



July 2, 2015

Mr. Paul Patrick  
President, National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO)

Dear Mr. Patrick,

The [National EMS Culture of Safety Strategy](#) (NECSS) was a NHTSA funded project led by ACEP to bring together the EMS stakeholder community to identify what constitutes a safe environment for EMS patients and practitioners; the challenges to achieving a safe EMS environment; and a strategy to overcome these challenges. The final strategy was published in 2013 along with a document that discussed possible next steps. The strategy envisioned the establishment of a national level entity to coordinate national EMS safety efforts and serve as a repository for information, data and resources.

Over the past several months, leaders from ACEP and NAEMT have discussed how our organizations might work together to establish a mechanism through which the recommendations contained in the NECSS could be implemented. These meetings resulted in agreement on the following points:

- given limited funding, efforts should be made to conduct work in conjunction with national EMS meetings, saving on the cost of travel and meeting facilities;
- a formal group of EMS and safety organizations committed to the goals of NECSS should be established;
- ACEP and NAEMT would provide a limited amount of funds and staffing to administer the group.

It is our pleasure to invite NASEMSO to participate as a founding organizational member of the **National EMS Safety Council**. The Council will be comprised of national EMS and safety organizations interested in *ensuring that patients receive emergency and mobile healthcare with the highest standards of safety, and promoting a safe and healthy work environment for emergency and mobile healthcare practitioners.*

The National EMS Safety Council will:

- Develop practical ways to implement the recommendations included in NECSS.
- Review the latest information, research, and best practices on EMS patient and practitioner safety.
- Develop and publish consensus statements on the issues of EMS patient and practitioner safety as guidance to EMS agencies and practitioners;
- Raise awareness of the importance of EMS patient and practitioner safety within the EMS industry.
- Identify additional steps that the EMS industry can take to improve EMS patient and practitioner safety.

As a member organization of the National EMS Safety Council, NASEMSO will be responsible for appointing a representative of your organization to participate on the Council, and covering the cost of your representative's attendance at the two meetings of the Council. It is expected that in addition to the two meetings, the Council will also convene via conference call at least once per quarter.

We hope that NASEMSO will participate as a member of the National EMS Safety Council and work to improve safety for our patients and practitioners. Please feel free to contact our staff, Rick Murray ([rmurray@acep.org](mailto:rmurray@acep.org)) or Pam Lane ([pamela.lane@naemt.org](mailto:pamela.lane@naemt.org)), if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael J. Gerardi MD in black ink.

Michael J. Gerardi, MD, FACEP  
President, ACEP

Handwritten signature of Chuck Kearns in blue ink.

Conrad "Chuck" Kearns, MBA, Paramedic, EMD  
President, NAEMT