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National EMS Assessment 2020 Now Available!

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and applause for first responders in the United States, the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) has released the [2020 National EMS Assessment](#) updating the 2011 assessment. The 2020 assessment provides a comprehensive accounting by state/territory of the numbers and types of all 911 ambulance services and emergency medical services (EMS) professionals.

NASEMSO Launches COVID-19 Resource Page for EMS



NASEMSO has dedicated a section of its web site to COVID-19 information provided to us by our members, federal partners and other national EMS organizations. While no one page can serve as a comprehensive resource, we have attempted to tailor relevant materials for an EMS audience. Because the majority of resources are constantly being revised, we have omitted COVID-19 related news and materials from the Washington Update and encourage you to visit the web site frequently for updates and new materials. For more information, go to [NASEMSO](#).

NASEMSO Reschedules 2020 Annual Meeting

Due to the ongoing global pandemic, NASEMSO has rescheduled the Annual Meeting originally planned for June 15-18, to **August 31 to September 3, 2020**. The meeting location will remain the same – The Silver Legacy in Reno, Nevada. The schedule will follow the same format as originally planned. Please watch the [NASEMSO 2020 Annual Meeting](#) for additional details that are added periodically.

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[Agency & Vehicle Licensure](#)

GSA Comment Period Opens on Change Notice

The 2021 Draft Federal Vehicle Standards Comment Period is now open. The General Services Administration (GSA) wants to hear your feedback on vehicle options for the upcoming 2021 light-duty and medium/heavy vehicles. Light-duty vehicles include sedans, police-use vehicles, light trucks including cab chassis and vocational trucks, wheelchair vans, and ambulances. Medium and heavy trucks include wreckers and carriers. Proposed federal specifications for Star-of-Life Ambulances (KKK-A-1822F) are posted [here](#). More information is available at [GSA-Federal Vehicle Standards](#).

Ambulance Driver Training Summarized in NHTSA Report

The primary objective of this project was to characterize ambulance operator education and training across the United States through discussions with personnel in State EMS offices and through an Internet-based survey of local EMS agencies to determine their operator training and supervision practices. The study also examined selected existing ambulance Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training programs to determine their content and consistency with the state-of-the-art. The results of this study suggest that most ambulance operators receive some form of training, but the survey responses and the review of existing EVOC training programs by subject matter experts suggest that the duration, content, and overall quality of the training may not be sufficient to have the desired impact on ambulance operator safety performance. Read/download "[Characterizing Ambulance Driver Training in EMS Systems](#)" from the ROSA Transportation Library. Recent updates on the ROSA website can be viewed [here](#).

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[Communications](#)

Telecommunicator Job Reclassification Efforts

Recently, the 911 community has increased efforts to ensure that telecommunicators are classified as a Protective Service Occupation. Objective data is utilized to make the classification decision through the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system, a federal statistical survey, which relies upon a prescribed process collecting specific data to classify more than 800 occupations. Many telecommunicator job descriptions are out of date and limited in descriptions of the daily responsibilities of the role. One important step that can be taken is to review existing job descriptions to ensure they do not include outdated task descriptions, such as "answering calls," -- which can be perceived as clerical or administrative in nature -- and to expand or include descriptions of the more specialized, and life-saving elements of the role, such as providing telephone CPR guidance and other pre-arrival instructions. The National 911 Program has published "Guidelines for Developing a Public Safety Telecommunicator Job Description February 2020", now available at [911 Guidelines](#). A webinar to describe the efforts is archived in NHTSA's "State of 911" Webinar Series located [here](#).

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[Health & Medical Preparedness](#)

Active Shooter Incidents: Topical One-Pagers, 2000-2018

This report encompasses statistical data regarding 277 active shooter incidents in the United States between 2000 and 2018. Each page focuses on a particular active shooter-related topic and has been designed specifically for law enforcement officers, other first responders, corporations, educators, and the general public. For more information, please click [here](#).

NCSC Unveils the National Counterintelligence Strategy of the U.S. 2020-2022

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) recently unveiled the *National Counterintelligence Strategy of the United States of America 2020-2022*, outlining a new approach to counterintelligence to address threats that have evolved significantly since the last strategy in 2016. Read more at [National Counterintelligence](#).

