



Department of Health  
Agency of Human Services



## Vermont EMS and Healthcare Preparedness Conference Oct. 22 - 27



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BURLINGTON – Lectures at the 2013 Vermont EMS and Healthcare Preparedness Conference will feature emergency response training specific to New England, such as the proper way to disentangle an accident victim from farm machinery, and a firsthand account from one of the emergency physicians who was working in a downtown hospital the day of the Boston Marathon bombing.

More than 500 health care providers and licensed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers have signed up for hands-on workshops, educational sessions, and a tradeshow expo at Jay Peak. Pre-conference workshops will be offered Oct. 22-23. The annual health care preparedness conference will be held October 24-27.



The event is organized by the Vermont Department of Health.

“First responders continually work to improve critical thinking skills in high-pressure situations,” said Chris Bell, director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness & EMS. “Often the conversations outside the conference rooms are as valuable as the information provided during the sessions.”

Keynote speakers are (Oct. 24) Paul Biddinger, MD of Harvard and Mass General Hospital, who specializes in emergency response and preparedness and will discuss the response to the Boston bombing, and (Oct. 25) Margaret Tandoh, MD, Fletcher Allen Healthcare, who is an expert on critical care and trauma surgery.

The EMS workforce in Vermont is composed of approximately 180 licensed First Response and Ambulance services staffed by 2,700 licensed EMS providers. EMS personnel serve as pre-hospital emergency care providers as Emergency Medical Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), Advanced EMTs, and Paramedics. Many EMS providers in Vermont are volunteers.

For more information on the conference visit: [http://healthvermont.gov/hc/ems/ems\\_conference.aspx](http://healthvermont.gov/hc/ems/ems_conference.aspx)

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