



Washington Update

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1. NASEMSO Donates to National EMS Memorial Service

The 20th Annual National EMS Memorial Service will take place on June 23, 2012 at 6:00 pm MDT (GMT -6:00) at the Pikes Peak Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Please take a moment at that time to join us in remembering our fallen colleagues. The mission of the National EMS Memorial Service is to honor and remember those men and women of America's Emergency Medical Services who have given their lives in the line of duty, and to recognize the sacrifice they have made in service to their communities and their fellow man. NASEMSO donated \$1,000 to the cause, click [here](#) to see others who have also made donations. Please click [here](#) to learn how you can support the National EMS Memorial Service as well.

2. Comments on Maryland Waiver Petition Filed with FCC

NASEMSO filed comments with the FCC in response to a public notice, released by the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB), seeking comment on a petition for waiver of the Commission's rules filed by the State of Maryland requesting authorization to use 700 MHz band secondary trunking channels for air-to-ground interoperable radio communications. NASEMSO's comments supported Maryland's petition waiver as use of these particular channels should help address Maryland's operational requirement while avoiding interference to other neighboring public safety operations. To read the petition, click [here](#).

3. ORHP releases Community Paramedicine Evaluation Tool

HRSA’s Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) is pleased to announce the release of the 2012 Community Paramedicine Evaluation Tool. Strategic Partnerships, Inc., and the Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation, along with an advisory committee comprised of key experts, interviewed five developed Community Paramedicine programs in both rural and urban settings to better understand the elements that have led to their successes as well as the challenges they have faced in implementing a Community Paramedicine program. Community Paramedicine is an emerging field in health care where EMS professionals operate in expanded roles to provide health care services where access to physicians, clinics, and/or hospitals may be difficult. There has been increasing interest in and movement towards the implementation of such programs, particularly across rural America. This document stresses the need for each Community Paramedicine program to define its system-specific health status benchmarks and performance indicators and to use a variety of community health and public health interventions to improve the community’s health status. The document also addresses reducing the burden of illness, chronic disease, and injury as a community-wide public health problem, not strictly as a patient care issue. This tool is intended to be used to evaluate Community Paramedicine programs in a standardized manner. In communities where a Community Paramedicine program has already been developed, this tool can be used to assess the current status of their program, guide program enhancements, and then re-assess progress over time. This tool can also be used as a framework to guide the development of new Community Paramedicine programs. The Community Paramedicine Evaluation Tool can be found on the [ORHP website](#). Please contact Megan Meacham (mmeacham@hrsa.gov) if you have any questions about this resource.

4. 2012 National EMS Memorial Bike Ride on April 23, 2012

The National EMS Memorial Bike Ride (NEMSMBR) is gearing up for the 2012 Ride, with routes beginning in Boston, MA or Paintsville, KY on May 19, and both finishing in Alexandria, Virginia on May 25. During the Ride, participants will travel through the states of Massachusetts, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. “To see these parts of the United States on a bicycle is such a unique perspective” says Tim Perkins, NEMSMBR Public Information Officer. “It’s also great to interact with the providers and agencies along the route, not to mention the reason for the Ride: honoring over 30 individuals who have given the ultimate sacrifice providing EMS care.” Additional rides are scheduled for Colorado in June and Louisiana in September. More information on the entire Bike Ride can be found [here](#).

5. OHA Releases Funding Alternatives for Emergency Medical and Fire Services

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), supported by the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Office of Health Affairs (OHA), and in partnership with the International Fire Services Training Association (IFSTA), announces the revision and release of [Funding Alternatives for Emergency Medical and Fire Services](#). The latest edition provides the most up to date information regarding funding for local level Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and fire departments. The document includes sources of federal funding as well as other new and innovative funding sources not discussed in previous editions. A key part of the project initiative was an enhanced study of critical funding issues for both fire and non-fire service based EMS systems. [For more information...](#)

