



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@nasemso.org - www.nasemso.org

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

June 15, 2012

In This Issue...

NASEMSO NEWS

1. [Listen to Randy Kuykendall During a Story About Rural EMS on NPR](#)
2. [Death of Tennessee Office of EMS Assistant Director](#)

FOR THE STATES

3. ["Summer Trauma Tour" Highlights Indiana's Effort to Establish Statewide Trauma System](#)
4. [WA Emergency Care Council Launches Public Awareness Campaign on EMS and Trauma System Importance](#)
5. [Prevention Institute Releases New Report: *The Intersection of Health Services & Community Environments*](#)
6. [SAMHSA Accepting Applications for the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative](#)
7. [Center for Sharing Public Health Services Releases Call for Proposals](#)

DATA

8. [NEMSIS v3.2.6 Build Released](#)
9. [45-day Public Review for EDXL Situation Reporting](#)

DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

10. [June Begins Atlantic Hurricane Season](#)
11. [FEMA Updates Course: Anticipating Hazardous Weather & Community Risk](#)
12. [George Washington University Releases New Report: *Public Health and Emergency Management*](#)
13. [Conducting CERT Drills and Exercises Just Got Easier; FEMA Makes Available Ready-to-Use CERT Exercises](#)

HIGHWAY SAFETY

14. [NHTSA Study Shows Improved Vehicle Design Contributing to Historic Decline in Roadway Deaths & Injuries](#)
15. [CDC Study Finds Universal Motorcycle Helmet Laws Increase Helmet Use, Save Money](#)
16. [DOT Issues 'Blueprint for Ending Distracted Driving'](#)

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE

17. [U.S. High School Students Improve Motor Vehicle-related Health Behaviors](#)
18. [Pediatric All-Terrain Vehicle Trauma: The Epidemic Continues Unabated](#)

RURAL EMS

19. [IOM Announces "The Role of Telehealth in an Evolving Health Care Environment" Workshop](#)

TRAUMA

20. [CQ Researcher Releases Special Report on TBI](#)

FEDERAL PARTNERS

21. [Application Period to Open Monday, June 11, for FY 2012 Assistance to Firefighters Grants](#)
22. [June is Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month](#)
23. [FEMA Supports Legislative Change to Allow Tribal Governments to Directly Apply for Federal Disaster Aid](#)
24. [CDC Offers Emergency Preparedness Guide for Older Adults](#)
25. [AHRQ Requests Nominations for its National Advisory Council](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

26. [Federal Partners Continue to Support Response to Western Fires](#)
27. [Report Shows Regional Care Systems to Treat Severe Heart Attacks Improve Survival Rates](#)
28. [National Planning Framework \(PPD 8\) Working Draft Documents Released](#)
29. [Congressional Research Service Issues Two New Reports on the US Fire Administration and SAFER Grants](#)
30. [National PSA Campaign Launches to Encourage Americans to Adapt and Prepare for Wildland Fires](#)
31. [Medicare: Progress Made to Deter Fraud, but More Could Be Done](#)
32. [New Report From The Nurse Triage Line Project: H1N1 Phone Triage Lines Informed, Aided Patients](#)
33. [Quality of Cardiac Care Is Improving](#)
34. [AHRQ's Health Care Innovations Exchange Focuses on Coordinating Community Care for Seniors](#)

LINKS TO INTERESTING ABSTRACTS OR WEBCASTS

35. [Toxic Exposures, Emergency Planning and Electronic Health Records Webinar](#)
36. [MCHB to Host Free Webinar: Kids in Disaster](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ***[STATEWIDE EMS CONFERENCES](#)***
 [National Conferences and Special Meetings](#)

1. Listen to Randy Kuykendall During a Story About Rural EMS on NPR

NASEMSO President Randy Kuykendall appears in a recent NPR Story "Ambulance Service A Struggle In Rural Colorado Counties". Some rural counties are having trouble affording ambulance services. Urban ambulances have frequent calls and less territory to cover, which helps keep them afloat. But in more sparsely populated areas, calls can be few and far between. Funding for these emergency services are low-hanging fruit for counties facing tough budgets. Click [here](#) to listen to the full story.

