



University of Pittsburgh EMS Fellowship  
Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference  
Wilderness EMS Day 2025

**Only pre-registered people with proper gear may attend. For EMS con-ed you must sign in at 0830 briefing.**

**Briefing: Saturday, November 1: 8:30 AM.** goes until some-time after dark; **Staff/Instructors: arrive at 0800** at:

Keith Conover's house  
55 Sigrid Drive, Carnegie, PA 15106-3062

**Field exercise at:**

Scott Township Kane Woods Park, Whiskey Point Trailhead, Junction Old Bower Hill Rd, Main St, Scrubgrass Rd.

Google Maps: 2 Main St, Bridgeville, PA 15017

Prospective students: contact your organization's leaders

Instructors/staff: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/eR6NsM7qRa>

As in years past, we will have Wilderness EMS Day on a crisp, clear November Saturday. Actually, no, we *want* rain and sleet as it makes a better exercise ("high-fidelity simulation.") It will take place regardless of the weather: this is a *wilderness* EMS exercise. **You will be out in the field until after dark.**

The prime motivator is to provide field training for the University of Pittsburgh's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fellowship. An EMS Fellow is a physician who has completed medical school and an emergency medicine residency, and is pursuing additional training in the management of EMS systems. This curriculum requires education about Wilderness EMS, including a practical exercise. The Fellows learn by providing over-the-radio medical advice to you as you care for simulated patients in a wild setting.

WEMS Day is also a learning experience for members of emergency medicine, EMS and search and rescue (SAR) organizations. The Fellows need practice dealing with Wilderness EMS providers, and having EMS and SAR personnel there provides this. People of all levels, from medical students through wilderness first aid through EMS

providers of various levels to field-capable physicians will be participating.

We meet at Keith Conover's house at 8:30 AM (**instructors meet at 8 to prepare for the day**). Incident staff will brief us including safety and medical reporting, and move us to Kane Woods, a 5-minute drive. We will issue a printed gridded map. Once at Kane Woods, we dispatch teams to various grid locations. You navigate to them, keeping in touch via handheld radios. You find an instructor. The instructor gives you a scenario, which you manage, often with radio advice from one of the Fellows. Your team switches locations and scenarios as directed. At some inconvenient point when everyone is tired and cold and it's getting dark, the entire group will have to deal with a complex rescue. Once done, we head back to Keith's for a free dinner and a debrief.

**Attendance is limited to those who register and registration is limited;** there is no cost. People from these organizations usually participate:

- University of Pittsburgh ("Pitt") Emergency Medicine Residency
- Pitt/WVU Medical School Wilderness Medical Society Student Sections
- Pitt Student EMS

• **ASRC Groups:**

- Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group
- Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
- Maryland Search and Rescue
- Mountaineer Area Rescue Group
- Northwest Pennsylvania K-9 Search and Rescue
- Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Part of SAR (and EMS) is managing larger operations, and this is indeed a larger operation that needs to be managed much like a large lost-person search or a large multi-casualty EMS incident. So this provides an opportunity to exercise incident-management skills as well.

Have the CalTopo app on your phone. **You will need proper equipment for the day: long pants, boots with ankle support and grippy sole, daypack with raingear/extra warm clothes, lunch, water, and headlamp (no handheld lights or cellphone lights permitted).**

Reading <http://www.asrc.net/pub/ASRC-Essentials-for-SAR.pdf> will help you survive. If you want more advance preparation, check out <http://www.conovers.org/ftp/AppSAR-Drafts/Individual-Chapters>.