



**April 30, 2007**

## **Table of Contents**

1. DHS Opens Application Period for \$33.7 Million in CEDAP Grants to First Responders
2. FY 2008 Appropriations Timeline Announced
3. Center for Emergency Preparedness Publishes News Digest
4. Illinois EMSC Releases *Disaster Preparedness Exercises Addressing the Pediatric Population*
5. DHS Will Conduct Public Assistance Pilot Program
6. NPSTC Submits Comments to FTC on the Effects of Communications Towers on Migratory Birds
7. AHRQ's HCUP Has Injury Data Available Online
8. SAMHSA Launches Web Resources to Assist in Post-Virginia Tech Tragedy
9. AAP Releases Resources in Response to Shootings at Virginia Tech
10. Allstate Insurance Company Providing Free *Drive It Right* Kits
11. DHS Releases Comprehensive Regulations for Securing High Risk Chemical Facilities
12. NH EMS Office Destroyed by Fire
13. Foresman Resigns as DHS Under Secretary of Preparedness
14. FEMA Announces Reorganization
15. NASEMSO Offers Complimentary Admission to National Summit on Recruitment & Retention of Paramedics to Member
16. NEMA Issues Call for Nominations for 2007 Lacy E. Suiter Distinguished Service Award
17. Oregon EMS and Trauma System Announces Job Opportunities
18. Nature Coast Emergency Medical Foundation Seeks Executive Director
19. Washington State Has Two Openings in the Office of EMS and Trauma System
20. Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation Issues Call for Nominations for Homeland Security Award
21. CoAEMSP Appoints Dr. George W. Hatch, Jr., as Executive Director
22. NHA Nomination Deadline Extended to May 15
23. American Red Cross Appoints New President and CEO
24. Upcoming Events

### **1. DHS Opens Application Period for \$33.7 Million in CEDAP Grants to First Responders**

On April 17, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that applications will be accepted from Apr. 25 through May 29 for \$33.7 million in equipment and training grants to first responders across the United States. The grants are part of the Fiscal Year 2007 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). Awards are offered in five categories: personal protective equipment; thermal imaging, night vision and video surveillance tools; chemical and biological detection tools; information technology and risk management tools; and interoperable communications equipment. CEDAP equipment awards are integrated with state planning processes for regional response and asset distribution. Each state's administrative agency has the opportunity to review applications submitted by organizations within their state to ensure that equipment requests are consistent with their state homeland security strategy. Prospective applicants may review the program solicitation through the Responder Knowledge Base at <http://www.rkb.mipt.org>.

## **2. FY 2008 Appropriations Timeline Announced**

The Coalition for American Trauma Care (CATC) recently reported that in a recent meeting with the new Clerk of the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee, health groups learned that Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey (D-WI) plans to finish all appropriations bills, including the Labor-HHS-Education bill, by the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess. Groups were assured that health programs, particularly those providing access to health care services, are a top priority for the Chairman. CATC is urging that \$12 million in funding be provided for the HRSA Trauma-EMS Program, as authorized in legislation signed by President Bush on Apr. 20. CATC also urged increased funding for the Children's EMS program, Traumatic Brain Injury programs, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, and the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

## **3. Center for Emergency Preparedness Publishes News Digest**

The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response publishes *The Preparedness Report*, a weekly digest of informational links containing current news clips, press releases and new information from a variety of sources on the subject of emergency preparedness and disaster response. Access the archives at <http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/archives.html>, or subscribe to this report by e-mailing [center@ynhh.org](mailto:center@ynhh.org) with your contact information.

