



# Washington Update

National Association of State EMS Officials - 201 Park Washington Court - Falls Church, VA 22046-4527  
Ph: 703-538-1799 - Fx: 703-241-5603 - Email: [info@nasemsso.org](mailto:info@nasemsso.org) - [www.nasemsso.org](http://www.nasemsso.org)

Don't wait for a colleague to forward *Washington Update*! To direct subscribe, please click [here](#).

May 15, 2012

*In This Issue...*

## NASEMSO NEWS

1. [NASEMSO Convenes Successful Mid-Year Meeting](#)
2. [Issue Brief for NASEMSO Members: Drug Shortages and Controlled Substance Regulation](#)
3. [NASEMSO Submits Letter Encouraging BIA to Use EMR/EMT Training as Their National Standard](#)
4. [State EMS Job Board Now Open at NASEMSO.org](#)
5. [NASEMSO Signs-on To Congressional Letter Opposing Federal Meeting Attendance Prohibition](#)

## FOR THE STATES

6. [NTIA Recruitment of Board of Directors for First Responder Network Authority](#)
7. [Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis \(IDEA\) Now Accepting Funding Proposals](#)
8. [NOSORH Grant Writing Institute to Start its Second Round of Classes in June 2012](#)
9. [National Weather Service Mobile Weather Text Alerts for EMS, Fire & Police](#)
10. [EMS Week Idea: iRescu AED Geolocation Scavenger Hunt Contests](#)
11. [Exciting Opportunity for Public Service at HHS/ASPR](#)

## DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

12. [FEMA and Partners Release National Preparedness Report](#)
13. [FEMA's Emergency Management Institute Releases FY 2013 Class Schedule](#)
14. [FEMA's Online Community – Where Your Ideas Come to Life](#)
15. [More than 940,000 Drop, Cover and Hold On in Utah](#)

## EMS HEALTH AND SAFETY

16. [IAFC Introduces New HAZMAT Training Available](#)

## HIGHWAY SAFETY

17. [USDOT Proposes Groundbreaking Rule to Prevent Rollover Crashes for Nation's Large Trucks, Buses](#)
18. [New Study: Little Progress in Reducing Speeding-Related Traffic Deaths](#)

19. [DOT Releases New “Faces of Distracted Driving” Video](#)
20. [National Safety Council Data Indicates Traffic Fatalities Up 12% in First Three Months of 2012](#)
21. [NHSTA Releases Proximity to Trauma Centers and Crash Scene Mortality Research Note](#)

#### PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE

22. [Teenage Driver Fatalities by State: 2011 Preliminary Data](#)
23. [Safe Kids Worldwide Urges FDA to Allow For Acetaminophen Dosing Information for Infants](#)

#### TRAUMA

24. [New Brain Injury Resources Posted by BIAA](#)

#### FEDERAL PARTNERS

25. [Notice of NEMSAC Meeting](#)
26. [HHS Finalizes New Rules to Cut Regulations for Hospitals and Health Care Providers](#)
27. [United States and Canada Release Joint Guide for Emergency Border Traffic Management](#)
28. [HHS Announces First 26 Health Care Innovation Awards](#)
29. [HHS Announces \\$10.4 Million to Enhance Rural Health Care](#)
30. [Gaps Continue to Exist in Nursing Home Emergency Preparedness and Response During Disasters](#)

#### INDUSTRY NEWS

31. [Cardiac Care is Improving, Yet Overall Health Care Quality and Access Continue to Lag for Many Americans](#)
32. [Fourth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Event Collects Record 276 Tons](#)
33. [New National Health Policy Forum Basic on Health Professions Education](#)

#### LINKS TO INTERESTING ABSTRACTS OR WEBCASTS

34. [Webinar This Friday! Teen CERT: Connecting School Emergency Management and Youth Preparedness](#)
35. [MCHB to Host On the Road to Injury Prevention Webcast](#)
36. [Best Practices for Rural Traffic Safety Webinar: National Strategy for Highway Safety—Toward Zero Deaths](#)
37. [Sleep Deprivation Report Highlighted](#)
38. [Stun Guns Can Result in Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Death](#)

