

EMS ONE CONFERENCE

ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL

Saturday, January 23, 2027
Indian Hills Community College
Rural Health Education Center

Join us for our annual FREE EMS One Conference!
Registration required

Continuing Education is available for all levels of EMS providers, emergency nurses and respiratory therapists.

We may be from different counties, regions, and services, but we are ONE team. Providing the best emergency medical care we can is our EMS ONE goal!

Register today! https://ihcc.edu/emsconference

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Course Number:
EMS 1080

$65*
*WTED eligible

Register at
https://ihcc.edu/publicsafety

INDIANHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Please join us once again for the 2027 EMS One Conference!

We've brought together an outstanding group of speakers from across the region to share their knowledge, experiences, and expertise. Once again, this conference is FREE as our way of recognizing the dedication and service of EMS providers. Join us for a day of learning, networking, food, and fun!

We may be from different counties, regions, and services, but we are ONE team. Providing the best emergency medical care we can is our EMS ONE goal!

REGISTRATION & OTHER INFORMATION

Registration: Even though the conference is free, registration is required to ensure enough materials and food. Please register by going to https://ihcc.edu/emsconference or scan the QR Code. Walk-ins will be accepted but may not receive printed materials, and meals will be provided as available.

Continuing Education: All sessions in this conference have been approved for a total of 8 CEHs of credit for EMS providers attending all day. Renewal topic areas are indicated below. EMS providers may attend any session, regardless of their certification level or endorsement.

For nursing and most other healthcare professions in Iowa, it is each licensee's responsibility to determine if the continuing education sessions they attend meet the requirements of their professional licensure board. As a courtesy, IHCC lists contact hours for sessions that may meet the continuing education requirements of other professions.

- Nurses may earn up to 5.8 contact hours by attending all seven breakout sessions. The opening keynote session does not meet Iowa Board of Nursing continuing education requirements.
- Respiratory Therapy may earn up to 7 contact hours by attending sessions designated with an "A" for airway credit for EMS.

Location: This event will be held in the Rural Health Education Center on the IHCC Ottumwa Campus. Maps and directions are available by clicking on "Campus Locations" at the bottom of the IHCC website www.indianhills.edu

Rescheduling: In the event of weather cancellation, the conference will be held on **Saturday, February 6, 2027.** Some sessions or speakers may change if the conference is rescheduled.

Food: A continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks will be provided as well as coffee, water and soda. Please email cathy.stahl@indianhills.edu if you have any food allergies or restrictions we should be aware of.

Photos: Photos of the conference participants will be taken to be used without compensation for publicity and public relations purposes by the entities sponsoring the conference. Please contact Cathy.Stahl@indianhills.edu if you do not give your permission for your likeness to be used.

Conference Schedule

CEH codes:
A = Airway, C = Cardiology, M = Medical, T = Trauma, and Ops = Operations

0715-0755	Registration, continental breakfast	
0755-0800	Welcome & announcements	
0800-0850 1.0 CEH	**Keynote:** Take Care of Yourself, Lifesaver- (Ops) Frank Prowant	
0850-0900	Break	
Breakouts		
0900-0950 1.0 CEH	**That's the Stuff Nightmares** (A, CCP) *Aaron Peth*	**Help is 30 Minutes Away** (A, M, Ops) *Vawn Taylor*
0950-1000	Break	
1000-1050 1.0 CEH	**Take My Breath Away** (A, M, CCP) *Aaron Peth*	**1000 Ways to Die** (M, T) *Vawn Taylor*
1050-1100	Break	
1100-1150 1.0 CEH	**Anhydrous Ammonia Burns** (A, T) *Dan Neenan*	**Trauma in Special Populations** (Ops or T) *Vawn Taylor*
1150-1230	Lunch	
1230-1320 1.0 CEH	**Treating Crushing Injuries** (M or T) *Dan Neenan*	**Protecting the Unprotected-Abuse** (T, Ops) *Aaron Peth*
1320-1330	Break	
1330-1420 1.0 CEH	**The Elephant in the Room** (Ops) *Laurie Gehrke*	**When ACS Doesn't Look Like ACS** (C or M) *Lori Reeves*
1420-1430	Break	
1430-1520 1.0 CEH	**Pediatric Transport Case Studies** (A, M, Ops, or T) *Laurie Gehrke*	**Perry Shooting** (Ops) *Matt Ireland* (2 CEHs)
1520-1530	Break	
1530-1620 1.0 CEH	**Using the Basics** (M or T) *Margaret Mitchell*	

