



Washington Update

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1. NASEMSO Posts Western State Processes for Legal Recognition of Wildland Fire EMTs

The NASEMSO Rural EMS Committee has compiled information on twelve Western States regarding EMT credentialing at wildland fires. The guide is to be used as reference material only, and is intended to assist Medical Unit Leaders at wildland fires. Click [here](#) to review the information.

2. AHRQ Releases 2011 State Snapshots

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released [2011 State Snapshots](#), an in-depth analysis of the quality of care provided in each state by type of condition, level of care, treatment setting, race and income, and insurance status. This resource also includes strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement in each state and in the District of Columbia. In addition, 2011 State Snapshots features easy-to-read charts and individual state performance summaries based on 150 quality measures.

3. NFPA 1917 Update

The Chair of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1917 Committee on Ambulances has advised that the date of publication of the 1917 standard has been delayed until approximately August 9th, but the effective date of January 1, 2013 will remain the same. The Standard was originally scheduled to publish around the end of last month, but it has now been postponed due to several last minute motions that were introduced under NFPA's

Notice of Intent to Make a Motion (NITMAM) process. All of the motions were denied during the annual meeting where NITMAMs are procedurally handled, so there are no changes to the document, but there is an appeals process that must elapse before the Standard can be published. Assuming there are no appeals, the final version of the document should be available for purchase after the first week of August. Interested parties can receive e-mail updates about NFPA 1917 by signing up [here](#).

4. ACCT Election Results

The Association of Critical Care Transport (ACCT) thanks those of you who participated in their recent election. This was ACCT's second election process and they are pleased to announce the following were elected to 3 year terms on the Board:

- Mike Christianson, Sanford Intensive Care, South Dakota
- Mike McGrane, Air St. Luke's, Idaho
- Kevin Stanhope, Baptist LifeFlight, Florida
- Henry Ward, Duke LifeFlight, North Carolina
- Gary Wingrove, Mayo Clinic Medical Transport, Minnesota

Kevin Stanhope is ACCT's Chair-elect. Congratulations and many thanks for taking on the role of leadership.

5. Special Webinar for EMS Association Leaders and Members on New Public Safety Broadband Network

Now that public safety has won the battle for the National Public Safety Broadband Network, EMS professionals really need to figure out how to prepare to use it to their best advantage. We stand to be the biggest user of the network, given the applications that EMS colleagues have indicated are in our near future. *But* we also need to be familiar with the process of standing up that network at the national and state level. You are invited to a webinar on Tuesday, July 24th, at 2 PM eastern, featuring Anna Gomez, a key leader in this effort at the national level. She will describe the statute governing the network development and build-out, state options and grant opportunities under the statute, and the standing up of "FirstNet" (the First Responder Network Authority) Board and public safety advisory committee. Kevin McGinnis will also present a brief session on why EMS needs broadband. Save the date! Registration required: send an e-mail to [Kevin McGinnis](#) with the subject "NTIA Webinar". Registrants will receive log-in instructions.

6. Governors Association Issues Recommendations For Implementing First Responder Network

To help states with implementation of the nationwide broadband network dedicated to public safety communications, the National Governors Association (NGA) issued a report, *Steps to Prepare for Public Safety Broadband*. Click [here](#) to read more.

7. USFA and the OHA Release *Operational Templates and Guidance for EMS Mass Care Incident Deployment*

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), supported by the DHS Office of Health Affairs (OHA) and the National Emergency Medical Services Management Association (NEMSMA), announces the release of a new guide for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers: [Operational Templates and Guidance for EMS Mass Care Incident Deployment](#). The guide is intended to provide information to local-level EMS and fire departments on the development and enhancement of the organization and preparedness for mass care incidents, including natural and man-made disasters, large gathering and pandemic events, and other emergencies potentially resulting in large numbers of patients. The goal of this project was to develop a foundation for further development of EMS-specific policies and templates that improve readiness to manage the full spectrum of hazards that face communities. For information on USFA's EMS research initiatives, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

8. FEMA Releases National Preparedness Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released the [National Preparedness Report](#). The Report identifies significant progress the nation has made in areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. The Report has 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.

