

Programs in BC3’s EMS open house can “benefit community,” administrator says

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Michaela Snyder, 22, of Natrona Heights, a six-year volunteer firefighter with the Buffalo Township Volunteer Fire Company in Sarver, practices checking for equality and reactivity of Luke Owrey’s pupils during Butler County Community College’s emergency medical technician certification training course Thursday, July 11, 2019, at the Cranberry Township Public Safety Training Center. Owrey, 18, of Grove City, and Snyder are among 22 students in the class.

(Butler, PA) Butler County Community College will host an open house July 24 for visitors interested in upcoming emergency medical technician and emergency medical responder certification training programs that, for active Butler County volunteer firefighters, can be 100 percent reimbursable.

Guests can tour classrooms and view equipment used during instruction by BC3’s Emergency Medical Services, accredited by the state Department of Health’s Bureau of EMS, and meet instructors from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Room 110 of the Science and Technology Building on BC3’s main campus in Butler Township.

In addition to BC3's EMT and EMR programs, visitors can also learn about additional noncredit programs such as advanced EMT, basic life support and Heartsaver cardiopulmonary resuscitation-automated external defibrillator, said Kristina Lynch, an EMS specialist at BC3.

BC3 also offers a 28-credit emergency services-EMS option workplace certificate, and a 60-credit emergency services-EMS option associate in applied science degree program.

A 184-hour EMT program scheduled from July 31 to Dec. 9 will provide basic training in all aspects of emergency medical care that an EMT is permitted to provide in Pennsylvania. Classes will be held from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on five Saturdays.

Firefighter fund can aid volunteers

"EMTs have the ability to give several different types of medication" that include epinephrine, naloxone, or nitroglycerine for those having chest pains, Lynch said. "EMTs have an advanced scope of practice, so they can do more."

That scope includes packaging patients for transport, applying splints or assisting advanced EMTs or paramedics, Lynch said, in procedures such as resuscitation and, as of September, placing monitors on a patient to transmit electrocardiogram information to a hospital.

A 68-hour EMR program, set for Aug. 20 to Dec. 10, will provide entry-level emergency training in those aspects of emergency medical care that an EMR is permitted to provide in the state. Classes are scheduled from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesdays and on one Saturday.

Among skills students can learn, Lynch said, is "how to manage a cardiac arrest, airway treatments and stanching bleeding. They would have more knowledge than someone who has just basic first aid. It does not have the clinical component like the EMT program."

EMT and EMR classes will be held in BC3's Science and Technology Building and require coursework outside of the classroom.

The EMT program costs \$700 and the EMR program, \$375.

Active Butler County volunteer firefighters who pursue BC3's noncredit EMT and EMR training programs would pay 50 percent initially. The Butler County Volunteer Firefighter Fund, established by the BC3 Education Foundation with contributions from the Cranberry Township Community Chest, would pay the remaining 50 percent.

The Butler County Volunteer Firefighter Fund will also reimburse active Butler County volunteer firefighters for their initial payment upon the firefighter earning certificates in EMT or EMR.

Students who successfully complete BC3's training programs must take psychomotor and cognitive exams through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians to obtain certification.

"The courses are beneficial to students and to the community," Lynch said. "The more people we have available who have that training, the better care and the better outcomes we can have for those in the community.

"By students advancing their education and having the opportunity to do so, the population in general has more providers to get to them in order to treat them quickly in the event of an emergency."

More than a dozen Butler County volunteer firefighters from the Buffalo Township, Callery, Cranberry Township, Harmony, Saxonburg, and South Butler districts or companies have been reimbursed for EMT or EMR courses at BC3 since Jan. 1, according to Michelle Jamieson, associate director of the BC3 Education Foundation.

The Butler County Volunteer Firefighter Fund also supports a \$500 Volunteer Firefighter Scholarship available each semester to eligible full- or part-time BC3 students enrolled in any credit program and who are active volunteer firefighters, Jamieson said.

Sixty students, which include non-firefighters, have completed BC3's EMT and advanced EMT courses since Jan. 1, Lynch said. Seventy-three are enrolled in current classes.

The deadline to register for the EMT training program is July 17, and for the EMR training, Aug. 6.

Those interested in attending the July 24 open house can RSVP at bc3.edu/ems-openhouse.

For more information, contact Lynch at 724-287-8711 Ext. 8418 or email kristina.lynch@bc3.edu.