



# Washington Update

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## *In This Issue...*

### **NASEMSO NEWS**

1. NASEMSO Endorses Highway Safety Reauthorization
2. NASEMSO Seeking EMS Calendar Items for 2010
3. Education Agenda Panel Added to EMS Today

### **FOR THE STATES**

4. New Health Report Available from RWJF

### **DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS**

5. DHS Fails to Meet Requirements for HSPD 12

### **HIGHWAY SAFETY (HITS)**

6. New Sample Bill Will Aid States in Banning Texting While Driving

### **PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE**

7. HHS Awards \$100 Million to 10 States to Test Innovations in Children's Health Care

### **FEDERAL PARTNERS**

8. AHRQ Releases 2007 Hospital Emergency Department Data
9. AHRQ Report and Tools to Identify and Run Alternate Care Facilities
10. NTSB Issues 2010 Most Wanted List
11. New CDC Office to Draw Attention to Preventative Interventions
12. FCC's Emergency Response Interoperability Forum Rescheduled

### **INDUSTRY NEWS**

13. New NAEMT Position Statement Opposes EMS Participation in Executions

### **JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

14. TFAH—Director of Government Relations

### **INTERESTING ABSTRACTS OR WEBCASTS**

15. Emergency Medical Services Intervals and Survival in Trauma: Assessment of the “Golden Hour” in a North American Prospective Cohort

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**\*\*Updated Information on the Advocates for EMS Policy Summit\*\***

\*\*Statewide EMS Conferences\*\*

\*\*National Conferences and Special Meetings\*\*

**1. NASEMSO Endorses Highway Safety Reauthorization**

NASEMSO has joined several national organizations in signing onto a letter from the State Highway Safety Alliance to U.S. Senator James Inhofe in support of the following recommendations for the highway safety portions of the next surface transportation reauthorization legislation:

- A national highway safety goal of halving fatalities by 2030 with state targets that support the national goal.
- Increased safety funding to enable states to reach that goal.
- Streamlined program administration and enhanced flexibility to focus federal resources where they are most needed.
- A strengthened strategic highway safety planning process to ensure that states reach their targets.
- Enhanced data collection and analysis so that problems can be identified and progress tracked.
- Increased investment in safety research and development so that states can implement evidence-based programs.
- Better preparation of the highway safety workforce in order to develop a cadre of safety professionals.
- Incentives which will encourage states to improve as opposed to more sanctions.

Read the letter to Senator Inhofe [here](#).

**2. NASEMSO Seeking EMS Calendar Items for 2010**

NASEMSO welcomes the submission of statewide and national conferences or programs of interest to the EMS community for posting on our web site and in Washington Update! Descriptions should include the title, sponsor, location, date(s), contact information, and web site (if applicable.) Please send these items to NASEMSO Webmaster Karen Thompson-- [Thompson@nasemso.org](mailto:Thompson@nasemso.org) and/or WU Editor Kathy Robinson-- [robinson@nasemso.org](mailto:robinson@nasemso.org).

**3. Education Agenda Panel Added to EMS Today in Baltimore**

NASEMSO will host an expert panel at EMS Today in Baltimore next week. “*EMS Education Agenda: What You Need to Know About Implementation*” will help explain the steps needed to implement the EMS Education Agenda, progress that is being made across the country, and how to find resources that will help the EMS community be part of the implementation team. The intended purpose of the program is to answer questions about implementation and the Education Standards, EMS program accreditation, and national EMS certification.

The distinguished panel will include:

Drew Dawson, Director, NHTSA Office of EMS

Dan Manz, Vermont State EMS Director; Chairman NASEMSO Implementation Work Group

George Hatch, Executive Director, CoAEMSP

William Brown, Executive Director, NREMT

Deb Cason, Principal Investigator, National EMS Education Standards, NAEMSE

The session will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010 following the closing keynote in Room 33 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

In related news—

- The powerpoints from the series of webinars offered by NASEMSO on implementation have been posted on the web site at <http://www.nasemso.org/EMSEducationImplementationPlanning/Resources.asp>.
- The production schedule for EMS textbooks and other materials has been revised and is available [here](#).

