



May 2020

COVID-19 coverage

NASEMSO's Information Hub on the global pandemic is available [here](#). 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 Leadership Discusses Pivot to Virtual Meeting

In light of the prolonged national emergency, the futility of attempting an in-person annual meeting in Reno this year has been acknowledged and discussions are currently underway on whether to pivot to a series of virtual sessions. No further registrations for the 2020 annual meeting are being accepted and options for refunds and credits are currently being established. As we pause to determine a path forward to meet the association's needs, we continue to pray for the health and safety of our EMS responders, members, and partners. More information about our meeting will become available in the upcoming weeks.

NASEMSO Releases Statewide Specialty Systems of Care Assessment

"Specialty Systems of Care: An Analysis of Statewide Practices Related to Time Sensitive Emergencies" is a new compilation from the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) that focuses on the legal authority of states to organize and implement specialized systems of care for time sensitive emergencies such as stroke and chest pain. These elements are important to the matching of EMS and medical resources to patient needs and outcomes over a specified geographic area. The data was compiled from multiple interactions with state EMS officials, affiliated partners, and independent research to fill in several informational gaps from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The SSoC document can now be accessed [here](#) on the NASEMSO website.

McGinnis Named to PSAC Executive Committee

NASEMSO Program Manager Kevin McGinnis has been named to the Executive Committee of the FirstNet Authority's Public Safety Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC.) FirstNet was required to establish a PSAC Consistent with the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The PSAC offers FirstNet guidance, information, and subject matter expertise from a public safety perspective to ensure that user needs, requirements, and public safety operational capabilities are included in the network; provides subject matter expertise on concepts (e.g., policies, procedures, technologies, operational methods developed by FirstNet, and; advises FirstNet through the creation of initial documents, plans, or reports related to the build-out, deployment, and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN). The PSAC reports include subject matter related to shared intergovernmental responsibilities or administration. Congratulations, Kevin!

NASEMSO Cancels the 2020 Annual Meeting - New Dates for 2021

A Message from NASEMSO President, Kyle Thornton:

Due to the continuously evolving circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the NASEMSO 2020 Annual Conference scheduled for August 30 - September 2, 2020 has been cancelled. This was a very difficult decision, but our first concern is the health and safety of our attendees. We also took into account the various responsibilities that many speakers and attendees have related to COVID-19, as well as uncertainty about when travel and mass gathering restrictions will be revised.

Those who currently have hotel reservations at the Silver Legacy should receive a notice that the reservation has been cancelled and the one-night deposit has been refunded. Reservations will need to be re-booked by going here: <https://book.passkey.com/go/NAS20>.

For those who have already registered, NASEMSO will credit the fees towards the re-scheduled dates. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting as a result of the date change or otherwise, NASEMSO will make full refunds

Thank you for your patience and flexibility. Stay safe and healthy – we are in this together.

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Agency & Vehicle Licensure

EMS Safety Forum Hosts Live Event on Ambulance Safety Standards

Catch up with an expert panel (recorded live) and learn about US Ambulance Safety Standards. Participants during a recent broadcast included Sue Prentiss from NASEMSO, Mark Van Arnam from CAAS GVS, Ken Holland from NFPA, Jennifer Marshal from NIST, and John McDonald from Federal GSA. Available now for a limited time [here](#),

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Communications

NG911 Roadmap: Making NG911 Happen at Nationwide Task

[NG911 Roadmap: Pathways Toward Nationwide Interconnection of 911 Services](#), identifies what needs to be accomplished at the national level – by all members of the 911 community – to make the full migration to NG911. The goals identified in this Roadmap are expected to be achieved through efforts undertaken by the spectrum of stakeholders that comprise the 911 community. Specifically, the Roadmap identifies potential tasks in support of the following areas: Business/Governance, Technology, Data, Operations, and Cross-Cutting.

How States are Expanding Broadband Access

Broadband is increasingly intertwined with the daily functions of modern life. It is transforming agriculture, supporting economic development initiatives, and is a critical piece of efforts to improve health care and modernize transportation. But the Federal

Communications Commission (FCC) estimates that 21 million Americans still lack broadband access. Other sources place this number as high as 162 million. The Pew Charitable Trusts examined state broadband programs nationwide and found that they have many similarities but also differences that reflect the political environment, the state's resource levels, the geography of the areas that remain unserved by broadband, and the entities that provide service. Read more [here](#).

