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1. NASEMSO Signs-On to Support New Version of PAHPA Reauthorization Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives will consider this week a new version of the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) reauthorization bill. This draft reflects the priorities that EMS stakeholders have worked on to strengthen the National Health Security Strategy (NHSS). The draft reflects proposed changes to the NHSS, focusing on language regarding medical surge capacity of critical care, EMS, and trauma care. The draft also proposes a coordinated and flexible approach to surge capacity. NASEMSO has signed-on to a letter supporting this reauthorization bill. Click [here](#) to read the draft.

2. NASEMSO President-Elect Paul Patrick to Represent NASEMSO on FirstNet’s PSAC

First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board Chairman Sam Ginn recently announced the appointment of four Vice Chairs of FirstNet’s Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). The Vice Chairs are: Chief Bill McCammon from Alameda County, California, representing the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association; **Paul Patrick** from Salt Lake City, Utah, representing the National Association of State EMS Officials; Heather Hogsett from Washington, D.C., representing the National Governors Association; and Tom Sorley from Houston, Texas, representing the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Chairman Ginn previously announced the appointment of Chief Harlin McEwen as the Chairman of the PSAC, and McEwen and the four Vice Chairs together will make up the PSAC Executive Committee. The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created FirstNet and set out a requirement that its board establish a standing public safety advisory committee to assist it in carrying out its duties and responsibilities. Click [here](#) to view the Press Release.

3. NASEMSO Previews AAMS Document Intended to Support States

As states have attempted to regulate air medical programs and ensure their integration with state and local EMS systems, operators have responded with lawsuits asserting the exclusive authority of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) under the Airline Deregulation Act (PL 95-504) of 1978 (ADA). (See links to NASEMSO [white paper](#) and [companion document](#) for more information.) In 2011, NASEMSO announced plans to identify model air medical regulations intended to assist states to medically protect patients and enhance a systems approach without conflicting with the FAA’s authority. In the interim, the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) and the MedEvac Foundation collaborated with several national air medical and EMS organizations to create a consensus document intended to assist and enhance NASEMSO’s goal to identify model language for states with the legal authority to regulate ambulance services. Last week, NASEMSO President Jim DeTienne and Air Medical Committee Chairman, Dr. Robert Bass met with AAMS leadership to discuss the newly released [AAMS document](#) entitled “Model State Guidelines.” NASEMSO has been an observer in the development of the resource document which is intended to help address clinical and patient safety issues from a unique industry perspective. As a result of the meeting NASEMSO President Jim DeTienne commended AAMS for coordinating an effort that can be used as a foundation for moving forward, “NASEMSO is very appreciative of the work that AAMS has put into these comprehensive guidelines. It is very important for our members to have this industry perspective as we develop our model state regulations. We look forward to a continued strong partnership with AAMS in ensuring that when medically necessary, patients have access to the safest and highest quality air medical services possible.”

4. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Dies at Age 88

United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye, World War II veteran, Medal of Honor recipient and Hawaii’s senior Senator, passed away from respiratory complications at 5:01 p.m. Eastern Standard Time today at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. His wife Irene and his son Ken were at his side. Last rites were performed by Senate Chaplain Dr. Barry Black. He is survived by his wife, Irene Hirano Inouye, his son Daniel Ken Inouye Jr., Ken’s wife Jessica, and granddaughter Maggie and step-daughter Jennifer Hirano. He was preceded in death his first wife, Maggie Awamura. Click [here](#) to read the Press Release.

5. Leadership for Rural Health: NOSORH’s Leadership Institute For Established and Emerging Rural Leaders

Don’t miss the third offering of this exciting series of workshops sponsored by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and presented by the founders and co-directors of the Heartland Center for Leadership Development. Delivered principally by webinar, the workshops will be held monthly from January 2013 through September, and with face-to-face workshops in Louisville, KY in May 7th, 2013 and Asheville, NC in October 2013 (date TBD). Learn practical, immediately applicable strategies and useful tools to enhance your leadership and management skills as an established or emerging rural health leader. Participate in development of a capstone project with mentoring from an experienced leader. Share your project ideas and progress with other institute Participants at the final workshop in Asheville, NC. Apply today to guarantee your place in this leadership opportunity! [For more information...](#)

