



January 15, 2008

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1. National EMS Advisory Committee Named

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) today announced the appointment of 25 individuals to serve on the newly-established National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (NEMSAC). The purpose of NEMSAC is to provide advice and counsel to the Department of Transportation on national Emergency Medical Services (EMS) initiatives, while offering a forum for the non-Federal deliberation of national EMS issues.

Appointed NEMSAC members are:

- Thomas Judge- Executive Director of LifeFlight of Maine.
- Aarron Reinert - Executive Director of Lakes Region EMS in Minnesota.
- Robert Oenning – Enhanced 9-1-1 Program Administrator for the State of Washington.
- Jose Salazar - Training Officer and EMS Battalion Chief for the Loudoun County (VA) Fire and Rescue Department.
- Matthew Tatum - EMS Coordinator and Emergency Manager for Henry County, Virginia.
- Patricia Kunz Howard, PhD - Operations Manager of Emergency and Trauma Services at the University of Kentucky Hospital and EMS Training Coordinator for the Lexington, Kentucky Division of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.
- John Sacra, MD – Emergency Physician and Medical Director for the Medical Control Board serving Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

- Ritu Sahni, MD, MPH - Medical Director for the Lake Oswego Fire Department and for the regional OHSU Emergency Communications Center and Oregon State EMS Medical Director.
- Joseph Wright, MD, MPH – Pediatric Emergency Physician at the Children’s National Medical Center in the District of Columbia and Professor of Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine and Prevention & Community Health at the George Washington University Schools of Medicine and Public Health.
- Baxter Larmon, PhD, MICP – Professor of Emergency Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and the founding Director of the UCLA Center for Prehospital Care.
- Dia Gainor, MPA – Idaho’s State Emergency Medical Services Director.
- Kevin Staley, MPA – Director of Medical Services for the Mecklenberg EMS Agency in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Charles Abbott – Chief of the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety and Western Region representative on the Executive Board of the Governors Highway Safety Association.
- Joseph Heck, DO – Practicing emergency physician and an EMS Medical Director for Clark County (NV) and Senator in the Nevada State Senate where he serves as vice-chair of the Transportation and Homeland Security Committee.
- Jeffrey P. Salomone, MD, FACS – Associate Professor of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine and Deputy Chief of Surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Linda K. Squirrel – EMS Special Projects Coordinator for the Cherokee Nation and the Founding President of the National Native American EMS Association and currently its Treasurer.
- Kenneth R. Knipper – Represents Kentucky’s volunteer fire and EMS personnel on the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and has chaired their EMS Committee since 1995.
- Jeffrey T. Lindsey, PhD – Fire Chief of Estero (Florida) Fire Rescue and serves as adjunct faculty in the Bachelor of EMS program at St. Petersburg College.
- Kurt M. Krumperman, MS, – Senior Vice President of Federal Affairs and Strategic Initiatives for Rural/Metro Corporation – a large national ambulance service provider.
- Daniel E. Meisels, MPA – Manager of the EMS Program Planning and Special Projects at New York-Presbyterian Emergency Medical Services in New York City.
- Kyle R. Gorman, MBA, EMT-P - Executive Officer of the Clackamas County (Oregon) Fire District #1.
- Gary L. Wingrove – Government Relations and Strategic Affairs at Gold Cross Mayo Clinic Medical Transportation, Minnesota.
- Chris D. Tilden, PhD - Director of the Office of Local and Rural Health in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
- Richard A. Serino – Chief of the Boston (MA) EMS Department.
- J. Thomas Willis – Full time fire fighter/paramedic, providing both fire suppression and EMS response.

NASEMSO congratulates all appointees but especially Idaho State EMS Director, long time NASEMSO member and past president, Dia Gainor! More information on NHTSA’s Office of EMS is available at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.2a0771e91315babbbf30811060008a0c/>.

2. EMS-C Program to Release Grant Guidance; 2008 Grantee Meeting Dates Announced

The EMSC Program anticipates releasing funding opportunities for new Targeted Issues Grants and the Network Development Demonstration Project (NDDP) on or about January 16th. Both applications will be due 60 days from the date of issue. Additional information will be forwarded to state EMS directors when received. They can also be searched by CFDA number 93.127 on www.grants.gov. Additional information is available at www.nasemso.org.

In addition, the Annual EMSC Grantee Meeting will be held June 25-27, 2008, in Bethesda, MD. The meeting will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on June 25 and 26, and from 7:30 a.m. to noon on June 27. Additional information about the hotel and the registration process will be forthcoming.

