



# Washington Update

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*April 20, 2012*

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**1. NASEMSO Mid-Year Meeting to Be Held May 7-8, 2012 in Bethesda, Maryland**

Plans are underway for the 2012 NASEMSO Mid-Year Meeting, set for May 7-8 at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Md. The purpose of the Mid-Year Meeting is to address emergency medical services and homeland security legislative and regulatory issues; the EMS work force; NASEMSO project updates (pandemic flu, mentor program, air medical task force, intelligent transportation and traffic incident management developments, and model trauma plan); the National EMS Education Standards project; and more. This meeting is for members of NASEMSO and federal officials with a role in emergency medical services. [See complete details here.](#)

**2. Issue Brief for NASEMSO Members: Drug Shortages and Controlled Substance Regulation**

Current national discussions about medication availability and controlled substance regulation revolve around two separate but interrelated categories of issues. These two issues are complicated, mutually exacerbating, and both are in dire need of resolution. A NASEMSO “Members Only” webpage has been developed for your reference on both the drug shortage crisis and the controlled substance regulatory issues. This represents our association’s “body of knowledge” on legislative and other initiatives related to these matters. In the near future we will add a library of policy and other documents issued by states on the subject, and the page will be regularly updated as additional activity occurs. [For more information...](#)

**3. NASEMSO Releases "Rural Highway Mass Casualty Guidelines"**

NASEMSO completed its project commitment to NHTSA’s Office of Emergency Medical Services and the recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board related to rural highway mass casualty readiness. The capstone document, “Rural Highway Mass Casualty Guidelines: Resources for State and Local Officials,” was presented to and accepted by the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services. It is hoped that this document will be an asset in efforts to improve response in rural areas of state EMS systems and to further collaboration with state offices of highway safety and state traffic safety engineering staff. [For more information...](#)

**4. NASEMSO Convenes National EMS Leadership Forum at EMS Today**

NASEMSO convened the Joint National EMS Leadership Forum on March 1 at the EMS Today conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The group expressed their intent to maintain contemporary and mutual awareness of national issues, foster trust, identify matters of mutual importance and serve as a collective voice. The Forum’s current focus will be on drug shortage and NEMSIS. [For more information....](#)

**5. Survey Says: NASEMSO I-Team Reports to NEMSAC**

The results of NASEMSO’s annual Education Agenda Implementation Survey were reported to the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) on March 28, 2012. Data collected in 2011 shows that the majority of states are actively engaged in implementing the *EMS Education Agenda of the Future: A Systems Approach*. 74% of states report that they will require national EMS program accreditation by December 31, 2012 while another 7% expect to have the requirement in place within 5 years. Since data collection began in 2007:

- Roughly 20% increase in states using SOP levels as a foundation at EMT and paramedic levels
- 18%- 22% increase in states planning to implement EMR and AEMT levels
- To date, NO state has indicated they will NOT implement National Models for EMT or Paramedic
- No plan to implement level in state:
  - EMR – 23%
  - AEMT– 11%

Approximately ¾ of states indicate they will utilize the National Registry of EMT (NREMT) or a combination of the NREMT with state-specific components in the state licensure process at the EMT, AEMT, and paramedic levels in the future. The complete report can be downloaded from the [NASEMSO web site](#).

**6. Nominate a Hero for the 2012 Citizens Medal**

The Citizens Medal is one of our nation's highest civilian honors. For the past two years, President Obama has relied on you to identify heroes in your community – extraordinary Americans whose work provides inspiration for others to serve. Nominations for the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal are now open, and you can [nominate a hero in your community](#) until Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**7. National EMS Week, May 20-26, 2012; Great Ideas for EMS Week and EMS Everyday**

EMS Week celebrates and honors the hundreds of thousands of EMS practitioners serving our communities across the nation. Click [here](#) for resources and tools to help you get ready for EMS Week and stay focused on your profession year round. Explore new ways to participate in, grow and support EMS. And don't forget EMSC Day on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. To help promote National EMSC Day, the EMSC National Resource Center has created a variety of [resources](#) targeting key audiences to help grantees, family representatives, and child advocates prepare for the daylong celebration.