## **4. Illinois EMSC Releases *Disaster Preparedness Exercises Addressing the Pediatric Population***

Inclusion of infants and children in disaster drills and exercises is an essential component in preparedness efforts. The recently released *Disaster Preparedness Exercises Addressing the Pediatric Population* can assist organizations in preparing to treat critically ill or injured pediatric patients during an actual disaster or mass casualty event. Developed by the Illinois EMSC under the direction of the Pediatric Bioterrorism Work Group, Illinois Terrorism Task Force, this 30-page booklet includes several scenarios and tabletop exercise templates as well as checklists, a list of resources, and information about the START and JumpSTART triage systems. For a copy of the booklet, visit <http://www.luhhs.org/depts/emsc/pedexercisec06.pdf>.

## **5. DHS Will Conduct Public Assistance Pilot Program**

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in coordination with state and local governments will conduct a Public Assistance (PA) Pilot Program designed to reduce the federal costs of administering the PA Grant Program, increase flexibility in administering the program, and expedite delivery of much-needed recovery dollars to the program's applicants following disasters. FEMA is developing the PA Pilot Program in response to the 2007 DHS Appropriations Act. The pilot procedures are applicable to debris removal and the repair, restoration and replacement of damaged facilities. Beginning in summer 2007, FEMA will implement the PA Pilot Program nationwide during disaster recovery operations. Participation in the PA Pilot Program is open to state and local governments on a voluntary basis. Learn more at <http://www.fema.gov/government/policy/index.shtm>. Additional documents will be added as the program gets closer to launch.

## **6. NPSTC Submits Comments to FCC on the Effects of Communications Towers on Migratory Birds**

NAEMSO as part of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) submitted comments on Apr. 26, 2007, to the Federal Communications Council (FCC) regarding the effects of communications towers on migratory birds. The issue under consideration by the FCC addresses communications towers in excess of 200 feet and concludes that such infrastructure should project medium intensity white strobe lights for nighttime conspicuity as preferred means over the current red obstruction lighting systems. FCC seeks comment on whether scientific evidence supports this

requirement and how it should be implemented. They also seek other measures that might serve to mitigate the impact of communications towers on migratory birds. NPSTC stated that “the widely divergent positions mask an underlying need to ascertain the financial and logistic effects of mounting white strobe lights, prohibiting guy wire infrastructure and reducing tower heights. All have the potential to impose significant resource demands on licensees and, with regard to lowering tower heights, an alternative that is not reasonable as it will impede public safety communications.” NPSTC took no position on the legal and factual issues surrounding migratory birds and communications towers. For more information, visit <http://www.npstc.org>.

## **7. AHRQ’s HCUP Has Injury Data Available Online**

In collaboration with the Children’s Safety Network’s Economics and Data Analysis Resource Center and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s (AHRQ) Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), the West Virginia University Injury Control Research Center has released state-specific injury data tables. These tables are to help program planners and researchers assess the costs and incidence of injuries and violence and the potential return on investment from prevention. Injury incidence is based upon 2003 data obtained from the State Inpatient Databases. To access the tables, visit <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/icrc/AHRQFORM.asp>.

## **8. SAMHSA Launches Web Resources to Assist in Post-Virginia Tech Tragedy**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is making available several Web-based resources to assist in the aftermath of the tragic shootings at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. *Understanding Mental Illness – After the Virginia Tech Tragedy* ([http://www.samhsa.gov/MentalHealth/understanding\\_MentalIllness.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/MentalHealth/understanding_MentalIllness.aspx)) is a collection of resources and informational materials to build a better public understanding about mental health problems. This includes fact sheets on mental illnesses, including issues of violence; information on SAMHSA’s National Anti-Stigma Campaign targeting young adults; real stories of people in recovery from mental illnesses; training materials to develop mentally healthy schools; and more. *Coping with Traumatic Events* (<http://www.samhsa.gov/trauma/index.aspx>), a series of resources on how to respond to a traumatic event, includes materials for responders/health professionals, students, schools, adults, and families.