6. HHS OIG Report: HHS Public Health and Medical Services Emergency Support Preparedness

The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a report that finds that HHS has participated in preparedness activities to fulfill its Coordinator, Primary, and Support agency ESF responsibilities. However, other ESF Coordinator and Primary agencies did not always report having a clear understanding of HHS’s Support agency role and available resources during incident response. [For more information...](#)

7. Planning Workshop for Addressing Healthcare Surge in Rural Settings

CDC and the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education have released a Request for Participation (RFP) for a Workshop for Addressing Healthcare Surge in Rural Settings. Applications are due January 15th, but you must indicate intent to apply by December 21st. The purpose of this RFP is to solicit interested rural communities to apply as potential participants for a workshop sponsored by CDC. The goal of the workshop is to advance planning towards a coordinated and integrated public health, healthcare, and emergency management response to deliver care when faced with increasing levels of healthcare surge during an influenza pandemic or other public health emergency in rural settings. [For more information...](#)

8. FCC Chairman Announces Commitments to Accelerate Text-to-911

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski announced today that the nation’s four largest wireless carriers – AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile – have agreed to accelerate the availability of text-to-911, with major deployments expected in 2013 and a commitment to nationwide availability by May 15, 2014. Building on text-to-911 deployments and trials that are already underway, this agreement will accelerate progress and ensure that over 90 percent of the nation’s wireless consumers, including millions of consumers with hearing or speech disabilities, will be able to access emergency services by sending a text message to 911, where local 911 call centers (known as a Public Safety Answering Points, or PSAPs) are also prepared to receive the texts. Text-to-911 will provide consumers with enhanced access to emergency communications in situations where a voice call could endanger the caller, or a person with disabilities is unable to make a voice call. Text-to-911 will be a complement to, not a substitute for, voice calls to 911 services, and consumers should always make a voice call to 911 during an emergency if they can. [For more information...](#)

9. Free Data and Reporting Resource for Community Health Needs Assessment Goes Live

[CHNA.org](#), a state-of-the-art, free, web-based utility that offers comprehensive GIS mapping, analytic, and reporting tools to facilitate community health needs assessments, has announced its nationwide beta 2.0 launch. CHNA.org is designed to assist hospitals, nonprofit community-based organizations, state and local health departments, financial institutions, engaged citizens, and other key stakeholders in understanding their communities’ needs and assets. Get a free username and password and access online tutorials at [CHNA.org](#). Two one-hour webinars will also be available to provide an overview of the platform on Tuesday, December 18th and Tuesday January 17th. Registration is available on the CHNA [website](#). [For more information...](#)

10. Evaluating the Reliability of Emergency Response Systems for Large-Scale Incident Operations

A new study has been released from *RAND Health Quarterly*: Evaluating the Reliability of Emergency Response Systems for Large-Scale Incident Operations. The ability to measure emergency preparedness—to predict the likely performance of emergency response systems in future events—is critical for policy analysis in homeland security. Yet it remains difficult to know how prepared a response system is to deal with large-scale incidents, whether it be a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or industrial or transportation accident. This research draws on the fields of systems analysis and engineering to apply the concept of system reliability to the evaluation of emergency response systems. [For more information...](#)

11. U.S. DOT Proposes Broader Use of Event Data Recorders to Help Improve Vehicle Safety

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) proposes a new standard that would capture valuable safety-related data in the seconds before and during a motor vehicle crash. The proposed rule would require automakers to install event data recorders (EDRs) — devices that collect specific safety-related data — in all light passenger vehicles beginning September 1, 2014. [For more information...](#)

12. Ondansetron (Zofran) 32 mg, Single Intravenous (IV) Dose: Updated Safety Communication

The FDA is notifying health care professionals that the 32 mg, single intravenous (IV) dose of the anti-nausea drug Zofran (ondansetron hydrochloride) will no longer be marketed because of the potential for serious cardiac risks. The 32 mg, single IV dose of Zofran had been used to prevent chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. A previous Drug Safety Communication (DSC), issued on June 29, 2012, communicated that the 32 mg, single IV dose should be avoided due to the risk of a specific type of irregular heart rhythm called QT interval prolongation, which can lead to Torsades de Pointes, an abnormal, potentially fatal heart rhythm. These drugs are sold pre-mixed in solutions of either dextrose or sodium chloride in plastic containers. FDA anticipates these products will be removed from the market through early 2013. FDA does not anticipate that removal of the 32 mg intravenous dose of ondansetron currently sold as pre-mixed injections will contribute to a drug shortage of IV ondansetron, as the 32 mg dose makes up a very small percentage of the current market. [For more information...](#)

