

Washington Update June 30, 2004

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1. July 6 Deadline for Comments on the EMS Templates for the Resource Typing Initiative

The National Mutual Aid and Resource Management System is a new initiative undertaken by FEMA within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in support of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Currently FEMA is working to develop a comprehensive, integrated National Mutual Aid and Resource Management System that will allow for an efficient and effective response to all hazards, including terrorist attacks. Resource typing definitions provide emergency managers with necessary information to ensure they request and receive the right resource during an emergency and/or disaster. The initial typing definitions for 60 response resources have been completed. There is a July 6, 2004, deadline to review the EMS templates. To get a copy or to provide comments email Tanya Bathiche at tbathiche@titan.com.

2. Draft of the Scope of Practice for the EMS Education Agenda for the Future is Available

This project represents the next step in implementing the “EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach.” You can review the Scope of Practice document by visiting <http://www.emsscopeofpractice.org>. The purpose of this draft is to serve as a starting point for dialogue with EMS stakeholders. That dialogue represents a true opportunity for EMS personnel and organizations to shape the future of the profession. As you review this draft, you should share your comments, suggestions, and observations in an effort to refine and improve the document. The National EMS Scope of Practice Model will be most successful when it reflects the broadest possible consensus and understanding of the EMS community. The detailed instructions for submitting comments are contained in the draft. NASEMSD will be accepting comments through January 2005. After that time, edits to the document will be considered by a national review team. The final document is due to NHTSA and HRSA by Fall 2005.

3. NEMSIS Meetings Held June 8-10 in Washington D.C.

On June 8-10, 2004, NEMSIS meetings were held in Washington, D.C. There were 23 states represented at the NEMSIS State Data Managers meeting and more than 60 individuals representing 20 EMS software developers at the meeting on June 10. Also, 45 states and territories have signed the Memorandum of Agreement at this time and more are expected to sign soon. During the meetings, tasks for the next three months were outlined. The following tasks are slated to be completed during the next three months: Completion of the NHTSA Version 2 Data Dictionary and Transition Document; Implementation of a Pilot National EMS Database; Definition of NHTSA Version 2 Data Set Compliance; and Creation of a White Paper to promote Data quality and validity. For more information, contact Greg Mears at gdm@med.unc.edu.

4. NIOSH and RAND Report Provides Emergency Scene Safety Recommendations

The RAND Corporation and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) issued a report that calls for better planning, training, coordination and management procedures to protect emergency responders at the scene of terrorist attacks and disasters. The study recommends enhanced preparedness planning to assure that all emergency responders to an event can be protected within the Incident Command System, preventing different departments from wasting valuable time trying to come up with ways to protect workers on a case-by-case basis at each emergency scene. The report is available at <http://www.rand.org/publications/MG/MG170/>.

5. Homeland Security Uses NOAA All-Hazards Network for Alerts and Warnings

NOAA and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate signed an agreement on June 17, 2004, that allows DHS to send critical all-hazards alerts and warnings directly through the NOAA All-Hazards Network. The Network supplements the existing alert and warning resources and the capability serves as an additional delivery mechanism for sending life-saving information nationally, regionally, or locally. In addition DHS's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will continue to manage the Emergency Alert System. For more information, visit <http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2004/s2245.htm>.

6. Medicare Boosts Payments for Ambulance Services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an interim final rule with comment period that will increase Medicare payments to ambulance services by \$840 million between July 2004 and December 31, 2009. The rule, which implements the ambulance provisions contained in Section 414 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA), will benefit both hospital-based providers and freestanding suppliers of ground ambulance services to Medicare beneficiaries. The MMA provisions offer temporary additional funding to ambulance services as they transition to a national fee schedule that went into effect on April 1, 2002. The interim final rule also implements a "super-rural bonus," that expressly benefits the most rural areas for services furnished between July 1, 2004, and December 31, 2009. The interim final rule was published in the July 1 Federal Register and will become effective immediately. Comments will be accepted until August 30, 2004. For more information, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/suppliers/ambulance>.

7. Attorney General Ashcroft Calls for Nominations for Public Safety Officer Award

The Justice Department is accepting nominations through July 30, 2004 for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer. The medal is awarded annually by the President to public safety officers cited by the Attorney General, who have exhibited exceptional courage in the attempt to save or protect human life. Nominations now are being accepted for exceptional acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty accomplished between June 1, 2003, through May 31, 2004. Additional information on the Medal of Valor, including the nomination form and procedures, is located at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/medalofvalor/welcome.html>.

8. NASEMSD President Recovering from Surgery at Home

NASEMSD President Mark King is recovering from emergency surgery. He is expected to return to work in mid-July. During his absence, anything needing the attention of the NASEMSD president is being handled by other NASEMSD officers, coordinated by Elizabeth B. Armstrong (Armstrong@nasemsd.org). Anyone wishing to send a card to Mark should send it to his home address: Route 2, Box 171, Milton, WV 25541.

9. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Forum to be Held in July – NASEMSD Rep Welcome

NASEMSD has received an invitation to attend a Sudden Cardiac Arrest Forum on July 14 in Washington, D.C. The forum will be co-hosted by the National Center for Early Defibrillation (NCED) and the Congressional Heart and Stroke Caucus. It will take place from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in the Hart Senate

Office Building. The purpose of the forum is to educate Members of Congress and their staffs about sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and the ways in which Congress can help reduce the number of SCA deaths each year. If a NASEMSD member would like to represent the association at this event, please contact Mary Newman at NCED at 866-AED-INFO.

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

American Ambulance Associations Summer Healthcare Reimbursement and Risk Management Conference, July 21-24, 2004, Marriott Boston Copley Place Hotel, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://www.the-aaa.org/>.

Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services Summer 2004 Accreditation Seminar, July 24, 2004, Marriott Boston Copley Place Hotel, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://www.caas.org/>.

Ready! The Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference & Exposition, July 28-29, 2004, Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. Information is available at <http://www.readyusainfo.com>.

National Association of EMS Educators 9th Annual Educational Symposium and Trade Show, Sept. 7-12, 2004, Hollywood Renaissance, Los Angeles, Calif. Information is available at <http://www.naemse.org/symposium>.

The 2004 Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Annual Meeting: "Highway Safety – Priority 1.0", Sept. 25-29, 2004, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii. Information is available at <http://www.ghsa.org>.

ASTHO 2004 Annual Meeting: "Communication, Cooperation, Coordination – Building Bridges in Public Health", Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2004, St. Paul, Minn. Information is available at <http://www.astho.org/>.

Drive for Live, 2004 MADD National Conference, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2004, Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, Grapevine, Texas. Information is available at <http://www.madd.org/>.

4th Global Homeland Security Conference & Expo – Protecting the Nation's Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets, Nov. 22-23, 2004, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Information is available at <http://www.protectinfrastructure.com>.

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