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

\*\*\*[STATEWIDE EMS CONFERENCES](#)\*\*\*

\*\*\*[National Conferences and Special Meetings](#)\*\*\*

#### **1. NASEMSO Convenes Successful Mid-Year Meeting**

Over 130 state EMS officials, speakers and NASEMSO staff convened in Bethesda, MD last week to discuss a full range of topics. Each of the Councils and a few Committees met prior to the larger general session where participants also learned of ongoing legislative activities and received an update on the drug shortages and DEA Issues impact on EMS, Highway Safety Towards Zero Deaths Strategy, ambulance vehicle design regulations, interstate compacts, and other issues. Pictures from the meeting and links to PowerPoint presentations are available [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. Click [here](#) to read the updated issue brief available for NASEMSO members.

**3. NASEMSO Submits Letter Encouraging BIA to Use EMR/EMT Training as Their National Standard**

It recently came to NASEMSO's attention that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is adopting the Wilderness First Responder (WFR) program as their emergency medical education standard. While NASEMSO applauds BIA's efforts to provide emergency medical education for personnel who respond to wildfire events, a letter was sent to BIA outlining concerns that the WFR program will not integrate well with current wildfire medical personnel deployment strategies and with state credentialing processes.

**4. State EMS Job Board Now Open at NASEMSO.org**

As we discovered during the process of updating the NASEMSO member roster (now available at [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) in the members only area), there are MANY vacancies in state EMS offices! We thought it would be a valuable service to you if you could post your state EMS job openings, and view what opportunities exist elsewhere. Please visit <http://www.nasemso.org/StateEMSJobBoard/index.asp> to view postings. You can also jump to the page from [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org) by clicking on the state EMS job board link on the left hand side.

**5. NASEMSO Signs-on To Congressional Letter Opposing Federal Meeting Attendance Prohibition**

An amendment passed by the House and Senate in two separate bills extremely limits federal employees from attending private conferences if any federal funds are used for travel expenses. The definitions used in the amendment (see the amendment language [here](#)) impose severe restrictions on all private conferences: associations, other nonprofits, and corporations could only have a federal agency's employees attend one meeting held by that organization every year. This is an extreme overreaction by Congress and would severely damage many public-private partnerships. NASEMSO has signed an open letter from the Center for Association Leadership (ASAE) to Congress asking them to amend the offending language. While the stated intent of the language would be to prevent wasteful spending on government sponsored conferences, the actual language would prevent many federal employees from attending and participating in private conferences. A strong response is needed to wake Congress up to this issue, so take a few minutes today to take action on this issue. The letter has over 2,000 signatures from all 50 states plus DC and Puerto Rico. To send your own letter to congress, click [here](#).

**6. NTIA Recruitment of Board of Directors for First Responder Network Authority**

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announces the recruitment of the Board of Directors of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). FirstNet is an independent authority within NTIA that will establish a single nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network. The Board of Directors will be responsible for making strategic decisions regarding FirstNet's operations. Expressions of interest for membership on the FirstNet Board of Directors will be accepted until May 25, 2012. [For more information...](#)

**7. Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis (IDEA) Now Accepting Funding Proposals**

Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis (IDEA) has released its annual program announcement that solicits funding proposals for the upcoming review cycles. The announcement explains the IDEA programs, describes the types of eligible projects and their funding structures, suggests general areas for which IDEA proposals can be submitted, and provides guidelines and forms for submitting proposals. NCHRP Highway IDEA proposals for the next review cycle are due September 1, 2012. Transit IDEA

proposals for the next review cycle are due November 1, 2012. Safety IDEA proposals for the next review cycle are due April 1, 2013. [The IDEA programs](#) provide start-up funding for promising, but unproven, innovations in surface transportation systems. The programs' goals are to seek out and support new transportation solutions that are unlikely to be funded through traditional sources. [For more information...](#)