Report Underscores Role of State Policy in Broadband Expansion

The report, [Broadband for America's Future: A Vision for the 2020s](#), examines ways that policymakers at all levels of government can help expand reliable broadband access to every American by the end of the decade. It notes that achieving this goal is important to improve the lives of individuals and critical to addressing pressing policy priorities.

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Data

NEMSIS 2019 Public-Dataset Now Available

The National Emergency Medical Services Information System Technical Assistance Center (NEMSIS TAC) today announced the availability of the 2019 Public-Release Research Dataset, the largest dataset of emergency medical service activations in the United States. With this release, NEMSIS aims to improve understanding of, confidence in, and support for EMS data collection and analysis that will lead to that data being utilized more effectively to improve patient care. The 2019 Public-Release Research Dataset is a subset of the national database that is used to store EMS data from the U.S. States and Territories. NEMSIS is a universal standard for how patient care information resulting from an emergency 9-1-1 call for assistance is collected. The dataset includes 34,203,087 EMS activations submitted by 10,062 EMS agencies servicing 47 states and territories. For more information, go [here](#).

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Health & Medical Preparedness

FBI Reports Active Shooter Incidents in the US in 2019

The FBI has designated 28 shootings in 2019 as active shooter incidents. The FBI defines an active shooter as one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area. This report is the fifth in a series of active shooter-related products published since September 2014. These reports are not intended to explore all facets of active shooter incidents. They serve to provide federal, state, tribal, and campus law enforcement – as well as first responders, corporations, and the general public – with a baseline understanding of active shooter incidents. Download the report [here](#).

Smoke-Ready Toolbox for Wildfires

Smoke from wildfires in the United States is adversely affecting air quality and potentially putting more people at health risk from smoke exposure. EPA, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and other federal, state and community agencies and organizations are working together to identify ways the public can prepare to reduce their health risk before a wildfire. Public health officials and others can use the resources in the Smoke-Ready Toolbox to help educate people about the risks of smoke exposure and actions they can take to protect their health. Several new resources are available for public health officials and the public at the [EPA website](#).

White House Announces Overhaul of Strategic National Stockpile

The President has [announced plans](#) to expand and restructure the Strategic National Stockpile. The White House said it plans to expand domestic production of supplies and equipment and utilize technology to improve visibility of supply chains.

Separately, President Trump signed an [executive order](#) assigning authority under the Defense Production Act to the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, headed by former Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Director Adam Boehler, to provide financing to key industries producing goods and services needed to increase national stockpiles.

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[Highway Incidents & Transportation Systems](#)

NCSL Offers Free Webinar on State Traffic Safety Trends

How are state legislatures responding to the 37,000 or so deaths on American roadways each year? Join the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) for an overview of notable legislative trends related to impaired and distracted driving, school bus and bicyclist safety and automated enforcement and more. Then learn how states can utilize the new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse to help ensure commercial vehicle and school bus drivers do not have previous impaired driving violations. Register for this event scheduled for June 4, 2020 at 3 PM ET [here](#).

ATS Offers Free Webinar on Highway Distractions

According to NHTSA in 2018, 2,841 lives were lost to distracted driving related incidents. Among those killed: 1,730 drivers, 605 passengers, 400 pedestrians and 77 bicyclists. NHTSA leads the national effort to save lives by preventing this dangerous behavior. 2020 National Trauma Awareness Month (NTAM) efforts are focused on working to reduce deaths and injuries related to distractions, including distracted driving. Join Melissa Daily from NHTSA's Occupant Protection Division for an engaging webinar as she shares the facts, how to get involved and help us keep America's roads safe. Melissa will share how NHTSA defines distracted driving, and some strategies to decrease the number of distracted drivers on American roads. The event will be held on May 14, 2020 at 1 PM EDT. Register [here](#).

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[Medical Directors](#)

ASHP Offers Free Access to Interactive Handbook on Injectable Drugs

The American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) is currently providing free access to its Interactive Handbook on Injectable Drugs. The multiple drug compatibility search feature is designed to facilitate searching for compatibility information on a number of two-drug or drug-solution combination at one time. The compatibility of three or more drugs in combination is generally unavailable. Access the portal [here](#).

