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## [April 2018](#)

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## [NASEMSO NEWS](#)

### 1. Anticipation Builds as Annual Meeting Plans Ramp Up

Excitement is growing as we add finishing touches to the **NASEMSO Annual Meeting 2018** program in Providence, RI, May 20-24. We hope to see many of you there, especially those from the New England states who were not able to travel south or west in recent years. Below are a couple of highlights and deadlines for the meeting.

- **Abstract Competition:** Several abstracts are currently being reviewed.
- **Hotel reservation deadline:** April 26 (or until the room block is sold out, whichever occurs first.) Space is still available in nearby hotels.
- **Early bird registration ends:** May 9 (\$75 extra after that date)

We will be conducting the revamped “Resources for the State EMS Official” on Sunday, May 19, 12:30 – 8:00 pm, dinner included. This is an ideal workshop for new state EMS officials.

Access all meeting information and register [here](#).

## 2. NASEMSO Offers Archived Webinars on Selected Topics

NASEMSO members have been invited to participate in several recent webinars coordinated by its councils and committees. We acknowledge that the demands of the work environment including unexpected demands prevent individuals from participating when scheduled, so we have recorded and archived the following unedited webinars for your convenience:

- [Using GAMUT to Improve EMS Transport Performance](#)
- [The Ambulance Remount Challenge: Panel Discussion](#)
- [Development and Validation of the Air Medical Prehospital Triage Score](#)
- [Fatigue Risk Management Guidelines in EMS](#)

## 3. States Achieve Major Milestone on Treatment of Suspected Opioid Overdose by EMS

Since 2015, the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) has provided technical assistance to its members to improve state policy efforts on the use of opioid antagonists for suspected opioid overdose in out-of-hospital settings. A campaign of awareness and education as well as a partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to **revise the National EMS Scope of Practice Model to include the administration of opioid antagonists by EMS providers at the basic life support level** has resulted in 100% compliance among states to authorize the practice at all EMS licensure levels, including EMR and EMT. Congratulations to all involved in this important accomplishment! The NHTSA memorandum can be accessed [here](#).

In related news, the memo includes support for all EMS personnel in the **use of tourniquets and wound packing** for hemorrhage control via an immediate change notice to the National EMS Scope of Practice Model. All EMS personnel are encouraged to undertake such practices only if they possess the necessary educational preparation, experience and knowledge to properly administer tourniquets and wound packing and manage potential complications from the procedures. Persons with questions can contact NASEMSO Program Manager, [Kathy Robinson](#).

## 4. Kevin McGinnis Named EMS Innovator of the Year

NASEMSO congratulates **Kevin McGinnis, MPS**, NASEMSO staff and FirstNet Board member, for receiving the EMS10: Innovators in EMS Award at EMS Today 2018. Kevin McGinnis is recognized for spearheading the

development of a broadband network devoted solely to public safety, the first of its kind in the US. A panel of professional EMS colleagues and peers selected the distinguished winners, who each displayed initiative, creative thinking, action-orientation and a desire to positively impact EMS, patients and their communities. Read more about the [award](#) and check out the EMS Innovators' [profiles](#).

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## [FOR THE STATES](#)

### **5. To Err Is Human: The Documentary**

Medical mistakes lead to as many as 440,000 preventable deaths every year. *To Err Is Human* is an in-depth documentary about this silent epidemic and those working quietly behind the scenes to create a new age of patient safety. Directed by the son of late patient safety pioneer, Dr. John M. Eisenberg, *To Err Is Human* is an in-depth documentary about this silent epidemic and those working behind the scenes to create a new age of patient safety. Through interviews with leaders in healthcare, footage of real-world efforts leading to safer care, and one family's compelling journey from victim to empowerment, the film provides a unique look at our healthcare system's ongoing fight against preventable harm. View the official trailer and learn how to schedule a screening [here](#).

### **6. Safe States Alliance Announces New Executive Director**

Richard (Rich) Hamburg has been named Executive Director of the Safe States Alliance. Rich comes to Safe States Alliance with over 30 years of non-profit leadership and public policy experience. He is a knowledgeable, nationally-recognized public health policy expert with a wide range of skills. He has directed all aspects of association management, advocacy, and coalition building. He has a strong track record of leading successful advocacy programs on a national scale, advancing impactful policy change in support of the nation's health, and building and running multi-sector coalitions.

