



# Washington Update

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**August 31, 2012**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**1. NASEMSO Provides New Education Agenda Resources for States**

The National Association of State EMS Officials has released three new informational flyers that support the implementation of the EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach by answering questions about requirements related to the December 31, 2012 deadline for National EMS Program Accreditation.

- [Are You Ready?](#) is intended to help state EMS offices determine if the state/territory is ready for the December 31, 2012 deadline for implementation of National EMS Program Accreditation.
- [Is Your Program CAAHEP Accredited?](#) is intended for paramedic students enrolling in paramedic programs whose program of instruction begins after January 1, 2013.
- [What You Need to Know](#) is intended for individuals considering a career as a paramedic and evaluating programs for enrollment.

Questions about the flyers can be submitted to NASEMSO Program Manager, [Kathy Robinson](#).

**2. Kevin McGinnis Appointed to FirstNet Board**

U.S. Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank appointed twelve of the nation’s leading experts on public safety and wireless broadband communications to serve on the Board of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), to include NASEMSO’s own, Kevin McGinnis. FirstNet is congressionally mandated to establish a nationwide wireless broadband network that enables police, firefighters, emergency services personnel, and others in public safety to better communicate with one another during emergencies and use new technology to improve response time, keep communities safe, and save lives. The FirstNet Board is tasked with deploying a nationwide, interoperable, public safety communications network as recommended by the 9/11 Commission in order to resolve communications challenges faced by emergency responders nationwide. By law, the FirstNet Board represents experts in public safety, technology, network operations, and finance. The Act also requires the Board’s inclusion of at least three public safety professionals and at least three members representing the interests of States, localities, tribes, and territories. Congratulations Kevin! [For more information...](#)

**3. FirstNet Broadband Network State and Local Implementation Grant Program**

This is the grant guidance for state and local planning of the FirstNet broadband network in states. See link below. State and local EMS folks should make sure they know who will be coordinating this effort in their state government, stay abreast of planning efforts, and take every opportunity to get to the planning table, especially if they have EMS systems using broadband or planning to. [For more information...](#)

**4. Toolkits Released to Help Health Departments Navigate Legal Issues During Public Health Emergencies**

The Association of State and Territorial Health Offices (ASTHO) has developed a series of toolkits that address the key information needs of public health officials in understanding and using legal authorities to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies. This series arose from needs identified by state and local public health agencies regarding certain legal questions and uncertainties that were perceived to be barriers to effective planning and response to infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, intentional acts, and other emergency events. The toolkits and their component documents are designed to be used as a resource to assist in education, training, and planning activities to prepare for emergencies, as well as to serve as a quick reference resource during an emergency response to an event. [For more information...](#)

**5. Officials Mark Achievements In Interoperable Communications At Public Safety Conference**

In a major conference for public safety officials over the past few days, the Obama administration has announced several key contributions toward bolstering interoperable communications among first responders. [For more information...](#)

**6. OEC Case Study: Hurricane Irene Response in North Carolina**

As part of efforts to share the progress made by the Nation’s emergency response community in enhancing interoperable communications, the DHS Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) is developing a series of [case studies](#) using real-world examples on how training and planning have made a difference in responding to natural disasters and other emergencies. Attached is a case study about how emergency communications training helped North Carolina emergency responders keep communication systems operational during Hurricane Irene in August 2011. This is only one of several case studies under development; suggestions on other topics are welcome. If you have a real-world example that you would like to share, please contact [OEC External Affairs](#).

**7. New Emergency Response and Counter Terrorism Collection**

Recent acts of terrorism and natural disasters have devastated many of our communities, raising an increased awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness. When unexpected events occur, it is important that our first responders are prepared to deal effectively with emergencies of all kinds. To help prepare our first responders for emergencies, particularly those involving hazardous materials, the U.S. Government Printing Office has assembled a new collection of publications focusing on emergency response and counterterrorism.

Click [here](#) to shop our new Emergency Response and Counterterrorism collection.

**8. New Health Monitoring and Surveillance Tool for First Responder**

This month the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released the [Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance](#) (ERHMS) system to address the concerns of assessing responders' health after they have completed their deployment. According to NIOSH, "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. The ERHMS system includes both written guidance and epidemiology/surveillance tools as examples of current best practices for protecting response, remediation, and recovery workers and volunteers. The system can be applied in both smaller, localized incidents, as well as larger incidents. Importantly, it provides guidance to help protect emergency responders before, during, and after an incident.