13. Heparin: Drug Safety Communication - Important Change to Heparin Container Labels

The FDA is notifying health care professionals, caregivers, and patients about a change to the container and carton labels for heparin products. This label change will require manufacturers of Heparin Lock Flush Solution, USP and Heparin Sodium Injection, USP to clearly state the strength of the entire container of the medication followed by how much of the medication is in 1 milliliter (mL). These modifications will eliminate the need for health care professionals to calculate the total amount of heparin medication in a product containing more than 1 mL, thereby reducing the risk of miscalculations that may result in medication errors. [For more information...](#)

14. Verathon Inc. Issues Voluntary Recall of Certain GlideScope GVL Video Laryngoscope Reusable Blades

Verathon Inc., Bothell, Washington, is initiating a voluntary recall of GlideScope GVL Video Laryngoscopes reusable blades that were manufactured between December 2010 and August 2011. These laryngoscope blades have been found to be prone to developing cracks and/or breaking across the tip of the blade, which potentially could result in pieces of the blade breaking off in patient's mouths and obstructing the airway or being swallowed. [For more information...](#)

15. HeartSine Samaritan Public Access Defibrillator 300/300P: Class I Recall

HeartSine notified customers that certain Samaritan 300/300P PAD devices have been found to intermittently turn on and off, which may eventually deplete the battery. In addition and separately, certain Samaritan 300/300P PAD devices containing early versions of the battery management software may misinterpret a temporary drop in battery voltage as signaling a low battery, resulting in the device turning itself off. A device experiencing either condition could be unable to deliver therapy during a cardiac event. [For more information...](#)

16. Pediatric Trauma Courses Developed by TI Grantee Now Available

Targeted Issue (TI) Grantee Jane Brice, MD, MPH, of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and her team have developed pediatric trauma courses as part of their TI project "EMS and Pediatric Trauma: A North Carolina Population-based Performance Improvement Intervention and Evaluation Using Multiple-linked Healthcare Databases." The two new courses are now available via the web for EMS providers and 911 telecommunicators. These courses are available for continuing education credits, and North Carolina EMS and 911 providers may take the course for free through the EMS Performance Improvement Center website. [For more information...](#)

17. HHS Releases 2012 PHEMCE Strategy and Implementation Plan

Under the leadership of HHS, the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise (PHEMCE) is the coordinating body for the federal agencies in charge of protecting the civilian population from potential adverse

health impacts through the use of medical countermeasures, which are medicines, devices, or other medical interventions that can lessen the harmful effects of these threats. The [2012 HHS PHEMCE Strategy](#) articulates the strategic direction and will guide policies and decisions for the end-to-end mission of the PHEMCE. The companion [2012 HHS PHEMCE Implementation Plan](#) describes the activities and programs that HHS, in collaboration with its interagency partners, is undertaking over the next five years to increase MCM preparedness for national health security threats. This Strategy and the Implementation Plan together provide the blueprints the PHEMCE will follow in the near-, mid-, and long-terms to make the best use of available resources to enhance national health security. [For more information...](#)

18. FEMA Contracts Development Of National ‘Whole Community’ Disaster Training Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded a contract to San Antonio, Texas-based BCFS Health and Human Services’ Emergency Management Division (BCFS EMD) to deliver a multi-tiered national training program that “provides specific, realistic tools to enable states to develop inclusive emergency plans for the ‘whole community.’” [For more information...](#)

19. New Tools to Help Providers Protect Patient Data in Mobile Devices

Launched by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), a new education initiative and set of online tools provide health care providers and organizations practical tips on ways to protect their patients’ protected health information when using mobile devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones. The initiative is called *Mobile Devices: Know the RISKS. Take the STEPS. PROTECT and SECURE Health Information* and is available at www.HealthIT.gov/mobiledevices. It offers educational resources such as videos, easy-to-download fact sheets, and posters to promote best ways to safeguard patient health information. Click [here](#) to view the Press Release.

20. From the New York Academy of Medicine: U.S. Healthcare is Moving Upstream

Community-based prevention, particularly interventions that look upstream to stop the root causes of disease, can reduce the burden of preventable illnesses. The article addresses provisions in the Affordable Care Act that promote community-based prevention, including Community Transformation Grants. It also highlights the role of hospitals "in making investments in prevention through their community benefit programs." Click [here](#) to read the article.