#### 4. New Health Report Available from RWJF

The *County Health Rankings*—the first set of reports to rank the overall health of every county in all 50 states—were released by the University of Wisconsin’s Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The details of this fascinating data are available at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>. “These *Rankings* demonstrate that health happens where we live, learn, work and play. And much of what influences how healthy we are and how long we live happens outside the doctor’s office,” says Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. “People, no matter where they live, should have the best possible opportunity to be healthy.”

#### 5. DHS Fails to Meet Requirements for HSPD 12

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12), *Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors*, requires the development and agency implementation of a mandatory, government-wide standard for secure and reliable forms of identification for federal employees and contractors. All federal departments and agencies are to implement an HSPD-12 program to meet the standard established by the policy, which aims to enhance security, increase government efficiency, reduce identity fraud, and protect personal privacy. Although DHS has established an identification credentialing and issuance process, the department has not made the implementation of an effective HSPD-12 program a priority. The original completion date for the issuance and use of identity credentials by all federal employees and contractors was October 27, 2008. As of September 22, 2009, only 15,567, of the approximately 250,000 department employees and contractors, had been issued identity credentials. In a new report, *Resource and Security Issues Hinder DHS’ Implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12*, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) makes 15 recommendations to DHS’ Chief Security Officer, in conjunction with the Chief Information Officer for resolving the issue. [Read the report here.](#)

#### 6. New Sample Bill Will Aid States in Banning Texting While Driving

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has unveiled sample legislation to be used as a starting point for states crafting new laws to prohibit texting while behind-the-wheel, the latest step in the campaign against distracted driving. The sample state law, prepared by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and a cross-section of safety and industry organizations, would authorize law enforcement officers to stop a vehicle and issue a citation to drivers who are texting while driving. The department recently launched a federal website, [www.distraction.gov](http://www.distraction.gov), as a forum and information clearinghouse. Distraction.gov is a source of comprehensive information on distracted driving. Currently, nineteen States and the District of Columbia have texting laws covering all drivers. In 2009, more than 200 distracted driving bills were considered by State legislatures and

legislative activity is expected to remain strong in 2010. Click [here](#) to see the sample bill and the groups that participated in drafting it.

### 7. HHS Awards \$100 Million to 10 States to Test Innovations in Children's Health Care

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced \$100 million in federal grant funds to 10 states to improve health care quality and delivery systems for children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The grants, which will be awarded over a five year period, were funded by the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). The money will help states implement and evaluate provider performance measures and utilize health information technologies such as pediatric electronic health records and other quality improvement initiatives. For more information on these state grants, click [here](#).

### 8. AHRQ Releases 2007 Hospital Emergency Department Data

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has released its 2007 Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NEDS) -- the largest, all-payer emergency care database in the United States. NEDS can help public health experts, policymakers, health care administrators, researchers and others find the data they need to answer questions about the cost of emergency care, medical treatment effectiveness, and the quality of, access to, and use of emergency department, and other issues. The database contains more than 26 million records of emergency department visits at roughly 1,000 U.S. community hospitals -- approximately a 20-percent stratified sample -- and captures information both on visits that do not result in admission and those that do. NEDS is part of the AHRQ's Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), a Federal-State-industry partnership for building a standardized, multi-state health data system. For more information about NEDS, go to <http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/nedsoverview.jsp>

### 9. AHRQ Report and Tools to Identify and Run Alternate Care Facilities

A recently released report from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality explains how to select and operate alternate care facilities -- locations that can easily and quickly be equipped to augment or replace health care services when hospitals and other traditional care sites are inoperable or overwhelmed.

The evidence-based report, [Disaster Alternate Care Facilities: Selection and Operation](#), includes input from planning and preparedness experts in public, private and government sectors who have real-world experience in standing up and running alternate care facilities. It includes:

- A template to develop an operations manual.
- Staffing recommendations for various types of alternate care facilities.
- Equipment and supply options for planning and operation.

