

Attachment 4A

OC-MEDS Newsletter
October/November, 2013

Fountain Valley Fire Department to “Go Live” on ePCR by Oct. 1

The Fountain Valley Fire Department (FVFD) is planning to “go live” on the OC-MEDS ePCR by October 1, 2013. Members of the FVFD have been supportive of the OC-MEDS ePCR Project since implementation efforts began, but the project would not be where it is today without the efforts FVFD Fire Engineer Tim Saiki. In addition to leading his department toward implementing the ePCR, he is also largely credited with developing the programming language used for the Printable ePCR “PDF” that is currently used by the OCEMS System. OCEMS had the opportunity to interview Engineer Saiki; whose own hard work and dedication greatly helped the ePCR Project be successful for FVFD and for OCEMS.

OCEMS: When is your department planning to “go live”?

Saiki: *October 1st is our “go live” date. We wanted a good buffer to work out any last minute issues before the 2014 deadline.*

OCEMS: Why do you feel that the ePCR project is important for FVFD and for EMS?

Saiki: *Being a small department, our engine and truck captains are assigned the task of CQI and other quality control measures pertaining to EMS. On top of dealing with other assignments and running calls, dealing with the physical paperwork made this task very time consuming and tedious. With ePCR we will be able to quickly query data and information in any way we want from our system, saving time and effort. We can look at our data in real time, so we can respond and react more effectively to current trends or training needs. Training has always been a huge part of the EMS system, and the ePCR will definitely help the FVFD to tailor our training needs more effectively.*

OCEMS: You put a lot of your own time into the development of the ePCR Printable PDF Template; what motivated you to volunteer your time?

Saiki: *I noticed there was a need to add missing pertinent information that we were documenting in Field Bridge to the PDF, especially since our hospitals only use the PDF at this time. Initially my development was for FVFD specifically, where I wanted our data to be viewed according to our needs, but this need was not just specific for our department, and with a collaborative effort from other OC agencies we were able to improve the PDF for everyone. I volunteered my time because (1) I do enjoy a little programming every now and again (my career tract was in computer science before I chose a career in the fire service) and (2) I wanted to help because I believed in this project. Many people have been involved to make this project successful, and this was one way to contribute and stay involved.*

OCEMS: Do you have any “Pearls of Wisdom” that you’d be willing to share for other organizations that are making the transition?

Saiki: *The best advice I can give is allow plenty of time to ease into it, encourage your personnel to keep trying, and patiently listen to and support their needs. Though the initial thought of switching from paper to computer was daunting, our guys have been exceptional in their willingness to try out this system, which has made it an easy transition for us so far.*



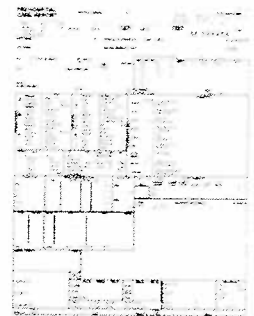
Fire Engineer Tim Saiki

Who’s “Going Live”?

End Of An Era: OCEMS To Retire Paper PCR

OCEMS has officially discontinued printing the standardized paper-based Prehospital Care Report (PCR) forms and all other associated forms. Although modified throughout the years, the paper PCR has been in continuous use since the inception of the Orange County EMS System over three decades ago. Commonly referred to as the “MIC” form by EMTs and Paramedics who’ve documented their patient care on its numerous check boxes and spaces, the paper PCR has been used as the basis for patient charting, CQI, and training in Orange County for generations of OC EMS providers.

Goodbye old friend.

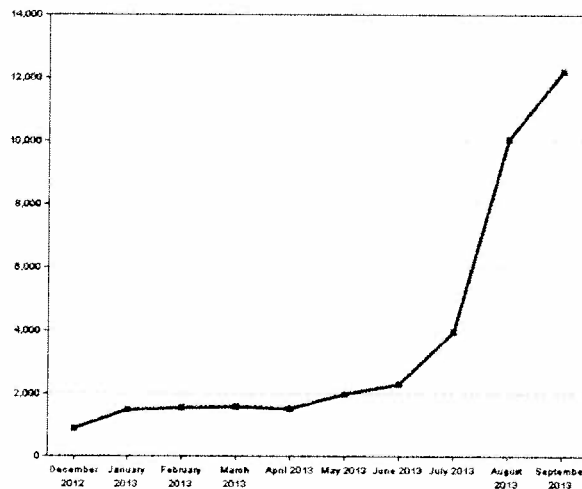


Paper PCR
Discontinued

September 2013 OC-MEDS ePCR Usage By Fire Departments At 87%

Two months ago, OCEMS set a new goal of 75% ePCR utilization by fire departments by Winter 2013. The objective was to measure the countywide 9-1-1 monthly average EMS call volume (n = 14,000) and compare it to the number of ePCRs that were completed and posted by fire department personnel. Completed ePCR totals have more than tripled in the last two months with **the September 2013 totals coming in at 87%**. OCEMS is committed to the success of the ePCR project and will continue to work with fire departments to encourage final implementation of the ePCR countywide.

Number of Records by Date



Incident Date	Count
December 2012	686
January 2013	1,493
February 2013	1,563
March 2013	1,562
April 2013	1,532
May 2013	1,978
June 2013	2,309
July 2013	3,950
August 2013	10,084
September 2013	12,220

ePCR Utilization

OC-MEDS Licensure System Optimized For Tablets and Smartphones - Online MICN Authorization Process To "Go Live" on October 1.

OCEMS is proud to announce that beginning October 1, 2013 all Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) applicants may now complete their "Authorization" applications entirely online at: <https://www.oc-meds.org/licensure/public/orangecounty/>

In addition to online MICN authorizations, the OC-MEDS Licensure and Certification System has also been enhanced to allow applicants to access their accounts, apply for, and pay associated fees on ANY device. The system can be used on any tablet, smart phone, or computer. The new enhancements significantly improve the user experience and speed up the application process.

The system has been fully operational since December 17, 2012 and is being used daily for all EMT applicants. OCEMS plans to continue to expand the system and include Paramedic Accreditation in the coming months.



Licensure Management