**8. NOSORH Grant Writing Institute to Start its Second Round of Classes in June 2012**

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) Grant Writing Institute— a resource to you, your partners and the rural communities you serve – will start its second round of classes in June 2012. NOSORH has designed this institute specifically with the needs of SORHs, community leaders and rural health partners in mind. In addition to offering basic grant writing skills, NOSORH hopes the institute will give participants a greater understanding of rural health issues and the resources available to address those concerns. The institute also encourages participants to share this information with other stakeholders, thereby increasing the capacity and visibility of SORHs and their partners. Register now to guarantee yourself a spot! [For more information...](#)

**9. National Weather Service Mobile Weather Text Alerts for EMS, Fire & Police**

InteractiveNWS (iNWS) is the home of new mobile and desktop innovations of the National Weather Service. This application suite allows NWS partners to receive National Weather Service products in new and innovative ways, such as text messaging and mobile-enabled webpages. iNWS strives to fulfill our mission of protecting life and property by using new technology to reach out to our customers. Simply sign up on the website and select options on how you would like to receive weather alerts. You can sign up for this free service [here](#). To prevent funding cuts from Congress, please try out this free service and complete the online survey of how useful this tool is to EMS.

**10. EMS Week Idea: iRescU AED Geolocation Scavenger Hunt Contests**

If you would like to have your service have a local AED hunt contest for next week's EMS Week, the EMS Safety Foundation has set up a special gratis portal to do so, accessible by all types of interface (cell phones, smartphones, PC, iPads, cameras, etc). Click [here](#) to submit AED locations for your region. Also, should you wish to do so, you can designate a code name for your region's participants to enter in the comments section of the AED upload form as a region identifier. [For more information...](#)

**11. Exciting Opportunity for Public Service at HHS/ASPR**

The [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response \(ASPR\)](#) at the [US Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#) is now accepting applications for the Director of the [Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations \(OPEO\)](#) and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. This is a crucial Senior Executive Service (SES) position that plays an essential role in our nation's health security. The OPEO Director provides executive leadership and direction for the ASPR's preparedness, planning, response, and recovery coordination. OPEO is the lead for interagency planning and response activities including management of the Secretary's Operations Center (SOC), and the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) and Incident Response Coordination Teams (IRCT), the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), HHS continuity of operations (COOP) and continuity of government (COG). During major disasters and emergencies, the OPEO Director is responsible for HHS functions under the National Response Framework. Application Deadline: June 15, 2012. [For more information...](#)

**12. FEMA and Partners Release National Preparedness Report**

FEMA and its partners have released the National Preparedness Report (NPR). The Report identifies significant progress the nation has made in areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. Overall the

Report found that the nation has increased its collective preparedness, not only from external threats, but also for natural and technological hazards that face its communities. Click here for the IGA Advisory. Click here to read the full report and view the fact sheet. Links to the report as well as a fact sheet and IGA Advisory are on NASEMSO's [website](#), under "EMS News and Resources".

**13. FEMA's Emergency Management Institute Releases FY 2013 Class Schedule**

The Emergency Management Institute's fiscal year 2013 class schedule is now available. [For more information...](#)

**14. FEMA's Online Community – Where Your Ideas Come to Life**

FEMA recognizes the best solutions to the challenges we face are generated by the people and the communities who are closest to them. That is why FEMA is taking a "whole community" approach and reaching out to state, local, and tribal governments, and all members of the public, including the private sector, the disability community, and volunteer community, to seek [ideas and suggestions](#) to improve the nation's emergency management system. FEMA's online community, *Think Tank*, has two components to facilitate conversation and new ideas:

- **Open Dialogue and Discussions**

Join your colleagues through an online forum in viewing, contributing, and commenting on conversations about emergency preparedness, disaster response and recovery, and other emergency management topics. To date, more than 2,600 ideas and comments have been generated through this online forum including youth preparedness, training, emergency management planning, and making our communities more resilient to disaster events!

