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[January 2018](#)

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[NASEMSO NEWS](#)

1. EMS Fatigue Guidelines Now Available

NASEMSO is pleased to announce the availability of *Evidence-Based Guidelines for Fatigue Risk Management in Emergency Medical Services*. With funding from NHTSA’s Office of Behavioral Safety Research and in collaboration

with researchers at the University of Pittsburgh, the results of the systematic review of literature have been completed and evaluated via the GRADE process. Recommendations from a team of experts have been published early online in Prehospital Emergency Care. While the recommendations might seem intuitive, these guidelines provide a body of evidence to support them, an important first step towards reducing the effects of fatigue in the EMS industry. The project also establishes a framework for future research to inform sound EMS decision-making. A table of contents of all 15 articles in the fatigue supplement is available on the [project's website](#). Drowsy driving is impaired driving; together we can work to reduce tragic outcomes in EMS!

2. NASEMSO Annual Meeting Registration is Live

The NASEMSO Annual Meeting slated for May 21-24, 2018 in Providence, RI is gearing up to be one of the best ever! The transition to a single annual meeting is now complete—the 2018 meeting is the **only live event** for NASEMSO this year. The program is in an early draft form on the website and hotel and conference registration is now available on the [NASEMSO website](#). We hope you can join us!

3. NASEMSO Mourns Loss of Tom Nehring

NASEMSO is saddened to learn of the unexpected loss of a friend and colleague, Tom Nehring. Tom began his career in EMS in the early 1970s as one of North Dakota's first nationally registered paramedics. He was a leader in the development of paramedic training programs in North Dakota and founder and first president of the North Dakota EMS Association. Throughout his career, he served in a number of leadership roles in healthcare, hospitals and EMS, including Director of the Division of Emergency Medical Systems and Trauma in the North Dakota Department of Health. As a member of NASEMSO's Board of Directors, Tom was always the first to volunteer for committees and projects, particularly when they served the best interests of rural EMS. He recently served as the co-chair for the Joint Committee on Rural EMS Care, an organizational link between NASEMSO and the State Offices of Rural Health. Tom retired from his position as a state EMS director in 2017. He will be greatly missed. His obituary is available [here](#).



4. NASEMSO Partnering with California EMS Authority on the Health Information Exchange Network

NASEMSO is partnering with the California EMS Authority to lead a national group to promote greater connectivity

and interoperability between the target audiences of EMS agencies and hospitals to improve transitions of patient care through the sharing of electronic patient information. State EMS offices are the logical place to champion this effort. Moreover, as a result of the opportunity for Medicaid funding for EMS onboarding and data analytics through Sept. 30, 2021, state EMS offices may be well-positioned to take advantage of this opportunity. For those interested in participating in the Health Information Exchange Workgroup, please contact [Joe Ferrell](#).

5. REPLICA Commission Readies for Upcoming Meeting

The 12 member states of the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA), assembled as the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice, will meet in-person for the second time on **February 26-27, 2018, in Nashville, Tennessee**.

REPLICA's model legislation creates a formal pathway for the licensed individual to provide pre-hospital care across state lines under authorized circumstances. Representatives from member states Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming will be in attendance. Delaware will participate virtually. The Tennessee Department of Health, Division of Licensure and Regulation, will host this two-day meeting where the Commission will plan for the Coordinated National Database, conduct a rulemaking work session, and continue discussions to finalize the sustainable funding proposals. Presenters include Elizabeth Lund, nurse licensure compact administrator from Tennessee, and Donnie Woodyard from the National Registry of EMTs.

"The Commission continues to focus on establishing a strong foundation for the Compact," stated Chairman Joe Schmider. "The opportunity to meet in person is valuable to our continued efforts to advance the Compact's implementation." The group's inaugural meeting was held in October 2018.

The meeting agenda and notices will be available [here](#).