2. Death of Tennessee Office of EMS Assistant Director

It is with great sadness and sorrow that the Tennessee Office of Emergency Medical Services must inform the EMS Community of the sudden and unexpected death on Wednesday, June 6, 2012 of Assistant Director Jackie Wilkerson. Prior to joining the Office in 2011 Jackie served over 25 years as the Director of Robertson County

EMS. Jackie's death is a great loss to his family, friends and coworkers as well as to the EMS Community. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers. Click [here](#) to read the obituary.

3. "Summer Trauma Tour" Highlights Indiana's Effort to Establish Statewide Trauma System

Hoosiers who suffer traumatic injuries are now more likely to be treated at verified trauma centers immediately following an injury, thanks to the adoption of the Triage and Transport Rule by the state's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission. The rule aims to better provide critical quality care during the first 60 minutes following a traumatic injury, known as the "golden hour" of care in emergency medicine. [For more information...](#)

4. WA Emergency Care Council Launches Public Awareness Campaign on EMS and Trauma System Importance

The North Central Emergency Care Council in Washington State recently launched a campaign to increase public awareness of the essential role the EMS and Trauma system plays in public safety and welfare. There are six small videos focused on each part of the system, and one full video that puts the whole picture together. Videos can be seen at www.youtube.com/emsstories. These videos are lighthearted in nature to capture the attention of the general public. The goal is to provide brief education on each component of our existing system and its critical role in getting the right patient to the right hospital in the right amount of time. For more information on the Regional Council, please visit their [website](#).

5. Prevention Institute Releases New Report: *The Intersection of Health Services & Community Environments*

The Prevention Institute has released a new report, *The Intersection of Health Services & Community Environments: 8 Profiles of State-Driven Initiatives to Advance Population Health*. These profiles were prepared in response to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's interest in the important role of states in facilitating collaborations and comprehensive efforts that improve community environments. Click [here](#) to read the report. The report "highlights states that are leading and supporting comprehensive efforts to strengthen community health by keeping people healthy, in the first place." The publication will also be discussed on a webinar scheduled for Monday, July 2nd, from 2:30 – 4:00 (EDT). Click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

6. SAMHSA Accepting Applications for the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is now accepting applications for the Project LAUNCH grant. The goal is to create a shared vision for the wellness of children that drives the development of Federal, state and territorial, tribal, and locally based coordinated networks. [For more information...](#)

7. Center for Sharing Public Health Services Releases Call for Proposals

As communities face new challenges, like the increasing burden of chronic disease and lean fiscal environments, and new opportunities like advances in technology, many public health officials and policy-makers are exploring new ways to organize and structure the management and delivery of public health services. One such strategy is the sharing of services, resources and functions across multiple public health agencies and jurisdictions. These arrangements range from informal agreements around sharing discrete services or programs, to regionalization including the formal merger or consolidation of multiple public health agencies. In order to better understand the opportunity and impact of cross-jurisdictional sharing among public health agencies, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) will fund up to 18 teams across the country that are exploring, implementing or improving cross-jurisdictional sharing arrangements to participate in the Shared Services Learning Community. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will provide two-year grants of up to \$125,000 to up to 18 teams of public health officials, policymakers, and other stakeholders that are exploring, implementing and/or improving CJS

arrangements between two or more public health agencies. The Shared Services Learning Community will foster a peer learning environment among teams that are taking a systematic approach to CJS arrangements to achieve the dual goals of greater efficiency and enhanced public health capacity. [For more information...](#)

8. NEMSIS v3.2.6 Build 120604 Released

NEMSIS v3.2.6 Build 120604 has been released and NEMSIS TAC does not expect to make any further changes to the v3.2.6 dataset within the next two years. For a summary of this information click [here](#). Additional components are available [here](#). Suggested Lists can be found [here](#).

