

OHIO DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SAFE HAVEN PROGRAM FAQ



What is a safe haven program?

A safe haven program is a confidential path for individuals to seek help for burnout, mental health or substance use disorders. Once an individual is referred to the safe haven program, OhioPHP can provide referrals for community resources for stress, burnout, mental health or substance use disorders, individual counseling, legal counsel, and more. OhioPHP also provides comprehensive well-being screens for healthcare professionals, as well as long-term, therapeutic monitoring to observe and check the progress of one's recovery through therapy, group support, toxicology testing, and self-assessments.

What is monitoring?

Monitoring occurs when an assessment indicates that a Fire and EMS provider is experiencing an illness that could benefit from long-term, ongoing, and therapeutic support. A standard monitoring agreement is used as a tool to observe and check the progress of a person's illness and may range from 1-5 years. All monitoring agreements are individualized to best meet the needs of each participant and may include therapy, group support, toxicology testing, self-assessments, and advocacy from OhioPHP in regard to their success and progress.

What is included in OhioPHP's comprehensive well-being screenings?

OhioPHP offers a comprehensive well-being screen for healthcare professionals. We utilize a multi-disciplinary team approach to provide recommendations related to burnout, mental health disorders, substance use disorders and others. Screenings may include any/all of the following:

- Clinical interview(s) with master's level, licensed mental health counselor
- Clinical interview with a physician or nurse practitioner
- Pre-assessment screenings
- Toxicology testing (as necessary)

For information on program fees, please visit: www.ohiophp.org/oemsfees

Who is eligible to participate in the Division of EMS's safe haven program?

Division of EMS Certificate Holders and applicants.

Will the Division of EMS know about my safe haven program participation?

No - OhioPHP will not disclose to the Division of EMS the name, or any records associated with a certificate holder who reached out for community resource referrals, completed a well-being screening, or who may be enrolled in the safe haven program, as long as they are compliant with the terms of their monitoring agreement and OhioPHP has not deemed them a risk to themselves or others.

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How do I enroll in the safe haven program?

If you or a colleague needs help, contact OhioPHP. OhioPHP's clinical team will conduct an initial assessment then will provide recommendations that may include additional evaluation for burnout, mental health or substance use disorders, individual counseling, and/or any necessary treatment. Once a diagnosis has been made, certificate holders may enroll in long-term, therapeutic monitoring through the safe haven program.

Is there a cost associated with the safe haven program?

OhioPHP utilizes a sliding-scale structure for its fees. This ensures that we can continue to provide high-quality support while accommodating the diverse needs of our community. The sliding scale is designed to make our services accessible to all, regardless of financial circumstances. To learn more about your program fees visit www.ohiophp.org/oemsfees.

If I receive a diagnosis of a mental health or substance use disorder, what are the requirements to participate in the safe haven program?

After a diagnosis is made, OhioPHP will make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as needed. Once those are completed, OhioPHP may also recommend monitoring for 1-5 years. Monitoring agreements may include therapy, group support, toxicology testing, and self-assessments. As long as an individual is compliant with the terms of their monitoring agreement, safe haven program participation will remain confidential.

What role does OhioPHP have in the safe haven program?

OhioPHP is approved by the Division of EMS to provide referrals for community resources and to conduct well-being screens for the safe haven program. OhioPHP is also the designated monitoring organization administering the safe haven program, which allows for OhioPHP to provide services to the Division of EMS certificate holders confidentially.

If I am concerned a colleague may be suffering from a mental health or substance use disorder, what should I do?

A certificate holder must report to the board any unprofessional, incompetent, unethical, or illegal behavior of a colleague of which the person has knowledge. If a certificate holder believes a colleague is suffering from a substance use disorder or physical or mental impairment, they may contact OhioPHP in lieu of making report to the board.

For more information:
Ethics: OAC 4765-9-01
Safe haven rules: OAC 4765-10-07 & 4765-23-04
Professional Standards: OAC 4765-22-01