



Washington Update

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1. The NASEMSO Rural EMS Committee Webpage Updated

The webpage for NASEMSO's Rural EMS Committee has been updated. Please click [here](#) to view the new site.

2. Performance Measurement for Public Health Policy

The American Public Health Policy (APHA) and the Public Health Foundation (PHF) have worked collaboratively to develop this tool to help health departments and their partners assess and improve the performance of their policy activities. While other performance measurement and evaluation guides exist, this is the first tool to focus explicitly on performance measurement for public health policy. The first section of the tool gives a brief overview of the role of health departments in public health policy, followed by an introduction to performance measurement within the context of performance management. It also includes a framework for conceptualizing the goals and activities of policy work in a health department. The second section of the tool consists of tables with examples of activities that a health department might engage in and sample measures and outcomes for these activities. The final section provides three examples of how a health department might apply performance measurement and the sample measures to assess its policy activities. [Download the tool.](#) [Download the template,](#) that health departments can fill-in with their own activities and measures. We encourage and welcome your suggestions for improvement and other feedback. Please contact sondra.dietz@apha.org.

3. Alaska Job Opening: DPH/DHSS Chief of Emergency Programs

The State of Alaska has announced a position opening for the DPH/DHSS Chief of Emergency Programs (EMS, Trauma, & Disaster Preparedness). This position is responsible for leading the Section and oversees the performance of the statewide Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma programs. The incumbent must demonstrate strong leadership and managerial capacity and ability to be accountable for fiscal and program results. Knowledge of the subsets of the emergency program field (including health care services) is needed to provide professional consultation to program managers responsible for comprehensive emergency program planning and implementation for disaster preparedness, emergency medical services, and trauma system planning. The job opening is posted [here](#).

4. A New Health Monitoring and Surveillance Tool for First Responders

Emergency responders have been called to duty over the past decade by an increasing number of natural and man-made disasters. As each large-scale disaster occurred, the importance of how best to ensure the safety and health of professional and volunteer emergency responders before, during and after a disaster has grown. While some guidance had been developed about how best to prepare response workers both before and during deployment, less attention had been placed on assessing responders' health after they complete their deployment. With this in mind, in 2008 NIOSH convened an multidisciplinary public health workgroup to address these concerns. The Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) system was developed in 2011 by this workgroup. It includes both written guidance and epidemiology/surveillance tools as examples of current best practices for protecting response, remediation, and recovery workers and volunteers. [For more information...](#)

5. DOT Releases New "Faces of Distracted Driving" Video

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood releases the latest video in the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) "Faces of Distracted Driving" series, featuring the story of John T. Gordon from Marion, Ohio. John T. Gordon was a law enforcement officer and father to an 11-year-old boy and a 7-year-old girl. On May 18, 2008, John was riding his motorcycle on Ohio State Route 4 when a young man driving a truck swerved into oncoming traffic. John was struck and died instantly. Records later showed that the driver was using his cell phone at the time of the crash. Click [here](#) to view the video.

6. New Online Educational Program for EMS Medical Directors Announced

The U.S. Fire Administration, in partnership with the DHS Office of Health Affairs and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, announces the availability of a new online educational program for physician medical directors of local fire departments and agencies involved in emergency medical services (EMS) response. This web-based program for current and prospective EMS medical directors provides information in a conveniently accessible format to support key roles in the provision of EMS to communities. [For more information...](#)

7. Associations Identify Using Metric Weights as Key to Avoiding Medication Errors

Leading physician and medication safety groups endorse Emergency Nurses Association position on weighing pediatric patients in kilograms. Medication errors are among the most common and preventable causes of harm to pediatric patients. Often, these errors are related to incorrect dosing because pediatric medication doses are weight-based, unlike the standard dosing units used for adult patients, and the recommended dosages given in terms of kilograms. But children are still weighed on scales that read in pounds or kilograms. A 2009 study revealed that more than one in four medication errors involving wrong patient weights were due to confusion between pounds and kilograms. Based on this and other evidence related to medication errors, and a significant body of research supporting weighing pediatric patients in kilograms, the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) has developed and released a position statement supporting this practice. [For more information...](#)

8. Safe Kids Worldwide Issues National Alert: Eight Child Heatstroke Deaths in Seven Days

Safe Kids Worldwide has issued a national alert regarding heatstroke deaths. The group notes that, "A five-month-old boy from Tennessee was the eighth child to die from heatstroke in a vehicle in the past seven days, bringing this year's total deaths to 23. Safe Kids Worldwide is issuing a **national alert** to stop these heartbreaking and entirely preventable tragedies." [For more information...](#)

9. NHTSA Launches 2012 Child Passenger Safety Week Program

Marketing and earned-media materials specially designed for this year’s observance of Child Passenger Safety Week, September 16-22, are now available [here](#). Traffic Safety Marketing, NHTSA’s special web-based service, was developed for partners and advocacy organizations to use to alert consumers and local media outlets about their upcoming programs and activities.

