

	<b>Lower Providence Emergency Medical Service Standard Operating Guidelines</b>	
	<b>Subject:</b> <i>Documents &amp; Documentation:</i> Drowning/Near Drowning Reporting Requirements	<b>SOG #102-005</b>
	<b>Approved:</b> Chief Christopher J. Reynolds	<b>Initiated:</b> July 2021  <b>Revised:</b> N/A

**Description:** LPEMS being a licensed agency by the Pennsylvania Department of Health must comply with policy set forth by the Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. The following is a directive set forth by the PA DOH for Drowning and Near Drowning incidents at public bathing and regulated facilities.

**Purpose:** The intention of this SOG is to ensure the organization and staff comply with directives set forth by the PA Department of Health. The following applied to all public swimming pool incidents and is not required for residential pool settings.

**Procedure:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that drowning is the leading cause of death in the United States for children between the ages of 1 and 4.

To assist in protecting the health and safety of all Pennsylvania citizens and the public, the Bureau of EMS is collaborating with the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS) to investigate drowning and near drowning events within the commonwealth, as required by BCHS policy.

BCHS needs to be notified whenever a drowning or near drowning event occurs at a state-regulated or public facility, so an Environmental Health Specialist can complete an operational inspection.

It is Bureau of EMS procedure for agencies to complete a drowning or near drowning event form and E-mail or Fax a copy of the form to BCHS within 72 hours of the incident so an inspection can be initiated. This 2019 updated superseded and rescinds the 2017-07 event reporting requirements.

LPEMS Policy is as follows:

1. The Report Form for Drowning /Near Drowning Calls shall be completed prior to the end of shift and forwarded to [Chief@medic322.com](mailto:Chief@medic322.com).
2. Copies will be properly stored, and Chief will forward to [Ripugh@pa.gov](mailto:Ripugh@pa.gov) within 24 hours of receipt.
  - a. Forms can be located on each desk top computer in fillable format, or at [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)