



EMS UPDATE

Winter 2008

Emergency Medical Services

NHTSA OFFICE OF EMS: FY07 PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND PROGRESS

As we begin another year, we thought you'd like to know what the Office of EMS has accomplished during 2007. The following is a list of our major activities during the past year:

NATIONAL EMS EDUCATION STANDARDS PROJECT

In April 2008, the National Association of EMS Educators will release draft three of the *National EMS Education Standards*. This third version includes revisions based on continued national EMS community input as well as direction given to the project team during the February 2008 National EMS Stakeholder Meeting held in Vienna, Virginia.

The third draft of the Instructional Guidelines (IG) — companion documents to the *Standards* — has not yet been revised and released for broad EMS community review. The project team anticipates the draft IG to be available by June 2008.

You can review and provide comments on the third-round drafts of the Standards at the project Web site: www.nemses.org.

FICEMS

As of December 2007, the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) had convened three times. In December 2006, FICEMS held its inaugural meeting, and elected NHTSA Administrator Nicole Nason as chair, established EMS priority issues to be addressed, and adopted a method of operations that included the establishment of a Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG, composed of Federal staff members, meets monthly to tackle EMS priority issues in support of improved coordination and visibility of Federal EMS activities.

In June 2007, during the second FICEMS meeting, the TWG reported to FICEMS members on their activities and issued a report that recommended the following actions:

- * Support a comprehensive National EMS Assessment.
- * Support the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS).
- * Support development of a Prehospital EMS Evidence-Based Practice Guideline Process.
- * Review the Institute of Medicine report: "The Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System."

* Create five committees:

- Data and Research
- Medical Oversight
- National EMS Assessment
- 9-1-1 and Medical Communications
- Preparedness

These new committees will meet monthly to accomplish tasks as established in the FICEMS charges.

At the December 2007 meeting:

- * Drew Dawson provided FICEMS members with an overview of the Technical Working Group activities in the past six months;
- * Reports were given by each of the Standing Committee chairs;
- * Language supporting EMS systems operating under medical direction was proposed and approved;
- * A proposal was adopted to sponsor a spring workshop to develop a process for Evidence-Based Practice Guidelines in EMS;
- * Dr. Yeskey presented information on Homeland Security Presidential Directive #21, being implemented by the Department of Health and Human Services, and Dr. Marcozi reported on activities to establish the Emergency Care Coordination Center; and
- * Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D., Assistant Secretary at the Department of Homeland Security Office of Health Affairs and DHS Chief Medical Officer, was elected as chairperson for the next year.

Visit the NHTSA EMS Web page for updates on FICEMS meetings and actions.

NATIONAL 9-1-1 OFFICE

The congressionally mandated National 9-1-1 Office is housed at NHTSA and is operated in conjunction with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the Department of Commerce. The Office is charged with the following three major responsibilities:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NHTSA Office of EMS: FY07 Programs, Projects, and Progress	1
DOT Secretary Peters Appoints First NEMSAC Members	3
Appointees to the New National EMS Advisory Council	4

1. Improve coordination among public and private entities at local, State, and national levels. The National 9-1-1 Office is represented on the FICEMS/TWG 9-1-1 and Medical Communications Committee, established in October of 2007. The committee is co-chaired by NHTSA and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff. The committee meets monthly to address the following charges:

- * Coordinate 9-1-1 activities and the input of information to the National 9-1-1 office.
- * Share, pool, and disseminate 9-1-1 information to constituencies of Federal agencies.
- * Develop strategies to increase the participation of 9-1-1 officials in programs and activities of local, regional, State, and Federal agencies.
- * Help improve the interface between 9-1-1 and the medical community.
- * Promote the interoperability of voice and data communications.

2. Serve as an informational clearinghouse on practices, procedures, and technology used in the implementation of E-911 services. The National 9-1-1 Office has established a Web site at <http://www.e-911ico.gov>, and has contracted with the Redflash Group to assist in gathering and developing information to be posted and shared online.

3. Administer a grant program for the benefit of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). Pending a formal appropriation for the grant program, the National 9-1-1 Office has begun preparing for two major functions related to the grant program: 1) the development of grant regulations, and 2) the development of processes for grant administration.

The National 9-1-1 Office has also established a cooperative agreement with the National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators to develop a model State 9-1-1 plan, and to develop a data set that can measure the implementation progress of advanced 9-1-1 technology services.

