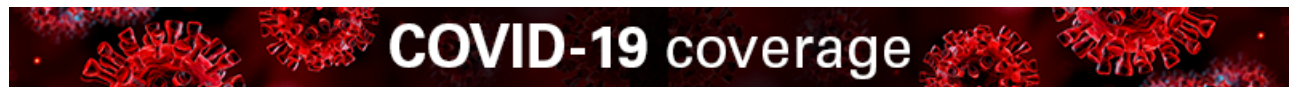


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April 2021

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NASEMSO's Information Hub on the global pandemic is available at <https://nasemsso.org/resources/covid-19/>. We encourage our readers to visit the web site often to obtain the most up-to-date guidance and policy recommendations available. Due to the frequency of updates, COVID-19 information is not being included in Washington Update.

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NASEMSO Congratulates Andy Gienapp on EMS Career Move

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) congratulates President-Elect Andy Gienapp on his recent promotion! Andy accepted the position of Director of Health Protection with the Georgia Department of Public Health. In his new role, Andy will have oversight of multiple programs, to include EMS and trauma, the Hospital Preparedness Program, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Injury Prevention, Environmental Health, and Low THC Oil. Andy assumed his new duties with the State of Georgia on April 16, 2021. Andy plans to continue his service with NASEMSO, and will assume the role of President of the Association at the Annual Business Meeting in November 2021. Commenting on his transition, Andy says, "I am so very grateful for the opportunity to serve Wyoming. I learned so very much during my time here, and have made some lifelong friends over the last 11 years. I am committed to advocating for EMS and trauma, not just in Georgia, but on behalf of every state, and I will always speak out for rural emergency care. The needs of our rural communities have become too much a part of my life for me to ignore them now." We are excited for your new adventures, Andy!

NASEMSO Joins National Organizations in Joint Position Statement on Patient Restraint

The NAEMSP, NASEMSO, NEMSMA, NAEMT and APA recognize that emergency medical services (EMS) personnel frequently care for agitated, combative, or violent patients, who require clinical treatment and transportation. These situations are often complicated by alcohol use, substance use, or mental health illness. When clinical monitoring and treatment are indicated, these become health care issues. Concerning the care of these patients, the NAEMSP, NASEMSO, NEMSMA, NAEMT and APA have published “Clinical Care and Restraint of Agitated or Combative Patients by Emergency Medical Services Practitioners” in the recent issue of Prehospital Emergency Care at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10903127.2021.1917736>.

“Four Pillars of Innovation” Highlights EMS Efforts in Opioid Epidemic

The Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) Newsletter recently featured a story contributed by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges, describing how EMS medical director, Dr. Gene Hern, collaborated with public health colleagues in implementing a multi-faceted program to combat the opioid epidemic. Funded in part by the California Health and Human Services Agency, the novel approach to Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and overdoses in Contra Costa County revolves around 4 interconnected pillars: a leave behind public naloxone distribution program, a warm handoff/data sharing program with the county public health department, an 'overdose receiving center,' and an EMS initiated buprenorphine project. See [Four Pillars of Innovation: How EMS in Contra Costa County Connected Resources to Improve Opioid Epidemic Response](#)

NASEMSO Partners with BJA, TASC, and COSSAP on EMS Responses to Opioid OD

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) Center for Health and Justice, and Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) team recently partnered with NASEMSO on the “Innovative EMS Response to Overdoses—Beyond Naloxone” webinar which was held on February 25, 2021, and facilitated by TASC’s Center for Health and Justice. The recording is available on the COSSAP Resource Center at [here](#).

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For The States

State Governments Eligible for SAMHSA Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2021 First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Grants (Short Title: FR-CARA). The purpose of this program is to allow first responders and members of other key community sectors to administer a drug or device approved or cleared under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) for emergency reversal of known or suspected opioid overdose. Recipients will train and provide resources to first responders and members of other key community sectors at the state, tribal, and local governmental levels on carrying and administering a drug or devices approved or cleared under the FD&C Act for emergency reversal of known or suspected opioid overdose. Recipients will also establish processes, protocols, mechanisms for referral to appropriate treatment and recovery support services, and safety around fentanyl, carfentanil, and other dangerous licit and illicit drugs. SAMHSA anticipates the distribution of \$7,900,000 (Approximately \$4.5M is for recipients serving rural communities with high rates of opioid abuse.). Read more at <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-21-009>.