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0850-0900	Break	
Breakouts		
0900-0950 1.0 CEH	**Crisis Canines** (M, Ops) *Greg Higginbotham*	**SIM Iowa #1** (A, C, M, Ops, T)
0950-1000	Break	
1000-1050 1.0 CEH	**Trauma Assessment & Mgmt** (A or T) *Frank Prowant*	**SIM Iowa #2** (A, C, M, Ops, T)
1050-1100	Break	
1100-1150 1.0 CEH	**Prehospital Blood Transfusion** M or T (CCP) *Brian Rayhons & Dan Davis*	**SIM Iowa #3** (A, C, M, Ops, T)
1150-1230	Lunch	
1230-1320 1.0 CEH	**Heart, Lung & Airway Anatomy Wkshp** (A, C) *Shannon Smith*	**SIM Iowa #4** (A, C, M, Ops, T)
1320-1330	Break	
1330-1420 1.0 CEH	**Leading vs Managing** (Ops) *Matt Bowen*	**SIM Iowa #5** (A, C, M, Ops, T)
1420-1430	Break	
1430-1520 1.0 CEH	**Sometimes it IS a Zebra** (A, M, CCP) *Bryon Bellinger*	**SIM Iowa #6** (A, C, M, Ops, T)
1520-1530	Break	
1530-1620 1.0 CEH	**The Gray Zone** (A, C or M) *Shannon Smith*	**SIM Iowa #7** (A, C, M, Ops, T)

Presenters

Bryon Bellinger RN, MSN, ARNP, FNP-C is an Emergency Medicine Nurse Practitioner with nearly 25 years of experience in emergency medicine and prehospital care. His diverse background includes working as an EMT, paramedic, critical care transport paramedic, flight medic, SWAT medic, emergency department nurse, and nurse practitioner. Since becoming a nurse practitioner in 2016, Bryon has practiced in emergency and hospital medicine, with a particular focus on rural healthcare. He has a passion for critical care, ECG interpretation, point-of-care ultrasound, and bringing advanced clinical skills to resource-limited environments.

Matt Bowen brings over 20 years of diverse EMS experience, spanning frontline emergency care, critical care flight medicine, education, and executive leadership. Currently serving as Chief of Linn County Ambulance District and President of the Missouri Ambulance Association, Matt is a passionate advocate for legislative reform, innovative prehospital healthcare, and the advancement of EMS leadership. A published author, national speaker, and longtime EMS educator, he is dedicated to developing strong leaders, challenging traditional EMS practices, and shaping a sustainable future for the profession.

Daniel Davis, B.S., CCP, serves as a fire captain with the Des Moines Fire Department. With a strong clinical background as a critical care paramedic, he spearheaded the department's field blood transfusion pilot program. This multi-agency initiative brought lifesaving blood products directly to the scenes of major traumatic emergencies and has helped establish a model for prehospital blood administration in the region.

Laurie Gehrke, RN, BSN, CEN, CPEN is a nationally certified registered nurse with more than 30 years of experience in pediatric transport and flight nursing. Her career has spanned a variety of clinical and transport settings, including pediatric emergency centers, adult and pediatric Level I trauma centers, rotor-wing transport, and ground ambulance services. She currently serves as a Regional Director for the Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association and is co-editor of the newest edition of the Pediatric Advanced Transport Course. She also serves on the Mercy Health Sciences University Board of Directors.

