



NASEMSO Highway Mass Casualty Readiness Project – 2010-2011

EMS Incident Response & Readiness Assessment (EIRRA)

The **EMS Incident Response and Readiness Assessment (EIRRA)** is a measurement tool currently being developed by a multi-disciplinary team led by the **National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO)**. EIRRA is designed to *assess the level of preparedness for response to a mass casualty incident*. It is intended to be used by state, regional and local emergency medical services (EMS) agencies to evaluate the EMS system's capability to respond to large scale emergency incidents based on actions, activities, and arrangements performed in advance of an incident. EIRRA was conceptualized following the 2008 Mexican Hat, Utah, crash involving a bus transporting 53 people returning from a ski vacation. All 53 passengers were injured - nine fatally. The roll-over occurred in a remote area challenged by limited access to communications, emergency medical response/transport services and hospital capacity, particularly trauma centers.

The EIRRA assessment is intended to *measure emergency medical resources critical to optimal EMS response to large scale events*. The results can be used to prioritize and select EMS and highway safety activities. They can also be used as a scorecard, establishing benchmarks and measuring progress for EMS systems at a local, regional and statewide level.

A special focus of the NASEMSO HITS (Highway Incident and Traffic Systems) Committee, the EIRRA project is led by Dia Gainor, Chief of the Idaho EMS Bureau, and Chair of the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) to the US Department of Transportation. EIRRA is funded by NASEMSO through a grant from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, Office of Emergency Medical Services. The projected completion date is June 2011.

For further information about the Highway Mass Casualty Readiness Project, contact NASEMSO Program Advisor Mary Hedges at hedges@nasemso.org or visit NASEMSO's website at <http://www.nasemso.org/Projects/HITS/index.asp>.