Rich has a strong working knowledge of public health issues, including chronic disease and injury prevention, public health emergency preparedness, and community-based prevention. Most recently, Rich served as Executive Vice President and COO for Trust for America's Health (TFAH). Prior to TFAH, Rich served in a number of roles with the American Heart Association, including as its national Director of Government Relations.

Rich lives in the D.C. area, which will allow Safe States greater flexibility to attend meetings at the Capitol and network with organizations in D.C.

### **7. White Paper Speculates on Increased Naloxone Access**

SSRN, a free open access research network hosted by Elsevier, has posted a new white paper on access to naloxone, speculating that expanding naloxone access might not reduce mortality. Researchers suggest,

Naloxone access may unintentionally increase opioid abuse through two channels: (1) saving the lives

of active drug users, who survive to continue abusing opioids, and (2) reducing the risk of death per use, thereby making riskier opioid use more appealing. By increasing the number of opioid abusers who need to fund their drug purchases, Naloxone access laws may also increase theft.

Readers are cautioned that conclusions outlined by the authors have not been subjected to a peer review process. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) argues it is a common misconception that harm reduction measures, such as the provision of naloxone, encourage drug use. Despite arguments that mandatory seatbelt laws might encourage reckless driving, deaths from car crashes have decreased substantially since their implementation. According to the [World Health Organization](#), increased availability of naloxone can be expected to reduce the proportion of witnessed opioid overdoses which result in death. Further, the [Harm Reduction Coalition](#) and [SAMHSA](#) advocate that drug use should be understood as a complex phenomenon that encompasses a continuum of behaviors, not simply a binary of abstinence and abuse. View more prevention resources from SAMHSA [here](#).

The full white paper, *The Moral Hazard of Lifesaving Innovations: Naloxone Access, Opioid Abuse, and Crime*, is available [here](#).

## 8. CDC Yellow Book 2018 App

CDC Health Information for International Travel (commonly called the [Yellow Book](#)), which is published every two years by CDC as a reference for those who advise international travelers about health risks, is now available as an app. The Yellow Book is written primarily for health professionals, although others will find it useful. Now travelers and clinicians can access the Yellow Book in print, online, and as an app for your mobile device! Get the CDC Yellow Book 2018 app [here](#).

## 9. HHS Issues Update on SamSam Ransomware Campaigns

The Department of Health and Human Services' Healthcare Cybersecurity Integration and Communications Center recently released an update on ongoing cyberattacks on health care and government organizations using a form of ransomware known as SamSam. According to the report, at least eight separate attacks using the SamSam ransomware have occurred this year, including two on Indiana-based hospitals, one on a cloud-based electronic health record provider and another on the city of Atlanta. The report includes recommendations for preventing and handling incidents and ensuring business and health care continuity in the face of potential disruptions. The SamSam malware has been active since at least 2016, largely in hospitals and the health care and public health sector. [Read more](#).

## 10. NASEM Releases Assessment of Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance

*A Smarter National Surveillance System for Occupational Safety and Health in the 21st Century* provides a comprehensive assessment of the state of OSH surveillance. This report is intended to be useful to federal and state agencies that have an interest in occupational safety and health, but may also be of interest broadly to employers, labor unions and other worker advocacy organizations, the workers' compensation insurance industry, as well as

state epidemiologists, academic researchers, and the broader public health community.

According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), occupational safety and health (OSH) surveillance provides the data and analyses needed to understand the relationships between work and injuries and illnesses to improve worker safety and health and prevent work-related injuries and illnesses. Information about the circumstances in which workers are injured or made ill on the job and how these patterns change over time is essential to develop effective prevention programs and target future research. The nation needs a robust OSH surveillance system to provide this critical information to inform policy development, guide educational and regulatory activities, develop safer technologies, and enable research and prevention strategies that serve and protect all workers. [Read more.](#)

