



HITS Committee Meeting

February 12, 2014

3:00 PM EST

Meeting Record

Attending:

Keith Wages, Chair
Jay Bradshaw (ME)
John Cramer (ID)

Dia Gainor (NASEMSO)
Carol Cunningham OH
Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)

Susan McHenry (NHTSA)
Nick Mercuri (NH)
Sue Morris (OH)

Welcome and Roll Call – Keith Wages, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM, noting that many were having trouble joining the call due to the snow storm affecting much of the East.

Review & Approval of December 11 Meeting Record – The meeting record was approved without changes.

NFPA 1917 Ambulance Standards Update - Jay Bradshaw, NASEMSO's representative on the NFPA 1917 Technical Committee, reported the public comments received last summer were reviewed by the Technical Committee at meetings in September and December of 2013. Every comment was reviewed and acted upon. The committee action was compiled into a ballot which is being mailed to the technical committee members today for a vote. Assuming the committee votes in favor of the latest version, there will be another opportunity to comment on the revised standards. Jay advised NASEMSO members to focus on Chapter 6, which deals with safety design standards of the patient compartment. The comment period will be March 7 to May 16, 2014 for electronic submission of comments. The Technical Committee will meet at the end of October 2014 to review those before issuing another proposed revision. The concern is that NASEMSO concerns were not heard by the committee. Dia reported that the AVL Committee will be reviewing the proposed standards closely and recommending comments to be submitted on behalf of NASEMSO.

Transportation Research Board 93rd Annual Meeting Highlights – Dia Gainor said she was fortunate to have been able to attend the TRB Annual Meeting in January, an international transportation research meeting drawing some 12,000 attendees. She noted that there were 10 meetings/workshops related to EMS this year compared with only one EMS-related meeting 5 years ago. She met many new people conducting research on EMS. One Canadian study researching human factors related to safety in emergency responder vehicles generated a great deal of excitement. She also attended the EMS Safety Subcommittee, chaired by Nadine Levick. The agenda was jam-packed, so much so that it was difficult to give each subject the attention it needed. There was a session by a group of Portuguese researchers linking hospital and law enforcement records. There was also a poster session on EMS in large urban networks in Greece looking at predicting serious injury. Another poster focused on the effect of hurricane force wind on driving behavior, which included ambulances. There was a session on a priority system for multimodal traffic signal control from the University of Arizona, as there is an increasing belief among traffic engineers that signal pre-emption creates congestion. There was Japanese research

on EMS systems reducing fatality rates through repositioning of vehicles in high crash areas. Our friends from CUBRC who have worked with NASEMSO's MIECE proof of concept, conducted a session on providing real time weather information to EMS responding to vehicle crashes. There were a set of four poster sessions on bicycle safety focused on injury severity using data from trauma registries. There were several sessions dealing with evacuation in disaster situations, which included EMS. A summary of the 10 EMS-related sessions will be posted on the HITS Committee webpage.

Federal Partner Update – Susan McHenry, NHTSA Office of EMS, said they were fortunate to have received a budget appropriation for the year, rather than operating on a continuing resolution which has been the case for the last few years. Last Tuesday the NHTSA Office of EMS worked with their partners at ASPR and conducted a full day meeting on the Health Information Exchange. The new coordinator from Louisiana understands the need for incorporating EMS data into the Health information Exchange. NHTSA wants to continue to work to connect crash records. Later this month is their annual staff retreat within Traffic Injury Control where they will have a session sharing information from NEMSIS regarding pedestrian safety; she may be asking some state EMS offices to assist in providing data on pedestrian incidents.

Project and Committee Updates

NFPA Advisory Panel on Emergency Response to Electric Vehicle Fires - Frank Cheatham was unable to join the call but provide a handout shared with the committee which will be posted on the HITS webpage.

Other Business / Member Questions / Comments – Keith advised that the next bi-monthly meeting on April 9 is cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The next meeting of the Committee will be June 11. Keith added that information on the NFPA 1917 public comment period will be sent to HITS members.

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 PM.

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