



EMS Information Bulletin- #15

DATE: May 17, 2004 **CORRECTED COPY**

SUBJECT: Emergency Response Employees (ERES)

TO: Ambulance and Quick Response Services

FROM: Emergency Medical Services Office
Pa Department of Health
(717) 787-8740

The Department of Health (Department) has instituted a new process enabling an employer of emergency response employees (EREs) to nominate and secure Department of Health approval of the person the employer chooses to serve as its designated officer of EREs (Designated Officer). This process may be used as an alternative to the paper nomination and approval process the Department published at 24 Pa.B. 4523 (September 3, 1994).

Under a Federal statute, the Ryan White CARE Act, every employer of emergency response personnel is required to appoint a Designated Officer and secure approval of that person as a Designated Officer from the chief public health office of the state. EREs are firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMS personnel and other persons (including employees of volunteer organizations, without regard to whether such employees receive nominal compensation) who, in the course of their occupational duties, respond to an emergency involving an illness or injury. An employer of EREs is an organization that, in the course of professional duties, responds to emergencies involving illness or injury. In Pennsylvania, to qualify as a Designated Officer a person must be nominated as such by an employer of EREs and then accepted by the Department.

A Designated Officer acts as a liaison between the employer's employees who have been or believe they have been exposed to a potentially life-threatening infectious disease specified by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through a person who is transported to a medical facility, and the medical facility that receives that person. For additional

information regarding the potentially life-threatening infectious diseases specified by HHS, guidelines describing the circumstances in which EREs may be exposed to such diseases, guidelines for medical facilities to determine whether such exposure occurred and the responsibilities of a Designated Officer, please review the notice published by HHS at 59 Fed. Reg. 13418-13428, March 21, 1994.

The Department has created a new website where an employer can nominate an individual within the organization. The web address is <https://app1.health.state.pa.us/emso-eresystem/>. No password or ID is required to access the site and to complete the process.

Employers/organizations who previously submitted the paper nomination form do not have to re-register unless there is a change to the previously nominated individual.

The Bureau of Epidemiology within the Department will continue to maintain the database developed for the EREs. Each nomination will receive an e-mail response upon its submission. Therefore, an e-mail address will be required to complete the process.

Any questions regarding this procedure should be directed to Mr. Robert H. Gaumer at 717-787-8740 or email to rgaumer@state.pa.us.