National Association of State EMS Officials
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News Release

NASEMSO Awarded Two Federal Awards for Projects of National Significance

October 15, 2015 (Falls Church, Va.) The National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) is pleased to announce that the following awards have been finalized with the U.S. Department of Commerce National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Ambulance Design Guidelines and Standards. The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), Measurement Science and Engineering Office of Special Programs finalized a grant with NASEMSO on September 30 2015 to compile and organize all contemporary documents and resources related to ambulance design. This increasingly complex information from diverse sources is vital for ensuring the maximum physical protection of the EMS workforce, patients being transported in ambulances, and the public travelling in the vicinity of ambulances. The public benefit is maximum safety design and features being incorporated into all new ambulances purchased in the United States.

It is estimated that there are approximately 13,000 local ambulance services utilizing 67,000 ground vehicles that provide approximately 28 million patient transports each year. Until recently, the safety and design standards have been limited in scope and science. Recognizing the critical importance of safely designed and constructed ambulances, in addition to the ongoing efforts of the General Services Administration and the Ambulance Manufacturers Division of the National Truck Equipment Association, ambulance safety became the focus of activity from a number of other agencies, including NIST, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services. Having several agencies working on ambulance standards is providing considerable information; however, that information is currently in multiple locations and can be challenging to locate and understand.

This effort will initiate a 12-month process to identify, verify, summarize, and compile contemporary science and resources related to ambulance design guidelines and standards into a single electronic reference point, which will be made accessible to local governmental officials, chief administrators of local ambulance services, and state EMS offices. This project will result in the development and dissemination of an *Ambulance Design Resource Compendium*, a one-stop means of accessing and learning about tools, standards, tests, and recommendation documents deemed essential for consideration in ambulance design and regulation. Questions related to this project should be directed to the project's Technical Subject Matter Expert, Jay Bradshaw (bradshaw@nasemso.org).

Developing Evidence-Based Guidelines for Fatigue Risk Management in Emergency Medical Services. On Sept. 29, 2015, following a competitive request for proposals, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) finalized a contract with NASEMSO and the Department of Emergency Medicine at Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS) to address the growing concern for the sleep health and fatigue of emergency medical services (EMS) clinicians and the impact of fatigued workers on safety.

Recent research shows that greater than half of EMS clinicians report fatigue while at work, half obtain less than six hours of sleep per night, half rate their sleep quality as poor, and greater than one-third report excessive daytime sleepiness. Standards and guidelines for fatigue risk management in the EMS setting are limited. The need for fatigue risk management guidelines and resources tailored to the EMS occupation is compelling.

The overarching goal of this project is to examine the published literature and develop Evidence-Based Guidelines (EBGs) for fatigue risk management in the EMS environment. A set of performance measures will accompany the EBGs and support evaluation of impact following adoption of one or more EBGs. NASEMSO Executive Director Dia Gainor and a team of NASEMSO staff will provide project coordination, support, and lead dissemination. Senior Scientist at CHS, Dr. Daniel Patterson, will work closely with the NHTSA project sponsor, Dr. J. Stephen Higgins, as Principal Investigator of the research component. They will lead an interdisciplinary team of sleep and fatigue scientists, EBG development specialists, and experts in emergency medicine and EMS. Project leaders will provide regular updates on a dedicated website and at national meetings that involve EMS clinicians, administrators, and relevant stakeholders. Final results are expected within 14-16 months of the project start date. Findings will be submitted for peer-reviewed publication and disseminated widely for review and application. Questions related to this project should be directed to Kathy Robinson (robinson@nasemso.org).

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