The report supports two Web-based interactive tools that provide user-customized plans to implement key components discussed in the report: site selection and the transfer of patients. The tools are: [Disaster Alternate Care Facility Selection Tool](http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/acfselection/acftool/) (<http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/acfselection/acftool/>) and [Alternate Care Facility Patient Selection Tool](http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/acfselection/pselectmatrix/) (<http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/acfselection/pselectmatrix/>).

### 10. NTSB Issues 2010 Most Wanted List

The National Transportation Safety Board has issued its 2010 Federal Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements, adding rail, aviation and marine issues, and updating the status of other issues on the list. At the

same time, the Board removed the issue areas dealing with improved protection for school bus passengers and fatigue in the pipeline industry. Besides removing two issue areas on the list, the Board reviewed the remaining 13 issue areas on the list and added two new ones. An updated brochure describing each Most Wanted issue area can be accessed at [http://www.nts.gov/Recs/brochures/MostWanted\\_2010.pdf](http://www.nts.gov/Recs/brochures/MostWanted_2010.pdf).

**11. New CDC Office to Draw Attention to Preventative Interventions**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced that it is creating a new Office of Prevention through Health Care (OPHC) to enable CDC to more aggressively and effectively develop and disseminate policies that leverage the health care system to improve health through prevention. The office will coordinate health care activities across CDC programs and lead engagement with other Department of Health and Human Services’ operating divisions and with external partners on health care issues.

**12. FCC's Emergency Response Interoperability Forum Rescheduled**

The Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC’s) Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) has rescheduled its public forum to discuss the creation of an emergency response interoperability center for public safety broadband communications for **Tuesday, March 2, 2010, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** The March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be held in the Commission Meeting Room (TW-C305) located at 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. Please note that this forum had been originally scheduled for February 10, 2010, but was postponed due to severe winter weather. The forum will be open to the public; admittance however will be limited to the seating available. Audio/Video coverage of the meeting will be broadcast live with open captioning over the Internet from the FCC’s web page at [www.fcc.gov/realaudio](http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio). The FCC’s web cast is free to the public and does not require pre-registration.

**13. New NAEMT Position Statement Opposes EMS Participation in Executions**

In a new position statement, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) states its strong opposition to participation in capital punishment by EMTs, paramedics or other emergency medical practitioners. Participation in executions is viewed as contrary to the fundamental goals and ethical obligations of emergency medical services. Historically, the role of EMS practitioners has been to promote, preserve and protect human life. NAEMT’s *EMT Oath* is based on the basic principles of saving life, respect for human life and the non-infliction of harm to all recipients of emergency medical services. To view the full position statement, please go to the NAEMT Positions page in the Advocacy section of [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org).

**14. TFAH—Director of Government Relations**

Trust for America’s Health (TFAH), a leading public health advocacy group, seeks a Director of Government Relations. Must have excellent leadership, collaboration, communications and organizational skills, and expert knowledge of federal legislative and regulatory processes. Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority. We believe that prevention must drive our nation’s health strategy; Americans deserve healthy and safe places to live, work and play; every community should be prepared to meet the threats of infectious disease, bioterrorism, and natural disasters; and Americans deserve to know what government is doing to keep them healthy and safe. For more information, visit [www.healthyamericans.org](http://www.healthyamericans.org). Please send resume, cover letter and salary history to Richard Hamburg, Deputy Director, Trust for America’s Health, 1730 M Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036 or [rhamburg@tfah.org](mailto:rhamburg@tfah.org). No calls please.