9. HHS Grants Bolster Health Care & Public Health Disaster Preparedness

The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded more than \$971 million to continue improving preparedness and health outcomes for a wide range of public health threats within every state, eight U.S. territories, and four of the nation’s largest metropolitan areas. To read more, click [here](#).

10. Limited Evidence on Best Strategies During Mass Casualty Events

Limited evidence exists to help policymakers and health care professionals identify the most effective strategies to allocate scarce resources during mass casualty events, according to a new AHRQ report. A mass casualty event can occur suddenly and can severely challenge highly experienced and well-equipped health care providers and systems. Based on an evidence review conducted by researchers at AHRQ’s Southern California RAND Evidence-based Practice Center, no single strategy to allocate resources during mass casualty events was found to be most effective. Researchers also found that commonly used field triage measures do not perform consistently during mass casualty events. They also found evidence suggesting that specific strategies influence the speed and efficiency of biological countermeasure dispensing during a bioterrorism attack or influenza pandemic. For example, delivering medicines to the public via postal carriers reaches more people faster than making them available at a centralized location. Although some promising strategies exist, additional research is needed to identify the optimal methods, techniques, and technologies to employ during mass casualty events. [For more information....](#)

11. Prepare for Hurricane Season

Hurricane season started in June and runs through November. Before a hurricane strikes, visit [Ready.gov's hurricane page](#) to find out what you need to do before, during, and after a hurricane. Check with the [National Weather Service](#) for [weather watches and warnings](#).

12. WISER for iOS 3.0 Now Available in the Apple App Store

Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER) for iOS 3.0, a universal app for Apple iOS devices, is now available. This new release adds native support for the iPad. Search WISER’s full set of known substances, employ WISER’s popular Help Identify Chemical capability, and leverage WISER’s protective distance mapping feature with an interface customized for your iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch. Click [here](#) to check out what's new in this release. WISER for iOS 3.0 can be downloaded and installed directly from the Apple App Store by clicking [here](#).

13. SAMHSA Offers Disaster Behavioral Health Preparedness and Response Resources

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (SAMHSA) has new resources available for disaster preparedness and recovery resources for range of professionals who assist individuals and communities in coping with disaster. Topics include emergency preparedness, training, disaster response, stress prevention and management, and suicide prevention. Also available is a [brochure](#) featuring the national Disaster Distress Helpline. [For more information...](#)

14. Protecting Workers Who Use Cleaning Chemicals

Workplaces, such as schools, hospitals, hotels, restaurants and manufacturing plants, use cleaning chemicals to ensure the cleanliness of their buildings. Workers who handle these products include building maintenance workers, janitors and housekeepers. Some cleaning chemicals can be hazardous, causing problems ranging from skin rashes and burns to coughing and asthma. Many employers are switching to green cleaning products because they are thought to be less hazardous to workers and the environment. This [infosheet](#) provides information to employers on practices to help keep workers safe when working with cleaning chemicals, including green cleaning products. Click [here](#) for a poster with guidelines for workers to protect their health while working with cleaning chemicals.

15. Executive Order: Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness Communications Functions

On Friday, July 6th, the President signed an Executive Order: Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness Communication Functions. Click [here](#) to read the order.

16. 2012 ASTHO At-Home Hill Day Toolkit is Available

Developing a strong working relationship or strengthening well-established connections with members of Congress is an important way to ensure public health continues to have a strong voice on Capitol Hill. Members of your congressional delegation want to hear from you and there is no better way to show them how important public health is to their constituents than to invite them to see public health "in action." ASTHO's 2012 At-Home Hill Day toolkit demonstrates how to engage with lawmakers, including how to make initial contact and how to invite them to your state's health department. Inform your congressional leaders about vital public health priorities while they're back home on recess! Download the [toolkit](#) to get started.