- **Monthly Conference Calls**

Join more than 500 State, Local, Tribal, and Federal emergency managers, first responders, and other individuals on monthly conference calls with FEMA's Deputy Administrator Rich Serino to discuss real-life solutions and ideas generated through the online forum. Conference calls are open to the general public and a great opportunity for Citizen Corps council members to learn and share information about *whole community* preparedness and best practices.

[For more information...](#)

**15. More than 940,000 Drop, Cover and Hold On in Utah**

At 10:15 a.m. on April 17, more than 33 percent of the entire State of Utah – that's more than 940,000 Utahans – participated in one of the most successful Shakeout exercises ever and learned to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" in the event of a massive earthquake. Supported by the Utah Division of Emergency Management, a goal of the agency is to involve members of the public in its drills to increase awareness and overall resilience of Utah citizens. Citizen Corps Councils throughout the State provided support by distributing preparedness information and materials to non-governmental organizations wanting to get involved. For more information on how to participate in ShakeOut drills, please visit [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org). ShakeOut drills have expanded to more than 15 other states in recent years with an eventual goal of reaching individuals in all 50 states and U.S. territories. For information and resources on how to prepare your community for all-hazards, visit <http://www.ready.gov/be-informed>. Downloadable preparedness publications also are available for your community from the [FEMA Warehouse](#).

**16. IAFC Introduces New HAZMAT Training Available**

The International Association of Fire Chiefs makes available a new, free hazardous materials (hazmat) training tool, the [Electronic Learning Community](#) (ELC). This tool was created to provide a flexible and inexpensive means for emergency first responders to receive high quality training. The goal of the project is to reach underserved

volunteer responders who may not have the time or resources to receive training on hazmat, and specifically, hydrogen and hydrogen fuel cell incidents. The *Hydrogen Response Considerations* course has been developed as the first subject to pilot this ELC concept and is open to anyone. This training system was designed to grow in capacity as the need arises to include additional topic areas. Likewise, it will grow in feature and function as technologies mature and develop. The ELC hopes to expand its available content to include topics on additional alternative energy sources, emerging technologies, and other issues important to the emergency response community. Responders can access the IAFC ELC [website](#) to take part in this free training opportunity. Click [here](#) to view the press release.

**17. USDOT Proposes Groundbreaking Rule to Prevent Rollover Crashes for Nation’s Large Trucks, Buses**

New Federal Safety Standard Could Prevent More than Half of Rollovers, Help Maintain Steering Control for Large Commercial Vehicles. The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) today proposed a new federal motor vehicle safety standard to require electronic stability control (ESC) systems on large commercial trucks, motorcoaches, and other large buses for the first time ever. Agency research shows the technology could prevent up to 56 percent of rollover crashes each year—the deadliest among all crash types—and another 14 percent of loss-of-control crashes. The agency’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is being published in the Federal Register and members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on the proposal for 90 days. NHTSA will also hold a public hearing on the proposed safety standard to solicit further public comment—the date and location of that hearing will be published in the coming weeks. For more information...

**18. New Study: Little Progress in Reducing Speeding-Related Traffic Deaths**

A report released by the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) highlights the continued role speeding plays in traffic deaths and makes recommendations to address the problem. The new report, "[Survey of the States: Speeding and Aggressive Driving](#)," includes responses from highway safety offices in all 50 states and Guam. States were similarly surveyed on this topic in 2005. The survey revealed little improvement in state laws since that time, with some states in fact regressing. Among the findings:

- Seven states (KS, KY, ME, OH, PA, TX, and VA) have increased speed limits to as high as 85 mph on certain roadways. This occurred despite research showing that an increase in traffic deaths was attributable to raised speed limits on all road types after the 1995 repeal of federal speed limits.
- Only two states increased fines for speeders (CT for all speeders and WY for drivers of commercial vehicles). Three states (GA, HI, and PA) created a new "super" or "excessive" speeder classification.
- Only one state (IN) enacted an aggressive driver law. Only eleven states now have these laws.