NEMSIS

Significant progress has been made in the ongoing implementation of the National EMS Information System. To date, forty-nine States have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement NEMSIS. More than a million patient records have been submitted by the four States now fully participating in NEMSIS. A total of 13 States, according to NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center projections, will be submitting statewide data to the National EMS Database by the end of 2008.

The NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center has updated several documents on the NEMSIS Web site. XML data files have been revised to include more diverse sample data. And "Field Values" that were not applicable were removed from the "NEMSIS SQL Lookup Table Script" and the "NEMSIS Data Dictionary." The revised documents are available on the NEMSIS Web site at <http://www.nemsis.org/index.html>.

NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) INITIATIVE

Successful implementation of the NG9-1-1 Initiative would enable the general public to make a 9-1-1 "call" in real-time using voice, text, or video from any wired, wireless, or Internet Protocol (IP)-based device to the PSAP, resulting in greatly enhanced data sharing with emergency communication networks.

To accomplish this goal, the Intelligent Transportation System Joint Program Office has funded a contract with a team headed by the firm of Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) that covers the development of:

- * National architecture and high-level design for the NG9-1-1 system;
- * Proof of concept (POC) demonstration; and
- * Transition plan for NG9-1-1 implementation.

To date, the following tasks have been completed:

- * Revision of the Concept of Operations
- * Functional Requirements
- * Architecture Analysis
- * Preliminary Analysis of Costs, Benefits, and Risks
- * Transition Issues Identification

Related documents are posted on the NG9-1-1 Initiative Web page at www.its.dot.gov/ng911.

The BAH team has also begun planning for the Proof of Concept (POC) demonstration by prioritizing functional requirements, deciding which requirements will be included in the POC, and recruiting PSAPs to participate. Fifty PSAPs have expressed interest in participating, and five PSAPs have been selected to participate in the POC demonstration, which is scheduled to be deployed in spring 2008.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS

As required by the *President's National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza: Implementation Plan* (May 2006), NHTSA in cooperation with its Federal and non-Federal partners developed statewide EMS pandemic influenza guidelines, as well as model protocols for 9-1-1 call centers and PSAPs. These publications, *EMS Pandemic Influenza Guidelines for Statewide Adoption and Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: Recommendations for Protocol Development for 9-1-1 Personnel and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)*, have been completed and may be downloaded now from the NHTSA EMS Web page.

PREPAREDNESS

At the June 2007 meeting of the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) the creation of five Technical Working Group (TWG) committees was approved. As part of the TWG, these committees comprise Federal staff from FICEMS member agencies.

One of these five committees, the Preparedness Committee, is charged with reporting to the TWG on the following:

- * Methods of coordination among Federal agencies
- * National Response Plan (NRP) and other pertinent Federal activities
- * Development of standards, as appropriate, and national assessment for EMS preparedness
- * Clarification of Federal responsibilities for EMS response to disasters

The first meeting of the FICEMS/TWG Preparedness Committee was held on September 21, 2007, at NHTSA headquarters. For

updates on Preparedness Committee activities, look for the upcoming issue of *EMS Update* or visit the NHTSA EMS Web page.

STATE EMS TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS

During FY07, State EMS Reassessments were conducted in Michigan and Kansas. To date, 52 State, Territory, and Program EMS Assessments have been conducted, as well as 15 State EMS Reassessments.

TRAUMA FIELD TRIAGE DECISION SCHEME

The American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma (ACS/COT) publication, *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2006*, contains national trauma field triage criteria that serve as the basis for State and local triage decisions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NHTSA, working with national EMS, medical and surgical organizations, such as the American College of Surgeons, have updated the trauma field triage decision scheme based on the best available scientific evidence combined, when necessary, with expert opinion. Factors widely known for influencing the severity of injury, such as seat belts and air bags have been incorporated into these nationally promulgated criteria.

These guidelines are intended for the prehospital care provider and, through a comprehensive dissemination process, will be distributed to a wide array of stakeholders. The Trauma Field Triage Decision Scheme has been endorsed by numerous national professional health care organizations and have the potential to significantly update and enhance trauma care.

