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[The 4-1-1, Your Update on NASEMSO Projects and Activities](#)

- [Fatigue in EMS](#) — All manuscripts related to the guidelines and related performance measures have been accepted for publication in *Prehospital Emergency Care* and are anticipated for early online release in January 2018.
- [National EMS Scope of Practice Model Revision](#) — A 2nd National Engagement is currently underway to improve the descriptions of 4 EMS levels and provide input to a rapid revision process when emergent changes to sustain and strengthen national preparedness for public health, military, and domestic emergencies need to occur to the National EMS Scope of Practice Model (SoPM) between regular

revision cycles. The deadline for comments is February 10, 2018.

- [NCBP](#) — The Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services has completed Data Use and Analytic Agreements with the University of North Carolina (UNC) to join the states of Florida and Rhode Island in the National Collaborative for Bio-Preparedness (NCBP). Kansas will be submitting National EMS Information System (NEMIS) data elements both to assist in national preparedness and to enhance the state's ability to visualize their data with other data layers of relevance.

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[NASEMSO NEWS](#)

1. NASEMSO, NAEMSP and ACEP Collaborate to Address Opioid Overdoses

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), in collaboration with the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), is leading a project to develop and disseminate an evidence-based guideline for the administration of naloxone (Narcan[®]) for opioid overdoses. In spite of the dramatic increase in the number of opioid overdose events to which EMS personnel now respond, several unanswered questions about the optimal use of naloxone remain, including how to best distinguish an opioid overdose from other non-responsive conditions, when to administer a second dose of naloxone, the most appropriate patient disposition after a return of consciousness, and how to maintain optimal medical oversight to naloxone administration. A primary objective of this project is to answer these questions through a rigorous, science-based approach and deliver an evidence-based guideline and model EMS treatment protocol for the prehospital management of patients with suspected opioid overdose. [Read more.](#)

2. NASEMSO Announces Open Comment Period for SoPM Revision Draft 2

The National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) is soliciting feedback on revised portions of the 2007 National EMS Scope of Practice Model ("Practice Model.") A Subject Matter Expert Panel has determined that clinical practice decisions must be based on the level of cognitive and psychomotor preparation of EMS personnel. Draft 2 is intended to reflect an improved description of the spectrum of EMS levels from the 2007 Practice Model. Once community consensus has been reached on these descriptions, the assignment of skills and tasks will be accomplished for a comprehensive final draft and provided for public comment in Spring 2018. More information, including the draft and a link to provide comments is available [here](#). The deadline for comments is February 10, 2018.

3. NASEMSO Invites 2018 EMS Calendar Content

It's that time of year when we start to update our print and online EMS calendars. Notices of national and state conferences are welcomed and should be sent to robinson@nasems.org. Information is accepted throughout the year!

4. NASEMSO Annual Meeting May 21-24, 2018 in Providence, RI



The transition to a single national event is now complete! Our Annual Meeting will be the only time our membership will convene in 2018 and the Program Committee is hard at work assembling a 5-star program! Stay tuned for more details, but mark your calendars NOW for this chance for a behind the scenes look at NASEMSO Council and Committee activity and MORE! [Read more.](#)

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[FOR THE STATES](#)

5. FDA Seeks Comments on Ways to Facilitate Appropriate Opioid Prescribing

The Food and Drug Administration seeks stakeholder input on how it might use Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies to facilitate appropriate prescribing of opioid pain relievers. For example, the FDA notice states that the agency's Opioid Policy Steering Committee is considering using REMS to require sponsors to ensure that opioid analgesic prescriptions exceeding a certain amount document medical necessity and/or leverage a nationwide prescription history database to prevent misuse or abuse. The agency will hold a Jan. 30 public hearing on the issue, with comments accepted through March 16, 2018. [Read more.](#)

6. JPHMP Highlights Injury and Violence Prevention

The Journal of Public Health Management and Practice just released a special issue titled “Catalyzing State Public

Health Agency Actions to Prevent Injuries and Violence.” It includes eight articles highlighting Injury Center programs and illustrating the relationship between science and practice:

- Mind the Gap: New Approaches to Addressing the Research to Practice Chasm
- Research to Practice Integration: The Power of Academic-Practitioner Collaboration
- Innovative Methods for Designing Actionable Program Evaluations
- Core VIPP’s Role in Increasing States’ Readiness to Respond to the Opioid Epidemic
- Connecting the Dots: State Health Department Approaches to Addressing Shared Risk and Protective Factors across Multiple Forms of Violence
- Community Indicators for Evaluating Violence Prevention Programs
- The Use of the Data-to-Action Framework in the Evaluation of CDC’s DELTA FOCUS Program
- Development of a Comprehensive and Interactive Tool for States to Use When Developing Violence and Injury Prevention Plans

[Read more.](#)

7. DOJ Announces Emergency Scheduling of All Fentanyl

The Department of Justice recently announced that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) intends to take immediate action against the flow of illicit fentanyl analogues into the U.S. and the alarming increase in overdose deaths linked to synthetic opioids by scheduling all fentanyl-related substances on an emergency basis. When the DEA’s order takes effect, anyone who possesses, imports, distributes, or manufactures any illicit fentanyl analogue will be subject to criminal prosecution in the same manner as for fentanyl and other controlled substances. The action will make it easier for federal prosecutors and agents to prosecute traffickers of all forms of fentanyl-related substances. Overseas chemical manufacturers, aided by illicit domestic distributors, currently attempt to evade regulatory controls by creating structural variants of fentanyl that are not directly listed under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). Without the announced action, prosecutors must overcome cumbersome evidentiary hurdles to secure convictions of these traffickers under the Analogue Act. [Read more.](#)

8. AHRQ Views Blog Post: Taking a Closer Look – State-by-State – of Health Care Quality

In a new AHRQ Views blog post, LCDR Karen Chaves, director of AHRQ’s National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report (QDR) program, highlights AHRQ’s State Snapshots, an online interactive resource that evaluates 50 states and the District of Columbia on thousands of health care quality and access measures. Taken from AHRQ’s 2016 QDR, the updated 2016 State Snapshots data can help guide quality improvement efforts at the state level by policymakers, health systems, public health advocates or clinicians. Access the [blog post](#) on AHRQ’s State Snapshots to learn more about how each State is doing in providing quality health care and improving disparities.

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[AIR MEDICAL](#)

9. NCOIL Proposes Model Legislation to Protect Consumers

The National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) voted at its recent annual meeting to approve “A Model Act Regarding Air Ambulance Insurance Claims.” The purpose of this model legislation is to protect consumers who are covered by commercial insurance from overall disproportionate financial responsibility and liability for using out-of-network air ambulance services instead of in-network air ambulance services emergency situations, including balance bills from out-of-network air ambulance service providers that are not preempted by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”) or the Airline Deregulation Act (“ADA.”) [Read more.](#)

10. Air Ambulance Companion Bill Introduced in US Senate

Sen. Heller (NV) has introduced S. 2121 Ensuring Access to Air Ambulance Services Act of 2017, a companion bill to H.R. 3378 of the same name. The legislation, if enacted, would provide temporary 12% and 20% incentive payments to air medical services to report cost and performance data that would inform CMS on future reimbursement decisions. [Read more.](#)

11. Air Medical Prehospital Triage Score Could be More Cost-Effective Than Current Air Transport Practices

According to a new study published online Nov. 1 in JAMA Surgery, the Air Medical Prehospital Triage (AMPT) score for trauma patients could lower costs compared to current air medical transport practices. In this study by Brown and others, researchers worked to develop and internally validate a triage score that can identify trauma patients at the scene who would potentially benefit from helicopter emergency medical services (HEMS). The study concludes that the AMPT score identifies patients most likely to benefit from HEMS while potentially reducing costs to the health care system and should be considered in air medical transport protocols for trauma patients. [Read more.](#)

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[COMMUNICATIONS](#)

12. New NASEM Report Focuses on Emergency Alert Systems Research

Following a series of natural disasters, including Hurricane Katrina, that revealed shortcomings in the nation’s ability

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to effectively alert populations at risk, Congress passed the Warning, Alert, and Response Network (WARN) Act in 2006. Today, new technologies such as smart phones and social media platforms offer new ways to communicate with the public, and the information ecosystem is much broader, including additional official channels, such as government social media accounts, opt-in short message service (SMS)-based alerting systems, and reverse 911 systems.