Greg Higginbotham, Crisis Canines of the Midlands. Greg joined Knoxville Fire Dept. as an EMT in 2004 and moved to a full-time paramedic position and Asst. Chief in 2010. In 2018 Greg became the Chief of Pella Community Ambulance. Since 2023 he has served as an Executive Board member and Secretary for Crisis Canines of the Midlands. Canines Walter and Daisy will join him for this presentation.

Matt Ireland has more than three decades of experience in public safety with service spanning fire, emergency medical services, law enforcement, and medicolegal death investigation. He began his public safety career in Lee County, Iowa (Montrose) in 1992 and has served in roles ranging from firefighter to Fire Chief. He currently serves as a Fire Captain and EMT with the Adel Fire Department, an EMT with Dallas County EMS, a Reserve Deputy Sheriff, and a Medicolegal Death Investigator.

Margaret Mitchell RN, CFRN, CEN, PHRN "Mitch" currently works for Iowa Heart Center in Des Moines. She has over 30 years of experience in nursing, having worked in ER, ICU, Cath Lab and as a flight nurse. Mitch loves teaching and works as an adjunct instructor for IHCC as well as other educational entities.

Dan Neenan joined the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) in August of 2002 as Director. Dan is a Paramedic, Firefighter II and EMS instructor. Dan serves as the Treasurer of the Dubuque County EMS association, vice chair of the Dubuque County Emergency Management Agency, and is a Lieutenant with the Epworth Fire Department.

Aaron Peth BS, MS, CCP currently works for Creighton University in Omaha, in the College of Nursing. He is a special instructor and clinical instructor in the Department of Paramedicine there. He has 21 years of emergency services experience having worked as a deputy sheriff, police officer, firefighter and medic.

Frank Prowant has been involved in emergency medical services as an EMS provider, instructor and administrator since 1977. He has extensive experience in designing and managing EMS response systems and developing EMS services. Currently, he is the Deputy Chief of EMS Operations for the City of Ankeny Fire Department located in Ankeny. Frank is also an EMS founder, educator, and consultant with Loon Echo, LLC, an EMS Training and Consulting company.

Brian Rayhons, MPA, NRP, FP-C, is the EMS Deputy Chief of Training and Quality Management for West Des Moines Emergency Medical Services. With nearly 20 years of dedicated service in the EMS industry, Chief Rayhons has a diverse clinical background that includes extensive experience as a critical care and flight paramedic for major regional healthcare networks, including the Mayo Clinic and Mercy Medical Center. He was instrumental in developing and launching central Iowa's historic, multi-agency prehospital blood transfusion pilot program.

Lori Reeves, BA, PM retired in 2026 from Indian Hills after over 35 years of teaching and coordinating medical education. She worked for over 15 years as a staff medic and ambulance service manager before becoming a full-time instructor. She currently owns EMS.EDU, an emergency medical education company.

Shannon Smith, NRP, AAS, CCP is a seasoned paramedic with over 16 years of experience in a hospital-based service. Shannon serves her own rural community with a deep understanding of the full continuum of patient care from the initial 911 call through discharge. Her unique perspective gives insight into how prehospital decisions directly impact long-term patient outcomes.

Vawn Taylor BSN, RN, CEN, CFRN, NRP, has dedicated more than two decades to emergency medical services as a paramedic, emergency nurse, military medic, and flight nurse. Her experience spans volunteer, career, hospital, and aeromedical settings. An EMS educator and conference speaker, Vawn is passionate about translating complex clinical concepts into practical lessons that providers can immediately apply in the field. Whether teaching clinical topics or sharing lessons learned from real-world practice, her goal is to help EMS professionals deliver safer, more effective patient care.