Opportunities for Advancing Adult Immunization

Through Quality Measurement

Vaccination rates in the U.S. remain low and large gaps exist between national adult immunization goals and actual immunization rates. The National Quality Forum (NQF) released *Opportunities for Advancing Adult Immunization Through Quality Measurement*, an Action Brief to assess the progress made on 2014 adult immunization measurement priorities, identify potential new priorities for measure development in adult immunization, and develop recommendations on the next steps to improve adult immunization rates through measurement science. This action brief seeks to provide action-oriented solutions and close measurement gaps to drive improvements in adult immunization rates, ultimately improving health outcomes, reducing disparities, and decreasing costs. Download the publication at https://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2021/04/Opportunities_for_Advancing_Adult_Immunization_Through_Quality_Measurement.aspx.

New Resource: Overdose State Snapshots

CDC's Injury Center is pleased to share a new [overdose funding webpage](#) that includes information on our opioid-related funding, including an interactive map that links to investment snapshots. These snapshots describe our funding in states, territories, counties, cities, tribal nations, and tribal serving organizations to track and prevent opioid overdose deaths. They also provide tangible examples of how this money is being used in the field to prevent overdose. It is our hope they will be useful to you in understanding and communicating the impact of CDC's opioid-related funding as we work collectively to prevent drug overdose.

NCSL Highlights Occupational Licensing Mobility in New Resource

Occupational licensing, a regulatory system requiring individuals who wish to work in certain jobs receive government permission to do so, remains an institution squarely in the domain of states. States have the authority to set the requirements licensees must meet, including the number of hours of education and experience, what kind of exams need to be passed, and what fees applicants must pay. Licensing mobility refers to the ability of workers to perform their jobs across state lines. The state-led approach to regulating occupational licensure can lead to challenges for workers practicing in certain professions, including limiting their mobility from one state or territory to another. To reduce the adverse effects licensing can have on workers' mobility, policymakers and regulators have developed various solutions. These include interstate licensing compacts, existing mobility models created by some organized professions, reciprocity agreements and so-called "universal licensure" laws. The National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) highlights this important topic in new LegisBrief on its web site at <https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/state-efforts-to-improve-occupational-licensing-mobility.aspx>.

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[Air Medical](#)

AAPB Subcommittee Reports Now Available

Section 418 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-254, 132 Stat. 3186 (2018), required the establishment of an advisory committee on issues related to air ambulance services and patient billing. As part of this directive, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) established three subcommittees of the Air Ambulance and Patient Billing (AAPB) Advisory Committee in February 2020: (1) the Subcommittee on Disclosure and Distinction of Charges and Coverage for Air Ambulance Services; (2) the Subcommittee on State and DOT Consumer Protection Authorities; and (3) the Subcommittee on Prevention of Balance Billing. Subcommittee reports include proposals for Federal legislation, Federal regulation, State legislation, and industry best practices. Subcommittee reports are now available at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/DOT-OST-2018-0206-0026>. (Additional committee materials are available from the docket at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/DOT-OST-2018-0206/document>.)

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[Agency and Vehicle Licensure](#)

CAAS Standards v4.0 Now Available for Public Comment

The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) is pleased to announce the first public comment period on the first draft of the CAAS Accreditation Standards document version 4.0. All materially affected parties including members of the EMS community, EMS groups and associations, affiliated healthcare groups and associations, members of other public health and safety communities, and the general public are encouraged to review and comment on these proposed standards. The revision of the CAAS Accreditation Standards was an extensive process conducted by the Standards Review Committee, a diverse and comprehensive team of EMS, Fire, and healthcare professionals that has dedicated over 250 work hours and engaged with subject matter experts and materially impacted stakeholders across EMS and healthcare to create this first draft of the v4.0 CAAS Accreditation Standards. This public comment period will be open from March 26, 2021 until May 25, 2021. [Access CAAS v4.0 Accreditation Standards – First Draft and Public Comment Form](#)

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FCC Proposes Action to Improve 911 Reliability

The Federal Communications Commission recently proposed rules to promote public safety by ensuring that 911 call centers and the public receive timely and useful notifications of network disruptions that affect 911 service. These notifications will help 911 call centers maintain emergency services and inform the public when to use alternatives to call 911. The proposed rules would also require service providers to maintain accurate contact information for 911 call centers. In addition, the proposed rules would require service providers to notify potentially affected customers when 911 is unavailable by providing information on their websites and Internet-related applications, such as their mobile apps, within 60 minutes of discovering an outage affecting 911 service has occurred. Read more at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-371282A1.pdf>.