More than 60 years of research on the public response to alerts and warnings has yielded many insights about how people respond to information that they are at risk and the circumstances under which they are most likely to take appropriate protective action. Some, but not all, of these results have been used to inform the design and operation of alert and warning systems, and new insights continue to emerge. *Emergency Alert and Warning Systems* reviews the results of past research, considers new possibilities for realizing more effective alert and warning systems, explores how a more effective national alert and warning system might be created, exposes some of the gaps in our present knowledge, and sets forth a research agenda to advance the nation's alert and warning capabilities. [Read more](#).

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[DATA](#)

13. 2016 NEMSIS Research Dataset Now Available

The 2016 NEMSIS Public-Release Research Dataset is now available! NEMSIS EMS data provides key information to better serve a community. This dataset includes 29,919,652 EMS activations submitted by 9,993 EMS agencies serving 49 states and territories during the 2016 calendar year. The NEMSIS dataset is a source of information for many of the nation's trusted health systems, researchers, policymakers and health care administrators. The dataset does not contain PHI, EMS agencies, receiving hospitals, or reporting states. You may request this dataset [here](#).

14. Is the NEMSIS Standard Really Changing Again?

Clay Mann, NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC), recently offered a presentation for the NASEMSO Board on National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) version revisions. This presentation received rave reviews, so the NEMSIS TAC has made the recording available [here](#). The 20-minute video provides evidence supporting the need to revise the current standards and offers new timelines for current and future versions of the NEMSIS standard.

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[HEALTH AND MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS](#)

15. NIOSH Offers New Report on PPE Conformity Assessment

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) provides national and world leadership to prevent workplace illnesses and injuries. NIOSH accomplishes this by conducting and supporting activities to protect workers from work-related exposures to hazards.

According to the National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine, a comprehensive and tailor-made conformity assessment (CA) program is the most effective way to manage risks of a non-conforming PPE and instill confidence in PPE users. A core objective of this approach is the development and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Workers are more likely to appropriately use PPE when they are confident that the equipment will provide the intended protections based on its conformance with appropriate standards.

Following recommendations from the National Academies, NIOSH has defined a framework to help develop, structure, and manage PPE CA for American workplaces. The *National Framework for Personal Protective Equipment Conformity Assessment – Infrastructure* is the product of collaboration among the NIOSH representatives and a broad cross-section of members of the PPE community. This group's multi-year effort identified and analyzed national and international conformity assessment programs and requirements, investigated injury and enforcement surveillance databases, researched and gathered PPE standards, and developed a risk-based approach to conformity assessment resulting in this framework. Read the report [here](#).

16. Release of NIMS Resource Management Supplemental Guidance and Tools

FEMA's National Integration Center is pleased to release a series of National Incident Management System (NIMS) Resource Management component documents that enhance interoperability and the effectiveness of mutual aid. This release includes:

- The NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System (NQS) that describes the components of a qualification and certification system, defines a process for certifying the qualifications of incident personnel, describes how to stand up and implement a peer review process, and provides an introduction to the process of credentialing personnel
- A set of NQS Job Titles/Position Qualifications that provides minimum qualifications criteria for personnel serving in defined incident management and support positions
- A set of NQS Position Task Books (PTBs) that identifies the competencies, behaviors, and tasks that personnel should demonstrate to become qualified for a defined incident management or support position
- A set of NIMS Job Titles/Position Qualifications and Resource Typing Definitions other than NQS that defines minimum qualifications and capabilities for personnel and their equipment within their assigned teams to manage all threats and hazards, regardless of the incident's cause or size
- The NIMS Guideline for Mutual Aid that provides an overview of common mutual aid practices, defines common terminology and processes, and describes an approach for creating legal agreements and operational plans.