**8. Funding Opportunity: Incorporating Radiation Professionals into Existing Volunteer Response Programs**

The Conference of Radiation Control (CRCPD) is pleased to invite proposals from state radiation control programs, health department preparedness programs or local non-government organizations partnering with radiation control and public health programs to incorporate volunteer radiation professionals into existing health volunteer response programs. Funding assistance will be provided to qualified and approved applicants through sub-grants for radiation response volunteer corps initiatives and may be used for infrastructure needs, outreach to and solicitation and credentialing of radiation professionals in the state, development of communication systems, and provision of training. [For more information....](#)

**9. GPO Announces The New Mobile Member Guide for the 112th Congress**

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) announces the new Mobile Member Guide, a mobile Web application (app) which provides the public with quick, easy access to information on House Members and Senators of the 112th Congress. Based on the [Guide to the House and Senate Members](#) and information in the [Congressional Pictorial Directory](#), the new mobile apps features include:

- Official biographical information for House Members and Senators
- Official photograph of House Members and Senators, party affiliation, hometown, home state, and information on their length of service
- Contact information for House Members and Senators offices in Washington, D.C. and home districts
- Counties and zip codes that each House Member represents
- Links to House Members and Senators Web sites

This Mobile Member Guide allows users to browse for Members of Congress by last name, state, chamber, or party. The public can take advantage of GPO's free mobile Web app on iPhone, Android and other major mobile device platforms. To access the app on your mobile device, go to <http://m.gpo.gov/memborguide/>.

[For more information...](#)

**10. Community Paramedic: Perspective From the Front Line**

Click [here](#) to watch a video of Paramedic Kevin Creek giving his perspective of the Community Paramedic program in Western Eagle County Colorado. This video was done out of a request from the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services for their EMS EXPO meeting this last weekend. It is very well done and offers a front-line perspective of Community Paramedicine.

**11. Advocacy for MedEvac Services a Key Focus of AAMS Spring Legislative Conference in Washington, DC**

A key delegation of medevac professionals arrived in Washington, DC in mid-March to kick off the Association of Air Medical Services' (AAMS) annual Spring Legislative Conference. The conference serves a dual role. First, this event provides the potential for industry professionals to learn about the operational and legislative issues that directly affect their ability to provide medevac services to their local communities. Second, Spring Conference attendees are offered the opportunity to educate and inform legislators on the unique needs and vital necessity of medevac services nationwide. [For more information...](#)

**12. D-Block Allocation to Public Safety is 'Done'**

Allocation of the D-Block of 700 MHz spectrum for the purposes of building a nationwide, interoperable emergency communications network is all but sealed. Congress has agreed to allocate the D-Block to public safety and support the development of a mission-critical, nationwide public safety broadband network. The provisions are included in the conference report to the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (H.R. 3630). A summary of the provisions included in Title IV of the conference report includes:

- The D Block will be allocated to public safety.
- Governance of the network by a new First Responder Network Authority will be within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the Department of Commerce.
- Incentive auctions will provide \$7 billion for construction of the network.
- In approximately 11 years, public safety organizations will be required to give back spectrum currently in use in the T Band. The agreement includes provisions to pay for their relocation to the 700 MHz band.

In a live webcast press conference held Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, four key Democratic Senators — Jay Rockefeller, Chuck Schumer, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Frank Lautenberg — invoked stories about police, fire, and EMS personnel killed on 9/11 as they announced an historic deal to give America's first responders a nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network. [For more information...](#)

**13. White House Posts Report on Economic Benefits of Wireless Broadband**

Vice President Biden recently met with law enforcement officials, firefighters and public safety groups at the White House and spoke to a couple hundred more first responders by telephone to thank them for their service and to discuss the new nationwide public-safety broadband network included in the Payroll Tax Extension legislation. Members of the audience included police chiefs and sergeants from the New York City Police Department, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the National Association of Police Organization, among others. The Vice President discussed the need to ensure the safety of first responders and the public, and announced a [new report](#) from the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) that discusses the positive benefits of wireless broadband for public safety as well as jobs, growth, and investment. The report, *THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS*

*OF NEW SPECTRUM FOR WIRELESS BROADBAND*, illustrates the economic impact of President Obama’s goal of doubling the amount of spectrum available for wireless broadcast over ten years, while adopting a nationwide inter operable wireless network. The report contains a section specific to Wireless Broadband and Public Safety.

