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1. NASEMSO Provides Comments to SGA on "Achieving Interoperability for Public Safety Communications"

NASEMSO on Mar. 16, 2007, participated in the Southern Governors' Association (SGA) Task Force review entitled "Achieving Interoperability for Public Safety Communications." In comments to the SGA Task Force, NASEMSO noted that "the implementation of a nationwide public safety broadband network, created through a public/private partnership, controlled by the public safety community, which holds a nationwide license for 30 MHz of spectrum in the upper 700 MHz band and is authorized to deploy this network pursuant to a public-private sector partnership model" is the superior approach between the two alternative methods of achieving functionality cited in the review. NASEMSO further endorsed the addition of the 30 MHz of band in the upper 700 MHz to the 24 MHz already dedicated to public safety in

that band. Questions about the comments should be directed to NASEMSO Program Advisor Kevin McGinnis, MPS, EMT-Paramedic, at k.mcginis@adelphia.net.

2. NASEMSO Provides Separate Section on Web Site for E-mail Surveys

At the request of the NASEMSO Web Site Committee, a new NASEMSO E-Mail Surveys page has been added to the NASEMSO Web site. Results of association e-mail surveys will be posted at <http://www.nasemso.org/NewsAndPublications/News/Surveys.asp>. The newest information to be posted is a report on the medical director salary mini-survey. E-mail survey results should be sent to Web Site Content Manager Karen Thompson at thompson@nasemso.org.

3. NASEMSO Joins FCC Filing on Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band

NASEMSO, as part of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), joined in response to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Ninth Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band. NPSTC noted that deployment of a nationwide public safety broadband network is enormously important for emergency responders at all levels of government: local, state and federal. It will be an essential tool for addressing the expanded domestic defense and emergency response obligations of all public safety agencies. For a copy of the comments filed on Feb. 26, 2007, visit <http://www.npstc.org/fccpositions.jsp>.

4. CMS Proposal Will Affect EDs: Comment Deadline 5:00 p.m., March 19, 2007

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposal, *Cost Limit for Providers Operated by Units of Government and Provisions to Ensure the Integrity of Federal-State Financial Partnership*, may jeopardize the viability of public and other safety net hospitals and dramatically affect their Emergency Departments (EDs). This proposed rule would limit reimbursement for these hospitals to an amount that does not exceed the providers' cost; require providers to receive and retain the full amount of total computable payments for services furnished under the approved State plan; and make conforming changes to provisions governing the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The provisions of this regulation apply to all providers of Medicaid and SCHIP services. Comments on this proposed rule must be made by 5:00 p.m., March 19, 2007. The proposal may be viewed at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07-195.htm>.

5. Director Paulison Speaks on Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Proposal

Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management R. David Paulison testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security on Mar. 9, 2007. He discussed the past, present and future of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and how the FY 2008 proposed budget will give FEMA the tools to build a better, stronger, more nimble organization. Paulison's testimony included discussion about the reforms FEMA already has implemented during the past year in the areas of communications, continuity programs, logistics and financial management that helped reduce waste, fraud and abuse. He noted the stronger response FEMA had during recent tornadoes across the southeast and cited improved coordination with FEMA's partners at the tribal, state and local levels. He also highlighted elements of the announced reorganization scheduled to be implemented on Mar. 31, 2007. Visit http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/2007/paulison030907_testimony.pdf for a copy of Paulison's testimony.

6. ACEP Releases Materials for EMS Week 2007

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the Emergency Medical Service for Children (EMSC) Program have announced that the 34th Annual Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week will be celebrated May 20-26, 2007. Wednesday, May 23, has been designated as EMSC Day. National EMS Week and EMSC Day will feature hundreds of grassroots activities coast-to-coast that will

be planned around this year's theme, "Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service," which exemplifies the excellent services provided every day, under any circumstance by the 750,000 EMS providers who serve their communities. Visit <http://www.acep.org/webportal/Advocacy/ems/week/default.htm> for more information, or to obtain a 2007 EMS Week Planning Kit.

7. Stop Stroke Act Passes in Committee

On Mar. 15, 2007, the House Energy and Commerce Committee passed the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act of 2007 (STOP Stroke Act, H.R. 477). Introduced by Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA) and Charles Pickering (R-MS), the STOP Stroke Act would help advance the fight against stroke, our nation's No. 3 killer and leading cause of disability. The STOP Stroke Act would help educate the public about the need to treat stroke as a medical emergency and establish coordinated statewide systems of care so that all stroke patients have access to the latest and most effective treatments and therapies. Similar legislation is expected to be re-introduced in the Senate this spring. NASEMSO has signed on as a supporter of the act and joined letters organized by the American Heart Association. For more information on the bill, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> and search by bill number.