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[Highway Incidents & Transportation Systems](#)

Training Certification of Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has requested approval to revise an ICR titled "Training Certification for Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators," which will now be used to register providers of entry-level driver training and to provide State Drivers' Licensing Agencies with information on individuals who have completed said training. If approved, this revision will allow FMCSA to collect information on registered training providers and entry-level driver training certification information until 2022. The deadline for comments is 5/7/2020. More information is available at the [Federal Register: Agency Information](#).

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[Medical Directors](#)

FDA Approves First Generic Albuterol MDI

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first generic of Proventil HFA (albuterol sulfate) Metered Dose Inhaler, 90 mcg/Inhalation, for the treatment or prevention of bronchospasm in patients four years of age and older who have reversible obstructive airway disease, as well as the prevention of exercise-induced bronchospasm in this age group. In March 2020, the FDA issued a revised [draft product-specific guidance](#) for proposed generic albuterol sulfate metered dose inhalers, including drug products referencing Proventil HFA. Among other things, the draft guidance provides bioequivalence recommendations.

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[Pediatric Emergency Care](#)

Adverse events during intrahospital transport of critically ill children: a systematic review

This systematic review was undertaken to provide clear enumeration of adverse events that have occurred during [intrahospital transport](#) of critically ill children, risk factors for those events, and guidance for event prevention to clinicians who may not be fully aware of the risks of transport. The recommendations for reducing adverse events frequently given in the 40 articles that met the inclusion criteria (reflecting 4104 children transported) included: use of [checklists](#) and improved double-checks (of, e.g., equipment before transport).

[Personnel Licensure](#)

NEW Podcast from NCSL: Occupational Licensing: Economic Pros and Cons

The National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) has added to its resources on occupational licensing. In a new podcast the Council observes, “About 25% of workers in the U.S. now need a license to work, an increase from about 5% in the 1950s. State legislators and other policymakers have taken an increasingly active role in developing new regulatory policies that strike a balance needed to protect consumers and promote economic growth and employment opportunity. In this episode, we talk with Dr. Morris Kleiner, an economist and professor at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Kleiner, an expert on occupational licensing, discusses the pros and cons of occupational licensing and its effect on the broader economy and different groups of workers.” Listen to the (15 min) broadcast at [NCSL](#) or skip the intro and download a transcript at [NCSL Podcasts](#). While interesting, potential listeners are advised that the speaker addresses the economic realities of professional licensure but does not address the state’s role in protecting the public from unqualified persons. Other NCSL resources on occupational licensing are available at [NCSL Licensing Overview](#).

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[Trauma](#)

National Trauma Institute to Restructure as Coalition for National Trauma Research

After serving as the administrative muscle behind the Coalition for National Trauma (CNTR) since its founding 2016, the National Trauma Institute (NTI) is formally changing its name and reorganizing as CNTR. Stay tuned—this spring CNTR will formally announce the change and its new membership structure, as well as transition this website. Source: [National Trauma Institute](#). <https://www.nattrauma.org/national-trauma-institute-to-restructure-as-coalition-for-national-trauma-research/>

Perhaps in related news, an abstract published in the January 2020 issue of The Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery suggests, “Given the extreme burden of trauma-related disability and years of life lost, this review of extramural NIH funding definitively demonstrates that trauma is severely underfunded. The lack of a dedicated home for trauma research at NIH leads to a diffusion of grants across many institutes and makes it impossible to direct a focused and effective national research endeavor to improve outcomes. These data demonstrate the need for a National Institute of Trauma at the NIH to help set an agenda to reach the national goal of Zero Preventable Deaths.” Access “Disproportionally Low Funding for Trauma Research by the National Institutes of Health: A Call for a National Institute of Trauma” [here](#).

