



National Association of State EMS Officials

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National Fire Protection Association
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Re: New project on emergency medical services officer

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide comment to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) proposal on the need for EMS Officer Standards. NASEMSO agrees that the EMS Agenda for the Future and the EMS Education Agenda for the Future were focused on the development of quality clinical practitioners and did not speak to the qualifications of EMS supervisors or managers. NASEMSO also agrees that leadership is a key component of effective EMS management. We would like to offer the following information for NFPA's consideration:

Working with coordinators of two- and four-year academic fire and EMS degree programs, the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy (NFA) previously established the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) network of emergency services-related education and training providers. FESHE members have made remarkable strides in developing the "*National Professional Development Model*" and its practical application, the Matrix. Model course outlines exist for fire-related and EMS Management degree programs in partnership with fire-related publishers to write textbooks that support them, including seven associate or bachelor level courses in EMS Management.

Contrary to the assertion made in the proposal distributed by NFPA, the Center for Public Safety Education (CPSE) currently offers a Chief EMS Officer (CEMSO) designation. The application process seeks to confirm several expected clinical, operational, and technical competencies that appear to be derived from and referenced to existing NFPA standards. CEMSO applicant qualifications are then verified by the CPSE credentialing panel.

To help address the needs of various EMS delivery models, the National EMS Management Association (NEMSMA) has published three levels of EMS Officers; the Seven Pillars of EMS Officer Competencies; and the attributes, tasks and skills of an EMS officer. According to NEMSMA, "Since so many services in the United States refer to their levels of management with different titles (e.g., Director versus Chief, Supervisor versus Lieutenant), it was determined that the competencies would be based on three levels that fit regardless of specific title and are based on the roles and functions of the EMS officer in question. The EMS Agenda for the Future helped to define and outline these three levels. The three levels are defined as the Supervising EMS Officer, the Managing EMS Officer and the Executive EMS Officer." NEMSMA documents were developed through consensus-based processes and expertise from fire and non-fire based EMS agencies.

NASEMSO believes that EMS Officer Standards currently exist as defined by NFA/FESHE, CPSE, and NEMSMA and therefore another set of standards would be duplicative of efforts by a variety of national organizations and that a proposed EMS Officer standard parallel to NFPA Standard 1021-Fire Officer is unnecessary.

Sincerely,

Paul Patrick
President
National Association of State EMS Officials