NEW!! NG911 Guide for Telecommunicators

The National 911 Program worked with telecommunicators and others in emergency communications to create a non-technical resource to help telecommunicators learn more about the potential of Next Generation 911. NG911 Guide for Telecommunicators explains how the NG911 network and related technologies will improve public safety, enable the delivery of a wide array of Information and enhance telecommunicators' effectiveness. It includes examples of how NG911 might change 911 professionals' working environment, plus advice about taking care of call-takers' mental and physical well-being and learning more about NG911. Read more at https://www.911.gov/project_ng911publicsafety/telecommunicators/index.html.

[Data](#)

National Schematron Library on NEMSIS Web Site

The NEMSIS TAC would like to let stakeholders know about the new National Schematron Library now available on the NEMSIS website.

View and explore all of the schematron rules at the national level as well as the schematron rules that have been implemented by states: <https://nemsis.org/media/schematronlibrary/> For more information, watch this short demonstration of the National Schematron Library here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAyOajiXh0E&t=1366s>

State Dataset Builder Updated

The StateDataSet Builder (v3.4) and the StateDataSet Viewer (v3.4 and v3.5) have been updated for 2021 at <https://nemsis.org/view-reports/state-reports/state-dataset-builder/>.

IHE Deep Dive Discussions Link to Recordings

The NEMSIS TAC is supporting the facilitation of “next-generation” interoperability between NEMSIS EMS data and other healthcare standards. The link below contains recordings of meetings where EMS data subject matter experts discussed this initiative. More at

<https://nemsis.org/view-reports/public-training-sessions/>

[Health and Medical Preparedness](#)

EMS Industry Targeted in OSHA Program to Protect Employees from COVID

One of the first actions taken by the Biden Administration the day after the Inauguration was to issue an Executive Order directing OSHA to focus their efforts on protecting the American workforce. Following that Executive Order, OSHA has implemented a [National Emphasis Program \(NEP\)](#) to ensure that employees in high-hazard industries, including EMS providers, are protected from contracting COVID-19. The NEP is intended to augment OSHA’s educational and enforcement efforts with unprogrammed, COVID-19 related activities, including complaints, referrals, and severe incident reports. The March 12, 2021 [announcement](#) also states that it is updating the [Interim Enforcement Response Plan](#) to prioritize on-site workplace inspections. The NEP also includes plans to ensure that workers are protected from retaliation. Lastly, states that have an OSHA-approved state-level plan, have 60 days to notify OSHA if they already have the equivalent to an NEP plan or will adopt the federal plan. EMS agencies should revisit their safety and risk programs, including their [Respiratory Protection Programs](#), to ensure that they are prepared for a visit from OSHA. Read more [here](#).

ASTM Offers New Barrier Face Covering Standard

ASTM International (formerly known as American Society for Testing and Materials) has published ASTM F3502-21, a barrier face covering standard for general-use masks. This is a huge step forward in ensuring that masks used as barriers for the public meet a minimum performance requirement. The standard is separate from either the NIOSH respirator standards for N95, N99, and N100 respirators or the ASTM standard requirements for medical face masks. While N95 respirators offer the most protection, it is not practical for the general public to wear them owing to supply-chain concerns and the need to prioritize availability for medical personnel. This new standard fills an important gap made obvious by the pandemic. In times when the general public may be asked to don face coverings for the protection of those around them, this standard will give consumers the peace of mind they need, knowing that the masks they are using have been evaluated for safety and have passed minimum requirements.

Read more at <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/> and <https://www.astm.org/Standards/F3502.htm>.

FEMA Releases Updates to Resilience Analysis and

Planning Tool

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released updates to the Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool. The updates include the most current census tract demographic data, estimated annualized frequency of 15 hazards by county and new data layers on National Flood Insurance Program policy penetration rates. This update also includes new symbology legends, revised navigation tabs and data display tools that simplify the analysis of community resilience indicators. The Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool is publicly available at [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov). The website also includes supporting documents on the tool, including a [user guide](#), a [summary list of resilience analysis and planning data layers and sources](#), a [summary of community resilience indicators research](#) and [video how-to guides](#) to demonstrate functions and tools.