Podcast Series: Transportation Accident Investigations and Research

Emergency physician Mary Pat McKay, MD, MPH- Chief Medical Officer, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) discusses transportation accident investigations and research with Dr. Andrew Meltzer, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at George Washington University and Director of Urgent Matters. Topics include distracted driving, e-scooters, automated vehicles, and the role of the emergency medicine doctor to assist in preventing impairment accidents. Access the podcast [here](#) (Apple) or [here](#) (Soundcloud) to access the broadcast.

2019 Pedestrian Fatalities Highest Since 1988

A new report from the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) predicts that 6,590 pedestrian fatalities occurred in 2019, the highest number in more than 30 years. GHSA asked states to report pedestrian fatalities for the first six months of 2019. After adjusting the raw data based on historical trends, GHSA projects a 5% increase in the number of pedestrians killed during the full 2019 calendar year. In 2018, 6,227 people on foot lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes. GHSA’s annual “Spotlight on Highway Safety” offers a first look at state and national trends in 2019 pedestrian traffic deaths, based on preliminary data provided by State Highway Safety Offices in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The full report, including infographics

and state-by-state data, is available [here](#).

Inpatient Stays and Emergency Department Visits Involving Traumatic Brain Injury, 2017

This Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) Statistical Brief presents statistics on initial and subsequent TBI-related inpatient stays and treat-and-release emergency department (ED) visits (i.e., those that do not result in admission to the same hospital) using the 2017 National Inpatient Sample (NIS) and the 2017 Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NEDS). Readmission rates following inpatient stays for TBI-related injuries also are presented using the 2017 Nationwide Readmissions Database (NRD). TBIs are categorized as those involving cerebral hemorrhage; mild to severe TBIs without cerebral hemorrhage, but that involve injuries more complex than concussion (e.g., cerebral edema); and uncomplicated concussion. First, patient and injury-related characteristics of inpatient stays and ED visits with any TBI diagnosis (principal or secondary) are shown. Second, outcomes of inpatient stays with a principal diagnosis of TBI are described, including length of stay, average cost per stay, and rates of in-hospital mortality and all-cause 30-day readmissions. Because of the large sample size of the HCUP NIS, NEDS, and NRD small differences can be statistically significant. Thus, only differences between groups greater than or equal to 10 percent are noted in the text. Read more [here](#).

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NHTSA Traffic Tech Issue Highlights Emergency Medical Services

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has supported comprehensive national EMS system development for more than 50 years. NHTSA's Office of EMS provides Federal leadership to improve prehospital emergency medical care, including promoting countermeasures that mitigate MVC injuries, such as field trauma triage protocols and evidence-based guidelines for prehospital care. In a recent report, NHTSA highlights the public's perception of EMS and 911 usage, including the concept of EMS as an essential service at [here](#).

Carson, L. & Sheppard, K. (2020, January). *The 2016 Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Survey: Emergency Medical Services* (Traffic Tech, Technology Transfer Series. Report No. DOT HS 812 870). National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Small Decreases in Overdose Deaths in 2018

From 2017 to 2018, small decreases occurred in all overdose deaths and in deaths involving all opioids, prescription opioids, and heroin; however, deaths involving synthetic opioids continued to increase in 2018 and accounted for two thirds of opioid-involved deaths (most likely from illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogs). During 2018, drug overdoses resulted in 67,367 deaths in the United States, a 4.1% decrease from 2017. Among these drug overdose deaths, the majority (69.5%) involved an opioid. Rates decreased in 11 states and the District of Columbia and increased in three states (Missouri, Massachusetts, and South Carolina). While declining significantly from 2017, the highest opioid-involved death rate in 2018 was in West Virginia (42.4 per 100,000).

For more details on this data, see [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, March 20, 2020](#).

NIOSH Science Blog: Managing Fatigue During Times of Crisis

It can be difficult to step away when the healthcare system is flooded with people needing care. During these periods, fatigue among healthcare workers may be impossible to avoid. So how can employers and healthcare workers balance the high demands for health care with the need to protect workers from fatigue? Workers and managers must actively share the responsibility to control the risks of injuries and incidents associated with fatigue through personal and workplace strategies, as well as a fatigue risk management system. For example, one step is to recognize healthcare worker sleep is critical for the delivery of quality health care. Workers and managers should try to plan for 7 or more hours of sleep in addition to recovery time each day, as needed to maintain alertness and health. Fatigue management is a shared responsibility that requires planning and ensures organizations the sustainability of healthcare services during times of public health crises, as well as protects the health and safety of workers and their patients. Read "Practical Fatigue Management Tips" [here](#).