**14. Directory Provides Links to Needed Public Safety Broadband Information**

The long-awaited nationwide public safety broadband network is moving closer to reality with the passage of legislation giving public safety both the spectrum and funding needed to build the network. The [Public Safety Broadband Directory](#) has links to a wide range of current information on the nationwide efforts to bring broadband to public safety. The directory categorizes all resource links both by activities in broadband and, by the organizations integrally involved in the nationwide public safety broadband network. Your input is welcome to make this public safety broadband directory as useful as possible. Please send any recommended submissions, changes, and/or additions to [directory\\_input@npstc.org](mailto:directory_input@npstc.org).

**15. Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability Announces Agenda for Public Workshop**

The agenda for the public workshop that the Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability (Interoperability Board) on April 23, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Federal Communications Commission (Commission) headquarters, 445 12th St, SW, Washington, D.C., 20554 has been posted. The purpose of this workshop is to collect additional input on topic areas that the Interoperability Board has determined are relevant to the development of minimum technical requirements to ensure a nationwide level of interoperability for the nationwide public safety broadband network. [For more information...](#)

**16. Webinar Now Available: Introduction to NEMSIS and Its Potential Uses in Syndromic Surveillance**

The US 9-1-1 and emergency medical services (EMS) systems provide critical, time sensitive care to millions of patients every year. While EMS typically provides medical care to one patient at a time, data from EMS patient records and 9-1-1 calls can be used to enhance public health surveillance efforts. This webinar gives an overview of the EMS systems and the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) and discusses how NEMSIS can be used in syndromic surveillance. If you missed the January 31<sup>st</sup> webinar, click [here](#) to view the presentation slides.

**17. NEMSIS Version 3.2.1 Build 120321 Official Release**

An update to the NEMSIS V3 Official Release is now available: NEMSIS Version 3.2.1 Build 120321 includes updates to Data Dictionary, XML Schema Definitions (XSDs), Change Log, and the associated excel spreadsheets. [For additional information....](#)

**18. IOM Report Provides Framework and Tools to Deliver Health Care Effectively During Catastrophic Disasters**

While most areas of the country have systems in place to handle conventional disasters, such as a plane crash or building collapse, the infrastructure and systems to deliver health care during or following catastrophic situations, such as a widespread disease outbreak or a devastating earthquake, are rudimentary at best, says a new report from the Institute of Medicine. The report provides a resource manual to guide health care organizations, public health agencies, first responder teams, and government agencies in delivering care as effectively as possible to the greatest number of people when such disasters occur. [For more information...](#)

**19. Testimony on the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request for the OHA**

Click [here](#) to read written testimony of the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications discussing how the Office of Health Affairs (OHA) is working to achieve their mission and goals and how the FY 2013 budget will support these efforts.

**20. DHS Announces AT&T PS-Prep™ Certification**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that AT&T Inc. has become the first private sector company to be certified to DHS-selected standards under the Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Program. PS-Prep™ is a partnership between DHS and the private sector - enabling private entities to receive emergency preparedness certification. [For more information...](#)

**21. UNC Offers Free Online Trainings in Influenza Preparedness, Disease Surveillance, Bioterrorism, and More!**

The University of North Carolina's (UNC) Center for Public Health Preparedness offers several free [short internet-based trainings](#) on public health preparedness topics, such as disease surveillance, basic epidemiology, bioterrorism, and new/emerging disease agents. Trainings address emergency readiness competencies plus core public health and epidemiology competencies. Free continuing education credits for trainings are available.

**22. EMS Near Miss and Line of Duty Death Online Reporting Tools Launched**

NAEMT has been working with the Center for Leadership, Innovation and Research (CLIR) in EMS on the development of an anonymous system for EMS practitioners to report near-miss and line of duty death incidents by answering a series of questions in an online format. The purpose of the system is to collect and aggregate data that will then be analyzed and used in the development of EMS policies and procedures, and for use in training, educating and preventing similar events from occurring in the future. No individual responses will be shared or transmitted to other parties. The Near Miss and Line of Duty Death Online Reporting Tools launched last month and is live at [www.emseventreport.org](http://www.emseventreport.org). These tools, along with an already existing tool to report patient safety events, form the EMS Voluntary Event Notification Tool (E.V.E.N.T). [Click here for the letter from NAEMT and CLIR.](#)

**23. Study of Best Practices for Emergency Vehicle Visibility Initiated**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), supported by the U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and in partnership with the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association's (CVVFA) Emergency Responder Safety Institute, has initiated a study of emergency vehicle markings, lighting, and design to recommend best practices for increased visibility to approaching motorists. The goal of this study is to develop best practices in the application of various chevron patterns, creative use of reflective decal markings, new arrangements of warning lights and other innovative designs, all with the intent of increasing the visibility of the emergency vehicles to motorists approaching them. The study will focus on emergency vehicles not covered by existing standards in this area. Further information on USFA's emergency vehicle and roadway safety research initiatives may be found [here](#).