9. 45-day Public Review for EDXL Situation Reporting

OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee members have produced an updated Committee Specification Draft (CSD) and submitted this specification for 45-day public review: Emergency Data Exchange Language Situation Reporting (EDXL-SitRep) Version 1.0. The complete package of the prose specification document and related files are available [here](#). Specification Overview: This XML-based Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) Situation Reporting specification describes a set of standard reports and elements that can be used for data sharing among emergency information systems, and that provide incident information for situation awareness on which incident command can base decisions. The public review starts June 5, 2012 and ends July 20, 2012. This is an open invitation to comment. OASIS solicits feedback from potential users, developers and others, whether OASIS members or not, for the sake of improving the interoperability and quality of its technical work. Additional information about the specification and the OASIS Emergency Management TC may be found at the TC's public home page located [here](#). Comments may be submitted to the TC by any person through the use of the OASIS TC Comment Facility which can be accessed via the button labeled "Send A Comment" at the top of the TC public home page, or directly by clicking [here](#).

10. June Begins Atlantic Hurricane Season

The country begins preparations for the upcoming hurricane season, utilizing the 'Whole Community Approach'. "As part of this approach, we are engaging the broadest possible set of partners in our preparedness efforts — integrating planning across federal, state, local, tribal and territorial governments as well as with private sector, community, non-governmental, and faith-based partners," said Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. Hurricane season begins June 1 and extends through November 30. Being aware of risks and hazards and taking the steps to prepare can reduce the impacts of hurricanes. You can go to www.ready.gov and find all of the tools and information you need to prepare your home, business and family. This season, we ask families, communities and businesses to **be a force of nature** by taking the pledge to prepare at www.ready.gov/hurricanes.

11. FEMA Updates Course: Anticipating Hazardous Weather & Community Risk

This 2nd Edition module replaces the previous version (IS-271) and includes:

- Updated information on forecast products and recent severe weather or flooding events
- New details for establishing a successful warning partnership, including information about Integrated Warning Teams and use of social media technologies
- Added sections on human behavior and crafting effective messages
- Improved graphics and better-resolution case study data

[For more information...](#)

12. George Washington University Releases New Report: *Public Health and Emergency Management*

George Washington University’s Homeland Security Policy Institute has released a new report, *Public Health and Emergency Management: Challenges and Opportunities*. Events of the past decade—including 9/11, the anthrax attacks, Hurricane Katrina, and the 2009 H1N1 pandemic—have shown that public health and emergency management efforts are interconnected and often overlap in time of crisis. It is thus important to recognize that the success of these missions—whether considered individually or jointly—depends on the continued support of policymakers. [For more information...](#)

13. Conducting CERT Drills and Exercises Just Got Easier; FEMA Makes Available Ready-to-Use CERT Exercises

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program at FEMA is pleased to announce a new library of 20 ready-to-use CERT exercises of all types, now available for download on the new *Drills and Exercises* page of the National CERT [website](#). The new materials will help CERT programs conduct a variety of drills and exercises based on different scenarios. Drills and exercises are great opportunities for CERT programs to engage their volunteer members and to practice, assess, and improve their program’s emergency response plans and on-the-ground operations. The scenarios, objectives, and events of each exercise can be used as is or modified to address the local CERT program’s training priorities. The new web page includes materials for 4 drills, 6 tabletop exercises, 4 functional exercises, 4 full-scale exercises and 2 competitive events that were developed according to national guidance and principles outlined by the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). All drills and exercises were developed with common terminology and a systematic approach consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) framework to ensure that CERT programs are well-integrated with emergency management and incident response operations. [For more information...](#)

14. NHTSA Study Shows Improved Vehicle Design Contributing to Historic Decline in Roadway Deaths & Injuries

Analysis shows marked decline in likelihood of crashing, increased likelihood of escaping a crash without injuries in comparison of Model Year 2008 to Model Year 2000 cars. The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced that better-designed, safer vehicles have contributed to an overall decline in crashes, deaths and injuries on U.S. roadways. In a new report recently released, the agency’s analysis of police-reported crash data estimates that design improvements between Model Year 2000 and Model Year 2008 cars helped save 2,000 lives and prevented one million occupant injuries in the 2008 calendar year alone. [For more information...](#)

