



# Rural EMS Committee

## Goals and Strategic Directions 2013



## ***Goals and Strategic Directions***

The **Rural EMS Committee** of the National Association of State EMS Officials is committed to fostering the development of state-level leadership to support delivery of rural emergency care and to facilitate collaboration that improves care to patients in rural areas with time-sensitive injuries and illnesses. The purpose of the **Rural EMS Committee** is to engage NASEMSO on topics relevant to rural and frontier EMS, provide rural input and expertise to the NASEMSO board and members, and promote interaction and collaboration with other Rural EMS partners.

The **Joint Committee on Rural Emergency Care (JCREC)** of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and the National Association of State EMS Officials is committed to fostering the development of state-level leadership to support delivery of rural emergency care and to facilitate collaboration that improves care to patients in rural areas with time-sensitive injuries and illnesses.

***Leadership** refers to the role of state EMS offices as “lead agencies” for EMS as well as thoughtful leaders in public policy development. State EMS offices are looked to by the EMS community for guidance and approval, as well as regulation and licensure. NASEMSO works to support EMS officials nationwide in understanding and implementing processes that improve EMS practice and subsequent patient outcomes.*

The **Rural EMS Committee / JCREC Committee** supports leadership under these principal goals:

- **Goal #1:** Facilitate collaboration within NASEMSO and with external partners that improves care to patients in rural areas
- **Goal #2:** Engage the Rural EMS Committee in national opportunities to promote awareness of rural/frontier emergency care issues and strategies for improvement

***Systems Development** refers to the role of state EMS offices in the development of effective systems of emergency medical care. The growing national awareness of the importance of coordinated systems of care places NAEMSO squarely in a leadership role, demonstrating the need for state offices to coordinate the disparate functions that support effective systems. Such functions include Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMS), communications systems; regional asset coordination in daily operations and in natural and man-made disasters; EMS data collection, analysis and reporting; and ongoing review and refinement of systems operations.*

The **Rural EMS Committee / JCREC Committee** supports systems development under these principle goals:

- **Goal #3:** Develop and advocate for rural emergency care policy agendas
- **Goal #4:** Engage in continued development of community paramedicine / community health programs in the U.S.



*Quality Improvement or "QI" is the process of continually reviewing, assessing and refining practices to improve outcomes. The steps of developing an effective cycle of collecting high quality data, reviewing it in proven multidisciplinary processes, identifying strategies to implement needed changes and communicating them to all stakeholders are the key to QI success, and to subsequently improving patient outcomes.*

The Your Specific Council supports quality improvement under these principle goals:

- **Goal #5:** Advocate for inclusion of EMS in development of local and system rural performance improvement

The your specific council's 2013 workplan will undertake strategies focused on the following issues:

- [Issue #1: Strategic Plan] – The JCREC continues to implement measures in the strategic plan adopted in 2010.
- [Issue #2: Develop and Promote Rural Emergency Care Policy Agendas] – The JCREC strategic plan anticipates development of several position papers or 'call to action' papers which will advocate specifically for key rural issues.
- [Issue #3: NOSORH/NASEMSO Learning Session] – Implementation of a face-to-face session between committee members and other to facilitate networking and coordination of key projects and issues.
- [Issue #4: State-Level Expertise in EMS leadership development] – The future and viability of rural EMS services is directly dependent upon strong service manager and medical director leadership. The JCREC will finish implementation and analysis of a 2010 leadership survey and reporting on what leadership programs states are conducting.
- [Issue #5: Community Paramedicine] – Communities around the world and U.S. are developing and implementing community paramedicine programs as an approach to help ensure provision of emergency and primary healthcare in areas where health services are limited and challenging. The JCREC will continue to participation in numerous activities related to the development and implementation of these programs in the U.S.
- [Issue #6: National Wildfire Coordinating Group – Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee (IEMS)] – The Rural EMS Committee continues to work with the IEMS on issues to support the deployment of EMS and other resources to wildfires.
- [Issue #7 – National Ski Patrol] – Continue working with the National Ski Patrol on issues related to the regulation and recognition of ski patrol programs in states.



**2013 Workplan**  
*Goals, Objectives and Action Steps*

**Goal #1:** Facilitate collaboration within NASEMSO and with external partners that improves care to patients in rural areas.

**Objective/Strategy:** JCREC Conference calls / In-Person meetings

**JCREC meeting**, generally monthly (first Thursday of the month), to coordinate activities and to facilitate implementation of committee projects; Per the MOU between both organizations, the committee co-chairs will attempt to attend each other's annual conference

**Objective:** NOSORH / NASEMSO Learning Session

**2013 Learning Session** - The Learning Sessions have been opportunities for state representatives from state offices of EMS and Rural Health to come together and learn how to join forces on common goals and interests concerning rural emergency care.

Task	Responsibility	Due Date	Done	Budget
Continue to hold monthly conference calls and attend face-to-face meetings	JCREC co-chairs NASEMSO Staff	Ongoing		Travel
Assist with the planning of the 2013 Learning Session	JCREC co-chairs NASEMSO Staff	Sept or Oct 2013		Travel

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
Continue to hold monthly conference calls and attend face-to-face meetings													
Assist with the planning of the 2013 Learning Session													



**Goal #2:** Engage the Rural EMS Committee and JCREC in national opportunities to promote awareness of rural/frontier emergency care issues and strategies for improvement

**Objective/Strategy:** Publish a compendium of current EMS Service Manager and EMS Medical Director education programs

**Leadership Survey** – The JCREC has updated the Leadership survey that was sent in 2009 to determine what programs EMS Offices and Offices of Rural Health were undertaking through the use of FLEX or SORH funds.