8. Coalition Releases Proposed Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management

Culminating an 18-month consensus-building process, the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition (NTIMC) on Mar. 13, 2007, released a Proposed National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management. NASEMSO is a member of the coalition. The Proposed Unified Goal is: responder safety; safe, quick clearance; and prompt, reliable, interoperable communications. NTIMC will achieve the three major objective of the NUG by implementing 18 strategies. For more information about NTIMC and the Proposed NUG, visit <http://www.timcoalition.org>.

9. FDA Unveils Its Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Strategic Plan

On Mar. 14, 2007, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a comprehensive strategic plan outlining steps taken and additional actions the agency is taking to protect the health of the public should an influenza pandemic occur. The agency's plan coordinates with, and complements, the President's National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza, the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza, and the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Pandemic Influenza Plan and Implementation Plan. Visit http://www.fda.gov/oc/op/pandemic/strategicplan03_07.html for a copy of the plan. A Fact Sheet is available at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/op/pandemic/factsheet0307.html>.

10. NACo Publishes Disaster and Terrorism Toolkit

The National Association of Counties (NACo), under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, has produced a *Disaster and Terrorism Toolkit* to assist counties in learning about and finding information about disasters and terrorism. The toolkit provides: documents on the background and nature of various forms of terrorism; information that can be reproduced to distribute to the public; guides for planning response to various natural, technological and biological threats to public welfare; a software-based decision-making tool for elected officials dealing with a catastrophic disaster that is about to occur or is happening; and a video that is useful "as-is" or easily adapted for use in your state or county. To learn more, contact Rocky Lopes, NACo homeland security project manager, at rlopes@naco.org.

11. NFPA Releases Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide

The NFPA Emergency Planning Guide for People with Disabilities was developed with input from the disability community to provide general information on this important topic. It provides information on five general categories of disabilities: mobility impairments, visual impairments, hearing impairments, speech impairments, and cognitive impairments. It also outlines four elements of evacuation information that

occupants need: notification, way finding, use of the way, and assistance. Download the guide at <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Forms/EvacuationGuide.pdf>.

12. HHS Launches New Online Toolkit for Medical Responses to Radiation Emergencies

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt on Mar. 9 announced the development of a new downloadable online diagnostic and treatment toolkit designed for health care providers, primarily physicians, who may have to provide medical care during a radiation incident. The new information package includes easy-to-follow procedures for diagnosis and management of radiation contamination and exposure, guidance for use of radiation medical countermeasures, and a variety of other features to facilitate medical responses. Learn more at <http://www.remm.nlm.gov/>.

13. National Governors Association Releases Homeland Security Guide

The National Governors Association (NGA) on Mar. 15 released *A Governor's Guide to Homeland Security* to provide governors an overview of their homeland security roles and responsibilities. The guide contains practical advice for governors on how to organize their states to prepare for and respond to hazards of all kinds effectively. It shares information and guidance on how to approach issues such as mutual aid, information sharing, obtaining assistance from military and protecting critical infrastructure. The content of the guide is based on the experiences of governors who have managed during crises and draws on lessons learned by states. For a copy of the guide, visit <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0703GOVGUIDEHS.PDF>.

14. NHTSA Releases Winter Edition of EMS Update

The Winter 2007 edition of *EMS Update* has been posted on the NHTSA Web site. To access the newsletter, visit <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> and select "Emergency Medical Services Program" from the Quick Links. You'll find *EMS Update* near the top of the page, listed as "NEW." This issue covers: the new National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council; FICEMS; and EMS: the 4th E for Highway Safety, and more.

15. GAO Releases Report on Oversight of the Air Ambulance Industry

On Feb. 21, 2007, the General Accountability Office (GAO) released *Aviation Safety: Improved Data Collection Needed for Effective Oversight of Air Ambulance Industry* (GAO-07-353). Air ambulance transport is widely regarded as improving the chances of survival for trauma victims and other critical patients. However, in recent years, the number of air ambulance accidents has led to increased industry scrutiny by government agencies, the public, the media, and the industry itself. GAO's study addressed (1) recent trends in the air ambulance industry, (2) the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) challenges in providing safety oversight, and (3) FAA's efforts to address the challenges and what is known about the effects of these efforts. To address the issues, GAO analyzed FAA, NTSB, and industry data, interviewed federal and industry officials, and conducted five site visits, among other things. Highlights of the report are available at <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07353high.pdf>. The report is available at <http://www.gao.gov/htext/d07353.html>.

16. Documents Posted on IRCP Web Site of Interest to NASEMSO Members

Four new documents have been posted to the IRCP Web site (<http://www.ircp.info>). On the March conference call registration page, three Australian documents are available. They are: *A Generic Performance Framework for Ambulance Services*; *Ambulance Satisfaction Surveys*; and *The Rural and Regional Paramedic*. On the Curricula page, under United States, an outline of the Community Health Worker curriculum at the University of Minnesota-Mankato has been posted.