6. Rural Health System Analysis and Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement Grant Notice

Eligible applicants include public, private, and nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations, as well as federally recognized Indian tribal governments and organizations. This announcement solicits applications for the Rural Health System Analysis and Technical Assistance (RHSATA) Cooperative Agreement. The purpose of the RHSATA Cooperative Agreement Program is to inform policy makers and rural health care providers about how changes in the health care delivery system may affect them, and to provide

technical assistance to rural providers in identifying potential new approaches to health care delivery in their communities. The health care delivery system is undergoing dramatic change, with an emphasis on finding new approaches and organizational frameworks to improve health outcomes, control costs, and improve population health. [For more information...](#)

7. White Paper Released on the Air Ambulance Medical Services Clarification Act

S. 2376, introduced by Senators Olympia Snowe and Maria Cantwell, utilizes a rule of construction to clarify that the establishment of medical standards related to quality of care and integration of air ambulances into a state's EMS system are properly within the State's authority over the licensure and regulation of health care within its borders and do not fall within the ADA preemption of "prices, routes and services" over air carriers. The bill does not directly amend the Airline Deregulation Act, but rather provides a statutory clarification of it. For more information, including the white paper and FAQs, click [here](#).

8. FAA Is Taking Steps to Improve Data, but Challenges for Managing Safety Risks Remain

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) today released the following testimony on aviation safety. The U.S. aviation system is one of the safest in the world, but fatal accidents, though rare, continue to occur. As a result of recent accidents and related NTSB findings, FAA announced a Call to Action Plan in June 2009 to, among other things, increase air carrier participation in voluntary safety programs. In 2010, Congress passed the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act, which, in part, called for FAA to better manage safety risks. As a result, FAA developed a concerted strategy to implement new safety programs, including increasing air carrier use of voluntary safety programs and advancing the use of SMS. FAA is implementing SMS—a data-driven, risk-based safety approach that involves establishing the necessary organizational structures, accountabilities, policies, and procedures. The implementation of SMS heightens the importance of obtaining and using high-quality aviation safety data. This statement is based on GAO's previous work and focuses on (1) how FAA uses data to manage safety risks, (2) how FAA ensures it has quality data to manage risk, and (3) the challenges FAA faces in using data to better manage safety risks. GAO has made a number of recommendations to address data quality weaknesses. FAA concurred with most of these recommendations and in some cases has taken steps toward addressing them. [For more information...](#)

9. 14 People Receive 2012 APCO International Public Safety Leadership Awards

The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International has announced the recipients of the 2012 Public Safety Leadership in Policy Awards who will be honored at APCO's 8th Annual Leadership in Policy Awards Dinner in Washington, DC on May 15, 2012. The Public Safety Communications Leadership in Policy Awards Dinner commemorates leaders in public safety communications who are outstanding advocates for the industry and advance all aspects of public safety policy. [For more information...](#)

10. Scientist and Leader in Public Safety Radio Dies from Motorcycle Accident

DJ Atkinson was involved in fatal motorcycle accident on April 23 on his way to work. A wonderful scientist and leader in optimizing audio quality for public safety radio, DJ was key in resolving fireground digital audio issues in past few years. While the neurosurgeons did everything humanly possible for DJ, unfortunately his injuries were too severe. The memorial service was held on April 27th in Lafayette, CO. More information including the obituary, notes of condolences and charitable contributions can be found [here](#) (click on David Atkinson).

11. DHS Grant Guidance for Fiscal Year 2012 Preparedness Grants

Fiscal Year 2012 grant guidance and application kits for seven DHS preparedness grant programs totaling over \$1.3 billion to assist states, urban areas, tribal and territorial governments, non-profit agencies, and the private sector in strengthening our nation's ability to prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies in support of the National Preparedness Goal now available. [For more information...](#)

12. Arizona Launches Emergency Traffic Management Prototype

DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration knows that innovation can make our transportation system smarter and greener. On April 26th, Acting Administrator Greg Winfree was in Arizona with Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Intelligent Transportation System engineers and University of Arizona researchers to showcase their latest efforts to make intersections with traffic signals safer for emergency responders and the general public. We need our first responders--and the traveling public--to stay safe. You can read more about SMARTDrive traffic management technology [here](#).