AHRQ Highlights Prehospital Airway Management

The purpose of this systematic review posted by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is to identify and synthesize the evidence available to support the development of evidence-based recommendations and guidelines for prehospital airway management. Read more [here](#).

Ground Ambulance Organizations: Data Collection for Medicare Providers Call

- Thursday, May 7 from 2 to 3 pm ET

During this call, learn how to allocate costs, collect data, and report data for the new Ground Ambulance Data Collection System. A question and answer session follows the presentation; however, you may email questions in advance to AmbulanceDataCollection@cms.hhs.gov with "May 7 Call" in the subject line. These questions may be addressed during the call or used for other materials following the call. [Register](#) for Medicare Learning Network events.

GAO Studies NTSB Methodology for "Most Wanted List"

The National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2018 required NTSB to publicly publish its methodology used to select recommendations for inclusion on its annual "Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements" and describe how it accounted for certain elements, such as the risk to safety. Additionally, the National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act included a provision for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate NTSB's Most Wanted List methodology. In a new report, GAO recommends NTSB improve how it documents and communicates decisions for its Most Wanted List. To view this report, go to [GAO-20-95](#).

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[Industry News](#)

Two More States Join EMS Compact

West Virginia and Indiana have joined the EMS Compact, becoming the 19th and 20th states to facilitate the day to day movement of EMS personnel across state boundaries in the performance of their EMS duties as assigned by an appropriate authority. The EMS Compact authorizes state EMS offices to afford immediate legal recognition to EMS personnel licensed in any other member state. Read more [here](#).

National EMS Weekend of Honor Cancelled for 2020

West Virginia and Indiana have joined the EMS Compact, becoming the 19th and 20th states to facilitate the day to day movement of EMS personnel across state boundaries in the performance of their EMS duties as assigned by an appropriate authority. The EMS Compact authorizes state EMS offices to afford immediate legal recognition to EMS personnel licensed in any other member state. Read more [here](#).

If you believe you or someone in your life may be suicidal, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to speak to a counselor, or visit [Suicide Prevention](#). The Lifeline is confidential, free, and available 24/7 across the United States.

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[Interesting Abstracts](#)

Why biometrics are the future of patient care

Patient identification is in desperate need of an overhaul in light of the string of data breaches over the past few years. Using biometrics technology, such as fingerprints and facial recognition, could help beef up security and curb fraud, experts say. Read more [here](#).

The Relationship Between Leadership Support and Employee Sleep

Sleep is critical to employees' health and well-being, safety, and performance at work. Sleep leadership refers to supervisor behaviors that aim to improve employees' sleep, such as showing concern for the quantity and quality of employees' sleep. Read more [here](#).

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UPCOMING Events

JUNE 2020

[NFPA Annual Conference](#) (June 15-18, Orlando, FL)

AUGUST 2020

[NASEMSO Annual Meeting](#) (August 31-September 3, 2020 in Reno, NV)

[Fire Rescue Med](#) -- IAFC EMS Section Annual Meeting (August 17-18, Phoenix, AZ)

[IAFC Fire-Rescue International](#) (August 19-22, Phoenix, AZ)

SEPTEMBER 2020

[Emergency Nurses Association Annual Meeting](#) (September 8-11, Las Vegas, NV)

[EMS World Expo](#) (September 14-18, Las Vegas, NV)

OCTOBER 2020

[American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress](#) (October 4-8, Chicago, IL)

[American College of Emergency Physicians Annual Meeting](#) (October 26 - 29, Dallas, TX)

NOVEMBER 2020

[Air Medical Transport Conference](#). (November 2-4, Nashville, TN)

[American Ambulance Association Annual Meeting](#) (November 2-4, Las Vegas, NV)

[IAEM EMEX 2020](#) (November 13-18, Long Beach, CA)

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