**24. USFA, Federal Highway Administration Complete Study of Traffic Incident Management Systems**

Updated *Traffic Incident Management Systems* manual contains technical information and training programs for fire and emergency service providers. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Highway Administration, working in partnership with the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) have, through a study of current traffic incident management practices and policies, updated the 2008 edition of the [Traffic Incident Management Systems](#) (TIMS) manual. The 2012 edition provides

the most current technical information and training programs in traffic incident management for fire and emergency service providers in this area as well as guidance to local fire departments on compliance with the latest edition of the DOT Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Click [here](#) for further information about this study and other roadway safety projects.

**25. Improved DOT Collaboration & Communication Could Enhance Use of Technology to Manage Congestion**

Traffic congestion burdens the nation’s quality of life and will likely grow substantially if current trends continue. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) are a range of technologies that can reduce congestion at less cost than some other approaches. The U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) is responsible for promoting and supporting the use of ITS in coordination with other modal administrations, including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Since 1994, DOT has overseen the allocation and expenditure of more than \$3 billion for deploying and researching ITS. GAO was asked to address (1) the current and emerging uses of ITS technologies by state and local governments, (2) the challenges these governments face in using ITS, and (3) the extent to which DOT’s efforts to promote and support ITS address these challenges and follow leading practices. To conduct this work GAO visited four sites, and interviewed and analyzed documents and data from DOT and state and local transportation officials, ITS experts, and other stakeholders. Click [here](#) to review recommendations and view the full report.

**26. Young People Are Least Likely to Speak Up About Distracted Driving as Passengers**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today unveiled survey analysis that reveals young people are the least likely passengers to say something to their driver if he or she were texting or talking on a cell phone. At the same time, Secretary LaHood also launched a new contest for students to design a social networking icon that will be used in DOT’s distracted driving campaign and encourage young drivers to speak up when riding with a distracted driver. The full survey analysis, “Young Drivers Report the Highest Level of Phone Involvement in Crash or Near-crash Incidences,” is available at [here](#). Full contest and submission details for the Distracted Driving Design Challenge are available at [Distraction.gov](#) and [Challenge.gov](#).

**27. NCSA Crash Stats: Lives Saved in 2010 by Restraint Use and Minimum Drinking Age Laws**

In 2010, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 12,546 lives. Lives saved have been produced by NHTSA’s National Center for Statistics & Analysis since 1975. The counts are estimates that are calculated using the effectiveness of each device or law that is mentioned. [For more information...](#)

**28. NCSA Research Note: 2010 Motor Vehicle Crashes: Overview**

This research note, previously released in December 2011, has been revised to reflect slight changes in the GES estimates. Coding errors were found in the data file shortly after the original postings. Those errors have been corrected and are reflected in this revised research note. [For more information...](#)

**29. Medications at Transitions and Clinical Handoffs (MATCH) Toolkit for Medication Reconciliation**

Errors involving prescription drugs are the most common type of medical mistakes. To help hospitals compare patients’ everyday prescriptions with new ones they receive in the hospital, AHRQ has funded a product called the MATCH toolkit. Medication reconciliation is a complex process that impacts all patients as they move through all health care settings. It is a comparison of the patient’s current medication regimen against the physician’s admission, transfer, and/or discharge orders to identify discrepancies. Any discrepancies noted are discussed with the prescriber, and the order is modified, if necessary. While this toolkit is based on processes developed in acute-

care settings, the core processes, tools, and resources can be adapted for use in post-acute facilities. Medication Reconciliation is a process to decrease medication errors and patient harm. [For more information...](#)

**30. NHTSA Unveils Campaign to Prevent Child Heatstroke Deaths in Cars**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has launched its first-ever national campaign to prevent child heatstroke deaths in cars, urging parents and caregivers to think "[Where's baby? Look before you lock.](#)" Heatstroke contributes to many non-crash, vehicle-related deaths and with unseasonably warm temperatures already striking many areas around the country, it is more vital than ever to establish a nation and community wide call-to-action. NHTSA will launch a series of radio and online advertisements centered around the theme "*Where's baby? Look before you lock,*" as well as a toolkit for parents and grassroots organizations to use in local outreach on the issue.