To support partner and stakeholder adoption, FEMA is hosting a series of 60-minute webinars to discuss the National Qualification System and answer questions related to the foundational guide and supporting tools. All webinars are open to the whole community, including individuals and communities, the private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, and all state, local, tribal, and territorial governments. Review the documents and see

additional webinar information [here](#).

17. Deadliest American Disasters and Large-Loss-of-Life Events Website Goes Live

B. Wayne Blanchard, Ph.D., has announced publication of a new resource, the [Deadliest American Disasters and Large-Loss-of-Life Events](#) website. The objective of this site is to be the most complete and authoritative source in one place on the deadliest American/U.S. disasters and other large-loss-of-life events (10 or more lives lost). New material is added, and existing material is updated regularly. The information available on the site will be especially useful for research. To date, more than 5,400 events which have taken ten or more lives and over 400 others taking fewer than ten (such as the space shuttle disasters and some terrorism incidents) have been compiled. [Read more](#).

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[MEDICAL DIRECTION](#)

18. ILCOR Summary Now Available

The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation has initiated a near-continuous review of cardiopulmonary resuscitation science that replaces the previous 5-year cyclic batch-and-queue approach process.

The first of an annual series of International Consensus on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care Science With Treatment Recommendations summary articles that will include the cardiopulmonary resuscitation science reviewed by the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation in the previous year is now available online in *Resuscitation*.

The review this year includes 5 basic life support consensus and 1 pediatric consensus on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care Science With Treatment Recommendations. Key recommendations include:

- Dispatchers should provide instructions for compression-only CPR to bystanders calling about an adult with suspected out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (strong recommendation).
- All bystanders should provide chest compressions. Bystanders who are trained, willing, and able should give rescue breaths (30:2; weak recommendation).
- EMS providers should perform CPR with rescue breaths (30:2) or continuous chest compressions with positive pressure ventilations until a supraglottic device or endotracheal tube is established (strong recommendation).
- When a tracheal tube is in place, give positive pressure ventilations without pausing compressions (weak recommendation).
- For children, ventilation is recommended (weak recommendation), but compressions should not be withheld if bystanders are unable or unwilling to perform rescue breaths.

[Read more.](#)

19. FDA Clears New Device for Faster CBC Results

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently cleared a complete blood cell count (CBC) test that, based on its categorization, can be run in more health care settings, including physicians' offices, clinics or other types of health care facilities, by a wider range of personnel, such as support staff. This broadened test access will allow for faster availability of results. The XW-100 Automated Hematology Analyzer has been granted a waiver under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA). [Read more.](#)

20. Bloomberg News: EpiPen Failures Cited in 7 Deaths This Year

EpiPens, which contain the hormone epinephrine, are used to stave off allergic reactions that in some cases kill those with allergies. Failure of EpiPens to deploy correctly have been cited in seven deaths this year through mid-September, according to reports by patients and physicians made to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and obtained by Bloomberg News. The FDA received a total of 228 reports of EpiPen or EpiPen Jr. failures during the same time period, according to documents made available as a result of a Freedom of Information Act request. In addition to the deaths, 35 people were hospitalized, according to the reports. [Read more.](#)

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[PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE](#)

21. FDA Approves Epinephrine Auto-Injector for Small Children

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Kaleo's AUVI-Q 0.1 mg device, an epinephrine auto-injector for the treatment of life-threatening allergic reactions with a needle length and dose specifically designed for infants and small children weighing between 16.5 and 33 lbs. AUVI-Q 0.1 mg includes the innovative AUVI-Q electronic voice instruction system as well as visual cues to help guide users step-by-step through the administration. The AUVI-Q 0.1 mg Auto-injector is projected to be available for patients in the first half of 2018. [Read more.](#)

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[TRAUMA](#)

22. Eileen Metzger Bulger, MD, FACS, Appointed Next ACS COT Chair

The Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) recently appointed Eileen Metzger Bulger, MD, FACS, as the next Chair of the Committee on Trauma (COT). Dr. Bulger is chief of trauma at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA, where she serves as the trauma medical director for adults and pediatrics. She will take office in March 2018 after the COT's 2018 Annual Meeting and will become the 20th Chair of the COT, succeeding Ronald M. Stewart, MD, FACS, of San Antonio, TX. Read more about Dr. Bulger and the COT in the ACS press release [here](#).