15. CDC Study Finds Universal Motorcycle Helmet Laws Increase Helmet Use, Save Money

Annual cost savings in states with universal motorcycle helmet laws were nearly four times greater (per registered motorcycle) than in states without these comprehensive laws, according to a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report study just released the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Universal helmet laws require that motorcycle riders and passengers wear a helmet every time they ride. [For more information...](#)

16. DOT Issues ‘Blueprint for Ending Distracted Driving’

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has released a “Blueprint for Ending Distracted Driving” that offers a comprehensive strategy to address the growing and dangerous practice of using handheld cell phones behind the wheel. The plan outlines concrete steps stakeholders around the country – from lawmakers and safety organizations to families and younger drivers – can take to reduce the risk posed by distracted driving. The “*Blueprint for Ending Distracted Driving*” outlines a plan that builds on the national momentum that Secretary LaHood and USDOT have spearheaded for the last three years. Recognizing the extent and complexity of the problem, the plan:

- Encourages the remaining 11 states without distracted driving laws to enact and enforce this critical legislation.
- Challenges the auto industry to adopt new and future guidelines for technology to reduce the potential for distraction on devices built or brought into vehicles.
- Partners with driver education professionals to incorporate new curriculum materials to educate novice drivers of driver distraction and its consequences. Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show drivers under the age of 25 are two to three times more likely than older drivers to send text messages or emails while driving.
- Provides all stakeholders with actions they can take that go beyond personal responsibility to helping end distracted driving nationwide.

Click [here](#) to download the *Blueprint for Ending Distracted Driving*. Click [here](#) to read the press release.

17. U.S. High School Students Improve Motor Vehicle-Related Health Behaviors

U.S. high school students have shown significant progress over the past two decades in improving many health-risk behaviors associated with the leading cause of death among youth—motor vehicle crashes—according to the [2011 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(YRBS\)](#) recently released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, youth are engaging in other dangerous practices such as texting and emailing while driving. [For more information...](#)

18. Pediatric All-Terrain Vehicle Trauma: The Epidemic Continues Unabated

A [study](#) published in *Pediatric Emergency Care* aimed to: (1) examine the epidemiology of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) injuries in Arizona with emphasis on pediatric injuries, and (2) compare ATV injuries to those associated with motorcycle (MCC) and motor vehicle crashes (MVC). The trauma registry of a level 1 trauma center was used to identify all ATV crashes during a 5-year period (2004-2008) in patients younger than 16 years. A total of 250 pediatric ATV crashes were observed, rising from 29 in 2004 to 53 in 2008. ATV-related crashes were at least 30 times more likely than MVCs and almost 20 times more likely than MCCs. The study concluded ATV-related crashes have increased and have become a significant source of injury. More public education and awareness of the dangers associated with ATV is needed.

19. IOM Announces "The Role of Telehealth in an Evolving Health Care Environment" Workshop

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) is pleased to announce a workshop to be held on "The Role of Telehealth in an Evolving Health Care Environment ." This workshop will be held on August 8-9, 2012 at the NAS Building in Washington, DC. This workshop will revolve around the potential for telehealth to serve geographically isolated individuals and extend the reach of scarce resources while also emphasizing the quality and value in the delivery of health care services. The workshop is FREE and open to the public, however due to space restrictions, advance registration is required. Registration for the forum is now open. For more information and to register for the workshop, click [here](#).