USFA Offers New WUI Resources

Fire departments across the country are increasingly called upon to respond to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fires, including brush, grass, forest fires or other outdoor fires. You may believe that you don't have a WUI problem, and that WUI fires only occur in western states, but more than 46 million residences in 70,000 communities in the U.S. are at risk for WUI fires. The WUI is the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. It is the line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Communities adjacent to and surrounded by wildland are at varying degrees of risk from wildfires. During April, USFA is drawing attention to these fire risks and providing [resources and information](#) to help your community learn about the WUI, the risks and what they can do to prevent fires as well as keep their neighborhoods safer if there is a fire. Share these resources to teach your community how to stay safer [before](#), [during](#) and [after](#) a WUI fire. Fire Is Everyone's Fight to help teach people in your city or town to be safe from fire. Read more at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/fief/>.

FDA Recommends Transition Away from Decontamination and Reuse of Disposable Respirators

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is recommending health care personnel and facilities transition away from crisis capacity conservation strategies, such as decontaminating or bioburden reducing disposable respirators for reuse. Based on the increased domestic supply of new respirators approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) currently available to facilitate this transition, the FDA and CDC believe there is adequate supply of respirators to transition away from use of decontamination and bioburden reduction systems. Read more at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/fda-recommends-transition-use-decontaminated-disposable-respirators-letter-health-care-personnel-and>.

NACCHO Offers RFA for MRC Readiness Awards

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is requesting applications for a second round of MRC Operational Readiness Awards with up to \$500,000 available in awards at the \$5,000 or \$10,000 level. MRC units that have not received a 2021 MRC Operational Readiness Award may apply. Selection of awardees will be through a competitive process for eligible MRC units. This funding opportunity is intended to build the operational readiness capabilities of MRC units to meet the emergency preparedness and response needs of their local, regional, or statewide stakeholders. Read more at <https://www.naccho.org/blog/articles/announcing-2021-mrc-operational-readiness-awards-round-2-additional-funding>.

CDP Developing Basic Emergency Response Training Course

Course developers at FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness are currently putting together a Basic Emergency Response Training Course. The course, which will be an updated version of the center's former four-day Technical Emergency Response Training offering, will include instruction on basic hazardous materials identification, scene survey and assessment, mass casualty triage, mass casualty decontamination, and personal and public protective measures. The new course will be three days long and geared at entry-level responders who may be called upon to support mass casualty operations associated with a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident. The developers say if all goes as planned, the course will be released as early as this fall.

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HITS

NTSB Unveils Revised “Most Wanted” List

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has published its “Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements for 2021-2022.” The List is a communication tool through which the agency identifies its top safety improvements that when made will prevent accidents, reduce the number and severity of injuries, and save lives. The five-member board recently voted to include 10 items in the 2021-2022 Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements:

- [Require and Verify the Effectiveness of Safety Management Systems in All Revenue Passenger Carrying Aviation Operations](#)
- [Prevent Alcohol and other Drug Impaired Driving](#)
- [Require Collision Avoidance and Connected Vehicle Technologies on All Vehicles](#)
- [Eliminate Distracted Driving](#)
- [Implement a Comprehensive Strategy to Eliminate Speeding-Related Crashes](#)
- [Install Crash Resistant Recorders and Establish Flight Data Monitoring Programs](#)
- [Protect Vulnerable Road Users through a Safe System Approach](#)
- [Improve Pipeline Leak Detection and Mitigation](#)
- Improve Rail Worker Safety (page/content under development)
- Improve Passenger and Fishing Vessel Safety (page/content under development)

In related news, join the NTSB on May 20 at 12 PM ET, for a virtual roundtable, "A Safe System Approach to Traffic Safety." NTSB Board Member Thomas Chapman will moderate discussions about the elements of a Safe System and strategies for improving road safety through a proactive, integrative, and shared responsibility approach at the national, state, and local levels. NTSB will also share investigations and studies related to vulnerable road users and discuss why [Protect Vulnerable Road Users through a Safe System Approach](#) is on the [Most Wanted List](#).

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Trauma

Coalition Seeks Supporters to Reduce Traffic Deaths

Almost 40,000 people lose their lives each year on our roads, and millions more are injured. Please join lead organizations Families for Safe Streets, Toward Zero Deaths, Road to Zero Coalition and Vision Zero Network to urge President Biden and his leadership team to commit to reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2050. Groups, organizations, companies and individuals interested in signing on to the letter can do so [here](#). Signatories are being accepted now as the partners work to draw attention to this important issue. A multifaceted media campaign also is underway, with victim impact stories being shared on social media. View “The Roadmap to Get There” at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b30d2c5754a3474bbeef7d46b6586469>.