**31. May is National Trauma Awareness Month; Campaign is "Decide to Drive: Arrive Alive! "**

The American Trauma Society, in collaboration with the Society of Trauma Nurses and the Emergency Medical Services for Children, every year convene a committee to develop materials for National Trauma Awareness Month. Committee members research current trends in traumatic injury, and based on this the committee selects one cause of major injuries to focus on during National Trauma Awareness Month. This year we are again focusing on the growing problem of distracted driving. We urge communities across the United States to focus on this problem in May 2012 and throughout the year. The National Trauma Awareness 2012 campaign materials created and selected by ATS, EMSC and STN are posted [here](#). They include, but are not limited to, fact sheets, pamphlets, videos, and games directed at educating the public on distracted drivers and persons or things that will distract the driver.

**32. Death Rates from Unintentional Injury Among Children Dropped By Nearly 30 Percent in 10 Years**

According to a new [Vital Signs](#) report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Death, rates from unintentional injuries among children and adolescents from birth to age 19 declined by nearly 30 percent from 2000 to 2009. However, more than 9,000 children lost their lives as a result of unintentional injury in the United States in 2009. And although rates for most causes of child injuries have been dropping, suffocation rates are on the rise, with a 54 percent increase in reported suffocation among infants less than 1 year old, the report says. Poisoning death rates also increased, with a 91 percent increase among teens aged 15-19, largely due to prescription drug overdose, it said. [For more information...](#)

**33. Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Training Opportunities**

[Vacancies exist](#) in the offerings for fiscal year 2012 courses at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Send completed applications to your State Training Officer for approval. The State will then forward them to Admissions. If interested, apply immediately! For more information, click [here](#) or contact the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1035 or via email at [netc-admissions@dhs.gov](mailto:netc-admissions@dhs.gov) .

**34. CDC announces launch of new Apps for 2011 Field Triage Guidelines**

A new CDC smartphone application, available at no cost, is now available for EMS professionals. The goal of the app is to increase knowledge and awareness of 2011 Guidelines for the Field Triage of the Injured Patients. EMS professionals can use this app to test their knowledge and learn more about transport decisions for injured patients. [Download it free from the Apple App Store](#). To learn more about the 2011 Guidelines for the Field Triage of the Injured Patients, visit [www.cdc.gov/Fieldtriage](http://www.cdc.gov/Fieldtriage).

**35. HHS Responds to Emergency Care Drug Shortage**

The FDA's Drug Shortage Program (DSP) was established to address [shortages of drugs](#) that would have a significant impact on public health. Many of the current shortages, including etomidate and midazolam, are due to a large manufacturer deciding to shut down at the end of 2011 to address quality problems at the plant. FDA is working with the manufacturer and hopes that the firm will restart production soon, and in the meantime has also continued to work with the remaining manufacturers. Find [updates](#) on these two shortages, as well as all others, online. Questions about EMS and other drug shortages in states should be directed to the [Drug Shortage Program](#) (phone: 888-463-6332). (See also [Issue Brief for NASEMSO Members: Drug Shortages and Controlled Substance Regulation](#))

**36. DEA Holding Fourth Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in April**

This spring, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and its national and community partners will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. On Saturday, April 28th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. local time, DEA and its partners will hold their fourth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day at sites nationwide. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. [For more information...](#)

**37. HHS Seeks Comment on National Action Plan to Eliminate Healthcare-Associated Infections**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) posted an updated National Action Plan to eliminate healthcare-associated infections for public comment. The update confirms progress in the effort to make healthcare safer and less costly by reducing preventable complications of care, including healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). [For more information...](#)

**38. HHS and the Department of Education have unveiled an enhanced Stop Bullying Website**

The site encourages children, parents, educators, and communities to take action to prevent and respond to bullying. Visit [StopBullying.gov](#) now or follow StopBullying.gov on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**39. FEMA Releases Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment Guide**

The Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Guide, Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 201 provides a five-step process for conducting a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment. Developing an understanding of its risks from natural, technological, and human-caused threats and hazards, allows a community to make informed decisions about how to manage risk and develop needed capabilities. Click [here](#) to download the full PDF version.

