



HITS Committee Meeting
February 8, 2012
3:00 P.M. EST Teleconference

Meeting Record

Attending:

Dennis Blair, Chair (AL)	Gloria Hale (NC)	Marissa Saccoccio
Katrina Altenhofen (IA)	Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)	Tomi St Mars (AZ)
Jay Bradshaw (ME)	Dan Lee (IL)	Garry Steele (NE)
Greg Brown (AR)	Greg Natsch (MO)	Matt Tatum
Frank Cheatham (VA)	Susan McHenry (NHTSA)	J. D. Wagoner
Dean Cole (NE)	Sue Morris (OH)	Jolene Whitney (UT)
Robert Cooney (PA)	Jay Ostby (WY)	Scott Winston (VA)
Chip Cooper (NH)	Sue Prentiss (Speaker)	C. Wright-Johnson (MD)
John Cramer (ID)	Jason Rhodes (RI)	
Dia Gainor (NASEMSO)	Eric Rossmeisl (RI)	

- I. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Dennis Blair called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM EST. He welcomed committee members and guests who joined the meeting for the presentation on NFPA 1917.

- II. **NFPA 1917 Ambulance Standards Update & Survey** – Suzanne Prentiss, former New Hampshire State EMS Director, presented an overview of the NFPA 1917 Ambulance Standard process and timeline. (The presentation is available on the NASEMSO HITS webpage [NASEMSO NFPA 1917](#)). Sue represented NASEMSO on the Technical Committee, which developed the standards over the last two-plus years. Sue added that Jay Bradshaw will be replacing her as the NASEMSO representative on the committee and she will serve as his alternate. The NFPA 1917 standard is intended to replace the GSA's KKK standards, which are specifications for ambulances purchased by the government. Former President Reagan issued an executive order requiring that various government standards be replaced by standards created by non-governmental agencies whenever possible. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) was approached about developing the automotive ambulance standard because of its experience in standard-setting. The initial fear from some in the EMS community was that fire interests would change the concept of an ambulance, but that has not been the case. The 1917 Technical Committee was comprised of many different interests, with ambulance manufacturers as the largest represented group. There are many new safety standards included that are not presently required by KKK. Several on the Committee wanted to see additional safety standards, but testing is still underway to determine what standards are effective. As a compromise to those seeking additional safety requirements, the NFPA has agreed to allow the revision process to begin immediately after the standard becomes effective (projected to be in January 2013). This is an accelerated process, as NFPA standards do not normally begin the revision cycle until at least 5 years after completing the last revision. Although the standards are not projected to be effective until 2013, Sue said that some ambulance manufacturers are already starting to build vehicles to the new standards.

The HITS Committee will be sending out a short survey to state directors regarding states' current ambulance standards and whether states plan to update statutes or rules to adopt the new NFPA 1917 standard.

- III. **DHS/NIST Ambulance Patient Compartment Design Workshop, Feb 29, Baltimore** – Mary Hedges reported that the DHS/NIST project will be conducting a 3-hour ambulance patient compartment workshop at *EMS Today* in Baltimore on February 29. Persons attending the Conference are encouraged to RSVP to jennifer.marshall@nist.com if interested in participating. The workshop will focus on improving safety, ergonomics and performance in the patient compartment. NASEMSO President Randy Kuykendall intends to participate in the workshop.
- IV. **EMS Presentation for Highway Safety Meetings (Work Plan Goal 3)** – Dia has developed a power point presentation on EMS which she gave at the Minnesota “Toward Zero Deaths” Conference. She will be refining and presenting it at the Michigan Highway Safety Summit in March. She is writing speaker notes to accompany the presentation and will make it available to NASEMSO members who are asked to speak about EMS at highway safety meetings. Several persons on the call expressed their interest in and need for the presentation. Dia will notify members when the presentation has been completed and will post it on the HITS webpage. Mary added that this is one of the tasks in the HITS workplan, and it should be a valuable tool for NASEMSO members wishing to interact with and educate their highway safety colleagues about EMS.
- V. **Project and Committee Updates**
 - A. **Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) National Strategy Update** - Dia Gainor reported that EMS was one of the strategies that was retained and highlighted in the national TZD document, which is still being drafted. This is an important accomplishment for EMS, as many of the strategies were eliminated from the latest draft because it became excessively lengthy.
 - B. **TRB 2012 Annual Meeting Report** - Dia attended the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, in January, which was attended by some 10,700 people, predominantly highway engineers. She participated in the EMS Safety Subcommittee chaired by Nadine Levick and several other related committee meetings.
 - C. **NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition** - Scott Winston attended the coalition meeting in January after a year of no meetings. They reaffirmed the strategic plan and the four working groups, including the TIM Network, the research working group, the interoperability and operations workgroups.
 - D. **NCHRP 20-24(37) K, Measuring Performance State DOTs – Serious Crash Injury** – Dia reported this project was brought to her attention recently and there appears to be no EMS involvement. She is concerned that the contractor does not know EMS.
 - E. **NCHRP 20-05, Models for Emergency Response within Golden Hour** - Dean Cole, Jim DeTienne and Dia serve on the panel overseeing this synthesis project. Fourteen states with the highest fatality rate will be surveyed as part of the project.
 - F. **NCHRP 17-57, Development of an Improved Metric for Serious Traffic Crash Injuries**- Dia also serves on this panel. It is a 2 year project, funded at \$450,000. The University of Michigan Transportation Center and the University of Utah (Clay Mann) were awarded the contract. Four state EMS offices are involved.

G. **CUBRC Center for Transportation Injury & Research Project** - Dia Gainor explained that this transportation center at SUNY in upstate New York has a sizeable earmark from Congress for this project. Included is the further development of the Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE), a project which was conceived of and initially created by NASEMSO.

VI. **Federal/State Partner Interaction (Examples of State EMS partnering with Hwy/Transp)** – Jolene Whitney said she has been meeting with their highway safety counterparts in Utah to plan the state highway safety conference. They will have a complete EMS track in the highway safety conference and it will include EMSC.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 P.M. EST.

The meeting record was respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.