3. “Stay at Home Toolkit for Influenza” Available from Montgomery County Health Dept

As healthcare facilities become overwhelmed during pandemic influenza, many of the sick may have to receive care elsewhere, including at home. The "Stay at Home Toolkit for Influenza," developed by health officials in Maryland's Montgomery County, offers the public practical guidelines on how to nurse ill household members and is available for download at

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/HHS/phs/communicabledisease/Immunization/panflu/PDFs/Stay-At-Home_Toolkit.pdf. The resource can be used as a model for EMS agencies wishing to collaborate with local health departments develop and distribute similar resources at a local level.

4. Deadline Announced for ASTHO-NACCHO Joint Conference Session Proposals

The ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 Joint Committee is now accepting proposals for the upcoming ASTHO-NACCHO Joint Conference set for September 9-12 in Sacramento, California. Planners feel this will be the year's largest gathering of state and local public health officials in the United States. All proposals must be submitted online by 5:00 PM ET January 22, 2008 and address the conference theme, Becoming the Healthiest Nation in a Healthier World. Submission guidelines and information are posted at http://www.astho.org/pubs/callforproposals_v4.pdf. For questions or more information, please contact e-mail asthonacchospeakers@conferencemanagers.com or call (703) 964-1240.

5. NCOEMS Receives \$1.6 Million to Fund Statewide PI Activities

The Duke Endowment has awarded a \$1.6 million grant to the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services (NCOEMS) to fund statewide performance improvement initiatives. The grant will support projects aimed at accelerating EMS system response times and will provide direct assistance to 26 North Carolina counties. Organizations applying for grants utilized information from the database to identify areas where their county's EMS speed and quality could be improved with adequate funding. Grant dollars will be used to implement and enhance computerized emergency medical dispatch programs and to standardize policies and procedures regarding incident response. For additional information, visit www.NCEMS.org.

6. NASEMSO Representatives Appointed to Advocates for EMS and CoAEMSP Boards

NASEMSO announces the appointment of State EMS Director Shawn Rogers (OK) to fill the Association's open seat on the AEMS Board of Directors. See www.advocatesforems.org for more information.

Donna Tidwell, Tennessee's Director of EMS Personnel and Education, has also been appointed to represent NASEMSO on the Committee for Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions. See www.coaemsp.org for more information.

7. Medtronic Foundation Announces 2008 HeartRescue Funding Available

The Medtronic Foundation's HeartRescue 2008 program will focus its grants on school-based CPR/AED initiatives to make an even greater impact on sudden cardiac arrest survival and increase the number of bystanders trained in CPR and AED use. HeartRescue funding is available to schools, non-profit organizations and government agencies to support comprehensive school-based SCA education and emergency response plans Applications are due February 1, 2008. More information is available at http://www.medtronic.com/foundation/programs_hr.html

8. FDA Approves Rapid Test for 12 Different Respiratory Viral Infections

The FDA has approved a nucleic acid test that simultaneously checks for 12 different respiratory viruses. The test, conducted on throat secretions, is called the xTAG Respiratory Viral Panel and is made by Luminex Molecular Diagnostics. The FDA said it is the first to differentiate influenza A subtypes H1 and H3. It is also the first test to detect the recently identified virus metapneumovirus. In addition, xTAG can detect influenza B, respiratory syncytial virus subtypes A and B, parainfluenza 1, 2, and 3, rhinovirus,

and adenovirus. Additional info is available at <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01770.html>

9. FDA Clears First Quick Test For Drug-Resistant Staph Infections

The FDA announced it has cleared for marketing the first rapid blood test for the drug-resistant staph bacterium known as MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), which can cause potentially deadly infections. The BD GeneOhm StaphSR Assay uses molecular methods to identify whether a blood sample contains genetic material from the MRSA bacterium or the more common, less dangerous staph bacterium that can still be treated with methicillin. The test will not rule out other complicating conditions or infections. More information is available at <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01768.html>

10. “Blueprint” Document Focuses on Key Public Health Areas

Work continues on the Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) “Blueprint for a Healthier America” document, an outline for the 2009 Administration and Congress regarding what needs to be done to improve governmental public health and make Americans healthier. The major pieces of the Blueprint are: Financing, Accountability, Federal Structure, and Workforce. A more detailed description of the Blueprint and the Project can be found on the TFAH website at <http://healthyamericans.org/healthieramerica/>.