STB Resources Available to Communities

The [National STOP THE BLEED® Day Project](#) is one of the major efforts to create awareness of the STOP THE BLEED® campaign and consists of a series of programs that capstone on National STOP THE BLEED® Day, scheduled for May 20, 2021 this year. The [STOP THE BLEED® Scholarship program](#), now in its 3rd year, offers scholarships to high school students and STOP THE BLEED® kits to the winning students' schools. National Scholarships offer high school students an opportunity to write an essay or make a video about the importance

of STOP THE BLEED®. New for this year, the Frontline Families Scholarships are open to any high school student whose parent or guardian has been working on the frontlines since the pandemic began, including EMT, EMS, police, firefighter, nurse/healthcare worker, teachers, food service workers, and others. The [STOP THE BLEED® Training Kit grant program](#) provides the STOP THE BLEED® Training Kit to organizations conducting the American College of Surgeons STOP THE BLEED® training course or are planning to do so. These kits are valued at \$1,000 and are a best in class set of training tools for in person training. Applications are open to eligible U.S. based organizations (government entities, schools, non-profit organizations, civic groups, faith-based organizations). These programs are sponsored by the [Stop the Bleed Coalition](#), a 501c3 organization whose mission is to support the growth of the STOP THE BLEED® campaign.

Videos Now Available from NASEM TBI Workshop

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is an alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force such as a blow to the head. A TBI can occur because of traffic accidents, falls, sports injuries, in the course of military service, and in many other settings, resulting in millions of emergency medical visits annually. The [Committee on Accelerating Progress in Traumatic Brain Injury Research and Care](#) is gathering input from public and private experts and stakeholders to assess civilian and military health burdens of TBI; examine the landscape of TBI care and research; and consider gaps and opportunities for improving systems from acute care through rehabilitation and beyond. The workshop provided important input into the committee's report, which will be released in early 2022. Click on the following links to access the presentations:

- [Learning about patient and family experiences with TBI; Discussing gaps in TBI care systems and needs for improvement](#)
- [Provider perspectives on TBI care; Gaps in TBI care systems and the research needed to improve](#)
- [Systems issues for TBI care and research; Learning from systems of care in other diseases](#)
- [Identifying actions that could help bring an improved vision of TBI care and research to fruition](#)

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Federal News

CMS Announces ET3 Participants

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced the final list of participants approved to take part in CMS' Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Model, a payment model that aims to provide greater flexibility to ambulance care teams to address emergency health care needs of Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries following a 911 call. The list of final participants include 184 public and private ambulance providers and suppliers representing 36 states. CMS is also issuing a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) of up to \$34 million over two years for local and state governments to expand emergency and non-emergency medical triage services in locations of model participants. Read more at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-final-participants-emergency-triage-treat-and-transport-et3-model-further-commitment>.

DEA National Take Back Day

A majority of misused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, often from the home and medicine cabinet. DEA's National Take Back Day gives Americans the opportunity to clean out their medicine cabinets and turn in — safely and anonymously — unused prescription drugs. In 2020 alone, Americans returned 985,392 lbs (492.7 tons) of unused prescription drugs at 4,487 Collection Sites across the country. Most locations have expanded collection services beyond the national event. Find local drops off at <https://takebackday.dea.gov/#collection-locator>.

AHRQ/PSNet Highlight Systematic Review on Shift Duration

The relationship between resident and physician [duty hours](#) and patient safety has been the focus of a lot of research. The relationship between [nurse](#) work schedules and patient safety is less explored. This review investigated the effect of extended or excessive [nurse](#)

[schedules](#) on patient outcomes. Findings conclude that working more than 12 hours daily or more than 40 hours weekly may contribute to adverse patient outcomes. The authors recommend creating policies restricting nurse shifts to no more than 12 hours per day and 40 hours per week. Find more at <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/relationships-between-comprehensive-characteristics-nurse-work-schedules-and-adverse-patient>

Pentagon Report on Sleep Deprivation and Military Readiness

A new Defense Department report in response to section 749 of the National Defense Authorization Act FY 2020 called sleep deprivation a serious detriment to readiness, adding that most service members lack adequate sleep, and backs up earlier moves made by the Pentagon to improve both quantity and quality of sleep for military personnel. Between 27 and 38 percent of Service members indicate that the length of the duty day and the overall pace of 24-hour-per-day military operations result in sleep deprivation due to restricted opportunity for sleep. Authors write, "If viewed as a key component of readiness, military cultural attitudes regarding sleep deprivation can be shifted to ensure that Service member performance is optimized, and even enhanced, rather than compromised." Read more at <https://news.usni.org/2021/03/03/pentagon-report-on-sleep-deprivation-and-military-readiness>.