For additional information and to download the report, click [here](#).

**19. DOT Releases New “Faces of Distracted Driving” Video**

The Department of Transportation released the latest video in their “Faces of Distracted Driving” series, featuring the story of Calli Ann Murray from Rohnert Park, California. Click [here](#) to watch the new video. “Faces of Distracted Driving” is a video series that raises awareness about the potentially tragic consequences of texting and using cell phones while driving by sharing the stories of families who have been affected by this deadly epidemic. In 2010, over 3,000 people died in crashes related to distracted driving. The series is part of an ongoing effort to raise greater awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. For more information on this campaign, click [here](#). The U.S. Department of Transportation encourages anyone who would like to share their distracted driving experiences to email: [faces@distraction.gov](mailto:faces@distraction.gov).

**20. National Safety Council Data Indicates Traffic Fatalities Up 12% in First Three Months of 2012**

Preliminary data collected by the National Safety Council indicates deaths from motor vehicle crashes during the first three months of 2012 are up 12%, compared to the same three months last year. In 2012, an estimated 8,170 traffic deaths occurred from January through March, compared to 7,270 in 2011. Definitive answers as to the reasons for this increase are not yet available. Total miles driven across the nation have been on the rise since December of 2011, which may be a contributor to the increase in fatalities. NSC also speculates some of the increase in miles driven may be due to an improving economy and the mild 2012 winter across much of the country. [For more information...](#)

**21. NHSTA Releases Proximity to Trauma Centers and Crash Scene Mortality Research Note**

NHSTA recently released “The Association Between Crash Proximity to Level 1 and 2 Trauma Centers and Crash Scene Mortality of Drivers Injured in Fatal Crashes”. This report models the association between the proximity of a fatal crash to a Level 1 or 2 trauma center and the crash scene mortality of the driver in the fatal crash. [For more information...](#)

**22. Teenage Driver Fatalities by State: 2011 Preliminary Data**

In late 2011, Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) asked states to provide their preliminary teen driver fatality data for the first six months of that year. Preliminary data was supplied by all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This report analyzes the data provided. The report indicates that the number of 16- and 17-year-old driver deaths in passenger vehicles increased from 190 to 211 (11 percent) between the first six months of 2010 and the first six months of 2011. Assuming the last half of the year saw a similar pattern, this will mark the first increase in driver deaths for this age group after eight straight years of declines. Potential explanations for the increase include the benefit of state Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws leveling off (most have been in place for some time) as well as improving economic conditions leading to more teens on the road. For additional information and to download the report, click [here](#).

**23. Safe Kids Worldwide Urges FDA to Allow For Acetaminophen Dosing Information for Infants**

Safe Kids Worldwide, joined by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the American Association of Poison Control Centers and the Safe States Alliance, recently urged FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg to allow manufacturers of infant acetaminophen to include the dosing information for children 6-23 months. This was done in concert with its recent report on medication safety, [Safe Storage, Safe Dosing, Safe Kids](#). A poster/flyer that might be useful to other groups is located [here](#).

**24. New Brain Injury Resources Posted by BIAA**

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) has posted three new Fact Sheets with basic information about brain injuries and the BIAA to its website. Feel free to print or link to any of BIAA’s Fact Sheets.

- [About Brain Injury](#) includes typical causes and symptoms of both Traumatic Brain Injury and Acquired Brain Injury, as well as tips to aid in recovery.
- [Brain Injury Statistics](#) is a one-pager reference sheet including the latest statistics on brain injuries, as well as references.
- [About Brain Injury Association of America](#) gives an overview of the products and services provided by BIAA.

Click [here](#) to see all of BIAA's Fact Sheets.