11. CDC Releases Study on Effectiveness on BTF Guidelines

The December issue of the Journal of Trauma: Injury, Infection, and Critical Care features a study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the effectiveness of adopting the Brain Trauma Foundation (BTF) in-hospital guidelines for the treatment of adults with severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). The BTF guidelines for in-hospital care were developed over 10 years ago. Companion guidelines for prehospital care were prepared with the support of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and issued later. Although disseminated widely, these guidelines need far greater implementation. For more information, visit the Brain Trauma Foundation’s website at: www.braintrauma.org and <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/TBI.htm>.

12. NCSL Publishes Report on EMS in Rural America

The National Conference of State Legislatures has published a report on "EMS in Rural America" that summarizes its 2007 conference to inform policymakers about the challenges facing emergency medical service providers in rural America. The report covers challenges to the rural EMS system and strategies for improvement. The report can be downloaded on the NASEMSO web site at <http://www.nasemso.org/documents/EMSinruralamerica-g.pdf>.

13. New Domestic Preparedness Documents or Guides Available

- American Red Cross—“Preparing Your Business For the Unthinkable” (1/8/08)
Available at http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_606_00.html
- Federal Emergency Management Agency—“Basic Preparedness Guide” (1/2/08)
Available at http://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/basic_preparedness.pdf
- Ready.gov—Instructional Videos (1/8/08)
These instructional videos provide valuable information on how to prepare families, pets, older Americans, and Americans with disabilities for an emergency situation.
Available at <http://www.ready.gov/america/about/instructional.html>
- Fire and Emergency Services Preparedness Guide for the Homeland Security Advisory System
http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/emr-isac/cipc_jobaid.shtm

14. E9-1-1 Institute Announces 9-1-1 Honor Awards Categories and Calls for Nominations

The E9-1-1 Institute has announced the categories for the 2008 “9-1-1 Honor Awards Gala” and issued a call for nominations. The Gala will take place on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 in Washington D.C. The deadline to submit nominations is February 1, 2008. Nominations may be submitted through the E9-1-1 Institute website: www.e911institute.org.

15. Advocates for EMS Elects New Officers

Advocates for EMS recently held elections for 2008-2009 Officers. Congratulations to President Bruce Walz, President-Elect Kurt Krumperman, Secretary Ted Delbridge, and Treasurer Joe Grafft. Bob O'Connor will serve as the immediate past president. For additional information on AEMS, visit <http://www.advocatesforems.org>.

16. NASEMSO Provides Comment on Sector Specific Plan

Based on input from its Domestic Preparedness Committee, NASEMSO has provided comment Emergency Services Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources; Sector Specific Plan as input to the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. Questions can be directed to NASEMSO Program Advisor, Leslee Stein-Spencer at lesleess@aol.com.

17. NASEMSO Provides Testimony on Research Priorities at IOM Meeting

Leslee Stein-Spencer, NASEMSO Program Advisor was recently invited to participate in an Emergency Services Panel supporting the IOM Committee on Research Priorities in Emergency Preparedness and Response for Public Health Systems. Committee and meeting information as well as meeting materials and presentations are available on the IOM Web Site at <http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3740/48812.aspx>.

18. AHRQ Releases New Toolkits for Reducing Medical Errors

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released 17 Improving Safety at the Point of Care toolkits developed by AHRQ-funded experts who specialize in patient safety research. The toolkits are designed to help health care institutions and clinicians provide — and consumers receive — safe, quality health care at various points in the health care process: in the hospital, in the emergency department, in the intensive care unit, in the pharmacy, and when being discharged from one setting to another. The 17 toolkits were produced under AHRQ's Partnerships in Implementing Patient Safety grant program. The projects have produced a variety of evidence-based tools, including training materials, medication guides, and checklists, that are easily adapted to other institutions and care settings. The materials are available at <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/pips>.

January is National Blood Donor Month!!

19. Upcoming Events (*denotes event is newly added)

* The National Emergency Management Summit, February 3 - 5, 2008, Renaissance Washington DC Hotel, Washington, DC. The Summit is sponsored by a variety of organizations and publications, including *Harvard Health Policy Review*, *Health Affairs*, the Joint Commission, IAEM, ASHRM and WADEM. For more information, visit www.EmergencyManagementSummit.com.

2008 National Health Policy Conference February 4-5, 2008 Capitol Hilton, Washington, DC. The National Health Policy Conference brings together leading researchers, advocates, and policymakers to provide an overview of the administration and congressional policy agendas for 2008. In addition to discussions on the presidential candidates' health platforms, additional plenary and breakout sessions look at hot topics like ensuring equitable access, fostering better care with better value, and managing system stressors. Early registration closes January 7. Complete info including online registration is available at <http://www.academyhealth.org/nhpc/>.