## 11. CDC Warns of Unusual Resistance in “Nightmare Bacteria”

More than 23,000 Americans die each year from infections caused by germs resistant to antibiotics. While antibiotic resistance (AR) threats vary nationwide, AR has been found in every state. And unusual resistance germs, which are resistant to all or most antibiotics tested and are uncommon or carry special resistance genes, are constantly developing and spreading. Lab tests uncovered unusual resistance more than 200 times in 2017 in “nightmare bacteria” alone. With new resources nationwide, early and aggressive action—when even a single case is found—can keep germs with unusual resistance from spreading in health care facilities and causing hard-to-treat or even untreatable infections. For example, CDC estimates show that this aggressive approach could prevent 1,600 cases of CRE in one state over three years. Health departments can lead the Containment Strategy and act swiftly with health care facilities and CDC at the first sign of unusual resistance. [Read more.](#)

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## [AIR MEDICAL](#)

## 12. FAA Proposes New Rule on IFR Operations

Proposed rulemaking would amend 14 CFR 135.611(b) to allow helicopter air ambulance (HAA) operators using aircraft without functioning severe weather detection equipment (airborne radar or lightning strike detection equipment), to conduct IFR departure and approach procedures at airports and heliports that do not have an approved weather reporting source. In conducting these operations, the pilot in command must not reasonably expect to encounter severe weather at the destination, the alternate, or along the route of flight. This action would encourage utilization of the IFR infrastructure to the fullest extent possible, thus increasing the overall safety of HAA Operations. This rule would also update certain provisions in Sec. 135.611(a)(1) to address the discontinuance of area forecasts, currently used as flight planning and pilot weather briefing aids, and the transition to digital and graphical alternatives already being produced by the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS). Additionally, this rule would update requirements in Sec. 135.611(a)(3) regarding HAA departure procedures to include additional types of departure procedures that are currently acceptable for use. [Read more or submit your comments by May 10, 2018 here.](#)

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## [GOVERNMENT INFORMATION](#)

### 13. Online Sex Trafficking Act Signed into Law

Following amendments to resolve differences between companion bills in the US House of Representatives and Senate, President Trump has signed the Bill, known as "Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017," into law. The law allows government prosecution of or user lawsuits against websites that knowingly help or promote sex trafficking. Supporters argued that the legislation removes a loophole that has unintentionally allowed such crimes to go unprosecuted when facilitated online. While opponents didn't support sex trafficking, they worry that this would be the first-ever federal legal precedent for going after and prosecuting websites for content that users post. The landmark Senate report that serves as the basis for the proposed legislation is available [here](#). A link to the Bill is available [here](#).

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## [HEALTH AND MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS](#)

### 14. NTAC Releases Report on Mass Attacks in Public Spaces

The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) released a comprehensive study on mass attacks in public spaces. This study focused on 28 incidents in 2017 carried out in public places within the United States in which three or more persons were harmed. The report looks in-depth for commonalities in the attackers' location of attack, weapons, gender, age, substance abuse, criminal history, mental health, motives, targeting, stressors, and communications. The findings of the report support existing Secret Service best practices for threat assessment and highlight the importance of a comprehensive investigation into an individual's background to assess potential risk. Regardless of whether these attacks were acts of workplace violence, domestic violence, school-based violence, or terrorism, perpetrators were similar in that:

- Nearly half were motivated by a **personal grievance** related to a workplace, domestic, or other issue.
- Over half had histories of **criminal charges, mental health symptoms, and/or illicit substance use or abuse**.
- All had at least one **significant stressor** within the last five years, and over half had indications of **financial instability** in that time frame.
- Over three-quarters made **concerning communications and/or elicited concern** from others prior to carrying out their attacks. On average, those who did elicit concern caused more harm than those who did not.

Download the report [here](#).

## 15. ASPR TRACIE Evaluates Medical Surge Roles for UCCs

Urgent care centers (UCC) are a rapidly growing segment of the healthcare marketplace. According to data from the most recent benchmarking survey by the Urgent Care Association of America (UCAOA), the number of centers increased nearly 10 percent in one year, from 6,701 centers in 2015 to 7,357 in 2016. The survey also found that in 2015, 96% of urgent care centers reported an increase in the number of patient visits and 73% acquired or built a new facility; 90% anticipated additional growth in 2016. A new white paper from the US Department of Health and Human Services outlines opportunities for UCCs to provide medical surge that supports community preparedness efforts. [Read more](#).

## 16. ASPR-TRACIE Webinar Recording on Las Vegas Incident Now Available

An ASPR TRACIE webinar on *Healthcare Response to a No-Notice Incident: Las Vegas*, held on March 28, 2018 is available online as a [webinar recording](#) and [PowerPoint presentation](#). You will be asked to enter your name and email address prior to accessing the recording.