10. Teen Seat Belt Use Is Significantly Higher In States With Stronger Laws

While most teens do buckle up when driving, new research shows that novice teen drivers who live in states with so-called “secondary enforcement” seat belt laws are less likely to use the life-saving devices than those in “primary enforcement” states. The research, conducted by The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and State Farm®, is published in the *American Journal of Public Health*. The research found seat belt use rates differed as teens moved through the probationary licensing process known as Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL). [For more information...](#)

11. IEMS Publishes Clinical Treatment Guidelines for Wildland Fire Medical Units

The Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee (IEMS) of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) has published *Clinical Treatment Guidelines for Wildland Fire Medical Units*. The necessity of identifying a systematic approach for the care of the sick and injured on wildland fire incidents has expanded over the last 30 years. These Clinical Treatment Guidelines were developed by the IEMS and were reviewed by physicians familiar with the wildland fire environment. Click [here](#) to read the memo and review the guidelines. For more information on IEMS, click [here](#).

12. Trauma Patients at Higher Risk of Dying of Hypothermia

Researchers say paramedics can help trauma patients by controlling IV temperature and heating ambulances. People who suffer a traumatic injury are at greater risk of dying from hypothermia, according to a new French study. Hypothermia was defined as a body temperature below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Risk of death from low body temperature is higher among those with more severe injuries, the researchers found. They cautioned that patients receiving emergency medical services should remain clothed when possible and temperatures of IV fluids and ambulances should be controlled. [For more information...](#)

13. USFA and 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. [For more information...](#)

14. CDC Introduces Disease of the Week Application

CDC has recently updated its iPad application to include a Disease of the Week feature. This new addition will allow users to explore a new topic each week to learn key facts and prevention tips, view images, and videos and take interactive quizzes to test what you’ve learned. Along with this new feature, the iPad application includes a variety of significant information including CDC Health articles, CDC Vital Signs, CDC Preventing Chronic Disease Journal, MMWR, and CDC’s Public Health Matters blog. Users are also able to connect with CDC’s social media

channels and listen to the extensive library of podcasts. The iPad application can be downloaded from the [iTunes app store](#).

15. CDC Posts Final Version of Anti-Lobbying Restrictions for Grantees

The final version of revised anti-lobbying restrictions for CDC grantees is now publicly posted on the CDC website. Click [here](#) to read the document.

16. West Nile Season Off To An Early Start

More serious illnesses from West Nile virus have been reported so far this year than any since 2004, health officials said Wednesday. Through the end of July, 241 human cases have been reported in 22 states, including four deaths. Texas, especially around the Dallas area, has seen the bulk of them. Health officials believe the mild winter, early spring and very hot summer have fostered breeding of the mosquitoes that spread the virus to people. Most West Nile infections are reported in August and September, so it's not clear how bad this year will be. But it doesn't look good. [For more information...](#)

17. EMSCC Community Paramedic White Paper Released

The Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada have released a white paper: "Community Paramedicine in Canada". The paper concludes that "EMS must pursue innovation and new models of service delivery to meet the community-defined needs. Collaboration of EMS and community organizations, social service agencies, and public safety groups will enable innovative initiatives that have the potential to improve the level of health care within a community." Click [here](#) to read the paper.

18. Can the National Trauma Triage Protocol Predict which Patients Will Benefit from Helicopter Transport?

The Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery published a study aimed to assess the role of the National Trauma Triage Protocol (NTTP) in selecting patients that would benefit from helicopter transport (HT). Subjects (n=258,387) transported by HT or ground transport from the scene of injury in 2007 were identified using the National Trauma Databank version 8. Subgroups of patients who met specific triage criteria were evaluated using logistic regression to determine if transport modality was an independent predictor of survival after controlling for demographics, injury severity, prehospital time, and presence of other NTTP triage criteria. Approximately 16% of the subjects were transported by helicopter and 84% were transported by ground. Results indicated HT subjects were more severely injured. Patients who meet certain triage criteria in the field seem to have an independent survival benefit if transported to a trauma center by helicopter. Furthermore, these criteria are highly specific and more reliably predict trauma center need in the HT group. [For more information...](#)

19. CHSC Releases Research Brief on the Use of Emergency Departments for Routine Care

The research brief, "Dispelling Myths about the Emergency Department Use: Majority of Medicaid Visits Are for Urgent or More Serious Symptoms" published by the Centers for Health Systems Change, addresses misconceptions about emergency department (ED) use. The brief presents data on hospital ED visits from the 2008 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Emergency Department. The authors use both symptoms and diagnoses to examine the composition of ED visits nationally, with the caveat that neither provides the whole story about why a particular patient visited an ED. Additional topics included are: urgent vs. non-urgent ED visits; ED visits by children enrolled in Medicaid vs. those by children enrolled in private health insurance plans; and policy implications. [For more information...](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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*****

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

NAEMSE EMS Level II Instructor Course. August 24-25, 2012. New Brunswick, NJ. [For more information...](#)

NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course. September 7-9, 2012. Vancouver, WA. [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...](#)

NAEMSE EMS Level II Instructor Course. September 14-15, 2012. Macon, GA. [For more information...](#)

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

*The Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA) 2012 Conference. October 3-4, 2012. Wrest Point Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. [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...](#)

*15th Annual Trauma Center Association of America Trauma Conference and Annual Meeting. October 23-26, 2012. The Mills House, Charleston, SC. [For more information...](#)

*2012 International Association of Emergency Medical Services Chiefs (IAEMSC) Annual EMS Leadership Summit. October 26-29, 2012. Capital Hilton, Washington, DC. [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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