23. Senate Judiciary Committee Holds Hearing on Firearm Accessory Regulation and NICS

On December 6, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a [hearing](#) on firearms accessory regulations and enforcing federal and state reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), as part of consideration of the [Fix NICS Act](#) and the [Automatic Gunfire Prevention Act](#). Ten witnesses gave testimony primarily on the ability of agencies to enforce regulations within the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and NICS, emphasizing the importance of effective regulation to prevent future gun-related tragedies.

While the [Firearms Owners' Protection Act](#) and [other laws](#) ban machine guns with automatic firing capabilities, current legal definitions prevent the ATF from prohibiting the use of bump-stock devices.

The committee was interested in exploring additional legislation that might give the ATF the authority needed to effectively regulate firearm accessories, as well as how they could make NICS more effective across states and implementing agencies.

Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) [questioned](#) the effectiveness of the NICS reporting system, citing a recent [report](#) from the Inspector General that 30% of convictions were not reported to the FBI from 2015 to 2016. [Read more](#).

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FEDERAL PARTNERS

24. New Video Explains the Importance of EMS Data Collection and Use

The NHTSA Office of EMS recently released a two-minute video that shows how EMS data is used to improve EMS systems and patient care at the local, state and national levels. You may have already seen it on [EMS.gov](#), the [EMS.gov YouTube channel](#), or mentioned in our latest [EMS Update newsletter](#).

It's important that every member of our profession understands the vital role that data and information can play in

improving the safety and effectiveness of EMS. The frontline providers caring for people every day are the ones who generate and collect this information— and the better they understand how it benefits their patients and communities, the better the quality of the data.

Creating a culture of science and data in EMS takes a concerted effort from all of us. Please share this video in a new employee orientation, a continuing education course, or through an agency newsletter or website. The Office of EMS created it as a resource and educational tool and encourages you to download it, post it on your social media or play it at a staff meeting. As always, please let the Office of EMS know if you have any questions or want to share the ways you are creating a culture of science and data in your EMS organization. Watch the video [here](#).

25. CMS Proposes Increased Access to ICDs

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced plans to reduce barriers for patients needing implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICD.) A proposed decision recently posted by the agency suggests CMS will eliminate waiting periods for device implantation and drop a policy that requires a registry of ICD patients. It also seeks to require shared decision-making as a condition of ICD use, which the agency says would empower patients. Currently, the devices cannot be implanted within 40 days of a heart attack or 90 days of bypass surgery or angioplasty. The recent proposal would be the first major update to Medicare's ICD coverage in more than a decade. [Read more](#).

26. New Resources Available to Guide Systematic Reviews in Occupational Safety and Health

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has developed resources to assist with the development of systematic reviews focused on occupational safety and health topics. In 2016, NIOSH asked the RAND Corporation to develop a framework for the application of traditional systematic review elements, developed for healthcare intervention assessments, to occupational safety and health and damage-risk criteria in particular. Click [here](#) to read the RAND report.

A NIOSH-authored commentary was published in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine, [Using Systematic Review in Occupational Safety and Health](#), in November 2017.

NIOSH scientists are also actively involved with [Cochrane Work](#) systematic reviews. Cochrane Work has produced and published systematic reviews on a wide variety of occupational safety and health interventions. Cochrane Work uses the review process that is elaborated in the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of health care interventions to ensure they assess the evidence in the most reliable way. [Read more](#).