TRACIE has also posted a series of tip sheets on “no-notice incidents” for hospitals and other healthcare facilities planning for no-notice incident response, based on healthcare system lessons learned from recent no-notice incidents.

- [Community Response and Media Management](#)
- [Expanding Traditional Roles to Address Patient Surge](#)
- [Family Assistance](#)
- [Fatality Management](#)
- [Hospital Triage, Intake, and Throughput](#)
- [Non-Trauma Hospital Considerations](#)
- [Trauma Surgery Adaptations and Lessons](#)
- [Trauma System Considerations](#)

## 17. APA TX Offers Rural Planning Toolkit for Emergency Preparedness and Recovery

This 89-page toolkit from the American Planning Association and TX Public Health Association is a reference guide to help small towns and rural communities prepare for potential disaster situations. It offers advice on disaster planning, immediate response, and long-term recovery, with chapters and special considerations for economic impact and funding, infrastructure, mobilizing supplies, insurance, healthcare and emergency medical services, volunteer management, emotional/spiritual and social services, animals and pets, communications, resource planning, and team development. Download the toolkit [here](#).

## 18. FEMA Invites Whole Community to Participate in National Level Exercise

FEMA announced recently that the agency is conducting the 2018 [National Level Exercise](#) for the whole community and invites participation from other government agencies, private-sector representatives and organizations, communities, and individuals. The 2018 National Level Exercise (NLE), based on a mid-Atlantic hurricane scenario, is the first major exercise implementing FEMA's recently released [2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#). The exercise will take place April 30 – May 11 and supports the three goals of the Strategic Plan: to build a culture of preparedness by empowering the country to participate and enhance their own preparedness for future disasters; to build FEMA, its state and local partners, and all participants' readiness for potential catastrophic events; and to reduce the complexity of FEMA by closely incorporating its partners into the exercise side-by-side with FEMA as we execute our mission in an exercise.

## 19. Countering False Information on Social Media in Disasters and Emergencies

Rumors, misinformation and false information on social media proliferate before, during and after disasters and emergencies. While this information cannot be completely eliminated, first responder agencies can use various tactics and strategies to offset bad information. This white paper examines motivations people may have for sharing false information, discusses underlying issues that cause false information, and offers case studies from recent disasters to illustrate the problem. People may post false information on social media to seek a particular result, such as closing schools for the day, to get attention with a dramatic post, to push a money-making scam or political agenda, or to innocently repeat bad or outdated information. A new white paper from the Department of Homeland Security encourages first responder agencies to:

- Establish partnerships with local traditional media outlets before disasters, so means exist to disseminate accurate information
- Use the Joint Information System to coordinate public information efforts of multiple jurisdictions and agencies
- Set up a central website to debunk bad information

[Read more.](#)

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## [HIGHWAY INCIDENT & TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS \(HITS\)](#)

### 20. Traffic Safety Facts Annual Report Tables

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has deployed a dynamic and interactive online portal for its annual traffic safety report, Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System. The portal can be accessed [here](#). This portal gives

users the ability to generate descriptive statistics about traffic crashes of all severities, from those that result in property damage to those that result in the loss of human life. This portal fulfills a long-standing need to provide the tables in a timely and easily accessible way. Users can export the tables in various popular formats (Excel, pdf, etc.), request versions of the tables both at the national and state levels, where applicable, and generate historic versions of the tables.

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## [MEDICAL DIRECTION](#)

### **21. BTS Offers New Guidelines on O2 Use in Emergency Settings**

The British Thoracic Society (BTS) has posted several recommendations related to oxygen use for adults in healthcare and emergency settings at the National Guideline Clearinghouse. BTS won a National Patient Safety Award in 2011 for its campaign for safe oxygen use, which has included the delivery of guidelines and educational resources to help hospitals provide oxygen safely and effectively. The BTS Guideline for Oxygen Use in Adults in Healthcare and Emergency Settings can be downloaded [here](#). The guidelines are newly cited via the [National Guideline Clearinghouse \(NGC\)](#).

### **22. ASHP Revises Resources to Deal With Drug Shortages**

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), in coordination with the University of Utah Drug Information Service, has revised guidance for the management and conservation of opioid injectables in light of current drug shortages. This resource is available [here](#).

