



EMSUUPDATE

Summer 2007

Emergency Medical Services

THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

WE MOVED!

As of June 4, the Department of Transportation has a new office! We are now in a brand new building and invite you to visit our new “digs” on your next trip to Washington, DC. Our phone numbers won’t change, but our new FAX number is 202-366-7149. Our e-mail addresses remain the same, but our official mailing address is:

Office of Emergency Medical Services
US DOT/NHTSA
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., NTI-140, W44-325
Washington, DC 20590

EMS WEEK: HOW DID YOU CELEBRATE?

The staff of the NHTSA Office of EMS salutes all of you who provide emergency medical care to your communities every day — in every kind of emergency. From our 40+ years of involvement in EMS, we know what *Extraordinary People* you are, and we are proud to serve a group of professionals who provide such *Extraordinary Service*.

We’d like to hear how you celebrated EMS Week. If you’d be interested in sharing your EMS Week activities with your fellow EMS providers, please submit short articles and photographs to us at nhtsa.ems@dot.gov. Questions about submitting material or how your contributions might be used should also be directed to nhtsa.ems@dot.gov

As we look toward the future, we will continue to leverage available resources and new ideas to support EMS providers working in State and local EMS systems. With your collaboration, as well as that of our national and Federal partners, we will continue to deliver programs and products that reflect the priorities and needs of EMS providers.

NEW PUBLICATION! EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: 24/7 CARE – EVERYWHERE

Have you ever been called on to answer the question, “What is EMS?” Have you ever wished for a resource that explained the EMS system in a way that could be easily understood by

everyone? Well, wish no more! NHTSA’s Office of EMS has created a new booklet titled *Emergency Medical Services: 24/7 Care – Everywhere*. The booklet’s content was adapted from a description of the EMS system included in the 2004 EMS Week Kit, which was developed by Federal EMS agencies and the American College of Emergency Physicians. Response to this comprehensive yet streamlined explanation of the EMS system was so positive that we decided to make it available as a separate NHTSA publication. You can view or download *Emergency Medical Services: 24/7 Care – Everywhere* from our Web site — or place an order for a complimentary copy by e-mailing your request to nhtsa.ems@dot.gov. Questions about this publication? Please contact Laurie Flaherty for more information.

FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

FIRST FICEMS MEETING: DECEMBER 8, 2006

The inaugural meeting of the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) was held on December 8, 2006, at the Federal Aviation Administration building in Washington, DC. The meeting was chaired by NHTSA Administrator Nicole Nason, who expressed hope that FICEMS could serve as a Federal clearinghouse for EMS

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and as an incubator of new policies and strategies that will ultimately advance and improve EMS.

After discussion, the committee agreed on specific issues to address, and set up a technical working group (TWG) to examine these issues and present its findings to FICEMS. Comprised of Federal staffers, the TWG was tasked with the following:

- * Review the statutorily mandated items for FICEMS and ensure completion of the Congressional report;
- * Identify strategies for accomplishing the FICEMS mission;
- * Review opportunities for improving EMS data standardization, collection, and analysis (e.g., NEMSIS, coordination with other data-gathering systems such as National Fire Incident Reporting System);
- * Recommend improvements to EMS funding sources (for day-to-day operations as well as for disaster preparedness and response), including the use of the Target Capabilities List and the development of a coherent national funding strategy;
- * Review funding for EMS research to support the NHTSA EMS Research Agenda, including taking inventory of current Federal EMS research funding and seeking additional opportunities for funding EMS research;
- * Increase collaboration among Federal and State agencies with the goal of enhancing EMS performance;
- * Improve medical oversight of EMS; and
- * Examine the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System*.

SECOND FICEMS MEETING: JUNE 26, 2007

The second meeting of FICEMS was held on June 26, 2007, at the FAA building in Washington, DC. At this meeting, FICEMS members reviewed and approved a report submitted by the TWG, which is comprised of Federal staff of the FICEMS member agencies. The report contained recommendations for the priorities and operations of the TWG as well as a proposal for five committees assigned with specific responsibilities to complete the tasks of TWG. The five committees are:

- * Data and Research Committee;
- * Medical Oversight Committee;
- * Assessment Committee;
- * 9-1-1 and Medical Communications Committee; and
- * Preparedness Committee.

