



## National Association of State EMS Officials

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### News Release

## NASEMSO Releases Guidance on Safe Transport of Children by EMS

**March 24, 2017 (Falls Church, Va.)** The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) announces the release of *Safe Transport of Children by EMS: Interim Guidance*. The guidance is a result of the work of NASEMSO's Safe Transport of Children Ad Hoc Committee, which is focused on establishing evidence-based standards for safely transporting children by ground ambulance. While there are a variety of products available to secure children being transported in ambulances, the EMS provider (and the children being transported) must depend on the manufacturer for determining if the restraint would operate as intended in an ambulance crash. Unlike the child restraints (car seats) used in passenger vehicles, which must meet the crash standards defined by the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 213, there are no required crash-testing standards for these devices in the United States. NASEMSO is working with its partners to obtain funding to conduct the necessary crash-testing research to develop standards to be met by manufacturers. Until such research can be completed and standards developed, NASEMSO has issued *Interim Guidance* to maximize the safety of children in ambulances. This guidance is based on what is known at present and includes, in part:

- All EMS agencies that transport children should develop specific policies and procedures that address, at minimum the following elements: methods, training, and equipment to secure children during transport in a way that reduces both forward motion and possible ejection.
- The primary focus should be to secure the torso, and provide support for the head, neck, and spine of the child, as indicated by the patient's condition.
- A prohibition on children being transported unrestrained.
- A provision for securing all equipment during a transport where a child is an occupant of the vehicle, with mounting systems tested in accordance with the requirements of SAE J3043.
- To only use child restraint devices in the position for which they are designed and tested.
- All device(s) (including a combination of devices) should cover a weight range of between five and 99 pounds (2.3 - 45 kg), ideally supporting the safest transport possible for all persons of any age or size.
- Only the manufacturer's recommendations for the weight/size of the patient should be considered when selecting the appropriate device for the specific child being transported.

NASEMSO does not endorse any product but urges prospective buyers to request testing information from the vendor/manufacturer.

The NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children Committee is comprised of members from state EMS for Children programs, federal partners, children's hospitals, the Ambulance Manufacturers Division of the NTEA, and the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS). More information about the Committee is available at on the committee web page at <https://www.nasemso.org/Committees/STC/index.asp#Goals>. The full text of the *Interim Guidance* is available at on the NASEMSO website at <https://www.nasemso.org/Committees/STC/Resources.asp>.

*The National Association of State EMS Officials is a leading national organization for EMS, a respected voice for national EMS policy with comprehensive concern and commitment for the development of effective, integrated, community-based, universal and consistent EMS systems. Its members are the leaders of their state and territory EMS systems.*

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