In related news, the New England Journal of Medicine has recently published an oral rehydration policy to assist personnel with shortages of IV saline following the impact of Hurricane Maria on production facilities in Puerto Rico. This information can be found [here](#).

### **23. ABMS Survey on the Value and Future of Continuing Certification**

Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future, a commission convened by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), is seeking feedback regarding the current and future state of continuing board certification. The "Vision Initiative" survey is available on the [commission website](#) for comment from physicians and other health care professionals. The commission brings together multiple stakeholders to envision a system that is responsive to the needs of those who rely on it and that is relevant, meaningful, and valuable to physicians. The survey will be open until **April 30**.

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## [PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE](#)

### **24. AAP to Fund Research on Firearm Injuries**

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is launching a bold new research initiative to protect children from firearm injuries. Gunfire kills about 1,300 U.S. children and teenagers each year and injures nearly 5,800 more, according to a [2017 study](#) from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) researchers. While the CDC collects these data, an amendment to a 1996 bill prohibited the CDC from using public health money to advocate for or promote gun control. The amendment was not intended to end research into gun violence, but it effectively impeded it.

Unencumbered by those restrictions, AAP has been advocating for gun control measures for more than three decades. Approaching these injuries as a public health epidemic, the Gun Safety and Injury Prevention Research Initiative will bring together experts from around the country to study and implement evidence-based interventions.

The AAP Board of Directors has approved initial funding of \$500,000 from the Friends of Children and Tomorrow's Children Endowment funds. The Academy also will be fundraising and forming partnerships to support its efforts. [Read more.](#)

### **25. New SAMHSA Fact Sheet Available on Underage Drinking**

To help increase awareness about this serious issue, SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention offers an updated fact sheet, [Underage Drinking: Myths Versus Facts](#), specifically written for preteens and teens. This fact sheet compares common myths about alcohol use with the facts about the prevalence of alcohol use. Share this resource with our youth to start the conversation and spread the word about underage drinking and alcohol misuse.

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## [TRAUMA](#)

### **26. HR 880 Mission Zero Act Passes US House of Representatives**

The House has passed [HR 880](#), which "...amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Department of Health and Human Services to award grants to certain trauma centers to enable military trauma care providers and trauma teams to provide trauma care and related acute care at those trauma centers. Funds may be used to train and

incorporate military trauma care providers into the trauma center, including expenditures for malpractice insurance, office space, information technology, specialty education and supervision, trauma programs, and state license fees. Grantees must allow the military trauma care providers to be deployed for military operations, training, or response to a mass casualty incident.” The Secretary shall award grants to not more than 20 eligible high-acuity trauma centers to enable military trauma teams to provide, on a full-time basis, trauma care and related acute care at such trauma centers. A companion bill, S. 1022, was introduced in the Senate on May 3, 2017.

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## [FEDERAL PARTNERS](#)

### **27. CDC Grand Rounds: Promoting Hearing Health Across the Lifespan**

A new [MMWR](#) reports on NIOSH efforts to promote best practices for hearing loss prevention for all persons whether on the job or off the job. The article states that increasing awareness and reducing needless exposures to loud noise can help the public take appropriate steps to protect their hearing. The article advises the public to turn down loud music, move away from the sources of loud sounds, and protect their ears from loud noises.

### **28. DEA Working to Avoid U.S. Drug Shortages**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has released the following [statement](#) in response to concerns about potential shortages and drug production capabilities:

In recent months, the largest U.S. manufacturer of these injectable products has slowed production at one of their manufacturing facilities in order to perform necessary and required upgrades. As a result, this company voluntarily surrendered a portion of their quota allotment and DEA reallocated these amounts to three DEA-registered manufacturers of FDA approved injectable products in accordance with DEA regulations. It is important to note that an increase in DEA procurement quotas to various manufacturers cannot alone prevent future shortages as DEA does not control the quantity or the speed by which manufacturers produce these or any of their products.

DEA is communicating actively and directly with all entities impacted and is committed to making further adjustments to individual procurement quotas as necessary and will also consider other measures that may be necessary to address potential shortages for these products.

### **29. CMS Invites Subscribers to Email Updates**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) invites Washington Update readers to receive email updates on CMS topics. Interested persons can find directions to subscribe [here](#). There are many CMS topics to pick from and subscribers can change their email preferences at any time.