## **9. AAP Releases Resources in Response to Shootings at Virginia Tech**

In response to the shootings at Virginia Tech University, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) posted to its Web site a list of resources for parents, teachers, students, schools and pediatricians. The resources address how to cope in the aftermath of this tragedy, as well as such topics as violence prevention, school safety and suicide prevention. The resource list is intended to be both comprehensive and concise. To access the resources, visit <http://www.aap.org/featured/resourcepage.htm>.

## **10. Allstate Insurance Company Providing Free *Drive It Right* Kits**

On Apr. 20, Allstate Insurance Company in cooperation with Discovery Education sent *Drive it Right, Talking to Teens about Safe Driving* to 19,000 high schools across the country. The publication is arriving in schools just in time to incorporate it into National Youth Traffic Safety Month projects. A supporting Web site is available at <http://www.discoveryschool.com/100days>.

## **11. DHS Releases Comprehensive Regulations for Securing High Risk Chemical Facilities**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Apr. 2 released an interim final rule that imposes for the first time comprehensive federal security regulations for high risk chemical facilities. The department sought and reviewed comments from state and local partners, Congress, private industry and the public to develop consistent guidelines using a risk-based approach. The new rule gives the department authority to seek compliance through the imposition of civil penalties, of up to \$25,000 per day, and the

ability to shut down non-compliant facilities. For a copy of the interim final rule, visit [http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/laws/gc\\_1166796969417.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/laws/gc_1166796969417.shtm).

### **12. NH EMS Office Destroyed by Fire**

On Apr. 21, 2007, the New Hampshire EMS North Country Office at 22 Main Street in Berlin, N.H., was destroyed by fire. A little more than a year ago, the EMS Division moved the North Country Office to a newly renovated, store-front property that had improved access for EMS providers seeking their services. The three staff members assigned to the office are Liza Burrill, Dianne Bunnell and Lucie Roy. None were working at the time of the fire. Androscoggin Valley Hospital, also in Berlin, N.H., has donated space to the operation for the next six months and services have resumed for North Country providers.

### **13. Foresman Resigns as DHS Under Secretary of Preparedness**

Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman resigned on Mar. 29 to spend more time with his family. Secretary Michael Chertoff expressed regret, stating, "Through his tireless dedication, George helped sharpen the federal government's focus in the areas of infrastructure protection, including the security of chemical facilities, national information technology and telecommunications systems, and he has been instrumental in leading refinements to our grants processes, approaches to risk management, use of biometrics, and communications interoperability."

### **14. FEMA Announces Reorganization**

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on Apr. 4 a reorganization of its organizational structure as a result of the Post-Katrina Emergency Reform Act of 2006. Major national preparedness components and functions, including the Office of Grants and Training, the U.S. Fire Administration, National Capital Region Coordination, Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness and the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program, transferred to FEMA effective Apr. 1, 2007. For more information, visit <http://www.fema.gov>.

### **15. NASEMSO Offers Complimentary Admission to National Summit on Recruitment & Retention of Paramedics to Member**

NASEMSO has one complimentary admission to the 2007 National Summit on Recruitment & Retention of Paramedics. Members interested in representing NASEMSO should contact Executive Director Beth Armstrong at [armstrong@nasemso.org](mailto:armstrong@nasemso.org). The Performance Institute is holding the summit on Aug. 9-10, 2007, in Arlington, Va. The event will teach fire chiefs, deputy chiefs, human resource directors and recruiters how to increase the number and quality of EMT and paramedic applicants, enhance the diversity of their workforce and develop effective succession planning strategies.

### **16. NEMA Issues Call for Nominations for 2007 Lacy E. Suiter Distinguished Service Award**

In 2006, the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) established an award to recognize individuals that have made cumulative outstanding contributions to some aspect of emergency management preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery at a local, state, regional or national level. These accomplishments over a career are of unusual merit. The first ever recipient of the NEMA Distinguished Service Award was Lacy E. Suiter, recognized posthumously following his death in 2006. The award has since been renamed the Lacy E. Suiter Distinguished Service Award in his honor. More information regarding the award and a nomination form are available at <http://www.nemaweb.org>.