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[FOR THE STATES](#)

6. CMS Phasing Out Certain Section 1115 Demonstration Projects

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will no longer accept or renew state proposals for section 1115 Medicaid demonstrations that rely on federal matching funds for health programs previously funded entirely by the state. CMS said several states have obtained federal matching funds for such demonstrations but "have not made a compelling case" that they need the funding to continue important programs previously operated by the state. The agency said it will work with states with pending demonstration proposals that include such state health programs "to identify other options to support innovative state section 1115 demonstrations that promote the objectives of Medicaid." [Read more](#).

7. Government Workforce Impacted by Looming Public Health Retirements

Baby boomers are beginning to retire in large numbers and many professions will have to attract and train replacements. In particular, the governmental public health workforce will experience significant losses through retirement and attrition due to budgetary constraints. In a [study](#) in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, researchers estimate that over one quarter of this workforce will disappear. They further project that while enough students graduate each year to replace retirees and others who voluntarily quit, they question whether the public health sector can compete with the private sector to hire qualified candidates. [Read more.](#)

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[AIR MEDICAL](#)

8. UAV Collision With Army Helicopter Blamed on Operator Error

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has determined that the operator of an unmanned aerial vehicle (“drone”) that recently collided with an U.S. Army helicopter failed to see and avoid the helicopter because he was intentionally flying the drone out of visual range and did not have adequate knowledge of regulations and safe operating practices. The incident took place near Hoffman Island, New York on Sept. 21, 2017, when a DJI Phantom 4 small unmanned aircraft system and a U.S. Army Sikorsky UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter collided at an altitude of about 300 feet. The helicopter landed safely; the drone was destroyed. A 1½-inch dent was found on the leading edge of one of the helicopter’s four main rotor blades and parts of the drone were found lodged in the helicopter’s engine oil cooler fan. The drone operator was unaware of the collision until an NTSB investigator contacted him. The operator was also not aware of temporary flight restrictions that were in place at the time because of presidential travel and a United Nations General Assembly session. He was flying recreationally and did not hold an FAA remote pilot certificate. The full investigative report is available online [here](#).

9. FAA and ASSURE Announce Results of Air-to-Air Collision Study

Although the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is not yet able to definitively address public concerns about air collisions between small unmanned aircraft systems and commercial aircraft, studies by a consortium of leading universities, through the Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE), have begun to bring better understanding to the physical damage associated with small unmanned aircraft—or drones—colliding midair with commercial and business aircraft. A new report from ASSURE concludes that drones that collide with large manned aircraft can cause more structural damage than birds of the same weight for a given impact speed. The complete report is available [here](#).

10. FAA Docket Addresses Airspace Authorization Clearances for Drones

Soaring demand for drone flights made possible by regulations finalized last year have created a backlog of requests to the FAA and have become a nuisance to the agency's air-traffic controllers, who often receive direct telephone requests to operate the craft in the vicinity of airports.

Since the promulgation of part 107, the FAA has received an extremely high volume of airspace authorization requests for unmanned aircraft system (UAS) operations. From September 2016 to July 2017 the Agency received 20,566 authorization requests. Today there are an average of 250 safety reports a month, or approximately 1,500 over a six-month period, associated with a potential risk of an incident between manned aircraft and a UAS.

The FAA is seeking to implement the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) system to grant near-real time authorizations for the vast majority of operations in the national airspace system and is currently receiving comments via [Docket FAA-2017-0975](#). In other words, the FAA seeks emergency clearance to revise its existing information collection 2120-0768, Part 107 Authorizations and Waivers under 14 CFR part 107 and has requested that the OMB authorize the proposed collection of information identified in Federal Register Notice 2017-21878 on or before October 16, 2017 for a period of 180 days (to expire April 14, 2018). The agency believes these changes will create greater access to airspace authorizations and decrease the number of non-compliant operations. [Read more.](#)

11. FAA Releases UAS Remote Tracking & ID ARC Report

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Identification and Tracking Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) chartered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in June has submitted its report and recommendations to the agency on technologies available to identify and track drones in flight and other associated issues. Overall, the ARC provided the FAA with a substantial amount of useful data, including detailed technology evaluations and a comprehensive list of law enforcement needs and preferences. The ARC's recommendations and suggestions, which are fully detailed in the report, cover issues related to existing and emerging technologies, law enforcement and security, and implementation of remote identification and tracking. The FAA will use the data and recommendations in the ARC report in crafting a proposed rule for public comment. [Read more.](#)