THE EMS WORKFORCE

In June 2007, NHTSA released "Feasibility for an EMS Workforce Safety and Health Surveillance System." Developed in cooperation with national EMS organizations and Federal agencies involved in EMS, this report examined the feasibility of creating a national program for EMS worker injury and illness surveillance.

Drawing upon the conclusions of this report, NHTSA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have partnered to conduct a pilot study of EMS worker injury and illness. Pilot study data will be collected using the NIOSH occupational injury and illness supplement to the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS-Work), which captures all work-related injuries and illnesses treated in a statistically based sample of U.S. hospital emergency departments. The pilot study will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of NEISS-Work in filling in existing gaps in national EMS worker injury and illness surveillance.

DOT SECRETARY PETERS APPOINTS FIRST NEMSAC MEMBERS

Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters has appointed 25 emergency medical services stakeholders to serve on the newly chartered National Emergency Medical Services Council (NEMSAC). The council's mission is to provide DOT with "inside-the-EMS-community" recommendations and advice.

LEVERAGING EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

The NEMSAC appointees represent a range of EMS disciplines and representatives, including volunteer and career EMS responders; EMS State directors; medical researchers and educators; highway safety professionals; dispatchers and air medical personnel; EMS physicians, surgeons, and nurses; data management specialists, homeland security experts, and others. See pages 4-5 to preview a list of the new appointees, along with a brief biography for each.

Specific issues NEMSAC will address include national EMS needs assessment and strategic planning; development of standards, guidelines, benchmarks, and data collection relating to EMS; methods for improving and strengthening community EMS systems and workforce development; training, exercises, equipment, and medical oversight; and improved coordination and support of EMS activities among Federal programs — and other topics to be determined by NHTSA.

EXPANDING COLLABORATION

The NHTSA Office of EMS (OEMS) has always sought to facilitate a consensus-based process for developing effective Federal programs by collaborating with other Federal agencies and with EMS community representatives. In fact, understanding that the end-users of Federal emergency medical programs and products are EMS providers, OEMS has long held that EMS providers should be directly involved in the development of these Federal programs.

In 2006, NHTSA moved to formalize its collaborative approach to working with EMS providers, consumers, and other stakeholders. In keeping with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to provide ongoing recommendations to a Federal agency, NHTSA requested that an official committee of EMS stakeholders be chartered. In response, Transportation Secretary Peters determined that the establishment of an advisory committee was necessary, approved its formation, and NEMSAC was created.

AN OVERWHELMING RESPONSE

In December 2006, NHTSA put out a call for nominees to NEMSAC through the Federal Register. The response from the EMS community was overwhelming: more than 400 EMS representatives from across the country were nominated by their peers in less than two months' time. With so many qualified applicants, the selection process was a difficult one. In accordance with FACA requirements, NHTSA conducted a thorough review of all applications, and then sent a final nominee list to Secretary Peters for her consideration.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

NHTSA realizes that many more qualified individuals were nominated than could be appointed to the council. However, interested parties can still make valuable contributions to NEMSAC in several ways. For example, an individual or organization may request to be placed on the NEMSAC mailing list, submit written comments to the council, and attend NEMSAC meetings. Time will be set aside during each meeting for public comment. NHTSA encourages all those interested to take advantage of this opportunity to have your voice heard. Congratulations to all those appointees selected. The NHTSA OEMS team looks forward to working with NEMSAC, as well as the greater EMS community.

APPOINTEES TO THE NEW NATIONAL EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHARLES ABBOTT – is chief of the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety. Abbott has been instrumental in involving the State EMS Office in the State Traffic Records Committee and in the development of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. He is a member of the Nevada Executive Committee on Traffic Safety, chairman of the Nevada Committee for Testing on Intoxication, and Western Region representative on the Executive Board of the Governors Highway Safety Association.

DIA GAINOR, MPA – is Idaho's State Emergency Medical Services director and a long-standing member and past president of the National Association of State EMS Officials. She has been an active participant in many national EMS activities and is an expert in the field of quality improvement. Gainor is also well known for her work with the Intelligent Transportation Systems' Public Safety Advisory Group and with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan Peer Exchange.

KYLE R. GORMAN, MBA, EMT-P – is the executive officer of the Clackamas County (Oregon) Fire District #1. He has served in a variety of capacities on agencies dealing with public EMS, private ambulance service, hospital-based ambulance services, and EMS management and oversight. He has been active with the International Association of Fire Chiefs and has served as a member of the National Fire Protection Association's Technical Committee on EMS.