**15. Emergency Medical Services Intervals and Survival in Trauma: Assessment of the “Golden Hour” in a North American Prospective Cohort.**

Craig D. Newgard, Robert H. Schmicker, Jerris R. Hedges, John P. Trickett, Daniel P. Davis, Eileen M. Bulger, Tom P. Aufderheide, Joseph P. Minei, J. Steven Hata, K. Dean Gubler, Todd B. Brown, Jean-Denis Yelle, Berit Bardarson, Graham Nichol, Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium Investigators  
 Annals of Emergency Medicine - March 2010 (Vol. 55, Issue 3, Pages 235-246.e4, DOI: 10.1016/j.annemergmed.2009.07.024). Authors challenge long-standing beliefs about the "Golden Hour."  
 Presented as an abstract at the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting, May 2008, Washington, DC. Article available at [http://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644\(09\)01284-0/fulltext](http://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644(09)01284-0/fulltext).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**\*\*Updated Information on the Advocates for EMS Policy Summit\*\***

**Location:**

Thursday, March 4, 2010, 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
 Baltimore Convention Center, Room 350, Baltimore, MD

**Confirmed Participating Federal Officials:**

Richard Hunt, M.D., Centers for Disease Control, HHS  
 Michael Handrigan, M.D., Emergency Care Coordination Center, HHS  
 Rick Patrick, Office of Health Affairs, DHS  
 Mike Stern, U.S. Fire Administration, DHS  
 Drew Dawson, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT

**Session:**

Please join Advocates for EMS and honored Federal Officials for an interactive discussion about policies affecting EMS providers. You will have the opportunity to learn about critical issues facing the EMS community and share your input on the opportunities and challenges you face in providing emergency medical care every day. Previous EMS Summits have lead to both policy and law changes, so your voice does count! The session will be followed by a reception from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Camden Lobby right outside Room 350.

More details about EMS Today are posted at [www.emstoday.com](http://www.emstoday.com)

**\*\*\*STATEWIDE EMS CONFERENCES\*\*\***

\* Pennsylvania State EMS Conference. September 16-18 (with preconference sessions on September 14-15), 2010 at the Lancaster County Convention Center in Lancaster, PA. More information can be found at [www.pehsc.org](http://www.pehsc.org).

PULSE CHECK 2010, the 55th Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, will be held Thursday evening September 30, 2010 to Sunday morning October 3, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Albany on Wolf Road. Information is posted on the Association's web site at [www.nysvara.org](http://www.nysvara.org).

New Jersey Statewide Conference on EMS, Atlantic City November 11th - 13th 2010. For more information visit: [www.njemsconference.com](http://www.njemsconference.com)

New Jersey METI Games. November 11th - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010. For more information visit [www.njemsconference.com](http://www.njemsconference.com).

**\*\*\*National Conferences and Special Meetings\*\*\***

The NIOSH Personal Protective Technology Program will host the 3rd Annual Stakeholders' Meeting on March 2 and 3, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh Airport.

EMS Today. JEMS Conference and Exposition. March 2-6, 2010. Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. More information at [www.EMSToday.com](http://www.EMSToday.com).

2010 AAMS Spring Conference. March 17-19, 2010 Washington Marriott at Metro Center, Washington, DC. For more information, go to [www.aams.org](http://www.aams.org).

\*EMS Education Implementation Webinar. March 24, 2010 3 pm. **"How to Use the Gap Analysis Template to Identify a State SOP and Other Materials"** More info including registration link at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) as speakers and topics are confirmed.

EMSC Town Hall Conference Call. April 14, 2010 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm (eastern). The local number is (202) 476-6338 or call toll-free dial (877) 355-6338 and enter EMSC (3672) for the meeting ID#.

\*EMS Education Implementation Webinar. April 21, 2010 @ 3 pm. **"Depth and Breadth: What Does It Mean to EMS Education?"** More info including registration link at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) as speakers and topics are confirmed.

IAFC's Fire Rescue Med Conference. May 1-5, 2010. Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. For more information, go to <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=6>.

EMS ON THE HILL DAY, May 3-4, 2010, Washington, D.C. Updates and more information on the event will be posted on the NAEMT web site, [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org).

ITS America Annual Meeting and Exposition. May 3-5, 2010. Houston, TX. For more information go to <http://www.itsa.org/annualmeeting.html>.

\*2010 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit. May 12-16, 2010. Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN. For more information—go to <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?i=3d37b6ef-7182-487c-a0d9-87287aaa50ef>.

\*EMS Education Implementation Webinar. May 19, 2010 @ 3 pm. **"Who Should Teach: Identifying Instructor Qualifications for Using the New Education Standards"** More info including registration link at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) as speakers and topics are confirmed.