17. AHRQ's New Disaster Planning Guide Offers Mass Casualty Care Information

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released “Providing Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide.” The report provides community planners with valuable information that will help with efforts to plan for and respond to a mass casualty event. This planning guide examines mass casualty event response and preparedness challenges across a wide range of health care settings and issues recommendations for planners in specific areas. The guide also discusses ethical and legal considerations related to mass casualty event planning in pre-hospital, hospital, acute-care, and alternative-care sites. For a copy of the guide and additional resources on public health preparedness, visit <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/mce>.

18. NHTSA Publishes “Child Restraint Use in 2006”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has published its latest observational survey findings on the use of child restraints in a *Research Note* titled, “Child Restraint Use in 2006-Overall Results.” The survey, a core component of NHTSA’s annual National Occupant Protection Use Survey, analyzes the use of child restraints among children from birth through age 7. This is the only probability-based observational survey of child restraint use in the United States. For a copy of this report, visit <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/RNotes/2007/810737.pdf>.

19. University of Kansas Releases Report on the Impact of Katrina on Persons with Disabilities

The Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas recently has released the report “Assessing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Persons with Disabilities.” The report, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, represents the most recent in-depth effort to understand how people with disabilities prepared for, reacted to, and recovered from the devastating impact of the storm in portions of the Gulf Coast most affected. A copy of the executive summary and full report are available at http://www.rtcil.org/products/NIDRR_FinalKatrinaReport.pdf.

20. UK Publishes New Evacuation and Shelter Guidance

The Evacuation and Shelter Guidance is intended to be used by emergency planners to develop scaleable and flexible plans that enable a coordinated multi-agency response in a crisis. It should be applied in conjunction with the non-statutory *Emergency Response and Recovery and Statutory Emergency Preparedness Guidance*. These documents are available on the one-stop Web site for emergency planning practitioners at <http://www.ukresilience.info>. The guidance is designed to inform on the roles and responsibilities relating to evacuation and shelter, and give more information on key issues related to evacuation and shelter, including those that have proved problematic in past exercises or real-world events. It covers England and Wales only, though the key principles could be widely applicable. For a copy of the guidance, visit http://www.ukresilience.info/upload/assets/www.ukresilience.info/evac_shelter_guidance.pdf.

21. HHS Contracts with AHIMA, EHI and HIMSS to Develop and Disseminate Successful Practices for State Health Information Exchange Organizations

HHS’ Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) announced a contract award to foster collaboration among state leaders in health information exchange (HIE) to identify and share emerging best practices. The one-year, \$800,000 contract is with the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Foundation of Research and Education (FORE). The project will work to identify successful governance models that include defined operations, resources and finances to generate, support and amplify health information exchange. Shared results and recommended guidance are intended to support health information exchange across the country. Delivering guidance to state and local health information exchange efforts will help support the development of a nationwide network of networks to enable health care transformation and lower costs. The new contract builds on the work produced by FORE and includes subcontracts with two additional organizations: eHealth

Initiative (eHI) and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). Information produced from this project is available at <http://www.staterhio.org>. More information on HHS' health information technology initiative is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/healthit>.

22. Comprehensive Manual Targeting CDR Teams Now Available

The National Center for Child Death Review has released a comprehensive manual, titled "A Program Manual for Child Death Review." It includes information and tools needed to establish, manage, and evaluate effective child death review (CDR) teams and team meetings, and is meant to serve as a foundation for local community CDR activity. Each chapter contains information on a specific aspect of the review process. Visit <http://www.childdeathreview.org/Finalversionprotocolmanual.pdf> for a copy of the manual.

23. ASFPM Releases White Paper on Levees

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) published a white paper on *National Flood Policy Challenges – Levees: The Double-Edged Sword*. The association urges those in the rest of the United States not to see New Orleans as an isolated example of levee failures, pointing out that there are more than 30,000 miles of levees in hundreds of communities with millions of people at risk. The white paper discusses the issues and challenges and recommends actions that the United States should undertake so that levees provide the protection that they are designed to provide. For more information, visit http://www.floods.org/PDF/ASFPM_Levee_Policy_Challenges_White_Paper_021907.pdf.