Session Descriptions

All Group Keynote Session:

Take Care of Yourself, Lifesaver
Speaker: Frank Prowant
EMS 1.0 CEH – Ops

This all-group session focuses on the health and wellbeing of the EMS provider. This program will provide information on what you can do to maintain your physical and mental well-being. Beyond physical health and safety, mental health and wellness are priorities for the EMS workforce. The nature of EMS work can be as challenging psychologically as it is physically. Supporting the physical and mental health of EMS clinicians is a critical part of fostering an overall culture of wellness.

Breakout Session:

SIM Iowa Mobile Simulations
EMS 1.0 CEH – A, C, M, T or Ops

Participants in this session will rotate through two high-fidelity simulations as a team of up to 6. In one, an adult patient is trapped beneath a collapsed structure for an extended period. The second simulation places learners in the care of a 6-year-old child exposed to a live electrical wire following a severe storm. Participants must perform a systematic assessment, manage patient care, and anticipate life-threatening complications.

SIM Iowa Mobile Simulation Sessions — Limited Availability

The SIM sessions can only accommodate 8 students for each time slot. Participants wishing to attend a SIM Iowa session must sign up during on-site registration on the morning of the conference. Participants may attend only one SIM session. Sign-up sheets will be in the lobby and will fill on a first-come, first-served basis.

That's the Stuff Nightmares are Made of: Lessons Learned from Challenging Airways
Speaker: Aaron Peth
EMS 1.0 CEH – A (CCP)

Prehospital care providers make split-second decisions every day, often with significant implications for patient outcomes. As the saying goes, "The patient doesn't read the protocols." Providers frequently encounter unusual situations that require a strong understanding of pathophysiology and critical thinking. Through four challenging airway cases, this session will examine how complex physiology can complicate airway management and highlight practical lessons providers can apply in the field.

Help is 30 Minutes Away: Holding the Line Until ALS Arrives
Speaker: Vawn Taylor
EMS 1.0 CEHs A, M, Ops

In rural and volunteer EMS systems, BLS providers are often the highest level of care available for extended periods. When ALS is 30 minutes or longer away, the assessment, interventions, and decisions made in those first moments carry real weight. These situations demand more than technical skills; they require clinical judgment, adaptability, and the ability to manage both the patient and the scene with confidence. Through case-based discussion and realistic examples, participants will learn practical, real-world strategies to recognize high-acuity patients, prioritize airway, breathing, and circulation with limited resources, and make sound decisions within their scope.

Crisis Canines
Speaker: Greg Higginbotham with canines Walter & Daisy
EMS 1.0 CEH M or Ops

This course introduces EMS responders to the role of Crisis Response K9s in providing emotional support during and following stressful or traumatic incidents. Participants will learn to recognize signs of stress and emotional distress, understand when and how to request Crisis K9 assistance, and identify appropriate ways to interact with Crisis Response K9s. Canines Walter and Daisy will join us for this presentation.

Take My Breath Away: Patient-Centered Rapid Sequence Induction Pharmacology
Speaker: Aaron Peth
EMS 1.0 CEH A or M

"20 Etomidate, 100 of Succs," we hear it again and again on popular dramatic television shows and many paramedics get drawn into Rapid Sequence Induction with a sense of simplicity. However, the reality is much more complex, and every patient should have a tailor-made approach for this procedure. This presentation will aim to provide paramedics with an overview of a patient-centered approach to RSI medication selection to optimize hemodynamics, and subsequently patient outcomes.

1,000 Ways to Die: A Field Guide to the Freakishly Unfortunate
Speaker: Vawn Taylor
EMS 1.0 CEH M or T

From freak accidents to obscure medical conditions, the cult-classic TV show "1,000 Ways to Die" offered a glimpse into the bizarre, but many of these situations are closer to real-world EMS than they seem. This fast-paced, no-holds-barred session explores unusual but plausible presentations that challenge providers to think beyond standard protocols and expectations. The session focuses on applying evidence-based care while avoiding misconceptions and reinforces clinical reasoning, situational awareness, and adaptability in dynamic, unpredictable EMS environments.