### **17. Oregon EMS and Trauma System Announces Job Opportunities**

The Oregon EMS and Trauma System Section of the Oregon Department of Human Services has announced three job opportunities. The available positions and Internet addresses with details are: State Trauma Coordinator (<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/jobs/Lehs7215.SHTML>); Prehospital Systems

Manager, Principal Executive/Manager (<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/jobs/Lehs7168.shtml>); and Emergency Preparedness EMS/Trauma Strategic Planner (<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/jobs/LEHS7205.shtml>). The Prehospital Systems Manager position is open until further notice. The other two positions close on May 22.

### **18. Nature Coast Emergency Medical Foundation Seeks Executive Director**

Nature Coast Emergency Medical Foundation, inc. is a not-for-profit agency in Citrus County, a semi-rural west coastal county located in central Florida. Applications are being accepted for an executive director. Resumes must be received by May 4, 2007. For more information and to apply online, visit <http://www.jobs.net/Job.asp?jid=J7X4ZB6G6YXDZ51Q7FV>.

### **19. Washington State Has Two Openings in the Office of EMS and Trauma System**

The Washington State Department of Health, Office of EMS and Trauma System is seeking two full-time/permanent positions. One is the Trauma Epidemiologist 3 and the other is a Research Investigator 2, who would support the trauma, prehospital and injury surveillance databases. For more information on the trauma epidemiologist position, visit [http://www.doh.wa.gov/job\\_ann/DOH307.doc](http://www.doh.wa.gov/job_ann/DOH307.doc). Information on the research investigator position is available at [http://www.doh.wa.gov/job\\_ann/DOH315.doc](http://www.doh.wa.gov/job_ann/DOH315.doc).

### **20. Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation Issues Call for Nominations for Homeland Security Award**

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, a Federal government agency, now is accepting nominations for the 2007 \$25,000 Homeland Security Award to be presented by Agusta Westland, a Finmeccanica company, one of the largest helicopter companies in the world. The mission of the award is to promote and encourage "cutting edge" innovation in the vast arena of homeland security, including but not limited to preventing, detecting or responding to threats from biological, radiological, nuclear, chemical and explosive attacks; border and transportation security; cyber security and information sharing; emergency response to natural and man-made disasters; and other. All nominations are accepted online at <http://www.ccolumbusfoundationawards.org>.

### **21. CoAEMSP Appoints Dr. George W. Hatch, Jr., as Executive Director**

The Committee on the Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Services Professions (CoAEMSP) announced the appointment of George W. Hatch, Jr., Ed.D., LP, EMT-P, as executive director of the nation's single accreditation body for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) educational programs. Dr. Hatch will join CoAEMSP on June 1, 2007, and brings with him more than 30 years experience as an EMS provider and professional educator. He will be responsible for the administration of the CoAEMSP process that includes the development of accreditation standards, liaison with the board of directors and their appointing associations, liaison between the CoA and the Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), as well as supporting the 230 accredited EMS educational programs in the United States. For more information, visit <http://www.coaemsp.org>.

### **22. NHA Nomination Deadline Extended to May 15**

The nomination deadline for the 2007 EMSC National Heroes Awards (NHA) has been extended to May 15, 2007. To nominate individuals for their accomplishments in EMSC outreach, education, research and service, email [information@emscnrc.com](mailto:information@emscnrc.com) and request a nomination form. This year's award categories include: EMSC Project Coordinator/Manager of Distinction, EMSC Provider Leadership, EMSC Family Representative Volunteer of the Year, EMSC Advisory Board Member, Outstanding EMSC Research Project, State EMSC Policy Leader of Distinction, and EMSC Lifetime Achievement.