**9. Free Training Offered for First Responder Safety at a Small Aircraft or Helicopter Accident**

As small aircraft and helicopters have become more complex, technology has provided systems that have enhanced operational safety. In the event of an accident, many of these systems have presented additional hazards to first responders or any potential rescuer at an aircraft accident scene. The FAA, in cooperation with General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), various manufacturers and first responder professional organizations, has developed training for safety at an aircraft accident scene. While the material was initially developed for firefighters, EMS and police, it provides useful information for any persons that may come across an aircraft accident. Flash Player is required to view each module. [For more information...](#)

**10. BTS Releases State Transportation Statistics 2011**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), released its annual *State Transportation Statistics 2011 (STS)* – a web-only reference guide to transportation data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. STS 2011 includes a wide range of state-by-state information, such as the calculations showing which states had the highest and lowest number of highway traffic fatalities per 100,000 population in 2010. The ninth annual STS consists of 115 tables of state data on infrastructure, safety, freight transportation, passenger travel, registered vehicles and vehicle-miles traveled, economy and finance, and energy and environment, plus a U.S. Fast Facts page. [For more information...](#)

**11. States Debate Who Should Make "Return to Play" Decisions for Youth Athletes**

*Stateline* reports that while several states have passed anti-concussion legislation over the past several years, legislators in certain jurisdictions have recently faced unexpected opposition to similar proposals. Many of the existing laws focus on who can make "return to play" decisions for youth athletes who suffer head injuries during a game. In some states, however, lawmakers and health care professionals have debated who is most qualified to make these decisions – the most knowledgeable health care providers are not always the most accessible within a community. [For more information...](#)

**12. Leading Physician & Medication Safety Groups Endorse ENA Position: Weigh Pediatric Patients in Kilograms**

The American College of Emergency Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices have all endorsed the Emergency Nurses Association's (ENA) position statement [Weighing Pediatric Patients in Kilograms](#). The statement recommends several practices to ensure that pediatric patients' weights are consistently measured and recorded in kilograms, including:

- Scales used to weigh pediatric patients only be configured to record weights in kilograms.
- Pediatric weights are recorded in a prominent place on the medical record.
- Electronic medical records are standardized to allow only kilograms for pediatric weight entries.
- The pediatric patient's actual weight is considered part of the mandatory nursing assessment unless they require resuscitation or emergent stabilization.
- For the pediatric patient who requires resuscitation or emergent stabilization, a standard method of estimating weight in kilograms is used (e.g., length-based system).
- The pediatric patient's weight in kilograms is included in any inter- or intra-disciplinary patient hand off report.

**13. Save the Children Releases Annual Disaster Report**

Save the Children recently released its fifth annual National Report Card on Protecting Children During Disasters. The report analyses four basic disaster preparedness and safety standards for children. To meet benchmarks, “states must require all regulated childcare settings to have written plans for evacuation and relocation, for family reunification following an emergency, as well as a specific plan to assist children with disabilities and those children with access and functional needs.” For a copy of the [report](#).

**14. 2012 National Rural Health Day**

If you haven't done so already, circle November 15, 2012 on your calendar and plan to join the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) and our partners in celebrating the second annual **National Rural Health Day!** Last year's inaugural celebration was an overwhelming success, with all 50 State Offices of Rural Health and dozens of other local, state and national partners around the country teaming up to “Celebrate the Power of Rural” and raise awareness of rural health-related issues. NOSORH already has a variety of resources available on the [National Rural Health Day website](#).

**15. The Rural Assistance Center Features Rural EMS in their Most Recent Publication**

The [Rural Assistance Center](#) (RAC) helps rural communities and other rural stakeholders access the full range of available programs, funding, and research that can enable them to provide quality health and human services to rural residents. An original publication of RAC is *The Rural Monitor*, which featured Rural EMS in their most recent issue. Included in this current issue is an article titled “[Local and National Efforts to Improve Rural EMS Safety](#)”. Click [here](#) to view the full publication.

**16. Help Prepare for 2013's National Preparedness Month**

Many of you participated in 2012 National Trauma Awareness Month campaign this year. In order to help American Trauma Society (ATS) know how to improve materials for next year, ATS would greatly appreciate your taking a few moments to complete the attached survey. Thank you for your help and participation in NTAM. Click [here](#) to access the survey.

