your copies since we do not order many extras. Email Amanda or call the office. **Orders due by March 20th.**

## STP 2026.1 Training Materials Available

There were a lot of changes and additions to the protocols this year. There was a decent revamp of 1.0 Routine Care as well as 2.12 OB Emergencies. There are new medications and skills in the standing orders as well as the inclusion of Blood Products under medical director options. If it seems like a lot to put together for training, Central Mass EMS has you covered. A PowerPoint Presentation is available on the **EMS Training Officers Portal** for use by any of our members. We will also have a recorded copy of it on our **LMS** in case you have stragglers that miss the class you hold by the end of the month. If you have any questions about this or about putting together your own presentation, reach out anytime.

## Mechanical Ventilation and Respiration Course

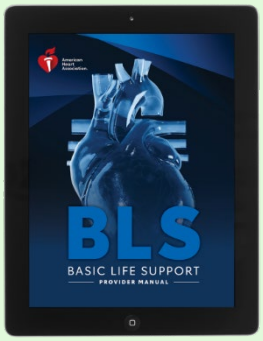
We had a full house for an excellent training on Zoll prehospital ventilators on February 11, 2026. It was exciting to be able to offer this higher-level training to paramedics from across the region. A big thank you to **Mike Dion** from **Uxbridge Fire** for sharing his vast knowledge and engaging teaching style. **Andrew Parent** and **Cody Ardagna** from **Zoll** offered their support and expertise, as well as a very nice lunch. Watch for more trainings like this coming soon.

# AHA Instructor Courses at CMEMSC: BLS, ACLS, PALS

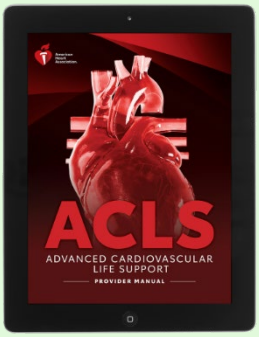
All EMS providers need BLS CPR every recertification cycle. Paramedics need ACLS, and PALS is the gold standard for advanced pediatric care. Ever think about becoming an instructor? We have classes for each this spring. Click each picture to the right for a flyer for the corresponding course. The dates listed are for the in-person, practical portions. Each course also has virtual and / or self-paced requirements as well as course monitoring. All in-person sessions are at our office at 361 Holden Street, Holden. Cost for the courses include all instructor materials and lunch. Teaching materials are available at an additional cost.

**Questions?**

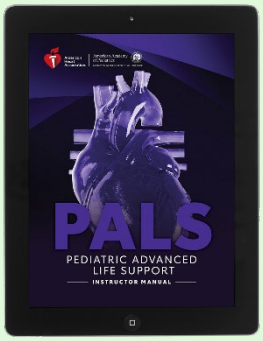
Please email:
**trainingcenter@cmemsc.org**




**March 20, 2026**




**April 17, 2026**




**May 15, 2026**

# CMED Call(s) of the Month

This month's Call of the Month comes to us from a gentleman transported for rectal pain after passing, in his own words, *"a turd the size of a submarine."* Post launch, hull integrity was deemed questionable and was therefore transported to dry dock for structural analysis.

# ChemPack Functional TTX

On February 18th we hosted a ChemPack exercise to test the Region 2 ChemPack Plan. Staff from OPEM, MEMA, the Region 2 HMCC, hospital preparedness personnel and CMED operators all got together to "activate" the distribution of the prepositioned assets in our region to respond to an organophosphate or nerve agent exposure. Sandwich Fire Chief J.J. Burke facilitated the learning and exercise activities that were funded through an OPEM grant. Not sure what a ChemPack is? Watch in next month's newsletter for a Just in Time training that will explain everything that EMS needs to know, including all the acronyms in this short article!

# Where's Pete the Cat

You will find Petey, or famous EMS cat hidden throughout the newsletter, sometimes once but maybe more. If you find him, send an email and let us know where you spotted him. Before the next newsletter issue, we will randomly select one of the respondents to receive a little prize and acknowledgement in the next newsletter. Remember he could be hiding anywhere!

Last month Petey was showing two of his favorite poses. His was in a big kerfuffle in Nero's photo (taken when my dog visited!) and curled up cozy on the new CMED prime mover. The first response was from our winner for this month, **Paramedic Tim Lyon.** If you spot him in this issue, simply send an email with his location(s) to information@cmemsc.org and there could be some goodies in the mail for you too.