12. AOPA Air Safety Institute Offers a Range of Free Online Courses

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Institute holds around 200 in-person seminars annually throughout the United States at airports, FBOs, aviation-themed locations, and the usual hotel venues. These seminars are free for anyone to attend. ASI's new spring seminar, *Collision Course: Avoiding Airborne Traffic* explores risk management strategies to avoid other aircraft in flight. Participants will learn about high-risk scenarios and locations and review strategies for avoidance. For example, the risk of a collision increases when multiple aircraft converge near the same nav-aid or approach the same airport. Even advanced cockpit technology may increase collision risk because it ensures more precise course and altitude tracking, which also means that more aircraft may crowd together in the same airspace, effectively shrinking our "big sky." Regardless of ATC support and

in-cockpit traffic displays, mid-air collisions still make newspaper headlines and close calls still happen too frequently. Learn more about all online ASI offerings [here](#) or see the list of free in person seminars [here](#).

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[COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE](#)

13. AHRQ Toolkit Addresses Transitions of Care in Ambulatory Settings

Transitions of care among ambulatory sites are vulnerable to patient safety gaps. Patients who transition from one ambulatory care facility clinician to another are especially vulnerable to patient safety errors. This is due, in part, to a lack of effective communication and patient engagement in shared decision-making. A new toolkit from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is designed to help staff actively engage patients and their care partners to prevent errors during transitions of care. The Toolkit to Engage High-Risk Patients in Safe Transitions Across Ambulatory Settings (available [here](#)) includes:

- [Toolkit guide](#), called Guide for Safe Patient Transitions to New Appointments, with in-depth instructions on how to use the toolkit, which also includes useful resources
- Narrated PowerPoint slide deck for team training (view [text](#))
- Pre-Intervention Assessment, a step-by-step exercise in an Excel format for team members to identify safety gaps or areas for improvement ([Excel document](#))
- [Checklist](#) to Prepare Patients for New Appointments, a set of best practices team members should follow with every patient
- [Appointment Aide](#), a tool for patients to refer to and use at their current appointment, and take with them to their follow-up appointments

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[GOVERNMENT INFORMATION](#)

14. Congress Considers Human Trafficking Bills

New companion bills in Congress entitled “Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act” focus on specialized training to assist healthcare workers recognize and work with law enforcement to assist human trafficking victims. The pending legislation [H.R. 767](#) in the House of Representatives and [S. 256](#) in the Senate would help healthcare workers identify victims, provide care specific to their needs, and connect them with assistance agencies.

[HEALTH AND MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS](#)

15. CDC Radiation Communication Tools Available

In light of the recent false alarm in Hawaii, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reminds stakeholders that several resources are available to inform and educate the public on radiation emergencies. On August 24, 2017, CDC's Division of State and Local Readiness in the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response sponsored a webinar to discuss priority public health actions for state and local radiological/nuclear preparedness and response. Webinar materials include

- [Slides](#)
- [Transcript](#)
- [Audio](#)

A full library on radiation communication strategies for state officials and the public is available [here](#).

16. NIMS Documents Available for National Engagement

FEMA's National Integration Center is seeking public feedback on 109 NIMS Job Titles/Position Qualifications and Resource Typing Definitions. **The National Engagement Period will conclude at 5:00 p.m. EST on February 27, 2018.** National Engagement provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the job titles/position qualifications and resource typing definitions. Read more [here](#). Titles specific to EMS are available under [Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services Resources](#).

17. WISER 5.1 Update Now Available

Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER), a system designed to assist emergency responders in hazardous material incidents, has recently been updated. [WISER 5.1](#) is now available on all platforms! Take a quick look at what's included in this release.

