



## Central Shenandoah Emergency Medical Services Council

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STAUNTON (VA) - The Central Shenandoah EMS Council is pleased to announce that it has received Full Accreditation as an EMT-Intermediate training site from the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services. The Council was inspected by staff from the Office of EMS on June 2 and was awarded the certification on that date. It is now one of twenty accredited EMT-Intermediate training sites in the Commonwealth.

Matt Lawler, the CSEMS Training Director, is the EMT-Intermediate Program Director and is assisted with classroom instruction by Shaun Carpenter and Sara Tranum. Dr. Asher Brand is the Physician Course Director.

Accreditation is a process of external quality review used by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services to analyze EMS education programs for quality assurance and quality improvement.

One of the primary objectives of accreditation is to assist educational programs to identify and achieve goals in order to protect students, the public and to enhance the profession.

Through the process of accreditation, the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services assesses compliance with published administrative and academic standards. Providing appropriate standards, guidelines and regulations are key elements in achieving these goals. Additionally, accreditation and a commitment to require both ethical business and educational practices, promotes organizational effectiveness.

The Virginia Office of EMS grants state accreditation at two levels: EMT-Paramedic and EMT-Intermediate-99. Accredited Paramedic programs may offer training at the Paramedic level and the Intermediate-99 level. Accredited Intermediate programs may offer training at the Intermediate-99 level.

This Full Accreditation is valid through May 31, 2010.