20. CQ Researcher Releases Special Report on TBI

CQ Researcher just released a special, comprehensive report on traumatic brain injury, which covers diagnosis and treatment of TBI, a chronology, the possible tie to dementia, and much more. The study shows that the damage caused by traumatic brain injury or TBI occurs in different areas of the brain of different people. Researchers indicate this finding may explain why people display different symptoms. Due to media attention this last year, concussion or mild traumatic brain injury rose to one of the most prominently profiled brain conditions. Athletes and veterans brought the TBI to the forefront, but CQ Researcher reported falls by the very young and

very old represent the largest group with traumatic brain injury in America. Falls cause 35 percent of the traumatic brain injuries. [For more information...](#)

21. Application Period to Open Monday, June 11, for FY 2012 Assistance to Firefighters Grants

Application Period for FY 2012 Assistance to Firefighters Grants Opens Monday, June 11, 2012, 8 a.m. Eastern Time. Application Deadline: July 6, 2012, 5 p.m. Eastern Time. Fire departments (career, volunteer, and combination) and nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) providers are eligible to apply. Items eligible for grant funding:

- Operations and Safety Projects: Training, equipment, personal protective equipment, modifications to facilities, wellness and safety projects
- Vehicle Acquisition Projects: Firefighting and EMS vehicles
- Regional Projects (benefiting multiple departments): Training, equipment, personal protective equipment

See the [AFG Program Guidance and Application Kit](#) for a description of the funding priorities for FY 2012. Call the AFG Help Desk toll-free at 1-866-274-0960 or contact AFG staff members by e-mail at firegrants@fema.dhs.gov if you have questions. [For more information...](#)

22. June is Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) affects 1 in 29 Americans, from our country’s service men and women to abused children and survivors of rape, domestic violence and natural disasters. During PTSD Awareness Month in June, and throughout the year, we recognize the millions of Americans who experience this challenging and debilitating condition. During PTSD Awareness Month and on PTSD Awareness Day, June 27, 2012, we focus national attention on this debilitating condition and renew our commitment to support research, education, and treatment for those living with PTSD, as well as for their friends and families. We have a responsibility to help Americans who have lived through trauma, especially our nation’s service men and women who may be struggling with PTSD. We owe them the care and resources they need to get well. [For more information...](#)

23. FEMA Supports Legislative Change to Allow Tribal Governments to Directly Apply for Federal Disaster Aid

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate released a letter of support for specific legislation in both the United States Senate and House of Representatives that would allow federally recognized tribal governments to make a request for a federal emergency or disaster declaration directly to the President. In December last year, FEMA announced its support to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow tribes to make a request directly to the President for declarations. Currently, only states and their governors can make such requests. [For more information...](#)

CDC Offers Emergency Preparedness Guide for Older Adults

A new guide from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention titled “Identifying Vulnerable Older Adults and Legal Options for Increasing Their Protection during All-Hazards Emergencies: A Cross-Sector Guide for States and Communities” aims to equip public health officials, the aging services network, emergency management, and essential partners from other sectors and at all jurisdictional levels with critical information, strategies, and resources to improve the planning for and protection of vulnerable community-dwelling older adults during all-hazards public health emergencies. The guide covers topic areas such as developing plans, partnering and collaboration, using data for action, building registries, using law-based solutions, sheltering and caregiver preparedness. For more information or to download the guide, [visit here.](#)

24. AHRQ Requests Nominations for its National Advisory Council

The Agency for Healthcare and Research Quality (AHRQ) is seeking nominations for seven new public members for its National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality. The council advises the Secretary of U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services and the Director of AHRQ on matters related to activities of the Agency to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. AHRQ seeks individuals who are distinguished in the conduct of research, demonstration projects, and evaluations with respect to health care; in the fields of health care quality research or health care improvement; in the practice of medicine or other health professions; in the private health care sector (including health plans, providers, and purchasers) or administrators of health care delivery systems; in the fields of health care economics, information systems, law, ethics, business, or public policy; and in representing the interests of patients and consumers of health care.

[Nominations](#) are due July 3.