**25. Notice of NEMSAC Meeting**

The National EMS Advisory Committee will hold their next meeting on May 30, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT, and on May 31, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. EDT. A public comment period will take place on May 30, 2012 between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. EDT. Written comments must be received by May 25, 2012. The meeting will be held on the 8th floor of the FHI 360 Conference Center at 1825 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington, DC. This meeting will be open to the public. There will not be a teleconference option for this meeting. Individuals wishing to attend must register online at [www.regonline.com/NEMSAC1](http://www.regonline.com/NEMSAC1) no later than May 25, 2012. For agenda and other meeting details, click [here](#).

**26. HHS Finalizes New Rules to Cut Regulations for Hospitals and Health Care Providers**

Health and Human Services (HHS) announced significant steps to reduce unnecessary, obsolete, or burdensome regulations on American hospitals and health care providers. These steps will help achieve the key goal of President Obama’s regulatory reform initiative to reduce unnecessary burdens on business and save nearly \$1.1 billion across the health care system in the first year and more than \$5 billion over five years.

The new rules are being issued today by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Among other changes, the final rules will:

- Increase flexibility for hospitals by allowing one governing body to oversee multiple hospitals in a single health system;
- Let CAHs partner with other providers so they can be more efficient and ensure the safe and timely delivery of care to their patients;
- Require that all eligible candidates, including advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants, be reviewed by medical staff for potential appointment to the hospital medical staff and then be granted all of the privileges, rights, and responsibilities accorded to appointed medical staff members; and
- Eliminate obsolete regulations, including outmoded infection control instructions for ambulatory surgical centers; outdated Medicaid qualification standards for physical and occupational therapists; and duplicative requirements for governing bodies of organ procurement organizations.

To view the final rules, please visit [www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx](http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx).

**27. United States and Canada Release Joint Guide for Emergency Border Traffic Management**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Public Safety Canada (PS) announced the release of the [Consideration for United States – Canada Border Traffic Disruption Management](#) guide. The guide, developed jointly by DHS and PS, fulfills one of the first commitments under the U.S.-Canada [Beyond the Border Action Plan](#) – a shared approach to security in which both countries are working together to address threats within, at, and away from our borders, while expediting lawful trade and travel. The guide provides a planning framework for managing the flow of traffic near the border during a disruption caused by an event or incident. It is the result of close collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including private sector representatives and government officials from the local, state, and provincial/territorial level. The guide outlines best practices and identifies critical issues to consider when developing or updating traffic management plans to ensure they are tailored to address regional requirements and individual border crossings. For more information on the *Consideration for United States – Canada Border Traffic Disruption Management* guide, click [here](#). For more information on the *Beyond the Border Action Plan*, click [here](#).



**28. HHS Announces First 26 Health Care Innovation Awards**

Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the first batch of organizations for Health Care Innovation awards. Made possible by the health care law – the Affordable Care Act – the awards will support 26 innovative projects nationwide that will save money, deliver high quality medical care and enhance the health care workforce. [For more information...](#)

**29. HHS Announces \$10.4 Million to Enhance Rural Health Care**

Rural health providers across the nation will receive more than \$10.4 million to provide direct health care services to their communities. The funding will be used to meet a broad range of health care needs in rural areas, from health promotion and disease prevention to expanding oral and mental health services. Each of 70 grantees will receive approximately \$450,000 over a 3-year project period to address the needs of a wide range of population groups including, but not limited to, low-income families and individuals, the elderly, pregnant women, infants, adolescents, minorities and individuals with special health care needs. [For more information...](#)

**30. Gaps Continue to Exist in Nursing Home Emergency Preparedness and Response During Disasters**

HHS Office of Inspector General has released a report “Gaps Continue to Exist in Nursing Home Emergency Preparedness and Response During Disasters: 2007-2010”. Federal regulations require that Medicare- and Medicaid-certified nursing homes have written emergency plans and provide employees with emergency preparedness training. In a 2006 report about nursing homes that experienced hurricanes, OIG found that emergency plans lacked many provisions recommended by experts. In response, CMS issued guidance checklists for emergency planning of health care facilities, long-term care (LTC) ombudsman programs, and State survey agencies (SA). OIG conducted this study to assess emergency preparedness and response of nursing homes that experienced more recent disasters. For a summary of recommendations, and to read the report, click [here](#).

