

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES HOMELAND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

PRESENTED BY
THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
STATE EMS OFFICIALS
TO THE TRANSITION
TEAM OF PRESIDENT
DONALD TRUMP

*The National Association
of State EMS Officials
(NASEMSO)
supports its members
in developing EMS
policy and oversight,
and provides vision,
leadership and resources
in the development and
improvement of state,
regional and local EMS
and emergency care
systems.*

NASEMSO is the lead national organization for Emergency Medical Systems (EMS), a respected voice for national EMS policy with comprehensive concern and commitment for the development of integrated, community-based, and consistent EMS systems. The systems use public health principles, data and evidence as a basis for safe and effective care in day-to-day operations as well as during catastrophic events.



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POLICY PRIORITIES

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

NASEMSO ensures that EMS systems and providers have access to the resources and information necessary to prepare for and respond to an event. Whether events are natural, man-made or from a terrorist incident, disaster and domestic preparedness is a top priority. NASEMSO believes that EMS must be fully integrated into all phases of the national emergency management preparedness system, including early planning.

EMS MUST BE FULLY INTEGRATED INTO ALL PHASES OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPAREDNESS SYSTEM.

NASEMSO believes that no single agency or level of government, business sector, or individual community can successfully mitigate a natural or man-made disaster

on its own. A truly national mitigation strategy must be grounded in collaboration and partnership between all response partners, to include federal, state, regional and local. Risk reduction actions are most effective when multiple parties have the same results in mind and are mutually supportive.

As the country continues to deal with a variety of national threats, EMS, as a primary stakeholder in public health and homeland security, needs to be a principal participant in all preparedness initiatives, equal to but separate from police and fire services. Threats that affect our nation today include but are not limited to extreme weather, emerging infectious disease outbreaks and cyber security. More severe and costly disasters are becoming the standard. As such, EMS is concerned with the actions, policies and strategies that are needed to mitigate, respond to and recover from these various potential threats. Health care delivery systems must continue to review and update medical preparedness

plans and ensure there are adequate resources, including personal protection equipment (PPE), to address potential future threats increasing in frequency and impact.

The federal government can benefit from the expertise and resources of both public and private EMS providers with experience in providing emergency prehospital care services during and immediately after disasters and emergency outbreaks of infectious disease. To ensure that our shared goals succeed, it is imperative that EMS stakeholders are involved in the full cycle of any strategy, policy, and plan development efforts related to national preparedness. This includes areas of prevention, protection, response, mitigation, and recovery.



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FUNDING

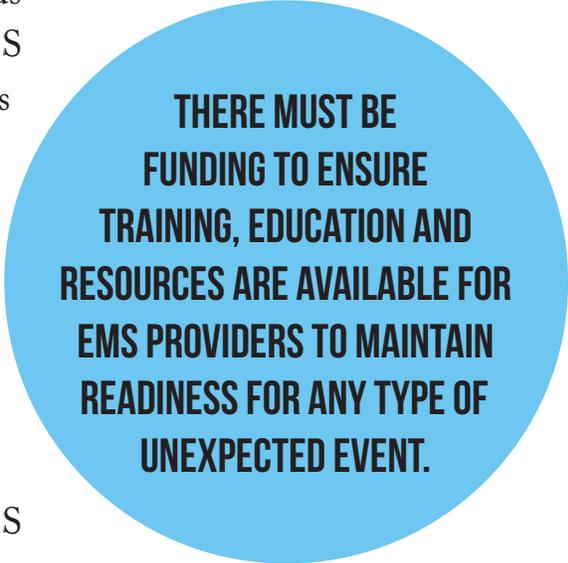
Although the nation has improved preparedness activities through various federal grant programs, there are still no federal funding grants dedicated specifically to EMS. While many of the federal grant programs identify EMS as a priority, there is no mandate for the quantity of grant funds, if any, to be allocated to EMS preparedness. Some of these federal grant programs that have funded State EMS Offices include:

- Urban Area Security Initiatives, administered by Department of Homeland Security
- Assistance to Fire Fighter Grants
- Hospital Preparedness Program, administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and
- Ebola, administered by CDC

Funds allocation to state and territory EMS offices and EMS Providers is inconsistent across the United States. While many states have received grant funds from their various programs, many state EMS Offices and EMS providers have not. Less than 10% of all grant money available for national preparedness activities goes to EMS.¹ It is therefore a priority for NASEMSO that there be a sustained grant funding program for EMS for all hazards preparedness initiatives, including public health and medical, in order to maintain and strengthen the nation's homeland security and health care delivery system. There must be funding available to ensure training, education and necessary resources are available in order for EMS providers to maintain a state of readiness for any type of unexpected event.

In addition, NASEMSO believes there must be coordination and

streamlining of preparedness grants from all federal agencies to eliminate redundancy and ensure funds availability for EMS agencies.



THERE MUST BE FUNDING TO ENSURE TRAINING, EDUCATION AND RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR EMS PROVIDERS TO MAINTAIN READINESS FOR ANY TYPE OF UNEXPECTED EVENT.

INFORMATION SHARING

There must be effective information sharing between and including all response partners. This collaborative effort is an essential instrument to assure that EMS stakeholders are informed of potential emerging threats, thus assuring an effective response. There must be a robust strategy including all stakeholders in both national discussions and development

¹ EMS Domestic Preparedness Improvement Strategy 2015, NASEMSO 2010 and 2013 Status Report: State EMS Office Involvement in Domestic Preparedness Efforts, 2015 Domestic Preparedness Funding Survey

of federal initiatives, resulting in decision-making about the security of the homeland.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

There must be a process for the delivery of sustained input from local, state, tribal, territorial and public and private engagement to key federal decision-makers on homeland security, public health and medical initiatives. This input will improve and enhance efforts in medical

readiness to address injuries, illness and exposure to potential infectious disease outbreaks. Funding must be available to support EMS preparedness and response efforts to enhance medical surge capacity and promote education, medical countermeasures and mass prophylaxis. In addition, there should be a critical focus on federal initiatives in preparedness and response activities of prehospital care

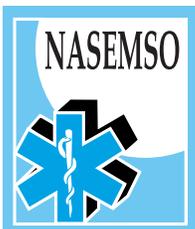
and the role of public, private, career and volunteer EMS providers.

EMS must perform an active role with federal agencies to lead national efforts enhancing health and medical readiness for disasters and acts of terrorism.



LOOKING AHEAD

NASEMSO seeks to work with national leaders to address these issues, and offer our members' professional experience as a resource. NASEMSO is a notable partner in protecting our nation against vulnerabilities and developing safe, effective, and efficient homeland security policies that our leaders can embrace. NASEMSO is committed to being a leading voice on preparedness and response homeland security issues and initiatives. NASEMSO looks forward to working with the administration to reinforce and strengthen our national emergency preparedness strategies.



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