24. NCROI Issues Report on Coping with Disasters for Children

Across the country, natural disaster, man-made crises, or medical events can affect the routine ways child welfare agencies operate and serve children, youth and families. It is especially important for agencies caring for vulnerable populations to do what they can to prepare for these disasters. Fortunately, many of the steps agencies might take to prepare for disasters can also strengthen systems critical to ongoing agency management. *Coping with Disasters: A Framework for Child Welfare Agencies*, has a dual purpose – to help managers think through what they might put in place to cope with disasters, and to highlight how taking these steps can improve systems for serving children and families. A copy of the report is available on the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement (NCROI) Web site at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids/rcpdfs/copingwithdisasters.pdf>.

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

**Association of Air Medical Services Spring Conference, March 21-24, 2007, Arlington, VA. Information is available at <http://www.aams.org/>.

**Society of Trauma Nurses Annual Conference, March 24-25, 2007, Las Vegas, NV. Information is available at http://www.traumanursesoc.org/edu_conf.html.

**National Volunteer Fire Council 2007 Spring Meeting, March 27-31, 2007, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.nvfc.org/calendar.html>.

Second Medical Device Regulatory and Compliance Congress, March 28-30, 2007, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Information is available at <http://www.DeviceCongress.com>.

Fourth HIT Summit, March 28-30, 2007, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC. Sponsored by the eHealth Initiative. Information is available at <http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org>.

Fourteenth National HIPAA Summit, March 28-30, 2007, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.HIPAAsummit.com>.

**2007 Critical Care Transport Medicine Conference, April 2-4, 2007, San Antonio, TX. Information is available at <http://www.flightparamedic.org>.

2007 Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, "Continuing to Build Partnerships," April 10-11, 2007, Tacoma, WA. Information is available at <http://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emergencyprep/>.

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs Annual Meeting, April 13-14, 2007, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL. Information is available at <http://www.caahep.org/content.aspx?ID=26>.

ACEP Advanced Pediatric Emergency Medicine Assembly, April 17-19, 2007, New York, NY. Information is available at <http://www.acep.org/pemassembly>.

**NAEMSP[®] National EMS Medical Direction Overview Course, April 23, 2007, 8:00 am-5:00 pm, in conjunction with the ACEP Spring Congress, San Diego, CA. Information is available at <http://meetings.acep.org/meetings/SpringCongress/SpecialEvents/NAEMSP.htm>.

Global Road Safety Week, April 23-29, 2007. Information is available at <http://www.who.int/roadsafety/en>.

**ACEP Emergency Medicine Spring Congress, April 24-26, 2007, San Diego, CA. Information is available at <http://meetings.acep.org/meetings/SpringCongress>.

"How to Survey Effectively in EMS & EMSC", April 25-27, 2007, Seattle, WA. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>.

**2007 EMS Outcome Measures National Consensus Meeting, April 26-27, 2007, Courtyard by Marriott Country Club, Kansas City, MO. Information is available at <http://emsoutcomes.ncemsi.org/>.

American Trauma Society 2007 Conference, April 27-28, 2007, Arlington, VA. Information is available at http://www.amtrauma.org/conference/annual_conference.html.

**Fire-Rescue Med 2007, April 30-May 2, 2007, Las Vegas, NV. Information is available at <http://iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=6>.

**Inaugural "Emerging Issues in Fire and EMS" Conference, May 2-4, 2007, Presented by the California Fire Chiefs Association, Temecula, CA. Information is available at <http://www.fhfnet.com/cfc>.

The Disease Management Colloquium, May 7-9, 2007, Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA. Information is available at <http://www.DMConferences.com>.

**15th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine "Preparedness: Knowledge, Training and Networks", May 13-16, 2007, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.. Information is available at <http://www.wcdem2007.org>.

EMS Week 2007: "EMS: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Service", May 20-26, 2007. Information is available at <http://www.acep.org/emsweek>.

"California EMS: The Road Ahead," EMS Administrators Association of California Annual Conference, May 29-30, 2007, Newport Beach, CA. Information is available at http://www.emsaac.com/emsaac_documents/EMSAAC%20Conference_2007.pdf.

NASEMSO Mid Year Meeting, June 18-19, 2007, Silver Spring, MD.

EMSC Annual Grantee Meeting, June 19-21, 2007, Silver Spring, MD.

AMA/CDC Second National Congress on Health System Readiness, July 18-20, 2007, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17239.html>.

Scientific Grant Writing," August 29-31, 2007, Chicago, IL. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>.

EMS/EMSC Data Analysis," September 1, 2007, TBD. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>.

3rd International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine and Rural Healthcare Delivery, September 19-21, 2007, Australia. Information is available at <http://ircp.ncemsi.org/>.

**2007 Governors Highway Safety Association Annual Meeting, September 23-26, 2007, Portland Hilton Hotel, Portland, OR. Information is available at <http://www.ghsa.org>.

NASEMSO Annual Meeting, October 28-November 2, 2007, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN. Information is available at <http://www.nasemso.org/Meetings/Annual/>.

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