**40. NAEMT 2011 Annual Report Now Available**

NAEMT has matured into an organization that is operated with transparency, integrity and stewardship. With this in mind, the theme of this annual report is "Ready for the Future." It illustrates how NAEMT has grown into an organization that is now positioned to capitalize on all of our past experiences and the work of many members who have come before us. More than ever, NAEMT is working to build and strengthen both the practice of prehospital emergency medical care and the work of our nation's EMS practitioners for today and the future. [For more information...](#)

**41. Health Dollars Reallocation & New Funding Sources Needed to Strengthen Nation's Public Health Capacity**

To improve America's lackluster performance on health outcomes compared with its peer nations and to maintain its international competitiveness, the United States needs to invest more in its chronically underfunded public

health system and spend public health dollars more efficiently, says a new report from the Institute of Medicine. [For more information...](#)

**42. Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness**

[Presidential Policy Directive / PPD-8: National Preparedness](#) focuses on strengthening the security and resilience of the Nation through systematic preparation for the full range of 21st century hazards that threaten the security of the Nation, including acts of terrorism, cyber attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters. The Secretary of Homeland Security has been directed to lead this effort in consultation with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, nongovernmental organizations, private sector partners, and the general public. [For more information...](#)

**43. ECCC releases proceedings from November 2011 EMS Stakeholders Meeting**

Last November the Emergency Care Coordinator Center (ECCC) with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations held an EMS Stakeholders Meeting. The proceedings from that meeting are now available online. [For more information...](#)

**44. MedPAC to Conduct a Study of the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule**

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), an advisory agency to the U.S. Congress, has been tasked by the Congress to conduct a study of the Medicare ambulance fee schedule. The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 requires MedPAC to evaluate the Medicare ambulance payment system. Specifically, MedPAC's mandate is to assess the appropriateness of certain ambulance add-on payments, to determine their effect on providers' margins, and determine if there is a need to reform the Medicare ambulance fee schedule. The report is due June 15, 2013 but may be published earlier. Policy analyst staff of MedPAC made a preliminary presentation at the April 5, 2012 MedPAC meeting. The PowerPoint is available [here](#) and it contains very interesting statistics based on a retrospective review of Medicare claims data. A complete transcript of the presentation associated with the slides can be viewed [here](#) (control-F and enter the word ambulance to jump to that portion of the meeting).

**45. State of the Nation Report on Cell Phone Distracted Driving**

The [National Safety Council](#) today released its *State of the Nation 2012* [report](#) in conjunction with [Distracted Driving Awareness Month](#), which addresses improvements made to combat cell phone use while driving. In the three years since NSC called for a nationwide ban, progress has been made in legislation and enforcement, corporate policy, public perception and technology. The report addresses these five key areas while emphasizing the need for further improvement.

**46. National Action Plan for Child Injury Prevention Seeks to Reduce Child Injuries and Deaths**

Earlier this week, the CDC released the [National Action Plan for Child Injury Prevention](#). Child injury death rates decreased 29 percent in the last decade; policies, regulations, and administrative decisions, such as requiring child safety seat use, helmet use, and pool fencing, have been instrumental in saving lives. But injury still remains the leading cause of death for children and teens. Suffocation death rates have increased, driven by a 54 percent increase in reported suffocation among infants less than 1 year of age. Poisoning death rates are also on the rise, with rates among teens aged 15-19 increasing 91 percent (largely due to prescription drug overdoses). The National Action Plan is structured across six domains and emphasizes the value of adopting and implementing evidence-based policies. Notably, the report calls for better integration of child injury prevention across other policy initiatives at the organizational, local, tribal, state, and national levels. Find more information in the [Vital](#)

[Signs report](#), the CDC's first study to show fatal unintentional injury trends by cause and by state for children from birth to 19 years.