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[Pediatric Emergency Care](#)

FDA Targets Unauthorized Flavored E-cigarette Products to Youth

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently issued ten warning letters to retailers and manufacturers who sell, manufacture and/or import unauthorized electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) products targeted to youth or likely to promote use by youth. The warning letters were sent to establishments marketing unauthorized products, such as a backpack and sweatshirt designed with stealth pockets to hold and conceal an e-cigarette, ENDS products that resemble smartwatches,

or devices appearing as children's toys such as a portable video game system or fidget spinner. Warning letters were also issued to companies marketing e-liquids that imitate packaging for food products that often are marketed and appeal to youth, such as candy, or feature cartoon characters like Sponge-Bob Square Pants. Read more [here](#).

AAP Endorsement for Resuscitation Algorithm Now Available in Pediatrics

In January 2020, the American Academy of Pediatrics endorsed the following publication: Society of Critical Care Medicine. Initial resuscitation algorithm for children. Available [here](#).

AAP's endorsement of the sepsis algorithm is now available in the May 2020 issue of the journal, *Pediatrics*. The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web [here](#).

In related news, the issue also provides an update on the American College of Surgeon's (ACS) Children's Surgery Verification Quality Improvement Program, which might be informative to states that are recognizing pediatric specialty centers. Read more [here](#).

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Trauma

Sniff Test: Study backs simple test to predict recovery from brain injury

According to *MedPage Today*, a new study published in the journal *Nature* shows promise in evaluating recovery from brain injury using a simple sniff test. The free overview is available [here](#). The research is available for rent or purchase from the Journal's web site [here](#).

May Is National Trauma Awareness Month

Distractions have become an alarming trend behind the cause of traumatic deaths and disabilities, including incidents involving transportation, lifestyle and in the workplace. The American Trauma Society (ATS) and the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) have once again teamed up in an effort to draw attention to a significant problem area in trauma and the strategies for targeted prevention. "Distracted to Death: Pay Attention or Pay the Price" is intended to call attention to the many factors that result in inadvertent disability and death. Program resources are available on the ATS website [here](#) and the STN [website](#).

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Federal Partners

NIOSH FACE Program Highlights International Self-Harm in the Workplace

NIOSH FACE Program Highlights International Self-Harm in the Workplace

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program has posted a Hazard Alert on International Self Harm in the Workplace from the KY Injury Prevention and Research Center. Read more [here](#).

In related news, a new issue of CDC's "QuickStats" highlights age-adjusted suicide rates by states. You can find this information [here](#). In 2018, the U.S. suicide rate was 14.2 per 100,000 standard population, with rates varying by state. The five states with the highest age-adjusted suicide rates were Wyoming (25.2), New Mexico (25.0), Montana (24.9), Alaska (24.6), and Idaho (23.9). The five jurisdictions with the lowest suicide rates were the District of Columbia (7.5), New Jersey (8.3), New York (8.3), Rhode Island (9.5), and Massachusetts (9.9).

[Industry News](#)

EMS Strong Celebrations More Important Than Ever

The EMS Week 2020 theme is Ready Today. Preparing for Tomorrow. Those words reflect what individual EMS professionals and organizations do every day as they respond to calls for help at any time and in any place. They also represent a more global meaning that encompasses the entire profession. As we enter a new decade, we also look ahead to the future of prehospital care—a future that includes dramatic improvements in patient care, thanks to advances in research, information sharing and life-changing technology. As the future unfolds, though, EMS will continue to be mostly about people. In 2020, we honor the young and enthusiastic EMS clinicians who are the future of the profession, and whose commitment to their education is preparing them to be tomorrow's leaders. We also recognize the dedicated EMS veterans who have spent years serving their communities but continue to work hard to ensure they're ready for what today and tomorrow might bring. The ideals behind EMS Week last beyond seven days in May. Learn more [here](#).

