



# *SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL, INC.*

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*SERVING BROOME, CHENANGO, AND TIOGA COUNTIES*

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Susquehanna Regional EMS Agencies and Providers  
From: Michael F. Washington, Chairperson, Susquehanna Regional Council  
Date: November 12, 2009  
Re: Cessation of Program Agency Services

This memorandum is to inform you that effective November 30, 2009 Susquehanna Regional Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (SREMS) will no longer be able to continue operations. We were notified our contract is currently pending Office of State Comptroller approval contingent upon New York State Division of Budget (DOB) allocating funds to support it. The Department of Health does not know when DOB will make funds available and SREMS was asked to forward a continuity of operations plan related to the effects of no funding.

SREMS conducted a fiscal and operational analysis which concluded that SREMS's Program Agency funds would be exhausted as of November 30, 2009. Therefore, as of that date, operations would cease.

In consequence of the foregoing, the following impact on our region's EMS system will result from this regrettable but unavoidable shut down:

- Our Electronic Pre-Hospital Care Reporting (ePCR) system will cease to function as a cohesive region wide program. While individual agency-owned workstations will continue to function independently for a time, central server repository of the data produced by these workstations will no longer exist. Therefore there will be no mechanism for collecting and transmitting this data electronically to the DOH, nor will the data be backed-up so that, if an individual workstation fails its data will be lost. In addition, hospital based workstations will be removed from service, as they are Program Agency property, and therefore must be turned over to the DOH.
- We have been notified of the unavailability of sufficient quantities of state issued paper PCRs, creating the very real possibility of an EMS service being unable to fulfill its legal requirement to produce state mandated patient care records.
- The electronic EMS personnel management function imbedded within the ePCR system will cease to function, and provider information will no longer be able to be added or updated. This personnel management function includes: regional EMS provider photo identification cards, Continuing Medical Education tracking, state core content recertification tracking. The personnel management system also tracks medical control facility and physician credentials region wide.
- All services related to ePCR maintenance, updates, password resets, provider maintenance, and all related services.
- Effective immediately, no new installs of ePCR will occur region wide.
- Regional ALS credentialing will no longer be available.
- We will no longer have the ability to conduct Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement PCR reviews at the service, county, and regional levels, due to the absence of a central repository for data that can be queried and analyzed for this purpose. Agencies will continue to have the responsibility for QA/QI.

If the financial crisis does indeed force SREMS to close, there exists the potential for a genuine public health crisis in our three-county region as a result of the loss of this administrative, technical, and Quality Improvement support. In the midst of the current influenza pandemic, which promises to place unprecedented strain upon our EMS system, this may well be a recipe for utter disaster.

*Michael F. Washington*