New Survey Instrument Available from NIOSH to Help Assess Worker Well-Being

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) announces a new resource designed to measure worker well-being. The NIOSH [Worker Well-Being Questionnaire \(WellBQ\)](#) is a freely available survey instrument intended to help researchers, employers, workers, practitioners, and policymakers understand workers' well-being and target interventions to improve worker well-being. Read more at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/upd-04-09-21.html>.

Peer Review of a Report on Strategies to Improve Patient Safety

In response to a congressional mandate under the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine was asked to review the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) draft report *Strategies to Improve Patient Safety: Draft Report to Congress for Public Comment and Review* by the National Academy of Medicine. The National Academies convened a committee of four subject-matter experts with experience in clinical patient safety, patient-safety research, health information technology, safety science, clinical medicine, and implementation science to conduct a peer review of the draft report. This committee had less than three months to review the AHRQ draft report and comment on additional effective strategies for improving patient safety, new evidence of effectiveness for safety strategies, potential implementation methods that were not mentioned, and any general technical corrections. The Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 created valuable national resources as part of the tools needed for systemic change. The committee offers additional strategies to improve patient safety for consideration in the revision of the AHRQ draft report to Congress. Read more at <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/26136/peer-review-of-a-report-on-strategies-to-improve-patient-safety>.

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[Industry News](#)



EMS Week and NTAM Themes Announced

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), in partnership with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), is proud to announce the EMS Week 2021 theme: THIS IS EMS: CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES. The annual campaign recognizes the heroes who provide emergency medical services in communities across the country and takes place May 16th -21st this year. Under the “EMS Strong” banner, the campaign supports and strengthens the EMS community by honoring accomplishments and increasing awareness of the critical role of EMS in communities across the country. Inspiring stories about EMS practitioners can be found on www.EMSSTRONG.org along with the annual EMS Week Planning Guide, a resource for the EMS community and stakeholders to help celebrate EMS Week and promote the value of emergency medical services. EMS Week dedicates five days to specific themes, and first responders are encouraged to plan activities and events around these themes in their communities.

- Monday, May 17: EMS Education Day
- Tuesday, May 18: EMS Safety Day
- Wednesday, May 19: EMS for Children Day
- Thursday, May 20: Save-A-Life Day (CPR & National Stop the Bleed Day)
- Friday, May 21: EMS Recognition Day

In related news, the American Trauma Society has announced the theme for National Trauma Awareness Month, May 2021 is “Safe and Secure, Safety Is a Choice Prevention Is Key.” More info is available at www.amtrauma.org.

NPDC Invites Participation in Sharing Information

The National Pediatric Disaster Coalition (NPDC) has been working to connect communities, health care coalitions, private and public sector colleagues and emergency management leaders with disaster resources for children through our listserv and social media in local, regional and statewide emergency preparedness since 2015. To join the NPDC pediatric disaster information sharing community by subscribing to our listserv or social media by visiting our webpage at www.npdcoalition.org.

TSN Race to Rebuild: A Virtual 10K/5K/1 mile Walk/Run/Cycle/Roll Event

Race to Rebuild is a virtual 10K/5K/1 mile run/walk/cycle/roll event that anyone can join in support of trauma survivors and the incredible challenges they face every day. Race to Rebuild is a virtual race that anyone anywhere can join in support of friends, family and others who challenge themselves daily to adapt to their "new normal". With a virtual race, all miles logged will be documented through RunSignup and RaceJoy. You can choose any day in May to complete your 10K, 5k or 1 mile run/walk/cycle/roll. Registration is \$45 per person. You can also fundraise for your registration fee and any participants who fundraises \$45 or more will be automatically refunded their registration fee. Registration includes: Race to Rebuild t-shirt, Custom Race Day Bib, TSN reusable face mask, and Access to RaceJoy app which includes race tracker and playlist. Trauma Survivors: Please use promo code: SURVIVORMARCH for \$15 off registration. This event benefits the programs and services provided by the American Trauma Society and Trauma Survivors Network which dedicates their mission to Save Lives, Improve Care and Empower Survivors. For more information go to <https://www.traumasurvivorsnetwork.org/pages/race-to->