13. Important Updates to the Fiscal Year 2011 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Application

You must be sure to use the updated Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) application and answer the question on financial need. When the Fiscal Year 2011 FP&S Grant application was deployed, a question about Financial Need was not visible to applicants. The application problem has been fixed in the e-Grants online application, but you must be sure to answer the question on Financial Need, which is found in the "Applicant Information." The deadline for submitting your grant application has been extended to May 4 to ensure that all applicants receive the information and time needed to update their applications. However, no applications will be accepted after this date and time. [For more information...](#)

14. Field EMS Bill Picks up New Cosponsors

The *Field EMS bill* (H.R. 3144) has picked up two new cosponsors!! Congratulations for the hard work to those that were in contact with these offices, and for all those that attended the EMS on the Hill Day! Representative Jim Gerlach (R-PA) and Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN) both were added to the list this past week, in the wake of a successful Hill Day. This goes to show that direct contact with your Members of Congress is vital, and importantly, that there is momentum. Bill summary and status can be found [here](#). For the bill's text and white paper, click [here](#).

MEDICAL DIRECTION

15. State Medical Director Completes NPS Executive Leaders Program

Dr. Carol Cunningham, the state medical director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), completed the Executive Leaders Program at Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security on April 26. The goal of the Executive Leaders Program is to enhance senior leaders' capacity to develop policies and strategies and while strengthening working relationships across the jurisdictional boundaries of regions, agencies, local-state-tribal-federal governments and the private sector. Students study the interdisciplinary concepts that comprise homeland security. Cunningham was chosen because of her extensive experience, professional expertise, and nationally recognized leadership in emergency medicine and EMS, both of which are disciplines that comprise and play a critical role in homeland security. She is an emergency physician at Akron General Medical Center, an associate professor of emergency medicine at the Northeast Ohio Medical University, and is the current chair of the National Association of State EMS Officials Medical Directors Council. Dr. Cunningham resides in Kirtland, Ohio. For information on the Naval Post Graduate School, visit www.nps.edu.

16. Voluntary Recall of Epinephrine Injection Due to Discoloration and Small Visible Particles

On April 24th, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced a nationwide, voluntary recall by American Regent of Epinephrine Injection, USP, lot #1395 because of discoloration and small visible particles found in some ampules of this lot. [For more information...](#)

17. Office of Health Affairs Release EMS Medical Directors Handbook

The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), in partnership with the DHS Office of Health Affairs (OHA), has released a handbook for physician medical directors of local departments and agencies who are involved in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response. The [Handbook for EMS Medical Directors](#) covers topics ranging from occupational health and safety to liability issues. The Handbook for EMS Medical Directors was developed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) as part of a cooperative agreement with the DHS OHA and USFA. Many national level EMS and fire organizations also contributed to the handbook's development. In addition to providing medical oversight and direction, EMS medical directors support EMS personnel and other first responders through training, protocol development, and resource deployment advice. Further information on USFA's EMS research initiatives may be found [here](#).

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE

18. NHTSA Launches New Car Safety Seat Campaign

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has launched a new car safety seat campaign, [The Right Seat](#). This campaign promotes child car safety and was developed in partnership with the Ad Council. It targets parents and caregivers of children between 0-12 year olds who think their children are in the right car seats. For more information about the campaign or to download a complimentary campaign toolkit, visit [Safecar.gov](#).

FEDERAL PARTNERS

19. Spring Weather Preparedness

Check the FEMA website when preparing your home, car and work place for seasonal weather emergencies. Important information can be found at <http://www.ready.gov>. This site contains information for your family and community in addition to fun aids when teaching children the essentials of emergency preparedness.

20. FEMA Administrator Fugate Announces New Superintendent of Emergency Management Institute

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate today announced that current FEMA Region VI Administrator Tony Russell was selected to become the new Superintendent of FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) effective May 6. Click [here](#) to read the press release.

INDUSTRY NEWS

21. Communication with Vulnerable Populations: A Transportation and Emergency Management Toolkit

The Transportation Research Board has released a Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Report: Communication with Vulnerable Populations: A Transportation and Emergency Management Toolkit describes how to create a communication process to reach vulnerable populations regarding their transportation options in emergencies. The toolkit provides a guiding framework and tools for constructing a scalable, adaptable communication process built on a network of agencies from public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Together, these partners will form interconnected communication channels with the ability to carry out the function of emergency communication not necessarily possible by working alone. A PowerPoint slide show, which summarizes the toolkit, as well as other information regarding the toolkit is available [here](#).

