



# December 2019

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# NASEMSO NEWS

## Staffing Changes Announced at NASEMSO Headquarters

NASEMSO welcomes Hilary Bikowski to the headquarters staff in Falls Church, VA. Hilary replaces Zoe Renfro who has accepted a position with a firm closer to her home in Baltimore, MD. Hilary has broad association and management experience and most recently served as the interim executive director for the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography. As NASEMSO's Project Coordinator, she will be assisting with several components within NASEMSO, including corporate sponsorships, Washington Update, various meetings, and grant proposal support. You can reach Hilary at [hbikowski@nasemso.org](mailto:hbikowski@nasemso.org) and 703-533-0251 ext. 1708. Welcome to NASEMSO, Hilary!!

## NASEMSO-led Naloxone EBG Featured in NHTSA Webinar

Earlier this year, several EMS organizations led by Dr. Kenneth Williams, immediate past chairman of NASEMSO's Medical Directors Council collaborated to publish [evidence-based guidelines \(EBG\) for the EMS administration of naloxone](#), adding to the growing number of EBGs available to help EMS clinicians provide care based on the latest research and best practices endorsed by experts in the field. In a recent EMS Focus webinar hosted by the NHTSA Office of EMS, Dr. Williams was a distinguished panelist that discussed:

- How the naloxone EBG was developed, including what research was considered and why
- Suggestions for how to incorporate the naloxone EBG and others into protocols and practice at the state and local levels
- What moving toward an evidence-based practice means for the EMS profession - and what you can do to support that effort

The session was recorded and will soon become available [here](#).

## Robinson Receives 2019 ENA Lifetime Achievement Award

During their recent annual meeting in Austin, TX, the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) presented NASEMSO's Strategic Partnerships Director, Kathy Robinson, with one of its highest honors, the ENA Lifetime Achievement Award. This award honors a nurse whose career achievements reflect dedicated service, accomplishments and/or contributions to emergency nursing that have value to emergency nursing beyond the recipient's lifetime. In presenting the award, ENA National President Dr. Patricia Howard noted, "Her exceptional track record of accomplishments has impacted emergency nursing through her progressive leadership, inspiration, vision, clinical and operational expertise, and her willingness to step forward on behalf of ENA – when others may not. With over 40 publications to her name, she has shaped local, national and international policy." In anticipation of the award, Robinson was honored with a [NASEMSO Resolution](#) at its own 2019 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City.

## Work Begins on 2020 NASEMSO Annual Meeting

The NASEMSO Program Committee has posted the preliminary meeting schedule to assist members and partners with initiating plans to attend the 2020 Annual Meeting, June 15-18, 2020 at the Silver Legacy Resort in Reno, NV. The 2020 sponsorship brochure is currently undergoing revision and should be available very soon! View the tentative 2020 meeting schedule now [here](#) for more information.

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## [FOR THE STATES](#)

## New National Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) promotes a responsible, balanced approach to professional licensing. They aim to educate policymakers and the public on the importance of high standards, rigorous education, and extensive experience within highly complex, technical professions that are relied upon to protect public safety and enhance public trust. The Alliance advocates for licensing practices within professions that deliver uniform qualifications, standards,

safety, and consistency, while also providing individuals with a clear career path and fair opportunities to pursue and maintain that career. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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## [AIR MEDICAL](#)

# NTSB Report Cites “Helicopter Shopping” as Contributing Factor in Fatal Crash

On November 19, 2019, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) posted the results of its Factual Report into an air ambulance crash that killed three crew members in Zaleski, OH earlier this year. According to the report, “Visual meteorological conditions existed at the departure location, and company flight following procedures were in effect.” Two other companies had turned down the run. To read more and access all documents related to the incident, go [here](#) with the NTSB Accident ID CEN19FA072. NASEMSO’s State Model Rules for the Regulation of Air Medical Services are also available to assist states [here](#).