An update on the status of EMS research was presented to FICEMS by Dr. Michael Sayre, an emergency physician and associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Ohio State University. He served as the principle inves-

tigator for the National EMS Research Agenda, the Research Agenda strategic plan, and the EMS Research Ethics conference and proceedings. His update provided a current snapshot for FICEMS members who are not directly involved in or aware of EMS research.

With its operations and priorities established, FICEMS will advance and improve EMS. NHTSA provides staff support to FICEMS through the Office of Emergency Medical Services. For specific questions on FICEMS, contact Drew Dawson, Director of the Office of EMS.

NATIONAL EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

DOT REVIEWS MORE THAN 400 APPLICATIONS

The NHTSA Office of EMS would like to thank the EMS community for its overwhelmingly positive response to our Federal Register Notice that requested applications for the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC). We have received over 400 applications for the 26-member Council.

NEMSAC members will include representatives of the diverse agencies, organizations, and people involved in EMS activities and programs in the United States. Its members will be appointed by Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, and will represent the perspectives of each component of the EMS system, as well as the geographic and demographic diversity of EMS.

To meet the requirements set by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, a thorough review of all applications, using established DOT mechanisms, must be completed before nominees are considered for appointment by Secretary Peters. To assure that requirements are met and NEMSAC is representative of the diversity and broad range of skills, knowledge, and abilities of the EMS community, this process may take some time.

While we are anxious to conduct the first NEMSAC meeting as soon as possible, DOT takes its responsibility for NEMSAC very seriously, and believes EMS will be well served by a diligent selection process. NHTSA's Office of EMS will make every effort to keep you abreast of progress made in the NEMSAC selection process. We appreciate your patience as DOT undertakes the selection process and completes the necessary steps for making NEMSAC a reality. More information on NEMSAC can be found by selecting "Emergency Medical Services" from the Quick Clicks section of the NHTSA home page at www.nhtsa.gov. Questions about NEMSAC? Please contact Susan McHenry.

EDUCATION

NATIONAL EMS SCOPE OF PRACTICE MODEL

The *National EMS Scope of Practice Model* is completed and now available to download on the Office of EMS (OEMS) Web page at www.nhtsa.gov. (Select “Emergency Medical Services” from the Quick Clicks menu.) You may also contact OEMS directly at 202-366-5440 to request the document on CD-ROM.

NATIONAL EMS EDUCATION STANDARDS PROJECT

The National Association of EMS Educators released the first drafts of the *National EMS Education Standards* for broad EMS community review. To view the drafts or learn more about how to provide comments to the project team, please visit the project Web site at www.nemses.org.

EMS EDUCATION AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE

For information on the implementation of the *National EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*, please contact Dave Bryson of the Office of EMS.

NATIONAL EMS INFORMATION SYSTEM

PROGRESS AND SUPPORT ON NUMEROUS FRONTS

Fall 2006 brought to a close the first full year of operation for the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Technical Assistance Center (TAC). Since its inception, the NEMSIS TAC has provided direct technical assistance to 47 States, and conducted site visits in 18 of those States. In addition, the NEMSIS Web site (www.nemsis.org) remains extremely popular, receiving over 2,000 hits per month.

Key people in a number of States overcame impressive legislative, political, and revenue obstacles to establish NEMSIS-compliant datasets and submit EMS information to the National EMS Database. Several States have enacted (or are enacting) new legislation allowing for the release of State EMS data to the National Database (examples include Nebraska and Maine). In other States, people have extended significant efforts to educate key political figures about the importance of collecting and sharing standardized EMS data with the Nation (examples include Florida and Missouri). Finally, many States are taking advantage of Section 408 funds (made available through NHTSA) to bolster or create NEMSIS-compliant EMS data-collection systems (examples include Vermont, New

Mexico, and South Dakota). It is also noteworthy that Vermont has signed the NEMSIS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), demonstrating an interest in migrating all EMS data-collection efforts to support NEMSIS. Forty-nine states (and three Territories) have now signed the NEMSIS MOU.