25. Federal Partners Continue to Support Response to Western Fires

Federal partners are working closely with first responders and firefighters from local, state, and tribal agencies to combat and monitor wildfires in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming as well as other states. Through the National Interagency Fire Center, which coordinates resources from the US Forest Service, Department of the Interior and other federal agencies, firefighters, incident management teams, airtankers, helicopters, fire engines and other resources are being provided to supplement state and local resources as teams continue to respond to fires across the West. [For more information...](#)

26. Report Shows Regional Care Systems to Treat Severe Heart Attacks Improve Survival Rates

North Carolina’s coordinated, regional systems for rapid care improved survival rates of patients suffering from the most severe heart attack, according to research in the American Heart Association’s journal, *Circulation*. Fewer ST -segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) patients died when paramedics diagnosed them en route to hospitals and hospitals followed well-defined guidelines to quickly treat or transfer patients to facilities that performed artery-opening procedures, if needed. Death rates were 2.2 percent for patients treated to guideline standards and 5.7 percent for those who weren’t, according to the study. [For more information...](#)

27. National Planning Framework (PPD 8) Working Draft Documents Released

In March, the Department of Homeland Security asked for feedback on the National Planning Frameworks as part of the Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD 8), and they received more than 3,000 ideas, including comments submitted via the feedback submission forms as well as collected during webinars and in-person workshops. Since then, they have incorporated submissions into the working draft documents. There are a few new additions in the Frameworks. For example, a new ‘Supporting Resources’ section that provides information on documents and tools is available. You can download the latest versions here:

- [Draft National Prevention Framework](#)
- [Draft National Protection Framework](#)
- [Draft National Mitigation Framework](#)
- [Draft National Response Framework](#)

You can download the National Disaster Recovery Framework that was completed last September [here](#). For questions, please contact PPD8-Engagement@fema.dhs.gov.

28. Congressional Research Service Issues Two New Reports on the US Fire Administration and SAFER Grants

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) works exclusively for the United States Congress, providing policy and legal analysis to committees and Members of both the House and Senate, regardless of party affiliation. As a legislative branch agency within the Library of Congress, CRS has been a valued and respected resource on Capitol Hill for nearly a century. CRS is well-known for analysis that is authoritative, confidential, objective and

nonpartisan. Its highest priority is to ensure that Congress has 24/7 access to the nation's best thinking. The CRS has issued two new reports. Click on the title to read the individual reports.

- [United States Fire Administration: An Overview](#)
- [Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response: The SAFER Grant Program](#)

29. National PSA Campaign Launches to Encourage Americans to Adapt and Prepare for Wildland Fires

U.S. Forest Service, National Fire Protection Association and Ad Council launch national PSA campaign encouraging Americans to adapt and prepare for wildland fires. Nearly 70,000 communities in the United States are at risk of damaging wildfires this season. In the midst of wildfire season throughout much of the country, the [U.S. Forest Service](#), the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) and the [Ad Council](#) announce the launch of a new public service advertising (PSAs) campaign, [Fire Adapted Communities](#), which aims to help individuals prepare their homes and communities for the threat of wildfire. This campaign addresses the issue of proactively mitigating wildfire damage in fire-prone communities. Wildfires cost government, businesses and individuals billions of dollars each year in suppression costs and damage to homes, infrastructure, the economy and resources. The television, radio, print, outdoor and web PSAs aim to empower residents to proactively take the steps to make their communities *fire adapted* by reinforcing that "you can't control where a wildfire ember will land - but you can control what happens when it does." The ads direct audiences to visit a new comprehensive website, www.FireAdapted.org, where they can find a host of resources on how to prepare for wildfires. The new web portal is a one-stop shop for the latest developments in wildfire safety, best practices, toolkits and programs of the nation's leading wildfire organizations.

30. Medicare: Progress Made to Deter Fraud, but More Could Be Done

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)—the agency that administers Medicare—has made progress in implementing several key strategies the Government Accountability Office (GAO) identified in prior work as helpful in protecting Medicare from fraud; however, important actions that could help CMS and its program integrity contractors combat fraud remain incomplete. [For more information...](#)

31. New Report From The Nurse Triage Line Project: H1N1 Phone Triage Lines Informed, Aided Patients

A Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP) article about a new report from the Nurse Triage Line (NTL) Project finds the use of nurse phone lines during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic increased public flu knowledge, prevented unnecessary 911 calls and visits to health facilities, and eased access to appropriate antivirals. The NTL project is a partnership between CDC, ASTHO, and NACCHO exploring the acceptability and feasibility of using nurse triage lines to assess the health status of callers, disseminate information, provide clinical advice, and make access to antiviral medications available, if appropriate. The full report can be downloaded from NACCHO's [NTL Project website](#), but requires a free login. Click [here](#) to read the CIDRAP article about the report.