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## [COMMUNICATIONS](#)

# FCC Approves Rules to Help First Responders Quickly Locate Wireless 911 Callers

On November 22, 2019, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules that will help first responders locate people who call 911 from wireless phones in multi-story buildings. The rules will help emergency responders determine the floor level of a 911 caller, which will reduce emergency response times and ultimately save lives. Given the likelihood that vertical location technology will continue to improve, the Commission is also seeking comment on establishing a long-term timeline for even more stringent vertical location accuracy, including ultimately requiring wireless providers to deliver the caller’s specific floor level. A broad cross-section of public safety organizations, including NASEMSO, supported the accuracy metric adopted, agreeing that it is technically feasible and will benefit public safety. Interested parties may file comments and reply comments in response to the Fifth Report and Order and Fifth Further Notice of Proposed Rule-making available [here](#).

# FCC Considers 988 as National Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Hotline

The National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018 tasked the FC, with examining and reporting on the technical feasibility of designating a shorter number—“a simple, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code”—for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline. This designation will help increase the effectiveness of suicide prevention efforts, ease access to

crisis services, reduce the stigma surrounding suicide and mental health conditions, and ultimately save lives. The public draft, "Proposing 988 as the Suicide Prevention Hotline Number" with directions on how to provide comment, is now available [here](#).

## FCC Highlights State Participation in Emergency Communications Committees

The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued Advisory Recommendation 2019-04 "In the Matter of the Emergency Alert System - State Participation in State Emergency Communications Committees." The IAC was been tasked with developing the best practices for communication between State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments and State Emergency Communication Committees to ensure that Emergency Alerting System (EAS) procedures, including initiation and cancellation of actual alerts and tests, are mutually understood, agreed upon, and documented in State EAS Plans. Read the full recommendation [here](#).

## FCC Committee Issues Report on Multilingual Emergency Alerts

The FCC IAC issued a report on the delivery of multilingual emergency alerts to people who communicate in a language other than English or who have a limited understanding of the English language. The report also makes recommendations regarding how alert initiators can deliver alerts to people with disabilities, which the IAC determined presented similar challenges to the delivery of alerts to non-English speakers. The full report is available [here](#).

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## [DATA](#)

### CMS Announces Ground Ambulance Data Collection Program

Effective January 1, 2020 and continuing through 2024, ground ambulance providers and suppliers that have been selected to participate in the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection System must collect information on cost, utilization, revenue, and other service characteristics in accordance with the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection Instrument for a continuous 12-month period. The information collected will be used to evaluate the extent to which reported costs relate to payment rates under the Medicare Part B Ambulance Fee Schedule (AFS), as well as to collect information on the utilization of capital equipment and ambulance capacity, and the different types of ground ambulance services furnished in different geographic locations, including rural areas and low population density areas (super rural areas). Failure to sufficiently submit the required information will result in a 10 percent reduction to payments under the AFS for one year, unless a hardship exemption has been granted or an informal review has determined that an organization is not subject to the 10 percent reduction to payments. For more information, including a list of ambulance services selected for participation in 2020, go [here](#).

### NHTSA Releases Two Documents Explaining

# FARS Data

1. Historical coding practices of safety data are documented in the [Fatality Analysis Reporting System \(FARS\)](#) from 1975 to 2018, a manual from NHTSA. This manual aims to enable the users to become familiar with the FARS data system. FARS is used to identify highway safety problem areas, provide a basis for regulatory and consumer information initiatives, and form the basis for cost and benefit analyses of highway safety initiatives.
2. Auxiliary safety data are presented in the [Fatality Analysis Reporting System \(FARS\) Auxiliary Datasets Analytical User's Manual, 1982-2018](#). This manual includes elements that make it easier to extract certain data classifications and topical areas.