- CHEMM ("CHEMM 2.0") has extensive new and updated guidance and reference materials.
- New acute exposure guideline levels for airborne chemicals (AEGL) data from the EPA
- Data updates based on the latest Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB) content
- Android
 - Upgrades for KitKat. OS 4.4 is now required.
 - Protective distance "point into the wind" feature added for devices with a compass
- Windows
 - Completely new installer
 - Leverages new features of .NET. Version 4.6.1 is now required

- Fixes to emergency response guide UN searches (duplicates now displayed) across all platforms
- Many smaller updates and bug fixes

18. White House Offers “America First” National Security Strategy

The National Security Strategy (NSS) is a document prepared periodically by the executive branch of the government of the United States for Congress that outlines the major national security concerns of the United States and how the administration plans to deal with them. Four tenets are described in the NSS recently announced by President Trump:

- Protect the American people, the homeland, and the American way of life
- Promote American prosperity
- Preserve peace through strength
- Advance American influence

[Read more.](#)

19. EMS Track Offered at NETEC EIDP Workshop

The National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC) announced its “Emerging Infectious Disease Preparedness Workshop,” March 27-28, 2018 in Omaha, NE. This workshop will provide information and tools on the many aspects of managing and maintaining readiness of a facility responsible for assessing and/or treating patients with a special pathogen. Registration is free but travel expenses are the responsibility of the individual. An EMS/Prehospital track is available. [Read more.](#)

20. DOJ Releases AAR on Response to Pulse Attack

At the time, the Pulse nightclub attack, which claimed 49 lives and wounded another 68 people, was the worst terrorist assault since Sept. 11, 2001. For the past 18 months, the actions of officers, deputies and other first responders have been reviewed, with the latest coming from the Department of Justice (DOJ.) The report praises preincident training, especially first aid. It commends the speedy rescue of victims, the post-incident mental health services for victims and first responders, and the city's social media strategy that kept the public informed. The report includes photos and tactical diagrams showing how officers responded. Emergency medical care observations and lessons learned are also included in the report. [Read more.](#)

21. TFAH Report Highlights State Preparedness Efforts

According to the Trust for America’s Health, in *Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters and Bioterrorism*, 25 states scored a 5 or lower on 10 key indicators of public health preparedness. Alaska scored lowest at 2 out of 10, and Massachusetts and Rhode Island scored the highest at 9 out of 10. The report found the country does not invest enough to maintain strong, basic core capabilities for health security readiness

and, instead, inefficiently reacts to disasters with federal emergency supplemental funding packages. According to *Ready or Not*, funding to support the base level of preparedness has been cut by more than half since 2002, which has eroded advancements and reduced the country's capabilities. [Read more](#).

22. HHS Fact Sheet Offers Guidance for Moving Patients During Disasters

When local patient movement services are overwhelmed during disasters, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Service Action Teams (SATs) can help with patient movement. SATs are five teams of 20 to 40 U.S. Public Health Service officers available to deploy to support a number of missions. Once deployed, they fall under the authority of the HHS Incident Response Coordination Team. Learn more about SATs in the new [factsheet](#) from ASPR TRACIE.

23. NFPA Fast Tracks Active Shooter Standard

A rise in active shooter incidents and the escalating impact of hostile events has prompted the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to process NFPA 3000, Standard for Preparedness and Response to Active Shooter and/or Hostile Events as a provisional standard, which means it would be available for use as early as April 2018. As part of the standards process, NFPA 3000 is now open for input until February 23, 2018. [Read more](#).

24. NASEM to Study Use of Elastomeric Respirators in Health Care

An ad hoc committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) will conduct a study to examine the use of half-mask elastomeric respirators by healthcare workers. The study will explore the logistic, economic, and policy challenges and opportunities and will also focus on issues regarding personnel proficiency, proper use, and acceptance of elastomeric respirators in the U.S. healthcare system. The study will examine the practicability of elastomeric use in healthcare on a routine basis and during an influenza pandemic or other large aerosol-transmissible outbreak, when demand for respiratory protective devices by U.S. healthcare personnel may be larger than domestic supplies. The study will also address the issues regarding emergency stockpile management of elastomeric respiratory protective devices. [Read more](#).

25. New EMTALA and Disasters Fact Sheet Available from CMS

This new [fact sheet](#) was developed in collaboration with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to address several frequently asked questions regarding the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) and disasters. Please note that it is not intended to be used as regulatory guidance or in place of communications with or guidance from CMS.