DR. JOSEPH HECK, D.O. – is a practicing emergency physician and an EMS medical director for Clark County (Nevada). Dr. Heck has been involved with EMS since becoming an EMT in 1979. He is a Nevada State Senator and serves as vice-chairman of the Transportation and Homeland Security Committee. He is active with Urban Search and Rescue and serves on the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Search & Rescue and Tactical Medicine teams.

PATRICIA KUNZ HOWARD, PH.D. – is operations manager of Emergency and Trauma Services at the University of Kentucky Hospital and EMS training coordinator for the Lexington, Kentucky, Division of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Howard has 24 years of experience in emergency nursing, and has a distinguished history of local, State, and national contributions to EMS, including serving as president of the Emergency Nurses Association in 2005.

THOMAS JUDGE – is the executive director of LifeFlight of Maine, a position he has held since 1999. He is immediate past president of the Association of Air Medical Services, which represents over 300 air medical services in the country. Judge has more than 30 years of experience in the EMS field.

KENNETH R. KNIPPER – has been a prominent and outspoken advocate for volunteer EMS providers both in Kentucky and nationally for over 25 years. In addition to his direct volunteer patient care experience, he has chaired several statewide committees and served on the Kentucky State EMS Council. Knipper represents Kentucky's volunteer fire and EMS personnel on the National Volunteer Fire Council and has chaired its EMS committee since 1995.

KURT M. KRUMPERMAN, M.S. – is the senior vice president of Federal Affairs and Strategic Initiatives for Rural/Metro Corpo-

ration, a large national ambulance service provider. Krumperman has played a prominent role in many national EMS activities. He has served as an EMT, a paramedic, an ambulance supervisor, a member of the Arizona EMS Council, and as general manager and vice president of the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services.

BAXTER LARMON, PH.D., MICP – is professor of emergency medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles and the founding director of the UCLA Center for Prehospital Care. Larmon founded the Prehospital Care Research Forum, which has published over 400 original EMS-related studies. In 2000, the Journal of Emergency Medical Services named him as one of the 20 most influential people in EMS.

JEFFREY T. LINDSEY, PH.D. – has more than 27 years of experience at all levels of EMS, including rural, suburban, and urban, as well as fire-based and third service (municipal). Lindsey is currently fire chief of Estero (Florida) Fire Rescue and serves as adjunct faculty in the bachelor of EMS program at St. Petersburg College. He is active with both the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association and with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and is a member of the Florida State EMS Advisory Council.

DANIEL E. MEISELS, MPA – is manager of the EMS Program Planning and Special Projects at New York-Presbyterian Emergency Medical Services in New York City. He has provided emergency care as a paramedic in several different hospital-based EMS programs and has served as a member of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York, Inc., the New York City Regional EMS Advisory Committee, and the Greater New York Hospital Association Emergency Preparedness Council.

ROBERT OENNING – is the Enhanced 9-1-1 Program administrator for the State of Washington and has served in this capacity since the program's 1993 inception. Under his guidance and direction, Washington implemented statewide enhanced 9-1-1 service in 1998. In addition, Oenning holds several national positions in 9-1-1-focused user groups and organizations, including the National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators.

AARRON REINERT – is executive director of Lakes Region EMS in Minnesota. From 2001 to 2004, he served as Minnesota's State EMS data manager and prepared his State to become the first to submit statewide data to the National EMS Database. In his current position, Reinert employs data within the local EMS system to support performance improvement, customer satisfaction, and maintain system cost controls.

JOHN SACRA, M.D. – is an emergency physician and medical director for the Medical Control Board – the prehospital emergency medical services system for Tulsa and Oklahoma City – that serves over one million Oklahomans. Dr. Sacra has consistently promoted emergency medical services improvements and trauma system development. In 2006, the American College of Emergency Physicians presented Dr. Sacra with its prestigious Emergency Medical Services Award.

RITU SAHNI, M.D., MPH – is an emergency physician on the faculty of Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), and completed an EMS fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh.

He serves as medical director for the regional OHSU Emergency Communications Center and the Lake Oswego Fire Department. Dr. Sahni has also been an active member of the National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians. Recently, Dr. Sahni became the Oregon State EMS medical director.