17. President Signs Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act

On Monday, July 9th, the President signed into law S. 3187, the "Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act." This legislation, which passed both the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan majorities, will help speed safe and effective medical products to patients and maintain our Nation's role as a leader in biomedical innovation while providing the FDA some procedural relief related to drug shortages by requiring manufacturers to provide advance notice to the Agency when a product has been discontinued or is subject to manufacturing delays. [For more information...](#)

18. Federal Highway Administration Rolls Out Its Traffic Incident Management Public Information Toolkit

Federal Highway Administration's Office of Operations recently unveiled its Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Public Outreach Toolkit. TIM is important to the safety and reliability of our roadways and this toolkit will provide the tools you need to educate the public. These tools were developed to help TIM programs across the country promote their message clearly and cost-effectively. [For more information...](#)

19. NIOSH Launches EMS Website

NIOSH has posted a Web page highlighting emergency medical service (EMS) worker safety and health. In addition to providing EMS safety and health resources and references, the Web page offers a data summary describing nonfatal injuries to EMS workers treated in emergency departments. This Web page evolved from a collaborative project between NIOSH and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Emergency Medical Services, focusing on occupational injuries to EMS workers. Click [here](#) to check out the new website.

20. CDC Writing for Social Media Guide

Find guidance and lessons learned from three years of creating social media message in the CDC *Guide to Writing for Social Media*. The guide helps you understand how to write more effectively for multiple social media channels, particularly Facebook, Twitter and mobile phone text messaging. Developed for a beginner audience, though intermediate users may find some useful information, the guide includes: how social media should be part of your overall health communications efforts; how to incorporate the principles of health literacy in your messages; and writing for Facebook, Twitter and text messaging. [Click here](#) to view the guide.

21. Despite Benefit, Hospitals Not Always Alerted of Incoming Stroke Patients

Treatment is delivered faster when emergency medical services (EMS) personnel notify hospitals a possible stroke patient is en route, yet pre-notification doesn't occur nearly one-third of the time. That's according to two separate Get With The Guidelines– Stroke program studies published in American Heart Association journals. The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association recommends EMS notify hospitals of incoming stroke patients to allow stroke teams to prepare for prompt evaluation and treatment. Quick response is vital for stroke patients, particularly those with ischemic stroke, when a clot cuts off the blood supply to a portion of the brain. Clot-busting drugs can only be given within a limited time — three to 4.5 hours after the onset of symptoms. [For more information...](#)

22. Community Paramedicine Insights Forum Held on July 23rd

The Community Paramedicine Insights Forum (CPIF) is a project sponsored by the Joint Committee on Rural Emergency Care (of the National Association of State EMS Officials and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health) and the Center for Leadership, Innovation and Research in EMS. It is intended to serve as a regular meeting place, educational opportunity and discussion group for those folks trying to establish community paramedicine services or systems on a local, regional or statewide basis. The next session of the CPIF will be held on Monday, July 23rd instead of the usual third Monday (the 16th) because of a conflict with a CP program at the Pinnacle EMS conference. The session will feature "Highlights of the 2012 International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine" held last month in Vancouver, Canada. Gary Wingrove will review the latest, best, and brightest experienced by those fortunate enough to have attended! If you plan to attend the session, please click [here](#) to register. You will receive an e-mail with instructions for logging onto the session.

23. NAEMSE Asks for Fallen EMS Educators Award Nominations

This award honors posthumously those individuals who contributed greatly to EMS Education who are no longer with us. While we cannot thank them personally, it is fitting that the families or loved ones of these heroes know that we value and give homage to their work that endures. Nominations may be made by any member in the EMS profession except for those members serving on the NAEMSE "Recognition Committee". Nominees must have taught for a minimum of 7 years and must have been in good standing with all state, national and international regulatory bodies within the EMS profession or retired at the time of their death. [For more information...](#)