26. New FEMA PrepTalks Highlight Contemporary Issues

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in partnership with organizations that collectively represent the emergency management profession in America, launched PrepTalks—a new approach to sharing research and innovation in the emergency management arena. PrepTalks are 15 to 20-minute presentations by subject-matter experts and national or international thought leaders designed to spread new ideas, spark conversation, and promote innovative leadership for the issues confronting emergency managers now and over the next 20 years. Eight PrepTalk speakers delivered presentations at the first PrepTalk Symposium held at George Washington University in Washington D.C. Topics included the importance of social capital in disaster mitigation and recovery, land use and environmental planning for community resilience, and a global perspective on how our decisions are shaping future disaster risk. In the coming months, the PrepTalk partners will release videos online of each presentation with related guidance, reading materials, and discussion questions for emergency management partners. [Read more.](#)

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[HITS \(Highway Incident & Transportation Systems\)](#)

27. MIT Study Suggests Tailgating Makes Traffic Worse

Researchers from MIT say that if drivers kept an even distance between cars rather than driving too close to the vehicle in front, traffic flow would remain even. This "bilateral control," could double the speed of the average vehicle on busy highways. The Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) study, published in the journal [IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems](#), concedes that changing driver behavior would be a long, unrewarding process. However, adaptive cruise control systems found in most cars could change with relative ease. Adding rear radar sensors to a car with adaptive cruise control could allow the vehicle to mediate its average distance between other vehicles, both ahead and behind.

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[PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE](#)

28. CDC Reports Unsafe Infant Sleep Practices Persist

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there have been dramatic improvements in reducing infant sleep-related deaths since the 1990s, when recommendations were introduced to place infants on their backs for sleep. However, there are still approximately 3,500 sleep-related deaths among infants each year in the United States, including those from sudden infant death syndrome and accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed. Unsafe sleep practices, including placing infants in a nonsupine (on side or on stomach) sleep position, bed sharing, and using soft bedding like blankets and pillows in the sleep environment are modifiable risk factors for

sleep-related infant deaths. Improved implementation of the safe sleep practices recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics could help reduce sleep-related infant mortality. Evidence-based interventions could increase use of safe sleep practices, particularly within populations whose infants might be at higher risk for sleep-related deaths. [Read more.](#)

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[TRAUMA](#)

29. NASEM Report Highlights Strategies to Reduce Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities

Alcohol-impaired driving remains the deadliest and costliest danger on U.S. roads today. Every day in the United States, 29 people die in an alcohol-impaired driving crash—one death every 49 minutes. After decades of progress, alcohol-impaired driving fatality rates plateaued and have increased for the past two years, making the fatalities a persistent public health and safety problem. Each alcohol-impaired driving crash represents a failure of the system. A coordinated, systematic, multi-level approach spanning multiple sectors is needed to accelerate change. With support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a committee to help identify promising strategies to reduce deaths caused by alcohol-impaired driving in the United States. The resulting report, *Getting to Zero Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities: A Comprehensive Approach to a Persistent Problem*, highlights interventions and actions to reduce alcohol-impaired driving fatalities, including ways to improve important existing interventions, and presents ideas for reviving public and policymaker attention to turn concern into decisive action to address this tragic and preventable problem. Watch the release webinar and download the report [here](#).

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[FEDERAL PARTNERS](#)

30. FDA Issues Final Rule on Certain Healthcare Antiseptics

Triclosan is an ingredient added to many consumer products intended to reduce or prevent bacterial contamination. It is added to some antibacterial soaps and body washes, toothpastes, and some cosmetics—products regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). According to the FDA, there isn't enough science to show that over-the-counter (OTC) antibacterial soaps are better at preventing illness than washing with plain soap and water. The FDA has finalized a [rule](#), first proposed in 2015, that finds that triclosan and 23 other active ingredients are not generally recognized as safe and effective (GRASE) for use in over-the-counter (OTC) health care antiseptic products, including health care personnel hand washes and rubs, surgical hand scrubs and rubs, and patient

antiseptic skin preparations, because no additional safety and effectiveness data were provided to the FDA to support monograph conditions for these 24 active ingredients. [Read more.](#)