JOSE SALAZAR – currently serves as battalion chief, EMS Training for Loudoun County (Virginia) Fire and Rescue Department. During his tenure, the agency’s paramedic program became accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Salazar is also a life member of the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad. He has a master’s degree in public health and health systems management with a concentration in EMS.

JEFFREY P. SALOMONE, M.D., FACS – is a trauma surgeon, associate professor of surgery at Emory University School of Medicine, and deputy chief of surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Salomone has been involved with EMS since becoming an EMT while in high school. He is associate medical director of the National Association of EMTs Prehospital Trauma Life Support course taught to EMS providers throughout the world.

RICHARD A. SERINO – began his emergency medical services career as an EMT, and rose through the ranks to become chief of the Department of Boston (Massachusetts) EMS. In addition, he helped develop and now oversees the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness, and is director of Boston Metropolitan Medical Response System. Serino attended the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, and several other prominent post-graduate leadership programs

LINDA K. SQUIRREL – is the EMS special projects coordinator for the Cherokee Nation. She is the founding president of the National Native American EMS Association and currently serves as its treasurer. Squirrel is both the founding president and the current president of the Oklahoma Native American EMS Association and served on the Oklahoma Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. She has represented Native Americans in a variety of national projects.

KEVIN STALEY, MPA – has considerable expertise and experience in addressing disaster and homeland security issues. He is the director of medical services for the Mecklenberg EMS Agency in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he currently manages disaster preparedness, mass casualty, and terrorism response programs, and EMS-related emergency management and homeland security operations and projects.

MATTHEW TATUM – has served as the EMS coordinator and emergency manager for Henry County, Virginia, since 2002. Tatum is responsible for collaborating with government officials and citizens in planning the county’s emergency response plans, and for coordinating volunteer and career EMS agencies. He has also served as a local government police officer and as a Virginia State Trooper.

CHRIS D. TILDEN, PH.D. – is the Director of the Office of Local and Rural Health in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. In Kansas, he chaired a rural EMS advisory committee and has championed innovative statewide EMS programs and services. As a member of the National Organization of State Offices

of Rural Health, Tilden has been involved in a variety of local, State, and national efforts to improve emergency medical services — particularly in rural areas.

J. THOMAS WILLIS – is a 23-year full-time firefighter/paramedic, providing both fire suppression and EMS response. He serves on the Illinois State EMS Advisory Council, the State EMS for Children Advisory Council, and chairs the EMS Advisory Council’s Committee on Rural Recruitment and Retention and Rural Issues. He also serves as chairman of the EMS Standing Committee of the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois and on the International Association of Fire Fighters’ EMS Committee.

GARY L. WINGROVE – works with Government Relations and Strategic Affairs at Mayo Medical Transportation. His nomination to NEMSAC was submitted by the executive vice president of the American Hospital Association. He has significant breadth of EMS experience, including public and private sectors, hospital and non-hospital, and urban and rural settings. Wingrove has served as the Minnesota State EMS director, and worked on a variety of other State, national, and international EMS projects.

JOSEPH WRIGHT, M.D., MPH – Dr. Wright is a pediatric emergency physician who has practiced for 17 years at the Children’s National Medical Center in the District of Columbia. He is a professor of pediatrics, emergency medicine and prevention and community health at the George Washington University Schools of Medicine and Public Health.

NHTSA OFFICE OF EMS

Drew Dawson , Director drew.dawson@dot.gov	202-366-9966
David Bryson , EMT-B dave.bryson@dot.gov	202-366-4302
Laurie Flaherty , RN, MS laurie.flaherty@dot.gov	202-366-2705
Cathy Gotshall , ScD cathy.gotschall@dot.gov	202-493-0143
Susan McHenry , MS susan.mchenry@dot.gov	202-366-6540
Cynthia McNair cynthia.mcnair@dot.gov	202-366-5440
Gamunu Wijetunge , NREMT-P gamunu.wijetunge@dot.gov	202-493-2793

ADDRESS

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of EMS
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., NTI-140, W44-325
Washington, DC 20590
Phone: 202-366-5440 Fax: 202-366-7149
Email: nhtsa.ems@dot.gov Web page: www.nhtsa.gov

To order EMS publications, visit the NHTSA Web site at www.nhtsa.gov, and click on “Traffic Safety Materials & Publications” in the Quick Clicks section.