[rebuild-a-virtual-10k-5k-1-mile-walk-run-cycle-roll-event.](#)

National EMS Weekend of Honor 2021-New Dates and Location Announced

The National EMS Memorial Bike Ride (NEMSMBR), the National EMS Memorial Foundation (NEMSMF) and the National EMS Memorial Service (NEMSMS) announce that the 2021 National EMS Memorial Service and Weekend of Honor, originally scheduled for May has been moved to July 23-25, 2021 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport, Arlington, VA. The goal for the reschedule was to balance our commitment to provide a safe and healing environment for all attendees while providing special recognition for the many participants who remain on the front-line of the COVID-19 response. The ceremonies will pay tribute to the past two year's honorees-2019-2020-due to the cancellation of the 2020 events in response to the pandemic. The Weekend includes a series of events to honor all air and ground Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers who serve in the US, while focusing on those who become ill or injured related to their duty. It culminates with a formal service to specifically honor those who have died in the line-of-duty. More details will be posted at <http://www.national-ems-memorial.org> and www.nemsnbr.org as they become available.

EMS Counts Act Reintroduced in Congress

U.S. Representative Susan Wild (D-PA) was joined by Rep. Fred Keller (R-PA) in introducing the *EMS Counts Act*, bipartisan legislation that would address the chronic miscounting of first responders, particularly firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel. This is essential to ensuring that communities are able to quickly respond to emergencies, including outbreaks of diseases and natural disasters. Introduced by Wild and Keller in the 116th Congress last October as a key way to prepare our communities in the case of future crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, this legislation would ensure the federal government is collecting accurate, comprehensive data on the quantity, location, and training of first responders throughout the United States. The *EMS Counts Act* would require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System by dividing the general occupational category of Firefighter into four sub-categories to allow firefighters to identify themselves as cross-trained EMS providers to better ensure an accurate count of trained EMS professionals throughout our communities. The Bill has been endorsed by all the major national EMS organizations, including NASEMSO. Read more at https://wild.house.gov/sites/wild.house.gov/files/EMS%20Counts%20Act_One%20Pager_FINAL.pdf.

In related news, U.S. Representatives Norma J. Torres (D-CA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) today reintroduced the 911 SAVES Act, bipartisan legislation to reclassify 911 dispatchers from "Office and Administrative Support Occupations" to "Protective Service Occupations" in the Office of Management and Budget's Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) catalog. According to the Congresswoman's web site, the reclassification would cost nothing, and would more accurately reflect the nature of America's 100,000 public safety telecommunicators' work. Read more at <https://torres.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/torres-fitzpatrick-re-introduce-bipartisan-bill-reclassify-911>.

NASEM to Release Updated "Future of Nursing" Report

Join the National Academy of Medicine on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 3:00 pm ET for a webinar to discuss findings and recommendations from [The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity](#).

To extend the path for the future of nursing into 2030, an expert committee has evaluated previous literature and new information from the COVID-19 pandemic to better understand the dramatic changes the industry is currently undergoing and the challenges it will likely face in the future. This long-awaited report will explore how nurses can work over the next decade to reduce health disparities and promote equity, while keeping costs at bay, utilizing technology, and maintaining patient and family-focused care. As nurses play a key role in the health of everyday Americans, employing their unique combination of skills, knowledge, and dedication offers an exciting opportunity to address and improve aspects of overall health, well-being, and equity in care. Sponsored by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this report builds on the foundation set out by the 2011 Institute of Medicine report [The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health](#).

BD Issues Voluntary Recall of Chloraprep™ Applicator

BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) has revised its press release dated March 19, 2021 relating to an expanded voluntary recall that was

initiated on June 23, 2020 for specified catalog numbers of the Chloraprep™ 3 mL applicator due to possible fungal contamination under certain environmental conditions. BD has determined that storage of the Chloraprep™ 3 mL Applicator in regions of the world with high heat and humidity, where product may be exposed to temperatures of 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit) and 75% relative humidity, allows the growth of *Aspergillus penicillioides*. Chloraprep is a sterile antiseptic solution containing a combination of 2% Chlorhexidinegluconate in 70% Isopropyl alcohol, which is effective for both rapid and persistent reduction of bacterial load across various body regions for a broad spectrum of organisms. Read more at <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-advises-health-care-professionals-not-use-chloraprep-3-ml-applicators-manufactured-bd-becton>. There is no evidence the 1.5 ml FREPP applicator sold by EMS distributors is affected by this recall.