**47. Autoinjectors Offer Way to Treat Prolonged Seizures; Study Finds Method Safe and Effective for Paramedics**

Drug delivery into muscle using an autoinjector, akin to the EpiPen used to treat serious allergic reactions, is faster and may be a more effective way to stop status epilepticus, a prolonged seizure lasting longer than five minutes, according to a study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. The investigators compared two medicines known to be effective in controlling seizures, midazolam and lorazepam. Both are benzodiazepines, a class of sedating anticonvulsant drugs. Midazolam was a candidate for injection because it is rapidly absorbed from muscle. But lorazepam must be given by IV. The study found that 73 percent of patients in the group receiving midazolam were seizure-free upon arrival at the hospital, compared to 63 percent of patients who received IV treatment with lorazepam. Patients treated with midazolam were also less likely to require hospitalization than those receiving IV lorazepam. Among those admitted, both groups had similarly low rates of recurrent seizures. The study appears in the Feb. 16, 2012 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine. The Rapid Anticonvulsant Medication Prior to Arrival Trial (RAMPART) study was conducted through the NINDS' Neurological Emergencies Treatment Trials (NETT) network. [For more information...](#)

**48. Primary Cardiac Arrest Following Sport or Exertion in Children Presenting to an Emergency Department**

*Pediatric Emergency Care* published a study with the primary aim to describe the characteristics and outcome of pediatric patients presenting to an emergency department (ED) following out-of-hospital primary cardiac arrest (OHPCA) and to determine if long-term survival is influenced by specific resuscitation interventions. [For more information...](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

42nd Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference. August 16-19, 2012. Little America Hotel and Resort Cheyenne, Wyoming. Sponsored by the Wyoming Office of EMS, contact Beth Hollingworth at: [beth.hollingworth@wyo.gov](mailto:beth.hollingworth@wyo.gov) or 307-777-7955. [For more information...](#)

Kansas EMS Association Annual Last Blast of Summer Conference. August 9-12, 2012. Wichita Marriott, Wichita, KS. [For more information...](#)

Pennsylvania's 35th Annual Statewide EMS Conference and 2nd Annual Pediatric Emergency Care Symposium. August 16-17, 2011. Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott. Lancaster, PA. Click [here](#) for more information, including a call for speakers and exhibitor information.

New York State EMS Conference-Vital Signs. October 18-21, 2012. Syracuse, NY. [For more information...](#)

New Jersey Statewide Conference on EMS. November 1 -4, 2012. Sheraton, Atlantic City, NJ. [For more information...](#)

27<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas EMS Conference. November 17-21, 2012. Austin, Texas. [For more information...](#)

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

Fire-Rescue Med. May 4-8, 2012. The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV. [For more information...](#)

NASEMSO Mid-Year Meeting. May 6-8, 2012. Bethesda, MD. [For more information...](#)

EMSC Grantee Meeting. May 8-11, 2012. Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, MD. [For more information...](#)

ACEP's Leadership & Advocacy Conference. May 20-23, 2012. Omni Shoreham, Washington, DC. [For more information...](#)

\*National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness & Response Training Summit. May 21-25, 2012. Nashville, TN. The 2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This training summit brings together HHS partners including the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). The Integrated Training Summit is co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Health Education Program, Inc. [For more information...](#)

CoAEMSP Accreditation Workshop. June 28-29, 2012. Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport, Pittsburgh, PA. [For more information...](#)

Pinnacle 2012. July 16-20, 2012. Cheyenne Mountain Conference Center, Colorado Springs, CO. [For more information...](#)

NAEMSE Annual Symposium and Trade Show. August 6-11, 2012. Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando, FL. [For more information...](#)

ENA Annual Meeting. September 11-15, 2012. San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA. [For more information...](#)

Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update. September 11-15, 2012. Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, FL. [For more information...](#)

NASEMSO Annual Meeting. September 24-28, 2012. The Grove Hotel, Boise, ID. [For more information...](#)

ACEP Scientific Assembly. October 8-11, 2012. Denver, CO. [For more information...](#)

Air Medical Transport Conference. October 22-24, 2012. Seattle, WA. [For more information...](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Scientific Meeting and Training. October 28-30, 2012. Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown, Philadelphia, PA. [For more information...](#)

EMSWorld Expo. October 29-November 2, 2012. Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA. [For more information...](#)

1<sup>st</sup> Annual World Trauma Symposium. November 1, 2012. Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA. [For more information...](#)

30<sup>th</sup> Annual International Trauma Conference. November 8-11, 2012. Hilton at the Walt Disney World Resort, FL.  
[For more information...](#)

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

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