## AHRQ Compendium of Health Systems Updated

Consolidation of health care providers into vertically integrated health systems is changing the landscape of health care delivery in the United States. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has updated and published a Compendium of U.S. Health Systems, composed of 637 U.S. health systems. This analysis describes the landscape of health systems in 2018 and reports variation by system size, ownership type, and geographic scope. Read more [here](#).

## Monthly NEMESIS Public Trainings

NEMESIS Public Trainings are open to all data managers and EMS stakeholders that would like an introduction to or additional training on NEMESIS concepts and tools. These are designed to facilitate open dialogue – so feel free to ask questions!

Upcoming events (Find the flyer and connection information here):

- Jan. 7: Improving Agency Data Quality with N. Clay Mann
- Feb. 4: How to Assess ePCR Vendor Performance with Laurel Baeder
- Mar. 3: Writing Efficient Business Rules with Josh Legler
- Apr. 7: Overview of Tools Available to Promote NEMESIS v3.5.0 with Julianne Ehlers

All training events are from 10:00-11:00 AM (MT).

For more information, contact Julianne Ehlers at [julianne.ehlers@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:julianne.ehlers@hsc.utah.edu) or [nemesis@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:nemesis@hsc.utah.edu).

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## HEALTH & MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS

### FEMA Announces Release of Community Lifelines Toolkit 2.0

On Oct. 30, 2019, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the [National Response Framework, Fourth Edition](#). Key updates to the NRF include the creation of a new Emergency Support Function 14 for cross-sector business and industry, and the formalization of the [Community Lifelines](#) within national-level response policy. To support the NRF release, FEMA updated the “Community Lifelines Implementation Toolkit.” Learn more about lifelines and access the “Implementation of

# Free EMAC Webinar: Legal Considerations in 90 Minutes

The National Governors Association (NGA) is excited to announce the launch of a webinar series on Legal Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies. This four-part series is hosted in collaboration with the CDC and the American Bar Association and aims to provide a more in-depth look into the common legal challenges posed by public health emergencies. The webinars will feature subject-matter experts and spotlight states and localities’ responses to public health emergencies. Of interest to NASEMSO members, the latest session features our colleague Angela Copple discussing the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Access the free session [here](#). To access the session slides, go [here](#).

# FEMA Releases 2019 National Preparedness Report

FEMA has released the *2019 National Preparedness Report*. In its eighth year, this report summarizes the nation's progress toward attaining becoming a more secure and resilient nation. Click [here](#) for more information and to read the report.

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## [HIGHWAY INCIDENT & TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS](#)

# Autonomous Car Tester Offers Guide for Firefighters

Google spinoff Waymo is trying to educate emergency responders on how to deal with its autonomous vehicles. Waymo released a training video on YouTube Thursday geared toward guiding public safety officials responding to incidents involving their self-driving cars. The 14-minute instructional video advises how to put a car in manual mode and what precautions firefighters should take. The video was done in conjunction with Waymo engineers and suburban Phoenix police and firefighters. Click [here](#) to read more.

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## [MEDICAL DIRECTION](#)



# CDC Updates Interim Guidance on Vaping-Linked Lung Illness

In an article published in the Nov. 19 early-release issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* and reported in the last issue of *Washington Update*, interim guidance has again been revised for health care professionals managing patients with suspected electronic cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (EVALI). Another report in the same issue suggests that the characteristics of hospitalized and non-hospitalized EVALI patients are similar. Read more [here](#).

## 2019 Focused Updates to AHA Guidelines for CPR and ECC

The AHA, in cooperation with the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR), is publishing the *2019 AHA Focused Updates on Systems of Care and Continuous Quality Improvement, Adult Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, Pediatric Basic and Advanced Life Support, and Neonatal Resuscitation* (2019 Focused Updates). To view the complete 2019 Focused Updates and the highlights of the 2019 Focused Updates, please visit the [ECC Guidelines website](#). To view the 2019 International Consensus on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care Science With Treatment Recommendations, visit [AHA Journals](#).