### **23. American Red Cross Appoints New President and CEO**

The American Red Cross Board of Governors has unanimously approved Mark W. Everson, currently serving as Commissioner of Internal Revenue, to become the next president and CEO of the Red Cross, effective May 29, 2007. Mr. Everson brings to the Red Cross an accomplished management record in both the public and private sectors. He has served as the 46<sup>th</sup> Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service since May 5, 2003. In this capacity, he developed and implemented a five-year strategic plan for the \$10 billion, 100,000 person agency, which connected vision with measurable results. Everson earlier served as deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget. For more information, visit [http://www.redcross.org/pressrelease/0,1077,0\\_314\\_6586,00.html](http://www.redcross.org/pressrelease/0,1077,0_314_6586,00.html).

### **24. Upcoming Events (\*denotes event is newly added)**

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>.

15<sup>th</sup> 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>.

National Rural Health Association 2007 Annual Conference, May 16-18, 2007, Anchorage, AK. Information is available at <http://www.nrharural.org/conferences/index.html>.

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

2007 Maryland Emergency Management Association Director's Conference, May 21-25, 2007, Princess Royale Hotel and Conference City, Ocean City, MD. Information is available from Amy LePore at [alepore@ccgov.org](mailto:alepore@ccgov.org).

"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](http://www.emsaac.com/emsaac_documents/EMSAAC%20Conference_2007.pdf).

Western States Trauma Conference, June 10-12, 2007, Park City, UT. Information is available from Jolene Whitney, [jrwhitney@utah.gov](mailto:jrwhitney@utah.gov).

\*\*2007 National Conference on Community Preparedness, June 10-13, 2007, Alexandria, VA. Information is available at <http://www.iaem.com>.

**NASEMSO Mid Year Meeting, June 18-19, 2007, Holiday Inn Arlington, Arlington, VA. Information is available at <http://www.nasemso.org>.**

EMSC Annual Grantee Meeting, June 19-21, 2007, Silver Spring, MD. Information is available at <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/emsc/>.

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>.

IAFF 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial EMS Conference, June 24-27, 2007, Houston, TX. Information is available at <http://www.iaff.org/>.

17<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Disaster Management, "Emergency Management & Business Continuity Working Together," July 8-11, 2007, Toronto, Canada. Information is available at <http://www.wcdm.org>.

AMA-CDC Congress on Health System Readiness, July 18-20, 2007, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17239.htm>.

\*\*33<sup>rd</sup> International Forum on Traffic Records & Highway Safety Systems, July 22-26, 2007, Millennium Hotel, St. Louis, MO. Information is available at <http://www.atsip.org>.

\*\*HHS Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise Stakeholders Workshop, July 31-August 2, 2007, Fairmont Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/ophemc/index.html>.

\*\*2007 National Summit on Recruitment and Retention of Paramedics, August 9-10, 2007, Arlington, VA. Information is available at <http://www.PerformanceWeb.org>.

Dept. of Defense Fire & Emergency Services Training Conference, August 21-24, 2007, Atlanta, GA. Information is available at <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=520>.

Second Annual FDA Regulatory & Compliance Symposium, August 22-24, 2007, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Information is available at <http://www.FDASymposium.com/>.

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

\*\*National Association of EMS Educators 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Symposium & Trade Show, September 11-16, 2007, Hollywood, CA. Information is available at <http://www.naemse.org/symposium>.

AAMS' Air Medical Transport Conference, September 17-19, 2007, Tampa, FL. Information is available at <http://www.aams.org/Content/NavigationMenu/EducationMeetings/AMTC2007/default.htm>.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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>.

EMS/EMSC Data Analysis Workshop, September 26-28, 2007, New Orleans, LA. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>.

Emergency Nurses Association 2007 Conference, September 26-29, 2007, Salt Lake City, UT. Information is available at <http://www.ena.org/conferences/default.asp>.

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

International Association of Emergency Managers 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & EMEX 2007, September 17-19, 2007, The Silver Legacy, Reno, NV. Information is available at <http://www.iaem.com>.

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