Linear Regression for EMS & EMSC Data Analysis, February 26-28, 2008, Salt Lake City, UT. The National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC) is hosting the workshop. For more information or to register for this workshop, go to:

http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/workshopDetails.jsp?workshop_id=4.

2008 ENA Leadership Conference, Feb 28-March 2, 2008 Hyatt Regency Waikiki Resort & Spa Honolulu, HI. Additional information is available at <http://www.ena.org>.

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Annual Conference, "We are Making a Difference: Leadership, Innovation and Investment in Maternal and Child Health", March 1-5, 2008, Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria, VA. Information is available at <http://www.amchp.org>.

*6th Annual 9-1-1 Goes to Washington, Crystal City, VA, March 4-5. More information on the event and registration info is available at www.nena.org/911GTW.

*Emergency Services Media Relations Seminar, March 11-14, 2008, Virginia Beach, VA Sponsored by ESTA (Emergency Services Training Associates). For more information call 757-621-9610 or email at esta911@hotmail.com

12th International Conference on Emergency Medicine, April 3-6, 2008, San Francisco, CA. Information is available at <http://meetings.acep.org/2008icem/EducationalPrograms/abstractprogram.htm>.

Joint Commission Resources (JCR) 2008 Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference, April 8-9, 2008, Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria, VA. For more information or to register, contact Leslie LaBelle, RN, MSN, MBA, CPHQ at (630) 792-5435 or emergprep@jcinc.com.

The National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC) is hosting the workshop "How to Analyze EMSC Performance Measure Data" from April 23 to April 25, 2007, in San Diego, CA, and again from May 7 to May 9, 2008, in Orlando, FL. During this interactive workshop, participants will use a dataset based on the EMSC Performance Measure data to practice and learn how to properly conduct, interpret, and analyze their EMSC performance measure data to be entered in the Electronic Handbook (EHB). To register for this workshop or to check out other NEDARC workshops, go to:

<http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>. Note that participants are required to bring a laptop with Microsoft Excel installed prior to arrival. The laptop should have a CD-Rom drive, a power cord, and a mouse for data manipulation.

EMS Week May 18-24, 2008. EMS: Your Life Is Our Mission. Planning Guides are available online at <http://www.acep.org/emsweek> or by contacting Denise Fecher at dfechner@acep.org.

Rural and Frontier EMS and Trauma Summit at the Lake. May 21-23, 2008 Coeur D'Alene Resort - Coeur D'Alene, ID. The Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation and a host of co-sponsors including NASEMSO, are pleased to present the second installment in the Rural and Frontier EMS and Trauma Summit series: the Summit at the Lake Conference to be held May 21 to 23, 2008 at the Coeur D'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (www.cdareort.com). The goal of this conference is to continue the outstanding presentations and discussions that began at the inaugural Summit at the Summit in 2006 at Big Sky, Montana. The conference will provide an opportunity to review recent developments in policy and highlight future opportunities for rural and frontier EMS and trauma systems. Additional information may be found at <http://www.citmt.org/summit.htm>

*Annual EMS-C Grantee Meeting. June 25-27, 2008, Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, MD. Additional information about the hotel and the registration process will be forthcoming.

NASEMSO Mid-year Meeting, June 24-25, 2008, Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, MD. For more information contact Kathy Robinson, NASEMSO Program Advisor at (703) 538-1799, ext 4 or email robinson@nasemso.org.

*Pinnacle 2008. July 28-30, 2008, San Diego, CA. EMS Management Forum sponsored by Fitch and Associates. Additional info is available at www.pinnacle-ems.com

2008 ENA Annual Meeting. September 24-25, 2008, General Assembly. September 25-27, 2008 Scientific Assembly. Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN. Additional info available at www.ena.org.

2008 NASEMSO Annual Meeting, September 28-October 2, 2008, Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma, WA For more information contact Kathy Robinson, NASEMSO Program Advisor at (703) 538-1799, ext 4 or email robinson@nasemso.org.

2008 NAEMT Annual Meeting October 13-17, 2008. Las Vegas, Nevada. Conference web site: <http://www.naemt.org/annualMeetingAndExpo/>.

2008 ACEP Annual Meeting. October 25-26, 2008, Council Meeting. October 27-30, 2008, Scientific Assembly. Chicago IL. See www.acep.org for additional information.

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