\*National EMS Week 2010. May 16 thru May 22 with May 19 set aside as Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Day. [Order Your 2010 EMS Week Planner \(Kit\) Here.](#)

ACEP 2010 Leadership and Advocacy Conference. May 16-19, 2010. Washington, DC. Go to [www.acep.org](http://www.acep.org) for more information.

Joint NASEMSO Mid-Year/EMSC Grantee Meeting. May 25-27, 2010. Doubletree Hotel, Bethesda, MD. More info at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org).

Institute of Medicine Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events. June 9-10, 2010. Washington, DC. See <http://www.iom.edu/en/Activities/PublicHealth/MedPrep.aspx> for more information.

\*EMS Education Implementation Webinar. June 23, 2010 @ 3 pm. **“Developing Standards Based Instruction”** More info including registration link at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) as speakers and topics are confirmed.

EMSC Town Hall Conference Calls 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm (eastern) July 14, 2010. The local number is (202) 476-6338 or call toll-free dial (877) 355-6338 and enter EMSC (3672) for the meeting ID#.

\*EMS Education Implementation Webinar. July 21, 2010 @ 3 pm. **“How Does Program Accreditation Improve the Quality of EMS Education?”** More info including registration link at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) as speakers and topics are confirmed.

Pinnacle 2010. July 26-30, 2010. Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. San Diego, CA For more information, go to [www.pinnacle-ems.com](http://www.pinnacle-ems.com).

6<sup>th</sup> International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine. August 9-13, 2010, Vail CO. For more information, go to <http://www.ircp.info/>.

\*EMS Education Implementation Webinar. August 25, 2010 @ 3 pm. **“Identifying Methods to Measure Cognitive, Psychomotor, and Affective Competency”** More info including registration link at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) as speakers and topics are confirmed.

15<sup>th</sup> Annual NAEMSE Symposium. September 7-12, 2010. Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center in Schaumburg, IL. For more information, go to <http://www.naemse.org/symposium>.

\*EMS Education Implementation Webinar. September 15, 2010 @ 3 pm. **“Progression/Regression Strategies: Models of Success.”** More info including registration link at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) as speakers and topics are confirmed.

ENA Annual Meeting. San Antonio Convention Center, San Antonio, TX. General Assembly September 22-34, Scientific Assembly September 23-25, 2010. Go to [www.ena.org](http://www.ena.org) for more information.

NAEMT Annual Meeting at EMS EXPO 2010 - Sept. 27 – Oct. 1, 2010. Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX. For more information, go to <http://www.firehouseevents.com/>.



ACEP Scientific Assembly 2010. September 28 - October 1, 2010. Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, NV. For more information, go to [www.acep.org](http://www.acep.org).

Institute of Medicine Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events. October 6-7, 2010. Washington, DC. See <http://www.iom.edu/en/Activities/PublicHealth/MedPrep.aspx> for more information.

NASEMSO Annual Meeting. October 10-15, 2010, Norfolk Marriott Waterside/Waterside Convention Center Norfolk, Virginia. More info available at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org). Sponsorship and exhibitor information [now available](#).

2010 Air Medical Transport Conference October 11-13, 2010. Ft. Lauderdale, FL. For more information, go to [www.aams.org](http://www.aams.org).

\*EMS Education Implementation Webinar. October 20, 2010 @ 3 pm. **“System Update: 2010 NASEMSO Survey Results.”** More info including registration link at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) as speakers and topics are confirmed.

\*EMS Education Implementation Webinar. November 22, 2010 @ 3 pm. **“The Role of National Certification in Implementing the EMS Education Agenda.”** More info including registration link at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) as speakers and topics are confirmed.

ECCU 2010. Emergency Cardiac Care Update, December 8-11, 2010. San Diego, CA. Sponsored by the Citizen CPR Foundation. For more information, go to <http://eccu2010.com/>.

See more EMS Events on NASEMSO’s web site at <http://www.nasemso.org/Resources/Calendar/index.asp>

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