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## PEDIATRICS

### CDC ACES Address Opioid Misuse and TBI

In a new report from the CDC, the agency provides the first U.S. estimates of how much preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the associated trauma has the potential to reduce chronic diseases, risky health behavior, and socioeconomic challenges later in life. These findings examine the associations between ACEs and 14 negative outcomes. Read more [here](#).

### New Guidance Publication: Reviewing Deaths of Children in Disasters and Mass Fatality Events

The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (NCFRP) is pleased to announce the publication of a new guidance, [Reviewing Deaths of Children in Disasters and Mass Fatality Events](#). This guidance provides working definitions for fatality review professionals to help them understand disasters, the types of deaths attributable to disasters, best practices in reviewing disaster-related fatalities, the partners teams should engage, additional documentation that supports effective review in these types of cases, and community resources for disasters and community care.



# Virtual Home Visit for a Child with Medical Complexity Course

In this course, ILearners will be introduced to an approach to the care of a child with medical complexity in the home and community, with insights from a family's experience. Areas of focus in the module include accessibility of the home environment, medication safety, post-discharge considerations, care of medical technologies including feeding tubes and non-invasive ventilation, and opportunities for community participation. Target audience includes healthcare providers and trainees involved in the care of children with medical complexity. Click [here](#) to access additional information about the course.

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## [RURAL EMS](#)

### “Why rural EMS is in critical condition”

According to the National Rural Health Association (NRHA), close to one third of all rural EMS are in immediate danger of closing. Underfunding and lack of reimbursements have been major issues for these services. While a new law requires insurers to reimburse for EMS treatment even when a patient is not transported to the hospital, Medicare and Medicaid only cover a fraction of the cost. Some experts suggest “connected ambulances” that [provide remote treatment via telemedicine](#) could help save lives – but for many rural patients, barriers to care remain, [as does the threat of surprise billing](#), though lawmakers and stakeholders remain divided about the best way to address this challenge. Additionally, [the latest Rural Health Voice podcast](#) hosted by NRHA member Beth O'Connor of the Virginia Rural Health Association interviews Tim Perkins of the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services on how community paramedicine and mobile integrated health care can improve rural access.

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## [FEDERAL PARTNERS](#)

### USFA Study Provides Recommendations to Help Assaulted First Responders During Legal Prosecutions

Occupational violence against firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) workers is widespread. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that about [3,500 EMS workers received hospital treatment](#) in 2017 for injuries resulting from work-related violence. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) documented the causes of violence to firefighters and first responders in the 2017 guide, [Mitigation of Occupational Violence to Firefighters and EMS Responders](#). More than half and sometimes as many as 93% of EMS responders reported that they had experienced verbal or physical violence at least once in their careers. Read more [here](#).

# Failure to Encrypt Mobile Devices Leads to \$3 Million HIPAA Settlement

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at HHS recently agreed to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules with a substantial monetary penalty and substantial corrective action. OCR's investigation revealed that the University of Rochester Medical Center failed to conduct an enterprise-wide risk analysis; implement security measures sufficient to reduce risks and vulnerabilities to a reasonable and appropriate level; utilize device and media controls; and employ a mechanism to encrypt and decrypt electronic protected health information (ePHI) when it was reasonable and appropriate to do so. For more information, go [here](#).

In related news Sentara Hospitals, which spans 12 acute-care hospitals and more than 300 care sites in Virginia and North Carolina, were fined \$2M for failing to report data breaches and for not having a business associate agreement with its parent company, Sentara Healthcare.

## FCC Outlines Regulatory Barriers and Incentives to Telemedicine

The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee of the FCC has issued Advisory Recommendation 2019-02 "In the Matter of State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Regulatory and Other Barriers and Incentives to Telemedicine." This Report describes the technical underpinnings necessary for effective Telemedicine, the barriers that impede its full deployment, and makes recommendations to address these barriers. The report acknowledges efforts of the EMS Compact to assist providers with practice across jurisdictions. Read more [here](#).