Trauma Assessment and Management
Speaker: Frank Prowant
EMS 1.0 CEH A or T

Effective assessment and management of critically injured trauma patients are essential for improving patient outcomes. This session will review systematic trauma assessment and appropriate interventions, emphasizing the recognition and management of life-threatening injuries, shock, airway compromise, and impaired oxygenation.

Treatment of Anhydrous Ammonia Burns
Speaker: Dan Neenan
EMS 1.0 CEH A or T

Anhydrous ammonia is a dangerous material, commonly found in our rural communities. Exposures are bound to occur. After this session, participants will be able to recognize signs and symptoms of anhydrous ammonia exposure and apply evidence-based treatment for chemical burns, inhalation injuries, and systemic absorption.

One Size Doesn't Fit All: Trauma in Special Populations
Speaker: Vawn Taylor
EMS 1.0 CEH T or Ops

The same injury can present very different challenges depending on the patient. This session explores trauma care for patients with class III obesity, older adults, and pregnant patients, emphasizing how anatomy, physiology, and preexisting conditions influence assessment and treatment. Participants will examine common pitfalls and practical adaptations to airway management, positioning, resuscitation, and transport. A brief discussion of patients with disabilities will highlight establishing baseline function, adapting communication, and partnering with patients and caregivers.

Prehospital Blood Transfusion Pilot

Speakers: Brian Rayhons & Dan Davis
EMS 1.0 CEH M or T (CCP)

This course provides an overview of the development and implementation of a prehospital blood transfusion pilot program within Iowa's EMS system. Participants will explore the evolution of EMS blood administration in the 911 setting, examine the clinical significance of early hemorrhage control, and articulate the primary goals and system-level benefits of carrying blood in the field. Through analysis of real cases, attendees will identify best practices, common challenges, and practical strategies to successfully launch and sustain a prehospital blood program in their region.

Assessment and Treatment of Crushing Injuries

Speaker: Dan Neenan
EMS 1.0 CEH M, T

In this session, we will discuss assessment and treatment of crushing injuries commonly associated with agricultural equipment. We will focus on compartment syndrome recognition, pain management, fluid resuscitation, and preparation for rapid transport.

Protecting the Unprotected: Prehospital Recognition of Child Abuse

Speaker: Aaron Peth
EMS 1.0 CEH T or Ops

Child abuse and neglect remain leading causes of pediatric morbidity and mortality. First responders are uniquely positioned to enter the child's environment, observe caregiver interactions, and identify critical early warning signs that other providers may not be able to see. This course will explore key indicators of nonaccidental trauma in children, review historical inconsistencies, injury patterns, and other red flags encountered in the prehospital setting. Through case-based discussion and real-world encounters, this course equips clinicians with practical tools to identify and report suspected child maltreatment.

Under the Surface - An Inside Look at What's Happening; An Interactive Heart, Lung & Airway Anatomy Workshop

Speaker: Shannon Smith
EMS 1.0 CEH A, C

What if you could look beyond the monitor, beyond the manikin, and directly into the anatomy behind the emergencies we treat? This interactive session takes EMS providers beyond traditional classroom instruction and into a hands-on exploration of the heart, lungs, and airway using pig specimens. Participants will connect real anatomical structures to critical prehospital interventions, exploring airway anatomy, oxygenation, ventilation, intubation, cardiac function, circulation, and the physiological consequences of patient deterioration.

Feelings: The Elephant in the Room- The Upside & Downside of Caring for Sick or Injured Children

Speaker: Laurie Gehrke
EMS 1.0 CEH Ops

EMS providers are trained in rapid assessment, critical interventions, patient transport, and communication. But something changes when the patient is a child. Feelings of confusion, fear, and inadequacy, coupled with the pressure to perform at the highest level, can challenge even the most seasoned EMS professionals. This session will explore why these reactions occur and how to navigate them effectively. Through real-life examples, participants will learn practical strategies for communicating with families, colleagues, and receiving facilities during some of the most stressful moments in emergency care. This interactive session will encourage participants to reflect on and share their own experiences.