CME America Class I Recall BodyGuard® Infusion Pump System

CME America is recalling the BodyGuard® Infusion Pump Systems because the pumps may have a slower than expected delivery of medication (under-infusion), and faster than expected delivery of medication (over-infusion). The reason for the infusion errors is not known. The use of the affected infusion pumps may cause serious adverse health consequences including death. There have been 158 complaints regarding this device issue although to date, there have been no injuries or deaths. The recall includes the popular CME BodyGuard® 121 Pump that has become increasingly popular with EMS and air medical transport due to its small size. The company has issued an updated customer letter (April 27, 2020) with additional guidance and to inform customers of the decision to suspend distribution of the BodyGuard® infusion pump system and to remove CME America BodyGuard® infusion pumps from U.S. market. For more information, go [here](#).

In related news, users of the BD CareFusion 303 Inc were also recently notified of software issues affecting the Alaris System. More information is available [here](#).

Mattel Offers “Thank You Heroes” Collection to Benefit First Responders Fund

Beginning April 29, 2020 through May 31, 2020, when you pre-order one or more of #ThankYouHeroes collection items online, the net proceeds from the sale of each item you purchase will be donated to #FirstRespondersFirst, a fund dedicated to providing essential supplies, equipment and resources for protecting frontline healthcare workers and their families. “Play it Forward” action figures include EMT, nurse, doctor, and delivery driver. \$15 from each online purchase of a toy from the #ThankYouHeroes Collection will be donated by Mattel to #FirstRespondersFirst, a fund dedicated to providing essential supplies, equipment and resources for frontline healthcare workers and their families. #FirstRespondersFirst is a fund administered by The Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. For more information, go [here](#).

Congressman Introduces Bill to Compensate High Risk by Essential Workers

U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright (PA-08) has unveiled the “Coronavirus Frontline Workers Fair Pay Act”, a proposal to provide hazard pay to health care professionals and other essential workers. The bill compensates workers for the risks they are taking and for the public services they are providing during this unprecedented public health and economic emergency. Under Cartwright's proposal, high-risk health care workers receive a hazard pay increase of \$18.50 per hour, and other essential workers receive an increase of \$13 per hour. Pay would be capped at \$35,000 and \$25,000, respectively. It would be retroactive to January 31, 2020 and would be available through the end of this year. Read more [here](#).

New Ventilator Training Alliance Provides Free Educational Resources

In an unprecedented move, ventilator equipment manufacturers worldwide have joined forces to create a free app to educate and assist licensed healthcare practitioners that are authorized to operate mechanical ventilators. The central knowledge hub provides free mobile access to video tutorials, instruction manuals, and other training materials for a full range of equipment

that is critical to helping clinicians treat patients suffering from respiratory distress. The need was identified as a result of the global pandemic and the rapid exchange of ventilatory equipment but is expected to serve an ongoing need. NASEMSO reminds EMS personnel of the need for proper education, credentialing, and authorization by their EMS medical director and/or state EMS authority related to airway management and the operation of mechanical ventilators prior to use. We also remind EMS practitioners that in the event of loss or inadequate operation of the ventilator for any reason (malfunction, lack of experience/confusion of the operator), the patient should be immediately be ventilated with a bag valve mask with a HEPA filter in place until the issue has been successfully resolved. A short video overview of the app, which is available for Apple and Android devices, can be viewed [here](#). For more information about the Alliance, application help, and download links, go [here](#).

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[Interesting Abstracts](#)

Peanut Allergy: New Advances and Ongoing Controversies

Peanut allergy is one of the most common food allergies in children, with increasing prevalence over time. The dual-allergen exposure hypothesis now supports transcutaneous sensitization to peanut as a likely pathophysiologic mechanism for peanut allergy development. As a result, there is emerging evidence that early peanut introduction has a role in peanut allergy prevention. Current first-line diagnostic tests for peanut allergy have limited specificity, which may be enhanced with emerging tools such as component-resolved diagnostics. **Although management of peanut allergy includes avoidance and carrying an epinephrine autoinjector, risk of fatal anaphylaxis is extremely low, and there is minimal risk related to cutaneous or inhalational exposure.** Quality of life in children with peanut allergy requires significant focus. Moving forward, oral and epicutaneous immunotherapy are emerging and exciting tools that may have a role to play in desensitization to peanut. Subscription required to read full article [here](#).

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[UPCOMING Events](#)

AUGUST 2020

[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)

If you are interested in other calendar listings, please consult the host/sponsor for additional information.

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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