27. NIOSH Study Suggests Flu Virus Generated in Coughs and Exhalations

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on protecting health care providers and other workers from infectious diseases, including influenza. The literature focuses on airborne transmission of influenza by small aerosol droplets over longer distances. Coughing, sneezing, speaking and breathing all generate potentially infectious aerosols (small airborne particles). Several studies suggest small

aerosol particles can carry influenza virus, but how important is this route of transmission?

If patients can readily infect others via aerosols produced during coughing, speaking, sneezing, and breathing, then interventions such as patient isolation, increased air ventilation and filtration, air disinfection, and the use of respirators or other personal protective equipment may help to protect healthcare workers and other patients from the illness.

A summary of one NIOSH study on influenza A virus detected in coughs and exhalations is available [here](#). Additional transmission research is available on the [NIOSH website](#).

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[INDUSTRY NEWS](#)

28. "DEA Bill" Becomes Law

On Nov. 17, President Trump signed the [Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act](#) into law. The legislation, which was introduced as H.R. 304 by Congressman Richard Hudson (NC), clarifies existing law to allow EMS providers to continue dispensing controlled substances under "standing orders." Senator Bill Cassidy (LA) introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

The law amends the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to enable paramedics and other EMS professionals to continue to administer controlled substances to patients pursuant to standing orders issued by their EMS agency's medical director. This law amends the CSA to direct the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to register an EMS agency to administer controlled substances if the agency submits an application demonstrating that it is authorized to do so in the state in which the agency practices.

An EMS agency may obtain a single registration in each state instead of a separate registration for each location. A registered EMS agency may deliver, store, and receive controlled substances, subject to specified conditions. An EMS professional of a registered EMS agency may administer controlled substances in schedules II, III, IV, or V outside the physical presence of a medical director if such administration is authorized under state law and pursuant to a standing or verbal order, subject to specified conditions. The law specifies that a hospital-based EMS agency (i.e., an EMS agency owned or operated by a hospital) may continue to administer controlled substances under the hospital's DEA registration. [Read more](#).

29. New Literature Review on EMS Violence You Don't Want to Miss!

NASEMSO congratulates Dr. Brian Maguire and colleagues on the latest systematic review of literature on violence against EMS personnel, just published in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine! The evidence from this review demonstrates that violence is a common risk for EMS personnel. Researchers identified three critical topic areas: changes in risk over time, economic impact of violence and, outcomes of risk-reduction interventions. There is a lack of peer-reviewed research of interventions, so current intervention programs are not evidence-based. We

wholeheartedly support Dr. Maguire's conclusion that EMS leaders and personnel should work together with researchers to design, implement, evaluate and publish intervention studies designed to mitigate risks of violence to EMS personnel. [Read more.](#)

30. Kidde Announces Major Fire Extinguisher Recall

On Nov. 2, 2017, Kidde announced a recall of almost 38 million plastic handle and push-button Pindicator fire extinguishers sold in the United States. They may not work during a fire emergency if they become clogged and require a lot of force to use. Also, the nozzle can come off with enough force to strike and hurt someone. Kidde recommends owners immediately replace these fire extinguishers. The company is aware of one death when emergency responders couldn't get the recalled extinguishers to work. There have been almost 400 reports of problems related to these Kidde fire extinguishers. Check the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's website for information on specific model numbers involved with this recall. Kidde will replace recalled extinguishers for free. [Read more.](#)

31. 2018 Calls for National Presentations

[EMS World Expo](#) is accepting presentations for consideration for the 2018 EMS World Expo, scheduled for October 29 - November 2, 2018, in Nashville, TN. [Presentation proposals](#) are due no later than Jan. 15, 2018. The EMS World Expo conference program features timely, thought-provoking and educationally sound topics that are relevant to EMTs, paramedics, critical care providers, EMS educators, emergency nurses, EMS medical directors, EMS administrators and managers.