24. EMS Role in the Veteran Homelessness Initiative

Veteran homelessness is a problem of national importance. According to a count on a January night in 2011, there were 67,495 homeless veterans. Emergency medical personnel are uniquely positioned to help connect veterans with resources they may need because we interact with people in desperate situations every day. Help spread the word about the US Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) Homeless Veterans Initiative, designed to connect veterans with resources they need. Through the Homeless Veterans Initiative, the VA has committed \$800 million in FY 2011 to strengthen programs that prevent and end homelessness among Veterans. In the course of rendering

patient care, ask the patient if he or she is a veteran. If so, and if it appears that they may need more than medical help, simply give them an item containing the VA's phone number. You can request cards, brochures, hats, bags, bandanas and many other give-away items for free from the VA and they all carry the message that the VA has resources to help veterans who are homeless or who are at risk of being homeless. Orders can be placed [here](#). Encourage your local EMS providers to recognize their unique position to help veterans in need. Take advantage of the free resources provided through the VA and keep a supply of materials on-hand to distribute at every opportunity. Click [here](#) for more information regarding this initiative. [Email](#) the program if you have any questions.

25. Volunteer Fire Fighter Killed While Directing Traffic at an Interstate Highway Incident

The factors that contributed to the death of a volunteer fire fighter in Iowa included insufficient training, staffing, equipment, and standard operating procedures to adequately establish a traffic incident management area; the victim working a highway travel lane; and an inattentive passing motorist. Several of the "lessons learned" can be used to help educate EMS personnel avoid a similar tragedy. Click [here](#) to read the investigation report.

26. Scientific Writing for Peer Reviewed Publications for Public Health Professionals Course

This course, offered as part of the American Public Health Association Learning Institute at their annual meeting, will help public health practitioners turn their work into manuscripts for publication. The trainers, along with experienced authors or editors, will work with participants on partially completed manuscripts. The course will be a mixture of presentations and hands-on work. Participants will be strongly encouraged to come to the training with an abstract, manuscript outline, data analysis results or a draft of an article that they would like to see turned into a manuscript. The course will take place on Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Moscone Center in San Francisco, California. To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

27. AHRQ Release Report: *Enabling Patient-Centered Care Through Health Information Technology*

A new report on the understanding of the impact of health information technology (IT) applications to enhance the provision of patient-centered care (PCC) is available from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). [Enabling Patient-Centered Care through Health Information Technology](#) assesses the evidence on the impact of health IT that supports PCC on the following:

- health care processes;
- clinical outcomes;
- intermediate outcomes (patient or provider satisfaction, health knowledge and behavior, and cost);
- responsiveness to needs and preferences of patients;
- shared decision making and patient-clinician communication;
- access to information.

AHRQ expects this report to inform individual health providers, plans, and purchasers, as well as the health care system as a whole by providing important information to help improve healthcare quality. [For more information...](#)

28. Lower Mortality in Sepsis Patients Admitted through the ED vs Direct Admission

Early aggressive resuscitation in patients with severe sepsis decreases mortality but requires extensive time and resources. This study analyzes if patients with sepsis admitted through the emergency department (ED) have lower inpatient mortality than do patients admitted directly to the hospital. [For more information...](#)

29. Adolescent Satisfaction in an Urban Pediatric Emergency Department

Pediatric Emergency Care published a [study](#) analyzing the satisfaction reported by adolescents when visiting a pediatric emergency department (ED) and eliciting suggestions for improving the ED for teenage patients. A survey

was developed for this study to assess adolescents' overall satisfaction with their ED care as well as their views on the waiting time and setting, medical staff, treatment and discharge plans, and comparisons to general hospital EDs. 282 patients completed the survey, and 92% rated their experience as good or better. A decreased level of satisfaction was reported among adolescents waiting to see a physician in excess of 2 hours. Of the 161 patients who had previously attended a general hospital ED, only 11 patients (7%) preferred the general hospital setting. It was concerning that 184 respondents (65% of total) reported not having an opportunity to meet with their physician alone. The study concluded long wait times are associated with decreased level of satisfaction among adolescents. Overall adolescents were satisfied with care in the pediatric ED.

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...](#)

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*****

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...](#)

*AHRQ Annual Conference. September 9-11, 2012. Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Bethesda, MD. [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...](#)

*APHA 140th Annual Meeting and Exposition. October 27-31, 2012. Moscone Convention Center West, San Francisco, CA. [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>

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