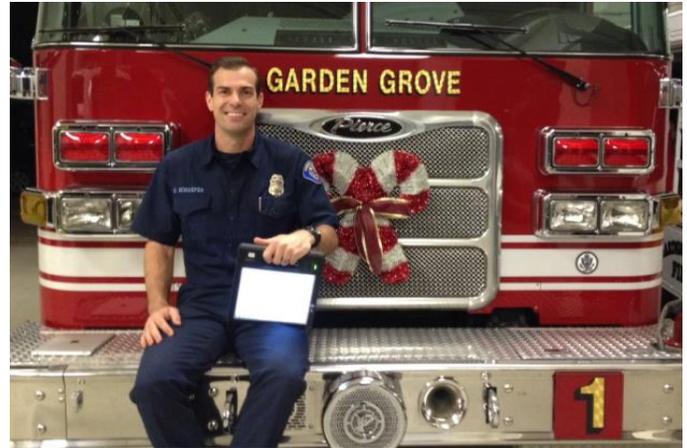


Garden Grove Fire Department to “Go Live” on ePCR in January 2014

The Garden Grove Fire Department (GGFD) has almost completely implemented the OC-MEDS ePCR and plans to be fully “live” by January 2014. Led by the efforts of Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Schaefer, GGFD has been working aggressively to launch the ePCR for their department and is managing the “big change” that many have seen to be the most significant to occur in EMS in the last 20+ years. As with any EMS provider who has embarked on the transition to an ePCR system, GGFD encountered significant challenges which had to be overcome. OCEMS had the opportunity to interview Firefighter/Paramedic Schaefer; whose leadership greatly helped the ePCR Project to be successful for GGFD.



Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Schaefer

Who’s “Going Live”?

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

Schaefer: *Our department is about 90% live already. We have had a huge show of interest once our members got through some basic training. We will be 100% live by January 2014.*

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

Schaefer: *The ePCR is important to EMS because it shows even a huge organization can adapt to the future of electronics. GGFD and EMS will benefit from the ePCR because patient care reports will be more thorough and data can be accessed much easier than paper. The flow of the patient care report is much smoother now, all the way from the field personnel up to EMS. We no longer have to worry about weather, poor penmanship, or losing a paper copy of the patients care report. Now, it’s as easy as a single press of a button and all parties involved will have a legible ePCR that can be viewed anywhere. This is the biggest reason I think GGFD and EMS will benefit from using the ePCR.*

OCEMS: You put a lot of your own time into moving this forward for your department; what motivated you to dedicate time to the project?

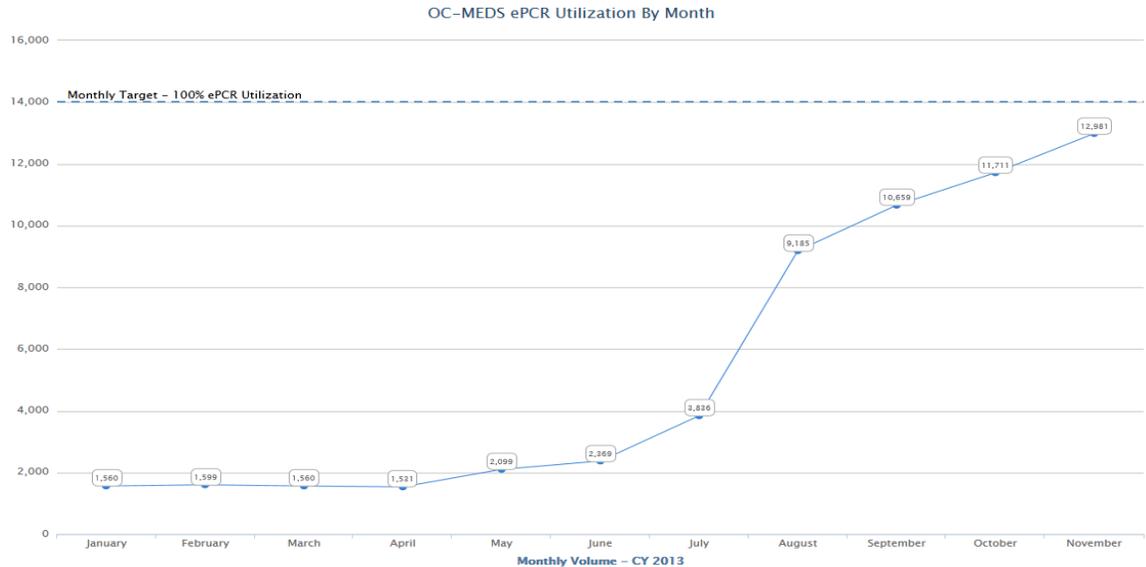
Schaefer: *I wanted to be part of the biggest change in EMS since the 800mhz radios. The ePCR has opened our eyes to changes we never thought we would see in the fire service. I like the options an electronic tablet provides and cleanliness of the data input. The transition from paper to electronics has been a lot of work not only for myself but everybody involved. It is rewarding to see people I never thought would be using an electronic tablet in the fire service say “Wow, once you get to know this thing it is awesome”? Hopefully, that response will be one every department will experience.*

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

Schaefer: *The most helpful advice I can give to organizations just starting the transition is to run a wide variety of calls before you use the ePCR in the field. This will eliminate confusion and calls will flow a lot smoother. The ePCR is so different from the paper version, it is impossible to manage a call and also provide proper patient care. Be patient, don’t fear change, and take pride in what you do.*

ePCR Usage By Fire Departments At 92%

Last Spring, OCEMS set a goal of 75% ePCR utilization by fire departments by Winter 2013. The objective was to measure the countywide 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 exceeded expectations with **the November 2013 totals coming in at 92%**. OCEMS is committed to the success of the ePCR project and will continue to work with fire departments to encourage agency implementation until 100% ePCR utilization is achieved.



ePCR Utilization

OC-MEDS Licensure System Optimized For Tablets and Smartphones – “Print Your Own OC Card” to go online Feb. 1, 2014

The OC-MEDS Licensure and Certification System has been enhanced to allow applicants to access their accounts, apply for certifications, 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.

These enhancements in technology have now made it possible to carry proof of your certification(s) on your smart phone or to print a copy of your card if you'd prefer to have it in your wallet. Therefore, **beginning Feb. 1, 2014, OCEMS will no longer print plastic cards for any OCEMS issued certification.** California state EMT Cards will continue to be issued in accordance with state regulations. Applicants may carry proof of their OC certification on their smart phone, or generate a printable card which includes a QR Code that can be scanned to verify their certification.

The OCEMS Licensure and Certification system has been operational for over a year and is being used daily by EMT and MICN applicants. OCEMS plans to continue to expand the system and include Paramedic Accreditation by 1st Quarter 2014.

The system is accessible online at: <https://www.oc-meds.org/licensure/public/orangecounty/>



Licensure Management