32. Quality of Cardiac Care Is Improving

Heart disease is the top cause of death for both men and women in the United States. But according to AHRQ's latest National Healthcare Quality Report, patients with heart disease are getting better quality of care. For the podcast or transcript, click [here](#).

33. AHRQ's Health Care Innovations Exchange Focuses on Coordinating Community Care for Seniors

Programs that provide care coordination and support to seniors and to adults with serious mental illness reduced hospital and nursing home admissions and emergency department visits and are featured in the May 23 issue of [AHRQ's Health Care Innovations Exchange](#). One such program is the [Tri-County Rural Health Network](#), a nonprofit community development organization that works with low-income individuals in the Mississippi Delta. The

program uses outreach workers known as “community connectors” to identify Medicaid-eligible residents who have unmet, long-term health care needs. These workers arrange for residents to receive appropriate home and community-based care, such as medical equipment delivery, home health aide visits, and meals. Over three years, none of the participants needed to be placed in a nursing home. The program also reduced health care costs and generated a return on investment. Read more profiles of innovations related to [care coordination](#) on the Innovations Exchange Website, which contains more than 700 searchable innovations and 1,500 Quality Tools.

34. Toxic Exposures, Emergency Planning and Electronic Health Records Webinar

This month's public health webinar will give a sneak preview into just three of the topics that will be covered in greater depth at the 2012 Public Health Law Conference, including toxic exposures, emergency planning for vulnerable populations and electronic health records. This is an opportunity for webinar attendees to learn about these important subjects, gain insight into the conference and to ask questions that will help form the speakers' final presentations. This webinar is sponsored by The Network for Public Health Law and will take place on Thursday, June 21st, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (EDT). Click [here](#) to register.

35. MCHB to Host Free Webinar: Kids in Disaster

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) will host the webcast [Kids in Disaster: Facing Our Challenges](#) from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm (Eastern) on June 20, 2012. This presentation will highlight two EMSC Targeted Issue projects: "A Novel Imaging System for Reunification of Children Separated during Disaster" and "Refining Pediatric Disaster Triage Algorithms and Education in the Prehospital Setting." Project investigators will provide a brief overview of their work and highlight significant findings and implications for participants to consider as they strive to improve the provision of emergency care for children during disaster situations. Continuing education credits are available. Click [here](#) to register for this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

New Mexico EMS Conference and Expo. July 23-28, 2012. Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM. [For more information...](#)

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...](#)

18th Annual Pocono EMS Conference. October 18-21, 2012. Inn at Pocono Manor, Pocono Manor, PA. [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 9-14, 2012. Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas. [For more information...](#)

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

*ClinCon 2012. July 19-22, 2012. Caribe Royale Orlando Resort, Orlando, FL. *ClinCon 2012* is designed to create an educational experience that will help Emergency Department and EMS Personnel to obtain information and skills to better assess and manage their patients and scenes. [For more information...](#)

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

Pinnacle 2012 EMS Leadership & Management Conference. 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...](#)

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...](#)

21st Annual NNAEMSA Education Conference. November 5-9, 2012. Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, NV. [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>

NASEMSO Staff Contacts

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

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

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

Leslee Stein-Spencer/Program Manager
Email: Stein-Spencer@nasemso.org

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

Mary Hedges/Program Manager
Email: Hedges@nasemso.org

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

Rachael Alter/Program Manager
Email: alter@nasemso.org

Karen Thompson / Web Site Content Manager
(828) 693-5045 – Email: 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

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](#).