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Interesting Abstracts

"Investing In Evidence To Inform Practice: Reimagining The US Public Health System, " Health Affairs Blog, April 6, 2021.DOI: 10.1377/hblog20210405.773991 at <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20210405.773991/full/>.

"Crisis checklists in emergency medicine: another step forward for cognitive aids" Chen Y-YK, Arriaga A. BMJ Qual Saf. 2021;Epub Mar 25. at <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/crisis-checklists-emergency-medicine-another-step-forward-cognitive-aids>.

Access and review the draft report, "[Strategies to Improve Patient Safety: Draft Report to Congress for Public Comment and Review by the National Academy of Medicine](#)" The Patient Safety Act requires the draft report to be made available for public comment and submitted for review to the Institute of Medicine, now the National Academy of Medicine. Although the public comment period is now closed, the final report is required to be submitted to Congress no later than December 21, 2021.

According to *MedPage Today*, "Sepsis outcomes remained largely unchanged after the federal government began requiring hospitals to report adherence to a so-called [SEP-1 treatment protocol](#) for sepsis -- at least, that was the case for one large, urban health system, researchers said. At the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), risk-adjusted mortality, successful discharge, and ICU admission after SEP-1 implementation differed only slightly from what would have been expected without the requirement, reported Ian Barbash, MD, MS, and colleagues at UPMC in [Annals of Internal Medicine](#)." Read moer at <https://www.medpagetoday.com/criticalcare/sepsis/92161>.

UPCOMING Events

May

National Trauma Awareness Month Theme-- "Safe & Secure - Safety is a Choice, Prevention is Key." For information as it becomes available at www.amtrauma.org

Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting. May 11-14, 2021. VIRTUAL <https://www.saem.org/annual-meeting/saem21/registration-information>

Critical Care Transport Medicine Conference. May 17-19, 2021, Orange Beach, AL <https://cctmc.net>

EMS Week. May 16-22, 2021. EMSC Day is May 19
<https://www.acep.org/administration/ems-resources/emsweek/>

June

Accreditcon. June 2-4, 2021. VIRTUAL <https://www.accreditcon.org>

American Academy of Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting. June 20-24, 2021 St. Louis, MO. www.aaem.org

NFPA Annual Conference. Cancelled for 2021. <https://www.nfpa.org/conference/index.html>

July

Fire Rescue Med/IAFC EMS Section Annual Meeting. July 27, 2021 Charlotte, NC. <https://www.iafc.org/events/frm>

IAFC Annual Conference. Fire-Rescue International. July 28-31, 2021. Charlotte, NC. www.iafc.org/fri

August

National Association of EMS Educators Annual Meeting. August 2-8, 2021. Orlando, FL www.naemse.org

Pinnacle 2021. August 9-13, 2021. Phoenix, AZ <http://pinnacle-ems.com/>

FDIC International. August 19-24, 2021. Indianapolis, IN. <http://www.fdic.com/index.html>

EMS Today 2021. August 24-27, 2021. San Antonio, TX <http://www.emstoday.com/index.html>

September

Emergency Nurses Association Annual Meeting. September 22-25, 2021. Orlando, FL. www.ena.org

October

EMS World Expo. October 4-8 2021. Atlanta, GA. <http://www.emsworldexpo.com/>

IAEM EMEX 2021. October 15-22, 2021. Grand Rapids, MI. <https://www.iaem.org/usconf>

American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. October 24-28, 2021. Washington, DC.
<https://www.facs.org/clincon2021>

American College of Emergency Physicians Annual Meeting. October 25 - 28, 2021. Boston, MA. www.acep.org

November


Air Medical Transport Conference. October 31-November 2, 2021. Fort Worth, TX. <http://aams.org/education-meetings/>

Revised Dates! National Association of State EMS Officials Annual Meeting. November 14-18, 2021. Reno, NV
www.nasemso.org

American Ambulance Association Annual Meeting. TBD. <https://annual.ambulance.org/>

Please use these links to access monthly course schedules and registration info related to:

- [NAEMSE Instructor Course Level 1](#)
- [NAEMSE Instructor Course Level 2](#)
- [CAAHEP Accreditation Update & Evaluating Student Competency Workshops](#)



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