31. CMS Announces Extension of Prior Authorization Project on Non-Emergent Ambulance Transports

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently announced a 1-year extension of the Medicare Prior Authorization Model for Repetitive Scheduled Non-Emergent Ambulance Transport. The extension of this model is applicable to the District of Columbia and the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. [Read more.](#)

32. FDA Issues Educational Blueprint for Opioid Risk Mitigation Strategy

The Food and Drug Administration just released a blueprint for educating health care providers that treat or monitor patients with pain under its forthcoming Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy for companies that make opioid pain relievers. Accredited continuing education providers will use the blueprint to develop educational materials and activities for the REMS. The revised blueprint includes more information on pain management and pharmacologic treatments for pain, including non-opioid pain relievers. In other news, FDA said it is working with manufacturers on safer packaging for Imodium A-D (loperamide) because some people addicted to opioids are taking the over-the-counter anti-diarrhea drug at dangerously high doses to manage withdrawal or achieve euphoric effects. Taking more than prescribed or listed on the label can cause severe heart rhythm problems or death. Download the FDA Blueprint [here.](#)

33. NIOSH/NHTSA Infographic Promotes EMS Safety

EMS providers are critical to public health and safety. This National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) resource, co-branded with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Office of EMS, recommends ways that EMS providers can prevent injuries. [Read more.](#)

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[INDUSTRY NEWS](#)

34. CoAEMSP Announces Major Milestone for Paramedic Programs

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Program for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) recently announced

a major milestone in the accreditation of Paramedic programs in its [newsletter](#). "...in December 2017, the last program director earned a Bachelor's degree, officially achieving the milestone that every Paramedic program in the United States has a program director with an earned Bachelors degree or higher."

According to the CoAEMSP, 54% of program directors have a bachelor's degree, 41% of program directors have a master's degree and 5% of program directors have earned a doctorate. This significant achievement shows tremendous progress in the EMS profession compared to other health professions. It is noted that there are 2 programs with Program Directors who have not earned a minimum of a Bachelors degree because they were grandfathered into the position when the new qualification went into effect in 2006 and are exempt as long as they continue to serve in that role with that sponsor. Congratulations to all involved!

35. NY Governor Signs “BSN in 10” Into Law

The Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing Report calls for 80% of RNs to hold bachelor's degrees by 2020, noting the need for higher education for RNs to take care of the higher complexity patients in the healthcare system. New York State has taken a step towards bringing this goal to fruition by passing a law that requires all new nurses to earn a BSN within 10 years of initial licensure. The provisions of the law do not apply to current RNs, as well as those currently enrolled or pending acceptance into a program preparing registered nurses effective Dec. 19, 2017.

[Read more.](#)

36. NAEMSP Launches EMS PAC at 2018 Annual Meeting

With record membership and attendance at its annual meeting, the National Association of EMS Physicians has growing clout on the American medical scene, and its new political action committee aims to make the most of it by influencing lawmakers and candidates on issues of importance to EMS. The new PAC, announced at the recent NAEMSP show in San Diego, is "the only ethical mechanism by which we as an organization can speak directly" to those influencers, President Brent Myers, MD, told attendees. "It's our responsibility as professionals," he added. The tool will be used to advocate for patients, providers and communities. [Read more.](#)

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[INTERESTING ABSTRACTS](#)

37. Early Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Offers Decreased Mortality in MI Patients

In this cross-sectional analysis study of Medicare beneficiaries with acute myocardial infarction, reductions in mortality varied by hospital and were associated with diffusion of cost-effective care, such as early percutaneous coronary interventions, rather than overall spending. The study, "Association Between Medicare Expenditure Growth and Mortality Rates in Patients With Acute Myocardial Infarction A Comparison From 1999 Through 2014," is

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

[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

5th Annual EMS Medical Directors Conference

April 27, 2018 Carmel, IN. For more info contact 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 2018](#)

October 29-Nov 2, 2018 in Nashville, TN

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

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