21. Public Health Quality Improvement Exchange Launched

RTI International, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has recently launched the [Public Health Quality Improvement Exchange](#) (PHQIX), an online resource and communication platform for public health practitioners. Using this platform, members can share lessons learned from their own quality improvement initiatives, search for ideas and interventions that have worked for others, and participate in a community forum to engage with others who have similar issues and interests. PHQIX was designed in collaboration with state, local, and tribal health department representatives to enhance the performance, effectiveness, and efficiency of public health systems by making public health quality improvement information more easily accessible. For more information, please contact [Jamie Pina](#) at RTI International.

22. Regional Wildland Fire Risk Analysis Reports Now Available

The three Regional Strategy Committees (RSC) of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) have recently completed Risk Analysis Reports identifying strategies for addressing wildland fire management risk in their respective regions. The Risk Analysis Reports contain key elements that can be integrated into strategies for addressing the shared goals of the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management](#)

Strategy: resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities and response to wildland fire. Each RSC is comprised of representatives from federal, state, local and tribal governments and non-governmental organizations with interests in wildland fire management. [For more information...](#)

23. ONC HealthIT Webcast - Annual Meeting

The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology broadcasted their Annual Meeting via Webcast on December 12th. The archived Webcast is available [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

None scheduled at this time

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

NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 2. January 4-5, 2013. Kyle, TX. This course 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. [For more information...](#)

****Updated December 17, 2012 -** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a National Provider Call on the Implementation of Section 3133 of the Affordable Care Act: Improvement to Medicare DSH Payments on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 from 1:30pm - 3:30pm ET. Please see the [full announcement](#) for registration information. In order to receive call-in information, you must register for the call on the CMS Upcoming National Provider Calls registration website. Registration will close at 12pm on the day of the call or when available space has been filled; no exceptions will be made, so please register early.

International Disaster Conference & Expo 2013. January 8-10, 2013. Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA. [For more information...](#)

2013 NAEMSP Annual Meeting. National Association of EMS Physicians. January 10-12, 2013. Bonita Springs, FL. [For more information...](#)

NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 1. January 18-21, 2013. Lebanon, TN. This course represents the didactic component and practical application of the education process necessary to become an EMS instructor. Individuals who attend the entire course and pass the post-test will receive a certificate of course completion from NAEMSE with CEUs, which is accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS). [For more information...](#)

*NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 1. January 25-27, 2013. Brooklyn, NY. This course represents the didactic component and practical application of the education process necessary to become an EMS instructor. Individuals who attend the entire course and pass the post-test will receive a certificate of course completion from NAEMSE with CEUs, which is accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services

(CECBEMS). [For more information...](#)

NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 1. February 1-3, 2013. Corpus Christi, TX. This course represents the didactic component and practical application of the education process necessary to become an EMS instructor. Individuals who attend the entire course and pass the post test will receive a certificate of course completion from NAEMSE with CEUs, which is accredited by the CECBEMS.

*NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 1. February 8-10, 2013. Decatur, AL. This course represents the didactic component and practical application of the education process necessary to become an EMS instructor. Individuals who attend the entire course and pass the post-test will receive a certificate of course completion from NAEMSE with CEUs, which is accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS). [For more information...](#)

2013 Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs Annual Conference. February 9-12, 2013. Omni Shareham Hotel, Washington, DC. [For more information...](#)

19th Annual Scientific Assembly. American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM). February 9-13, 2013. Las Vegas, NV. [For more information...](#)

26th Annual Rural Health Care Leadership Conference. February 10-13, 2013. Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort, Phoenix, AZ. [For more information...](#)

Gathering of Eagles The EMS State of the Sciences Conference. February 22-23, 2013. Dallas, TX. [For more information...](#)

NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 1. February 22-24, 2013. Elizabeth City, NC. [For more information...](#)

NAEMSE EMS Instructor Course Level 1. March 4-6, 2013. Washington, DC . [For more information...](#)

EMS on the Hill Day. March 5-6, 2013. Washington, DC. [For more information...](#)

NASEMSO 2013 Mid-Year Meeting. March 5-7, 2013. Washington, DC. [For more information...](#)

EMS Today. March 5-9, 2013. Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. [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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