



Edward G. Rendell, Governor  
Calvin B. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary of Health

April 12, 2004

A Message for All Emergency Medical Services Providers and Practitioners:

From May 16 to 22, 2004, we celebrate Emergency Medical Services Week across our great nation. This year's theme, "**EMS: There When You Need Us**" reflects the powerful commitment that individuals, services and community partners combine to render care and caring to their fellow man. Delivering quality emergency care has always presented challenges; our world today brings many new ones to EMS practitioners and services. Systems and people have surmounted extraordinary times before in the history of EMS. You have demonstrated that extraordinary accomplishments can be achieved - in spite of difficulties - when all work together towards a common mission.

The Department of Health, the Emergency Medical Services Office and the EMS councils thank each and every one of you for the many hours you spend training and delivering care to those in need. The same recognition goes to your loved ones for the sacrifices that they also make in the support of your work.

The efforts of practitioners, ambulance services, quick response services, medical command facilities and physicians, (supported by training institutes, emergency medical dispatchers and many others) resulted in response from Pennsylvania's EMS system to nearly 1.5 million patients this past year. More bystanders can now respond to sudden cardiac arrest because of the placement of over 300 automated external defibrillators in the last 2 years. Recent patient care improvements include new protocols for emergency response to terrorism threats, the use of epi-pens for patients with allergic reactions by basic life support and quick response services, and the use of continuous positive airway pressure devices in the prehospital environment.

This letter includes the following information to support you in your important work.

- Copies of Governor Rendell's proclamation for EMS Week and EMS for Children's Day
- EMS Week packet from the American College of Emergency Physicians
- Information papers and bulletins from the Department of Health such as:
  - Pre-Event EMS Surge Response Funding
  - Learning Management System
  - EMS System Safety Program
  - Military Duty Leave Policy
  - Out of Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitation

Also included is a CD entitled "*Life In The Balance: EMS Trauma Care.*" This program is a presentation of the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundations and is an overview of the EMS and trauma system within Pennsylvania suitable for public education and recruitment.

Please visit [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us) for more information and best wishes for a successful EMS Week!

Margaret E. Trimble, Director  
Emergency Medical Services Office

