



News Release

Contact:
Jason Parent
Development and
College Relations Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 768-2808
Fax: (207) 768-2813
jparent@nmcc.edu

October 24, 2008
NR080099

NMCC to offer EMS-Basic Course in the St. John Valley

Aroostook County - Northern Maine Community College will offer its EMT-Basic course through its St. John Valley Off-Campus Center beginning November 22. This 5-credit course prepares ambulance and rescue personnel, police officers and firefighters to administer pre-hospital care.

“There is always a need for EMT positions at all levels – basic, intermediate and paramedic,” said Dan Chasse from Madawaska Ambulance Service. “We have had community members interested in getting the training, but they have been unable to travel to obtain it due to their jobs or other obligations. It is very beneficial to have the training offered locally so that these folks and others can take advantage of it. Anytime we can access training like this locally it is very welcomed.”

Chasse explained that it is sometimes difficult to get EMTs to work on ambulances in rural areas like the Valley because, just as with fire departments, it is oftentimes a volunteer position that must be worked around their “real” job. While Madawaska Ambulance Service does have full-time EMTs, Ambulance Services Incorporated, which services several Valley communities, and Van Buren Ambulance Service both depend on paid volunteers.

During the lab component of the EMT-Basic course, students will practice patient assessment, airway management, CPR, automatic external defibrillation, oxygen delivery, dressings and hemorrhage control, splinting, spinal immobilization, lifting and moving patients and extrication. Students will also gain hands-on training in clinical experiences in a hospital emergency department and/or ambulance service. Students who successfully complete the course are eligible to sit for the national registry exam.

“The need locally, statewide, and nationally for qualified prehospital providers continues to grow, and in many areas is at a critical stage,” said Daryl Boucher, coordinator of NMCC’s emergency medical services program. “The aging population, aging EMS workforce, and the increase in the number of transfers from rural community hospitals to urban specialty centers has led to a shortage of personnel. NMCC’s program exceeds the national standard in curriculum requirements, assuring that graduates will be ‘field ready’ upon completion. The focus of our programs is to produce high quality EMTs.”

In addition to this EMT-Basic course, the College is planning to expand its emergency medical services offerings in the Valley. The College offers a two year associate degree EMS program, for which EMT-Basic is a requirement, that prepares paramedics. There are also one-year certificate offerings to upgrade an individual's training from EMT-Basic to EMT-Intermediate and from EMT-Intermediate to paramedic.

“As NMCC expands our EMS program to the St. John Valley, it will be important to have a pool of EMTs who are willing to obtain more education to become paramedics,” said Boucher.

The EMT-Basic course will be held on Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., beginning November 22 and ending on May 10 at the St. John Valley Technology Center in Frenchville. For more information or to register, interested persons can contact MSAD #27 Adult and Community Education at 834-3536, Madawaska & MSAD #33 Adult and Community Education at 728-6314, or NMCC's St. John Valley Off-Campus Center student support at 551-5781.

#####