In related news, the agency has initiated “Patients over Paperwork” to:

- Reduce unnecessary burden
- Increase efficiencies
- Improve the beneficiary experience

Learn more about Patients over Paperwork [here](#). Join the [CMS listserv](#) to ensure that you receive the monthly Patients over Paperwork newsletter and any other Patients over Paperwork updates. You can also view past newsletters [here](#).

## 30. Healthcare Workers Have Highest Asthma Prevalence

According to the newly released report published in the CDC's [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), workers in the healthcare and social assistance industry and in healthcare support occupations were most likely to report current asthma, asthma attacks, and asthma-related visits to an emergency department. Healthcare workers and those in related industries had the highest prevalence of asthma among all major industry groups in an analysis of recent data from the CDC's annual National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)—higher than among workers in manufacturing, agriculture, and even mining. Current asthma prevalence among workers in healthcare and social assistance was 8.8%. In contrast, current asthma prevalence stood at 5.4% for workers in manufacturing, 5.2% in agriculture and related industries, and 6.1% in mining and oil and gas industries. The report suggests that new-onset work-related asthma in these workers has been associated with exposure to cleaning and disinfecting products, powdered latex gloves, and aerosolized medications.

## 31. CDC Warns of Life-Threatening Coagulopathy Associated with Synthetic Cannabinoids

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between March 10 and April 5 of 2018, 94 people have visited Emergency Departments (89 in Illinois, 2 in Indiana, 1 in Maryland, 1 in Missouri, and 1 in Wisconsin) with serious unexplained bleeding. None of these patients were on anticoagulation therapy or reported exposure to rat poisons containing a long-acting anti-coagulant brodifacoum. However, their work-up and their response to treatment with fresh frozen plasma and high doses of vitamin K was consistent with long-acting vitamin K-dependent antagonist toxicity. Laboratory investigation confirms brodifacoum exposure in at least 18 patients. There are 2 fatalities—both in Illinois. Illinois public health epidemiologists interviewed 63 patients, and they all reported synthetic cannabinoids use. At least 3 synthetic cannabinoid product samples related to this outbreak have tested positive for brodifacoum. A working hypothesis is that the synthetic cannabinoids were contaminated with brodifacoum. Read the entire COCA Clinical Action [here](#).

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## INDUSTRY NEWS

## 32. AAA Research: Fatigue Likely in 10% of Motor Vehicle Crashes

While official statistics from the U.S. government indicate that only approximately 1%–2% of all motor vehicle crashes involve drowsy driving, many studies suggest that the true scope of the problem is likely to be much greater. A new research brief from the AAA Foundation describes a study that examined the prevalence of driver drowsiness immediately prior to crashes that occurred in the context of a large-scale naturalistic driving study in which the driving of more than 3,500 people was monitored continuously for a period of several months using in-vehicle cameras and other data collection equipment. The researchers assessed drowsiness using a validated measure that is based on the percentage of time that a person's eyes are closed and identified drowsiness in 8.8%–9.5% of all crashes examined and 10.6%–10.8% of crashes that resulted in significant property damage, airbag deployment, or injury. According to the report,

Unlike impairment by substances such as alcohol, there is no test analogous to a breathalyzer that the police can administer at the roadside to assess a driver's level of drowsiness at or shortly after the time of a crash. Moreover, a driver who was drowsy before a crash may appear fully alert afterward and may be reluctant to volunteer to the police that he or she was drowsy.

[Read more.](#)

## 33. NEMSMS to Honor EMS Fallen

The National EMS Memorial Service (NEMSMS), the National EMS Memorial Foundation and the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride (NEMSMBR) will pay tribute to thirty-six EMS and air medical fallen from across the United States during the 2018 National EMS Weekend of Honor, May 18-20 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center located at 201 Waterfront St., Oxon Hill, MD 20745. The list of honorees from eleven states can be found on the NEMSMS website [here](#). Read more on the National EMS Weekend of Honor activities [here](#).