The Emergency Nurses Association has issued a call for proposals for its 2018 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Proposals and abstracts will be accepted through January 5, 2018 at 12:00 pm CST. [Read more.](#)

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[INTERESTING ABSTRACTS](#)

32. JAMA Study Illustrates Hospital Readmission Penalties Have Unintended Consequences

In a new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, implementation of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program was associated with a subsequent decrease in 30-day and 1-year risk-adjusted readmissions and an increase in 30-day and 1-year risk-adjusted mortality for patients with heart failure. [Read more.](#)

33. New ACC/AHA High Blood Pressure Guidelines Lower

Definition of Hypertension

High blood pressure should be treated earlier with lifestyle changes and in some patients with medication – at 130/80 mm Hg rather than 140/90 – based on new ACC and American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines for the detection, prevention, management and treatment of high blood pressure. The new guidelines – the first comprehensive set since 2003 – lower the definition of high blood pressure to account for complications that can occur at lower numbers and to allow for earlier intervention. [Read more.](#)

34. Workplace Smoking Bans Appear Effective in Reducing Harm to Kids

The National Bureau of Economic Research reports that as evidence of the negative effects of environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) has mounted, an increasingly popular public policy response has been to restrict smoking with 100% smoke-free bans. There is sparse information of the impact these smoking bans at the state and local levels have on the health of children and infants.

Expansion of smoke-free laws implicitly presumes that they improve public health by reducing adult cigarette consumption and adult ETS exposure, and that those benefits extend to children. However, if smokers increase their consumption of cigarettes at home to compensate for public venues that impose a 100% smoke free ban, then these policies may harm children and infants.

This study provides comprehensive estimates of how 100% smoke-free regulations impact where adults smoke, smoking behaviors, and the health of children and infants. Using models that exploit state- and county-level changes to smoking ban legislation over time, estimates suggest that smoking bans have **improved** the health of infants and children, mainly through implementation of more comprehensive bans.

Further, the authors find no evidence of compensatory behaviors among smokers (both smokers with and without children in the household), and actually find that the bans had a positive spillover effect in terms of reducing smoking inside the home, which may further explain the improvement in infant and children's health. [Read more.](#)

35. OTC Drug Combo Effective as Opioids for Acute Extremity Pain

Ibuprofen and opioids are similarly effective for short-term relief of acute extremity pain when combined with acetaminophen, according to a new JAMA study. Some 400 adults presenting to the emergency department with moderate-to-severe acute extremity pain (e.g., from sprain or fracture) were randomized to one of four single-dose oral treatments:

- Ibuprofen (400 mg) and acetaminophen (1000 mg)
- Oxycodone (5 mg) and acetaminophen (325 mg)
- Hydrocodone (5 mg) and acetaminophen (300 mg)
- Codeine (30 mg) and acetaminophen (300 mg)

At 2 hours, pain scores had declined in all groups, with no statistically or clinically significant differences across the groups. [Read more.](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Send calendar events to 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

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

January 8-13, 2018 in San Diego, CA

[EMS Today 2018](#)

February 21-23, 2018 in Charlotte, NC

[18th Annual Templeton Pediatric Trauma Symposium](#)

March 2-3, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA

[EMS State of the Science 2018: Gathering of Eagles](#)

March 2-3, 2018 in Dallas, TX

[ACRP Insight Event: Airport Roles in Reducing Transmission of Communicable Diseases](#)

March 6-7, 2018 at the National Academies of Sciences in Washington, DC

[American College of Surgeons COT Meeting](#)

March 6-10, 2018 in San Antonio, TX

[Society of Trauma Nurses Annual Meeting](#)

March 21-23, 2018 in Portland, OR

[American Academy of Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting](#)

April 7-11, 2018 in San Diego, CA

[Critical Care Transport Medicine Conference](#)

April 9-11, 2018 in San Antonio, TX

[FDIC International](#)

April 23-28, 2018 in Indianapolis, IN

[National Rural EMS and Care Conference](#)

April 24-25, 2018 in Tucson, AZ

[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 2018](#)

October 29-Nov 2, 2018 in Nashville, TN

See more EMS Events on the [NASEMSO Calendar](#).

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Your input to Washington Update is welcome and can be sent directly to our Editor:

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