## New Overtime Rules May Have Impact on Public Employees and EMS Agencies

The Department of Labor is updating and revising the regulations issued under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) implementing the exemptions from minimum wage and overtime pay requirements for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, which will go into effect on January 1, 2020. The regulations specify that employers may allow nonexempt employees to accrue only up to 240 hours of comp time, with the exception of employees working "in a public safety activity, an emergency response activity, or a seasonal activity," who may accrue up to 480 hours. Employers may only apply the 480-hour limit to employees engaged in public safety and emergency response activities as a regular part of their work. Law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, as well as 911 dispatchers and tele-communicators may be subject to the higher limit. Read more [here](#).

## Call for Proposals for the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program's 2020 COAP National Forum

The Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP), supported by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, provides support to states, units of local government, and tribal governments to plan, develop, and implement comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by the opioid epidemic. Session presentations

proposed for the 2020 COAP National Forum—taking place in Washington, DC, March 10–12, 2020—should be tailored to provide stakeholders with timely and relevant information for their particular fields. Proposals due December 20, 2019.

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## [INDUSTRY NEWS](#)

# House Passes Workplace Violence Bill Despite Veto Threat

According to the National Law Review, “In a bipartisan 251 to 158 vote, the US House of Representatives passed H.R. 1309, which would require the Department of Labor (DOL) to develop a standard addressing workplace violence in the health care and social services industry. The bill would require that the DOL develop and issue an interim rule on workplace violence prevention no later than one year after the date of enactment of the bill. The interim rule would require that employers in the health care and social services sectors ‘develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan to protect health care workers, social service workers, and other personnel from workplace violence’.” While the Democrat-sponsored bill received bipartisan support in the House, with 30 Republican votes, it faces an uphill battle in the Senate and in the White House. Read more [here](#). (A similar article is available [here](#).)

# NREMT to Sunset Spinal Immobilization Skill Station for AEMT Exam

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) has sunsetted the Spinal Immobilization Supine and Seated skill stations on the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) psychomotor examination. The AEMT psychomotor examination will now consist of nine skill stations instead of ten, and there will be no change to the examination retest policy. Candidates will still be expected to demonstrate competency by assessing and providing spinal motion restriction during their performance in the Patient Assessment - Trauma and Patient Assessment - Medical psychomotor skill stations. Candidates will also still be expected to demonstrate competency by assessing and providing spinal motion restriction in the portfolio. Candidates may also encounter questions related to spinal motion restriction on the cognitive examination. If you have any questions, please contact the NREMT office at (614) 888-4484 or email [support@nremt.org](mailto:support@nremt.org).

# NFPA Fire Research Foundation Report Discusses Potential CE Model for Fire Service

In “*Fire and Emergency Service Personnel Knowledge and Skills Proficiency*”, authors identify, clarify and evaluate the characteristics of a transitional process for Fire and Emergency Services personnel, designed to ensure continued demonstration of knowledge and skill proficiency against a given level of credentialing, including an impact assessment of implementation. Download the free report [here](#).

# First Responders Struggle with PTSD

According to a 2015 [national survey](#) of over 4,000 police officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians and firefighters, emergency workers are 10 times more likely to attempt suicide on average than another person — roughly 6 percent of those surveyed had tried to take their lives. A more recent survey of Virginia first responders similarly showed a heavy psychological toll. A growing number of states, including Colorado, Texas, Vermont, Louisiana, Minnesota and Connecticut, have recently passed legislation to provide workers' compensation for first responders suffering from PTSD. Read more [here](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Send calendar events to [robinson@nasemso.org](mailto:robinson@nasemso.org)

### **DECEMBER 2019**

[Federal Interagency Committee on EMS](#) (December 12, Washington, DC)

### **JANUARY 2020**

[NAEMSP Annual Conference](#) (January 6-11, San Diego, CA)