**17. CDC Releases Older Adult Preparedness Portal**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released "Identifying Vulnerable Older Adults and Legal Options for Increasing Their Protection During All-Hazards Emergencies: A Cross-Sector Guide for States and Communities," along with a preparedness Web portal. The guide focuses on topics such as developing plans, building registries,

partnering and collaboration, and more. The older adult preparedness Web portal was developed with the guide and provides tools, resources, and other information related to all-hazards preparedness for vulnerable older adults. Click [here](#) to download a PDF of the guide and to view the Web portal.

**18. HHS Has Taken Steps to Address Unsafe Injection Practices, but More Action Is Needed**

Data on the extent and cost of blood-borne pathogen outbreaks related to unsafe injection practices in ambulatory care settings are limited and likely underestimate the full extent of such outbreaks. An agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), collects data on outbreaks identified by state and local health departments. These data show that from 2001 through 2011, there were at least 18 outbreaks of viral hepatitis associated with unsafe injection practices in ambulatory settings, such as physician offices or ambulatory surgical centers (ASC). CDC officials and others believe that the known outbreaks do not represent the full extent of such outbreaks for a number of reasons, such as infections often being difficult to detect and trace to specific health care facilities. Additionally, comprehensive data on the cost of blood-borne pathogen outbreaks to the health care system do not exist, but CDC and other officials believe these costs can be substantial for those affected. [For more information...](#)

**19. White House National Strategy for Biosurveillance**

The National Strategy for Biosurveillance promotes an all-of-Nation approach that brings together Federal, state, local, and tribal governments; the private sector; non-governmental organizations; and international partners to identify and understand threats as early as possible and provide accurate and timely information to support life-saving responses. You can read the “National Strategy for Biosurveillance” [here](#).

**20. NAEMSE Adds Additional EMS Educator and Level III Instructor Courses to Schedule**

The National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) has added additional EMS Educator and Level III Instructor Courses to their schedule. Check out the [calendar](#) for additional dates.

- The EMS Educator Course represents the didactic component and practical application of the beginning education process to become an EMS instructor. The content of this course aligns the NAEMSE developed modules with the curriculum objectives of the 2002 National Guidelines, and has been designed to provide a basic introduction of concepts for the beginning EMS educator. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The Level II Instructor Course is representative of the 2002 National Guidelines for EMS Educators and will provide educators and program directors with the tools and information needed to further build their leadership skills and better evaluate programs, students, and faculty. This course also includes an online portion that will enhance the two-day in-person sessions. Topics covered include: Mentoring \* Student Centered Learning \* Lesson Plans \* Program Evaluation \* Social Intelligence \* Research \* Presentation Technologies \* Leadership \* Administrative Issues. Click [here](#) for more information.

**21. NIOSH and OSHA Evaluate Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Cleanup**

An article published online July 18 in *PloS Currents Disasters* details an evaluation of the efforts made to protect workers during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response. The article, written by NIOSH Director Dr. John Howard and Assistant Secretary of Labor Dr. David Michaels, identifies the factors that contributed to the successful efforts to protect workers as well provides recommendations for future responses. [For more information...](#)

**22. AHRQ Releases Training Modules to Help Improve the Safety of Nursing Home**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released a set of training modules to help educate nursing home staff on key patient safety concepts critical to improving the safety of nursing home residents. The modules, Improving Patient Safety in Long-Term Care Facilities include the following publications:

- Detecting Change in a Resident’s Condition
- Communicating Change in a Resident’s Condition
- Falls Prevention and Management

Each of the modules has an instructor’s guide and a student workbook. Training of nursing home staff, including support for teamwork across specialties, is likely to be effective in reducing medical errors and improving patient safety and can help reduce the number of falls and fall-related injuries at nursing centers. Click [here](#) to access the modules.