Task	Responsibility	Due Date	Done	Budget
Implement updated Leadership Survey	NASEMSO Staff	March 2013		n/a
Report the findings of the survey results in a way that helps states contemplating developing their own programs	JCERC Leadership	Oct 2013		n/a

  

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
Implement updated Leadership Survey													Y
Report the findings of the survey results in a way that helps states contemplating developing their own programs													



**Goal #3:** Develop and advocate for rural emergency care policy agendas

**Objective/Strategy #1:** The Rural EMS Committee will continue to work with the IEMS on issues to support the deployment of EMS and other resources to wildfires

**National Standards for Wildland Fire EMS**, the Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee meets bi-monthly via conference calls (and as members are available during fire season) and once a year face-to-face. Current major issues deal with creating a patient care report that all wildland fire medical units can use; determining what a 'Line EMS' firefighter qualifications should be; and determining a process for pre-credentialing out-of-state wildland fire EMTs (Blue Card Subcommittee).

Task	Responsibility	Due Date	Done	Budget
Representatives continue to attend IEMS conference calls and face-to-face meetings	Rural EMS Chair NASEMSO staff	Ongoing		Travel
NASEMSO will provide feedback to completed PCR and Line EMS documents as requested	NASEMSO staff	March 2013		
Blue Card Committee will continue to meet and determine 'best practices' for credentialing wildland fire EMTs in Idaho, Nevada, Utah & Wyoming	Wayne Denny NASEMSO Staff	Ongoing		n/a

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
Attend IEMS conference calls and face-to-face meetings													
NASEMSO will provide feedback to completed PCR and Line EMS documents <b>as requested</b>													
Blue Card Committee will continue to meet and determine 'best practices' for credentialing wildland fire EMTs in Idaho, Nevada, Utah & Wyoming <b>meeting schedule TBD in 2013</b>													



**Goal #3:** Develop and advocate for rural emergency care policy agendas

**Objective/Strategy #2:** Engage the National Ski Patrol (NSP) on issues of regulation and recognition of ski patrol education and ski hill operations

**NSP/NAEMSO Joint Working Group,** While NSP and ski patrols assert they should not be regulated they desire to work with NSAEMSO to form a working partnership to answer these concerns and where changes are needed to accomplish those changes or where misunderstanding exist to correct those misunderstandings. Both organizations agree that several challenges and barriers related to ski patrollers' medical interventions exist which necessitate further exploration of solutions. This joint workgroup is essential to mutually defining the issues, educating members and identifying paths of resolution and evidence driven solutions.

Task	Responsibility	Due Date	Done	Budget
Survey states about current state of ski patrol oversight and provide summary to NSP/NAEMSO workgroup members	NAEMSO Staff	Sept 2013		
Identify model best practices for ski area consideration	NSP/NAEMSO Working Group NAEMSO Staff	Dec 2013		n/a
Continue regular meetings with NSP to include at least one face to face meeting	NAEMSO Staff	Ongoing		Travel

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
Survey states about current state of ski patrol oversight and provide summary to NSP/NAEMSO workgroup members													
Identify model best practices for ski area consideration													
Continue regular meetings with NSP to include at least one face to face meeting													





**Goal #5:** Advocate for inclusion of EMS in development of local and system rural performance improvement

**Objective:** Promote inclusion of EMS in the statement of work for Quality Improvement Organizations

**Performance measurement** is not often a high priority in rural and frontier services struggling to recruit, retain and get volunteers out the door to emergency calls. In the modern era of “high performance” EMS in urban and suburban settings with performance benchmarks frequently linked to monetary incentives, rural and frontier services are likely relatively low performers.

JCREC will promote inclusion of language which requires CMS to fund quality improvement organization technical assistance activities for quality improvement to EMS providers.

Task	Responsibility	Due Date	Done	Budget
High level tasks – too detailed is difficult to track			Y	

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
Cut and paste tasks from above													Y



**Parked Issues** – Numerous issues and strategies are on the council’s radar, but are currently parked due to various reasons – awaiting completion of dependent activities; currently no champions to assign this to; limited funding, etc.

As practical, these will be moved up into the 2011 workplan or carried into the next year.

**Goal #: Reliable and sustainable ambulance services functioning as a business in rural areas**

**Objective:** TBD

Description of the objective and expected outcome

Task	Responsibility												Due Date	Done	Budget
TBD															
Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done		
TBD															

**Goal #: Workforce development**

**Objective:** TBD

Description of the objective and expected outcome

Task	Responsibility												Due Date	Done	Budget
TBD															
Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done		
TBD															

**Goal #: Optional reimbursement and revenue generation for rural services**

**Objective:** TBD

Description of the objective and expected outcome

Task	Responsibility												Due Date	Done	Budget
TBD															
Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done		
TBD															



**Goal #:** EMS recognized as a public safety industry

**Objective:** TBD

Description of the objective and expected outcome

Task	Responsibility												Due Date	Done	Budget
TBD															
Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done		
TBD													Y		