Software vendors have been equally diligent in supporting the NHTSA 2.2.1 data standard and ensuring a mechanism to export State data to the National EMS Database. After five rounds of compliance testing, there are now a total of 33 EMS software solutions that comply with the NHTSA 2.2.1 standard. A number of other vendor packages are queued up to undergo compliance testing within the year.

Equally impressive is the number of States that have contributed data to the National EMS Database. Three States (North Carolina, New Hampshire, and Minnesota) have consistently provided data since January 1, 2006, to the National Database using the NHTSA 2.2.1 standard. Additional States are poised to provide data, based upon the current standard, in the next few months, including Utah and Nevada. The National EMS Database will be housed in the National Center for Statistics and Analysis at NHTSA.

Over the upcoming year, NEMSIS TAC will continue to aid States in the development of NEMSIS-compliant EMS data-collection systems and the creation of reporting tools that will enable interested parties to use the National EMS Database to improve the delivery of EMS care. If you have questions or wish to request aid from the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center, contact the center directly via www.nemsis.org or Susan McHenry.

9-1-1

NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 INITIATIVE

The Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) Initiative is a research and development project funded by the Intelligent Transportation System’s Joint Program Office (JPO), which is part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) at DOT. The initiative is being co-managed by staff within JPO and the Office of EMS.

The goals of the project include developing an architecture and transition plan to move 9-1-1 communications from analog to digital technologies, and from landline to Internet-based technologies. Once this technology transition is complete, 9-1-1 communications will allow for the transmission of voice, video, photographs, and data sets — from a variety of communication devices — to the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), and onto the communication networks of emergency responders. The architecture and transition plan

developed under the NG9-1-1 Initiative will serve as paradigms for the creation of future 9-1-1 networks.

In building this new communications system, a team led by Booz Allen Hamilton is following a systems engineering model. The team has completed a revised Concept of Operations (ConOps), which will serve as a vision for the overall goals of the project. This ConOps document can be found on the JPO Web site (<http://www.its.dot.gov/ng911/index.htm>) under the “Publications and Presentations” section.

With the ConOps complete, the team now moves on to the development of high-level requirements for the NG9-1-1 network. In this project phase, the major functional requirements that serve as the basis for the design of the NG9-1-1 network will be identified and documented. In addition, the team will begin work on the transition plan, which will identify and develop strategies to address issues that affect the implementation of the design (e.g., funding, governance, privacy, etc.) The team plans to conduct a proof-of-concept demonstration of the design by the end of 2007.

If you have questions or input for the Booz Allen Hamilton team, e-mail them at ng911wg@bah.com. For questions about the NG9-1-1 Initiative, please contact Laurie Flaherty. Information on the NG9-1-1 Initiative can also be found on the JPO Web site at http://www.its.dot.gov/newinit_index.htm.

NATIONAL 9-1-1 OFFICE

The National Enhanced 9-1-1 Implementation Coordination Office is a joint effort of NHTSA and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) at the Department of Commerce. Its tasks as outlined by Congress are to increase coordination among public and private agencies at the Federal, State, and local levels, provide technical resources to the PSAPs, and administer a grant program specifically for PSAPs.

The National 9-1-1 Office has begun work in all three of these areas. Early this year, a meeting of Federal agency staff who work on 9-1-1 issues and projects met to informally exchange information and discuss potential collaborative opportunities. Federal staff agreed that ongoing coordination meetings would be beneficial, and a second meeting is being planned to continue that effort. National 9-1-1 Office staff began working on a Web site, which will be used in part to share a variety of resources with State and local PSAPs. And we have begun to discuss how to best write the criteria for the grant program, to advance the technology and operations of 9-1-1 networks nationwide.

As we move forward with both the Office and grant activities, we will look to the 9-1-1 community to provide essential

guidance and advice regarding our ongoing responsibilities and activities — and how they can best serve 9-1-1 professionals and networks at the State and local levels. If you have questions about the National 9-1-1 Office, please contact Laurie Flaherty. To contact the National 9-1-1 Office directly, call 202-366-3485 or e-mail nhtsa.national911@dot.gov.