**23. Ground-Breaking Public-Private Partnership to Prevent Health Care Fraud**

Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the launch of a ground-breaking partnership among the federal government, State officials, several leading private health insurance organizations, and other health care anti-fraud groups to prevent health care fraud. [For more information...](#)

**24. GSA freezes per diem rates for 2013**

The General Services Administration will freeze per diem rates at current levels for 2013, with only a few exceptions. Freezing the reimbursement rates for lodging, meals and incidentals will avoid an estimated \$20 million in costs in 2013 and help agencies meet the Obama administration’s directives to reduce travel costs government-wide, GSA said in a news release last week. [For more information...](#)

**25. CDC Expanded Hepatitis C Testing Recommendations**

CDC now recommends that all U.S. baby boomers get a one-time test for the hepatitis C virus. Data show that 1 in 30 baby boomers has been infected with hepatitis C and this population is five times more likely than other adult Americans to be infected with the virus. In addition, more than 15,000 Americans, most of them baby boomers, die of hepatitis C-related illness each year. CDC has put together a digital press kit full of helpful resources for your readers, viewers, and listeners. This kit includes key messages, charts, related links, and quotes from CDC hepatitis C experts. [For more information...](#)

**26. Self- and Peer-Assessments of Ambulance Drivers' Driving Performance**

The aim of the present study was to develop and examine the quality of the Ambulance Driver Self-assessment Questionnaire (ADSQ) and the Ambulance Driver Peer-assessment Questionnaire (ADPQ) measuring aspects of, driving performance, driving style and driving competence. In addition the ADSQ measures self-reflection and safety-attitudes. The aim of the study was also to examine ambulance drivers' self- and peer-assessments as well as to examine the accuracy of self-assessments by comparing self-assessed and peer-assessed driving performance, driving style and competence. 76 ambulance drivers employed at two ambulance stations in northern Sweden completed ADSQ and ADPQ. Item analyses were conducted to examine the psychometric properties of the items, and based on the results some revisions were made to improve the questionnaires. The revised questionnaires were functioning rather well, although some subscale demonstrated low internal consistency. Subscale inter-correlations provided support for construct validity. Self- and peer-assessments indicated safe driving performance and good driver competence, which is positive from a traffic safety perspective. A comparison of mean self- and peer-assessment ratings, controlling for age, gender and driving experience showed no significant differences, except for the subscale overtaking. This indicates that ambulance drivers' self-assessments are realistic in most areas. [For more information...](#)

**27. Webcast Recording Available: Ambulance Crashes: Is Your Safety Program Doing Enough to Prevent Them**

Ambulance crashes account for 74% of the fatalities in EMS. The injury rate in these crashes is seven times the national average, making ambulances a very dangerous environment to work in. In a case study of two very serious ambulance crashes, you will be able to recognize the events that led to these crashes. A case study will also focus on how an EMS service recovered from a fatal crash by adding Road Safety to its fleet. But in order to fully benefit from this technology, a high performing safety program must be deployed. In this presentation you will learn what key aspects of a driver safety program must be in place to successfully reduce your crash rate. You will learn how to do a self audit of your driver safety program, developing a program, key metrics to measure, training, culture shifts, crash investigation and staff rewards/recognition. Click [here](#) to view the webcast recording.

**28. Presentations and Outcomes of Children With Intraventricular Hemorrhages After Blunt Head Trauma**

*Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* recently published an [article](#) using data from a Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN) [study](#) to describe clinical presentations and outcomes of children with intraventricular hemorrhages (IVHs) after blunt head trauma (BHT). The *Archives* study took place within 25 emergency departments participating in PECARN from June 1, 2004 through September 31, 2006. The study included children younger than 18 years of age (n = 43, 398) presenting with IVH after BHT. The primary outcome of interest was an acute adverse event defined as death from traumatic brain injury, neurosurgical intervention, or intubation for greater than 24 hours of management of the head injury. The study concluded children with nonisolated IVHs after BHT typically present with GCS scores of less than 14, frequently require neurosurgery, and have high mortality rates. In contrast, those with isolated IVHs typically present with normal mental status and are at low risk for acute adverse events and poor outcomes.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

New York State EMS Conference-Vital Signs. October 18-21, 2012. Syracuse, NY. [For more information...](#)

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

\*33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia EMS Symposium. November 7-11, 2012. Norfolk Waterside Marriott, Norfolk, Virginia. Register online to save time and money, check out our course catalog, which offers more than 250 courses, learn how to become a sponsor, review our call for presentations and additional event info! [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\*\*\***

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...](#)

\* National Consensus Conference on Community Paramedicine. October 1-2, 2012. Airport Hilton, Atlanta, GA. Click [here](#) to register.

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...](#)

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

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...](#)

21<sup>st</sup> Annual NNAEMSA Education Conference. November 5-9, 2012. Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, NV. [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...](#)

National Rural Health Day. November 15, 2012. Click [here](#) to help with your planning!

See more EMS Events on NASEMSO's web site at <http://www.nasemso.org/Resources/Calendar/index.asp>

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