### **FEBRUARY 2020**

[NRHA 31st Rural Health Policy Institute](#) (February 11-13, Washington, DC)

### **MARCH 2020**

[EMS Today](#) (March 4-6, Tampa, FL)

[ACS Committee on Trauma Annual Meeting](#) (March 12 - 13, Dallas, TX)

[EMS Transformation Summit](#) (March 24, Arlington VA)

[EMS on the Hill Day](#) (March 24-25, Arlington, VA)

[Preparedness Summit](#) (March 31 - April 2, Dallas, TX)

### **APRIL 2020**

[Society of Trauma Nurses Annual Meeting](#) (April 1-3, Atlanta, GA)

[National EMS Safety Summit](#) (April 14-17, Denver, CO)

[FDIC International](#) (April 19-25, Indianapolis, IN)

[American Academy of Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting](#) (April 19-23, Phoenix, AZ)

[Critical Care Transport Medicine Conference](#) (April 20-22, Albuquerque, NM)

### **MAY 2020**

[Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting](#) (May 12-15, Denver, CO)

[EMS Week](#) (May 17-23)

EMSC Day (May 20)

[Accreditcon](#) (May 27-31, Louisville, KY)

## **JUNE 2020**

[American Trauma Society Annual Meeting](#) (June 2-4, Winston-Salem, NC)

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

[NASEMSO Annual Meeting](#) (June 15-18, 2020 in Reno, NV)

## **JULY 2020**

[Pinnacle](#) (July 27-31, Phoenix)

## **AUGUST 2020**

[National Association of EMS Educators Annual Meeting](#) (August 3-8, Pittsburgh, PA)

[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)

See more EMS events on the [NASEMSO Calendar](#).

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](#)
- [NAEMSE/NREMT Regional Scenario Development Workshops](#)

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**Your input to Washington Update is welcome  
and can be sent directly to our Editor:**

**[Kathy Robinson, RN, EMT-P, QAS](#)**

National Association of State EMS Officials  
201 Park Washington Court  
Falls Church, VA 22046

## CONTACT NASEMSO STAFF

**Elizabeth Armstrong**  
(Management Counsel)  
[armstrong@nasemsso.org](mailto:armstrong@nasemsso.org)

**Dia Gainor** (Executive Director)  
[dia@nasemsso.org](mailto:dia@nasemsso.org)

**Sharon Kelly** (Executive Assistant)  
[kelly@nasemsso.org](mailto:kelly@nasemsso.org)

**Kathy Robinson**  
(Strategic Partnerships Director)  
Emerging Systems of Care, Trauma,  
Education  
[robinson@nasemsso.org](mailto:robinson@nasemsso.org)

**Hilary Bikowski**  
(Project Coordinator)  
[hbikowski@nasemsso.org](mailto:hbikowski@nasemsso.org)

**Jay Bradshaw** (Website Manager)  
[bradshaw@nasemsso.org](mailto:bradshaw@nasemsso.org)

**Rachael Alter** (Program Manager)  
Data, Pediatrics, Contracts  
[alter@nasemsso.org](mailto:alter@nasemsso.org)

**Mary Hedges** (Program Manager)  
Medical Directors, HITS,  
Safe Transport of Children  
[hedges@nasemsso.org](mailto:hedges@nasemsso.org)

**Leslee Stein-Spencer**  
(Program Manager)  
Health & Medical Preparedness  
[stein-spencer@nasemsso.org](mailto:stein-spencer@nasemsso.org)

**Kevin McGinnis** (Program Manager)  
Communications, CP-MIH, HIE,  
Rural EMS, Personnel Licensure)  
[mcginnis@nasemsso.org](mailto:mcginnis@nasemsso.org)

**Sue Prentiss** (Program Manager)  
Agency & Vehicle Licensure  
[prentiss@nasemsso.org](mailto:prentiss@nasemsso.org)

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