When ACS Doesn't Look Like ACS: Recognizing Atypical Presentations

Speaker: Lori Reeves
EMS 1.0 CEH C or M

Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) does not always present with the classic symptoms of chest pain or pressure. This session explores the less recognizable signs and symptoms of ACS, particularly in women, older adults, and patients with diabetes. Through discussion of an actual case involving a local paramedic, participants will examine the challenges of recognizing atypical presentations, identifying assessment strategies, and reviewing treatment priorities. Emphasis will be placed on maintaining a high index of suspicion, avoiding diagnostic bias, and recognizing potentially life-threatening cardiac emergencies early.

Leading vs Managing

Speaker: Matt Bowen
EMS 1.0 CEH Ops

There's a big difference between being in charge and being someone people actually want to follow. Whether a service director, manager, shift leader or the team lead on a call, EMS leaders are expected to manage a lot. But managing operations and issues is only part of the responsibility. People don't want to feel managed. They want to know what they are doing, why it matters, what's expected of them, and whether they can trust the person leading the way. We'll take a look at the difference between a leadership role and actually leading. We'll talk about the things that make team members buy in, step up, take ownership, and choose to follow.

Pediatric Transport Case Studies

Speaker: Laurie Gehrke
EMS 1.0 CEH A, M, Ops or T

This session will explore four case studies involving the transport of a traumatically injured child, a child experiencing a respiratory emergency, a child with suspected sepsis, and a child experiencing a mental health emergency. Each case study will follow the progression from pre-transport report and initial assessment through stabilization, care planning, and transport. Participants will examine anticipated and unexpected transport complications, discuss decision-making under pressure, and explore the critical question of what it means for a child to be "stable for transport."

From Chaos to Command: EMS Lessons from a School Shooting Mass-Casualty Incident

Speaker: Matt Ireland
EMS 2.0 CEHs Ops

During the January 2024 shooting at Perry High School, Matt responded as an EMT with Dallas County EMS as part of the multi-agency emergency response. He later returned to Perry in his role as a Medicolegal Death Investigator. His experience across multiple public safety disciplines provides a unique perspective on command, communication, mass-casualty operations, and the human impact of critical incidents.

Sometimes it IS a Zebra

Speaker: Bryon Bellinger
EMS 1.0 CEH A or M (CCP)

This case-based presentation explores uncommon, potentially life-threatening conditions that mimic more frequently encountered medical emergencies. Emphasis is placed on identifying subtle clinical clues, avoiding diagnostic anchoring, and recognizing when an alternative diagnosis may change prehospital management.

Advancements in EMS: Using the Basics to Implement the Advanced

Speaker: Margaret Mitchell
EMS 1.0 CEH M or T

This session will examine the importance of fundamental assessment skills, from the initial dispatch information through the transition of patient care. Mitch will review essential practices that should be incorporated into every EMS response while discussing emerging changes in prehospital care. Emphasis will also be placed on continuing education, professional development, and the importance of mentorship in advancing EMS practice.

The Gray Zone: Recognizing the Sick Patient Before They Crash

Speaker: Shannon Smith
EMS 1.0 CEH A, C, or M

Patients rarely move from stable to critical condition without warning. The signs are there; subtle changes in mentation, skin signs, respiratory effort, or vital sign trends. The danger lives in the gray zone between "looks okay" and "about to crash." The gray zone challenges EMTs and paramedics to sharpen assessment skills, trust clinical intuition, and recognize early indicators of deterioration before obvious instability occurs.



Show your EMS ONE pride!

Conference T-shirts will be available through Lori's Custom Designs.

Scan the QR code to preorder yours for pickup at the conference. Lori's Custom Designs will also have a booth at the event with additional shirts available for purchase.

Questions?
Cathy Stahl | 641-683-5281
Cathy.Stahl@indianhills.edu

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