

CHAPTER VIII Training and Education
TOPIC 5 EMS Continuing Education
SUBJECT: 2 PARAMEDIC CONTINUING EDUCATION

Requirements

- A. The State of Ohio Department of Public Safety requires a paramedic to obtain a total of ninety-two hours of continuing education units (CEUs) every three (3) years in order to qualify for re-certification as a paramedic.
1. Twelve (12) of these CEUs must address pediatric subject matter.
 2. Four (4) CEUs must address geriatric subject matter.
 3. Eight (8) CEUs on trauma issues, two of which must pertain to triage and transportation protocols.
 4. Twelve (12) CEUs on emergency cardiac care, which may be satisfied upon successful completion of an advanced cardiac life support course.

Policy

- A. **All paramedics are encouraged to maintain current ACLS cards.** The CFD, through the Medical Director, will provide multiple ACLS courses in-house to accommodate all paramedics. **Members that attend the in-house sessions off duty will receive overtime.** Members that fail to attend while off duty may be required to attend the make-up sessions while on duty.

1. The ACLS course will provide the members with the State of Ohio requirements of 12 hours of cardiac education.

B. Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Professionals (PEPP) is also expected and supported by the CFD and our Medical Director. This course satisfies the State requirements for pediatric CEU's and enhances our ability to better care for injured and ill children and infants. The CFD, through the Medical Director, will provide multiple PEPP courses in-house to accommodate all paramedics. **Members that attend the in-house sessions off duty will receive overtime.** Members that fail to attend while off duty may be required to attend the make-up sessions while on duty.

C. The CFD will not reimburse nor pay any of the costs of any course from an outside agency. (This includes any tuition cost, supplies, books, or any other related costs.). The CFD will not pay overtime for attendance at any outside agency's training.

D. ACLS and PEPP will be offered in alternating years so as to keep all CFD paramedics certified in both courses.

E. CFD paramedics will be compensated for off duty time attending in-house continuing education as outlined in the Labor-Management Agreement, Article XI, Section 2, A. (6).

1. Up to a **maximum of 48 hours of overtime pay per year**, for Paramedic Continuing Education per CFD Paramedic.
2. The continuing education year will begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of each year.

F. Fire Administration expects our paramedic personnel to be trained to a higher standard and is willing to support each paramedic with 48 hours of overtime per year to maintain his/her certification. Each paramedic member is expected to earn an average of 32 CEU's per year. The Medical Director and CFD EMS Administration will offer the required topics or subject matter at In-House classes to insure our members will be able to recertify.

G. In House Program:

1. The in-house classes will be held monthly except **no classes will be held in August and December**. Class topics are selected based upon recertification requirements, new equipment, procedures, processes and Continuous Quality Improvement. They are repeated on three (3) different dates and three (3) different units at 0830 or 1800 hours, so that every member will have the opportunity to attend one of them. Dates and topics will be communicated in periodic Notices.

2. Multiple ACLS and/or PEPP classes will be conducted during the months of April and May in lieu of regular con-ed sessions.

The Cincinnati Fire Department's Medical Director considers the education, interaction and hands-on instruction gained at "in-house" continuing education classes an excellent tool to enhance and further the knowledge and skills of all CFD paramedics. It is vital to the success of our paramedic program that members attend these classes. The **con-ed "skill session" will be held in November of each year. Members that attend the in-house sessions while off duty will receive overtime**. Members that fail to attend the in-house sessions may be required to attend the make-up training sessions on duty.

H. Hospital Continuing Education Program:

1. Paramedics may attend continuing education at any state certified institution.

2. The CFD will **only compensate paramedics with overtime pay for attendance at the in house sessions up to a maximum 48 hours within a calendar year**.

3. Hospital continuing education may include lectures, trauma rounds, ICU rounds, or other learning environments in which CE credits are awarded.

4. An "Accredited" facility will have an Ohio Accreditation number at the bottom of the continuing education certificate.

5. Paramedic Continuing Education offered at any non-accredited organization will not be accepted.

G. Each member shall establish a binder to hold copies of all certificates.

1. The binder should track status of required hours such as ACLS, trauma, geriatrics, and pediatrics.

2. The District Chief shall insure that these binders are maintained at the members' assigned quarters for inspection during quarterly inspections.

K. Attire at Paramedic Continuing Education Classes:

1. Proper dress such as “casual business attire” or proper CFD uniform is required at all in-house continuing education classes.
2. Promptness is mandatory. **If you are late don’t show up!**
3. No shorts, t-shirts, work clothes, or tattered clothing will be allowed. All classes will be monitored and tardiness will not be tolerated.