**31. Cardiac Care is Improving, Yet Overall Health Care Quality and Access Continue to Lag for Many Americans**

Cardiac care has significantly improved in the United States, with minorities often receiving better quality cardiac care than whites, according to the newly released 2011 National Healthcare Quality Report and National Healthcare Disparities Report by AHRQ. However, overall health care quality continues to improve at a slow rate (2.5 percent) and quality and access to care are hindered for many Americans due to disparities based on race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status and other factors, the reports noted. Fifty percent of the measures that tracked disparities in health care access showed no improvement, while 40 percent of those measures were getting worse. Hispanics, American Indians and Alaska Natives received worse access to care than whites on more than 60 percent of the reports’ access measures, while blacks received worse access on slightly more than 30 percent of the access measures. Asians had worse access to care on only 17 percent of the access measures. This year’s reports include new data on the adoption of electronic health record systems in hospitals and home health and hospice agencies, adolescent health, and musculoskeletal diseases such as arthritis and osteoporosis. The 2011 National Healthcare Quality Report and National Healthcare Disparities Report are available [here](#).

**32. Fourth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Event Collects Record 276 Tons**

The American people have again responded overwhelmingly to the most recent DEA-led National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. On April 28th, citizens turned in a record-breaking 552,161 pounds (276 tons) of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at the 5,659 take-back sites that were available in all 50 states and U.S. territories. When the results of the four Take Back Days to date are combined, the DEA and its state, local, and tribal law-enforcement and community partners have removed over 1.5 million pounds (774 tons) of medication from circulation. [For more information...](#)

**33. New National Health Policy Forum Basic on Health Professions Education**

While there are differences in academic degree and length of time spent preparing to practice, all health professionals must meet certain requirements to commence and remain in practice in the United States. This Basic outlines the educational requirements of the various professions and the processes designed to demonstrate continuing competence in practice. Click [here](#) to read the publication.

**34. Webinar This Friday! Teen CERT: Connecting School Emergency Management and Youth Preparedness**

Please join FEMA and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS) (*formerly the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OSDFS*), and the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center for this informative webinar on CERT training for teens and the development and implementation of Teen CERT at the K-12 school-level. This webinar will cover the relationship between school emergency management, youth preparedness, and Teen CERT. Specifically, it will address the importance and benefits of CERT training for teens, the key components of developing and implementing a Teen CERT plan in K-12 schools, and creating credibility among students and adults. Hear from Rachel Jacky, the Director of the National CERT Program in FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division and Sue Graves, the Safety Coordinator for the Lincoln County School District in Newport, Oregon as they discuss this important issue! Webinar information: Friday, May 18, 2012, 2:00 p.m. EDT (1:00 p.m. CT/Noon MT/11:00 a.m. PT). Click [here](#) to register for this webinar.

**35. MCHB to Host On the Road to Injury Prevention Webcast**

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) will host the webcast *On the Road to Injury Prevention* from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm (Eastern) on Thursday, May 24, 2012. Mary Aitken, MD, MPH, professor of pediatrics at the University of Arkansas College of Medicine and a pediatrician at Arkansas Children's Hospital and Brendan Campbell, MD, MPH, assistant professor of pediatric surgery at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and director of pediatric trauma at Connecticut Children's Medical Center will lead the presentation. This panel presentation will highlight innovations in injury prevention. Two recently completed EMS for Children Targeted Issue projects will be presented: one on the use of simulation training for teen driving safety and one on all-terrain vehicles (ATV) injury prevention strategies. For more information and to register for this event, click [here](#).