22. HELP Committee Approves Its Version of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA)

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee has just approved its version of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA), which includes language that ACCT urged the Committee to include in its

drug shortage notification requirement. Specifically, ACCT worked with its colleagues at ACEP and 13 other organizations to request that the Committee amend the draft bill to ensure that the notification process covers drugs used in emergency medical care situations. As a result of our collective efforts, the notification process provision now includes drugs used in the provision of "emergency medical care and surgery", as well as all sterile injectable drugs. The full Senate will likely vote on the bill in May, and then be conferenced with the House bill (yet to be passed) this summer. For information on PDUFA, click [here](#). To keep updated on all issues related to drug shortages and controlled substance regulation, continue to check the NASEMSO [Member's Only Site](#).

23. Learn about the History of EMS; Sign Up for the National EMS Museum E-news

The National EMS Museum offers a new e-news, *EMS Over Time*, to all interested EMS practitioners. Click [here](#) to subscribe. The National EMS Museum works to preserve the history of EMS in the belief that remembrance promotes understanding, respect and enlightened progress. The museum states its mission as "dedicated to memorializing and commemorating the history of EMS and the individuals and organizations that provide emergency care to the sick and injured." Learn more and visit the museum's virtual exhibits [here](#).

24. National Emergency Management Association Releases Biennial Report

2011 was a record year for disasters in the United States with 99 events causing sufficient damage to receive a presidential disaster declaration. The 99 declarations topped the previous record of 81 set in 2010. The recently published *NEMA 2012 Biennial Report* reveals there were 250 gubernatorial emergencies in 2011, which was 39 percent more than the 180 reported in a Fiscal Year 2009 NEMA survey. There were also 258 events that required a significant commitment of state resources, but did not result in a declared state of emergency. This was a 111 percent increase from FY2009. These figures demonstrate an increased capacity by states to handle disasters on their own. [For more information...](#)

LINKS TO INTERESTING ABSTRACTS OR WEBCASTS

25. Teen-led Study Highlights Dangers of Texting and Driving

Young drivers using simulators make many mistakes regardless of whether phone is in view. Some people have questioned whether a ban on texting while driving will actually lead to more crashes because drivers will conceal their cell phones, making it more dangerous to read and type messages. Research led by high school students, however, shows that texting while driving is unsafe regardless of where the phone is positioned. [For more information...](#)

26. Washington Governor Suspends Plan to Limit Medicaid Emergency-Room Visits

Washington Governor Chris Gregoire has temporarily suspended plans to end Medicaid coverage for medically unnecessary emergency department visits, even in cases where patients believed they were experiencing an emergency medical condition. If implemented, the change in coverage would apply to both adults and children equally, effectively blocking payment for approximately 500 conditions. [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 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...](#)

27th 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...](#)

*15th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Conference. June 4-7, 2012. Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, MD. Conference theme: Preparing for the Future of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. [For more information...](#)

* International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine (IRCP). June 15-17, 2012. Vancouver, British Columbia. IRCP's meeting is preceded by the [Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada](#) annual conference, June 13-15 (there will be a joint EMSCC-IRCP reception June 15). [International Paramedic](#) will meet from 8am to 12pm on June 18th. All three meetings will be conducted at the same venue. To register for either the June 13-15 EMSCC or June 15-17 IRCP conference or both, click [here](#). To register for the June 18 International Paramedic meeting, click [here](#).

* Integrated Public Health and Medical Preparedness Summit. June 19-21, 2012. The Westin in Lombard, Illinois. The Illinois Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Illinois Public Health Association, is hosting its annual statewide Public Health and Medical Preparedness Summit. This year's theme is *Partnering with a Shared*

Vision and will take a look at critical public health and medical service capabilities to support a collaborative approach to improving our preparedness and response efforts. [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...](#)

*The AAP National Conference & Exhibition (AAP Experience). October 20-23, 2012. Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans. No matter your role in medicine, you belong at the world's largest pediatric conference. [For more information...](#)

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

3rd 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...](#)

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

30th 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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