## 34. NAEMT Accepting Nominations for National EMS Awards

Each year, NAEMT collaborates with other national EMS organizations to recognize outstanding achievements and contributions in EMS. By submitting a nomination, you not only recognize the candidate, you also honor and recognize the EMS profession and all EMS professionals who provide quality emergency patient care to their communities every day. Nominations for 2018 awards for EMT, Paramedic, EMS Educator, EMS Medical Director, Military Medic, Career EMS Service, and Volunteer EMS Service of the Year will be accepted until June 30, 2018.

[Submit a nomination.](#)

## 35. EMS Strong Celebrates EMS Professionals During EMS Week

EMS Week is May 20-26, 2018, and we are STRONGER TOGETHER. Learn more at [www.emsstrong.org](http://www.emsstrong.org).

## 36. MedPAC Recommends Payment Cuts for Certain Off Campus EDs

According to the American Hospital Association (AHA), the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission recently approved a recommendation to reduce emergency department payment rates by 30% for off-campus stand-alone EDs located within six miles of an on-campus hospital ED. The AHA urged MedPAC not to approve the recommendation, saying it was not based on any analysis of Medicare beneficiaries, Medicare costs, or Medicare payments and would make Medicare's record underpayment of outpatient departments and hospitals even worse. Medicare margins were a record-low negative 14.8% for hospital outpatient departments and negative 9.6% for hospitals overall in 2016, with the latter expected to reach negative 11% this year.

MedPAC also voted to approve an AHA-supported recommendation to allow isolated rural hospitals located more than 35 miles from another ED to convert to stand-alone EDs that would be able to bill under the outpatient prospective payment system. These EDs also would be provided with annual payments to assist with their fixed costs. AHA had urged the commission to consider expanding the recommendation to include EDs in vulnerable urban communities. The proposal could save Medicare up to \$250 million annually if adopted by Congress. The suggestion will be published in the advisory group's June report to Congress.

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## [INTERESTING ABSTRACTS](#)

### 37. Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics – 2018 Update

The full article from the American Heart Association is available [here](#).

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## [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Send calendar events to [krobinson@asmii.net](mailto:krobinson@asmii.net)

Please use these links to access monthly course schedules and registration info related to:

- [NAEMSE Instructor Course Level 1](#)
- [NAEMSE Instructor Course Level 2](#)
- [CAAHEP Accreditation Update & Evaluating Student Competency Workshops](#)
- [NAEMSE/NREMT Regional Scenario Development Workshops](#)

## National Conferences and Special Meetings

### [FDIC International](#)

April 23-28, 2018 in Indianapolis, IN

### [National Rural EMS and Care Conference](#)

April 24-25, 2018 in Tucson, AZ

### **5th Annual EMS Medical Directors Conference**

April 27, 2018 Carmel, IN. For more info contact [indianatrauma@isdh.in.gov](mailto:indianatrauma@isdh.in.gov).

### [Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting](#)

May 15-18, 2018 in Indianapolis, IN

### **EMS Week**

May 20-26, 2018. Read more via [ACEP](#) and [NAEMT](#).

### [National Association of State EMS Officials Annual Meeting](#)

May 21-24, 2018 in Providence, RI

### [Fire Rescue Med \(IAFC EMS Section Annual Meeting\)](#)

June 11-13, 2018, 2017 in Henderson, NV

### [NFPA Annual Conference](#)

June 11-14, 2018 in Las Vegas, NV

### [Pinnacle 2018](#)

July 23-27, 2018 in Phoenix, AZ

### [National Association of EMS Educators Annual Meeting](#)

July 30 – August 4, 2018 in Washington, DC

### [IAFC Annual Conference \(Fire-Rescue International\)](#)

August 8-11, 2018 in Dallas, TX

### [National EMS Safety Summit](#)

August 20-23, 2018 in Denver, CO

### [American Ambulance Association Annual Meeting](#)

September 6-8, 2018 in Las Vegas, NV

### [Emergency Nurses Association Annual Meeting](#)

September 26-29, 2018 in Pittsburgh, PA

## [American College of Emergency Physicians Annual Meeting](#)

October 1-4, 2018 in San Diego, CA

## [American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress](#)

October 21-25, 2018 in Boston, MA

## [IAEM Annual Conference and EMEX 2018](#)

October 21-24, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI

## [Air Medical Transport Conference](#)

October 22-24, 2018 in Phoenix, AZ

## [EMS World Expo](#)

October 29 - Nov 2, 2018 in Nashville, TN

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