**36. Best Practices for Rural Traffic Safety Webinar: National Strategy for Highway Safety—Toward Zero Deaths**

This webinar will highlight the rationale behind Toward Zero Deaths (TZD), a new national strategy for highway safety. It will also review the progress made on reducing the number of crash-related fatalities by half in the last two decades. The presentation will feature a description of the TZD strategy and its vision; current challenges to maintaining the momentum of fatality reduction; and examples of behavioral, engineering, enforcement, and EMS innovation strategies as well as the broad, data-rich planning approaches needed in each state. Examples of these approaches include a changed safety culture and the pervasive use of intelligent vehicle fleets aimed at crash avoidance. National and state successes will also be highlighted, including Minnesota's local deployment techniques and county strategic highway safety plans. The presentation will close with a report on the status of this national strategy and an articulation of the role of webinar viewers in delivering TZD. This webinar will be broadcast live on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Noon - 1 p.m., Eastern (11 a.m. Central, 10 a.m. Mountain, 9 a.m. Pacific). There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. For more information including registration links, click [here](#).

**37. Sleep Deprivation Report Highlighted**

A report on short sleep duration among workers by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) researcher Sara Luckhaupt, published in the April 27 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease and Control's (CDC) *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report*, gained widespread attention in late April. Both *US News and World Report* and WebMD gave coverage to this new report, which identifies consequences of sleep deprivation, especially on workers. The WebMD article can be viewed [here](#). For the MMWR report, click [here](#).

**38. Stun Guns Can Result in Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Death**

A review of case reports published April 30 in the journal *Circulation* indicates that being shocked in the chest with an electronic control device or stun gun can result in sudden cardiac arrest. The article is reportedly the first one published in a peer-reviewed medical journal citing the connection. [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 9-14, 2012. Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas. [For more information...](#)

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

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...](#)

15<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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...](#)

\*2012 Transportation Hazards and Security Summit and Peer Exchange. August 20-24, 2012. Irvine, CA. [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...](#)

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>

**NASEMSO Staff Contacts**

Elizabeth B. Armstrong, CAE, MAM / Executive VP  
(703) 538-1799 ext. 8 - [armstrong@nasemso.org](mailto:armstrong@nasemso.org)

Kevin McGinnis/Program Manager  
(571) 749-7217 –Email: [mcginnis@nasemso.org](mailto:mcginnis@nasemso.org)

Dia Gainor/Executive Director  
(703) 538-1799 ext. 7  
Email: [Dia@nasemso.org](mailto:Dia@nasemso.org)

Leslee Stein-Spencer/Program Manager  
Email: [Stein-Spencer@nasemso.org](mailto:Stein-Spencer@nasemso.org)

Sharon Kelly / Executive Assistant  
(703) 538-1799 ext. 2 - [kelly@nasemso.org](mailto:kelly@nasemso.org)

Mary Hedges/Program Manager  
Email: [Hedges@nasemso.org](mailto:Hedges@nasemso.org)

Kathy Robinson / Program Manager  
(703) 538-1799 ext. 4 – [robinson@nasemso.org](mailto:robinson@nasemso.org)

Rachael Alter/Program Manager  
Email: [alter@nasemso.org](mailto:alter@nasemso.org)

Karen Thompson / Web Site Content Manager  
(828) 693-5045 –Email: [thompson@nasemso.org](mailto:thompson@nasemso.org)

National Association of State EMS Officials  
201 Park Washington Court  
Falls Church VA 22046  
Phone: (703) 538-1799  
Fax: (703) 241-5603  
Website: [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org)

**The material contained in this newsletter is for informational purposes only. NASEMSO does not support, endorse, or recommend any position, product, or service unless explicitly stated.**

The Washington Update is produced by the National Association of State EMS Officials. Feel free to share this publication with your colleagues. To subscribe to receive the *Washington Update* by e-mail, please click [here](#). To unsubscribe, please contact the [editor](#).