EMS WORKFORCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

EMS WORKFORCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY PROJECT — A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

To promote a sufficient, stable, and well-trained EMS workforce for the future, NHTSA and the Health Resources and Services Administration’s EMS for Children Program initiated the EMS Workforce for the 21st Century Project. The goals of this project are to develop a consensus-based national EMS workforce policy agenda, and to develop priority action steps for assuring a robust EMS workforce.

The Center for the Health Professions at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), began a national assessment of the EMS workforce in 2005. This assessment process included conducting a literature search and reviewing reports, publications, unpublished material, and Web site information relevant to the EMS workforce. UCSF has also explored existing data sources and conducted interviews with national EMS experts to explore multiple EMS workforce issues. UCSF has distributed a draft copy of its National EMS Workforce Assessment to national EMS organizations for comment, and is now in the process of preparing its report for final submission to NHTSA.

In the meantime, work progresses on development of a *National EMS Workforce Agenda for the Future*. This process is being led by UCSF and its EMS steering committee. Development of a draft document will continue over the next year and will be guided by research findings and input from national, State and local EMS stakeholders.

JOIN THE EMS WORKFORCE DISCUSSION TODAY

Visit the EMS Discussion Blog at www.emsworkforce.com to share your thoughts about this ongoing project. The site is regularly updated by UCSF, and is an excellent venue for EMS stakeholders to have a say in the development of the EMS Workforce Agenda for the Future. Please feel free to post your comments to any and all questions on this site. For more information on the EMS Workforce project, please contact Gamunu Wijetunge.

NEW WORKFORCE REPORT TO GUIDE NHTSA-NIOSH PILOT STUDY

NHTSA has released a report titled *Feasibility for an EMS Workforce Safety and Health Surveillance System*. This research was conducted by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation under contract to the NHTSA Office of Behavioral Safety Research. The report includes consensus findings of members of the national EMS community and will guide a joint NHTSA and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) pilot study. The study examined EMS worker injury reports from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System. For more information on the EMS Safety and Health Surveillance System, please contact Gamunu Wijetunge.

PANDEMIC FLU GUIDELINES

Last spring, NHTSA embarked on an aggressive venture when the President's *National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza: Implementation Plan* directed the Department of Transportation, in cooperation with its Federal partners, to develop statewide EMS pandemic influenza guidelines, as well as model protocols for 9-1-1 call centers and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The Office of EMS worked with the National Association of State EMS Officials to bring together national EMS and 9-1-1 stakeholders to accomplish these tasks.

It has been an exciting project that has involved almost every staff member within the Office of EMS, as well as numerous national organizations and Federal agencies focused on EMS, 9-1-1, and public health. The project is now reaching a close and both documents have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and are being prepared for distribution. Both documents will be available on the NHTSA Web site in the near future to guide pandemic flu planning at the State and local levels.

The two documents developed, *EMS Pandemic Flu Guidelines for Statewide Adoption* and *Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: Recommendations for Protocol Development for 9-1-1 Personnel and Public Safety Answering Points*, are to be used in tandem. Both are intended to provide guidance to State and local agencies in developing their pandemic influenza plans and operational protocols. They provide general guidance, considerations, references, and ideas that can enhance the optimal delivery of emergency care and 9-1-1 services during an influenza pandemic.

A key theme of both documents is that 9-1-1 and EMS must be well integrated with one another, and that their integration with State and local pandemic influenza planning and response is essential to the Nation's health and safety. For

more information on either *EMS Pandemic Flu Guidelines for Statewide Adoption* or *Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: Recommendations for Protocol Development for 9-1-1 Personnel and Public Safety Answering Points*, please contact Gamunu Wijetunge.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that in a recent survey,¹ EMS providers are very positive about their partner's professional behavior? When asked about 11 categories of professional behavior, survey respondents gave their partners highest ratings for integrity and personal appearance/hygiene.

These results were based on data collected from approximately 2,443 EMTs by the LEADS Project (Longitudinal Emergency medical technician Attributes & Demographics Study). For more information on LEADS, go to http://www.nremt.org/about/lead_survey.asp or contact Gregg Margolis at greggm@nremt.org or 614-888-4484.

¹Brown, W.E. Jr., Margolis, G., and Levine, R. *Prehospital Disaster Medicine*. 2005. March-April; 20(2) 107-14.

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