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1. NASEMSO Calendar Page Enhanced

New improvements are intended to assist states and other organizations avoid conflicts in meeting and conference planning by making it easier to access the Calendar of Events on the NASEMSO web site. A new "shortcut" URL has been set up for the Calendar page [here](#) or readers can also go to www.nasemso.org/calendar. National associations are currently being invited to submit items for the calendar, including conference information and dates. For questions or to submit information, contact Michelle Savoie at msavoie@asmii.net.

2. SAMHSA Launches New Homelessness Resource Center Web Site

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has launched a new Homelessness Resource Center Web site. The Web site is designed to support individuals working to improve the lives of people affected by homelessness who have mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and histories of trauma by sharing knowledge and experiences. Other features include accessing resources from the library, downloading resources and practical tools, rating and commenting on content, posting helpful information, and learning about upcoming events. Topics, such as how to reach out to the homeless, the transition from homelessness, health care, self care, and housing, are included to promote recovery-oriented and consumer-centered homeless services. For more information, visit: <http://www.homeless.samhsa.gov>

3. HHS and DHS Announce Guidance on Pandemic Vaccination Allocation

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Homeland Security (DHS) recently released guidance on allocating and targeting pandemic influenza vaccine. The guidance provides a planning framework to help state, tribal, local and community leaders ensure that vaccine allocation and use will reduce the impact of a pandemic on public health and minimize disruption to society and the economy. As part of developing the guidance, HHS held day-long public engagement and stakeholder meetings throughout the country and received more than 200 written public comments on the goals and objectives of pandemic vaccination. In all the meetings, stakeholders and the public identified the same four vaccination program objectives as the most important:

- Protect persons critical to the pandemic response and who provide care for persons with pandemic illness
- Protect persons who provide essential community services
- Protect persons who are at high risk of infection because of their occupation and
- Protect children

For further information, please see <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/vaccine/allocationguidance.pdf>.

4. Influenza Vaccination Toolkit Created by HHS

Annually, between 5 percent and 20 percent of the population become ill with influenza and on average more than 200,000 persons are hospitalized and 36,000 people die. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) wants to improve vaccination rates amongst healthcare personnel with the goal of reaching the Healthy People 2010 objective of a 60 percent vaccination rate. They have created an influenza vaccination toolkit that is comprised of links to several websites, a presentation, journal articles, fact sheets and posters to be used for promotion and education about influenza vaccination. For more information, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/programs/initiatives/vacctoolkit/index.html>.

5. FEMA Urban Hazards Conference on Emergency Preparedness for Special Needs Populations

Members of the current cohort of Excellence in Government Fellows have partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the City University of New York to offer a conference on Emergency Preparedness for Special Needs Populations, August 12-13, 2008 in New York City. There is no charge for conference attendance. Attendees must arrange and fund their own travel and accommodations. Advance registration is requested as space is limited. Registration and detailed information is available online at <http://www.trainex.org/offeringlist.cfm?courseid=825&all=yes>.

6. US DOT Next Generation 9-1-1 Initiative Proof of Concept Goes Live

Starting June 16th, three laboratories and five Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) began transmitting data as the Proof of Concept (POC) portion of the US DOT NG9-11 Initiative went live. The three participating laboratories are housed at Booz Allen Hamilton, Texas A&M University and Columbia University. PSAPs were selected from over 50 applicants, using objective criteria developed by the NG9-1-1 team. As part of the POC, the Booz Allen Hamilton lab is conducting a Demonstration Day, and inviting guests, governmental and community leaders and public safety professionals to see the POC. You are invited to attend this demonstration, being conducted on Wednesday, August 13th, at 1:00 p.m., at the Booz Allen Hamilton facility in Herndon, Virginia. Limited space is available, so to attend the POC Demo Day, please RSVP to NG911wg@bah.com.

7. Health Effects of Wildfires Using the BioSense System

During October 21-26, 2007, wildfires consumed hundreds of thousands of acres and forced the evacuation of more than 300,000 persons in San Diego County, California. CDC BioSense compiled a report that describes some of the health effects of the wildfires based on data from six hospitals in San Diego County. Analysis of the data indicated that ED visits for respiratory disease, especially those associated with dyspnea and asthma, increased during a five-day fire period compared with the preceding 20 weekdays. For the six hospitals combined, visits for dyspnea increased from 48.6 to 72.6 per day, and visits with diagnoses of asthma increased from 21.7 to 40.4 per day. To read this report in full, click [here](#).

8. HHS Announces PHEMCE Stakeholders Workshop

The HHS Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) Stakeholders Workshop will address plans to enhance national response capability to public health emergencies and discuss the current state of public health emergency medical countermeasure preparedness on September 24-26, 2008 in Arlington, VA. Forums of interest to state/local public health providers include the use of cutting-edge medical countermeasures at the point of care, potential liability issues for responders, and useful updates on Federal Government initiatives, as well as:

- Answers to end-user questions about the Emergency Use Authorization
- Federal preparation and support for emergency communications
- How to request Federal medical countermeasure assets
- Medical countermeasure preparedness at national, regional, state, and local levels
- Rapid medical countermeasure dispensing and distribution planning
- Response planning for radiological or nuclear events

For agenda and hotel information, and to register for the workshop, please visit <http://www.blsm meetings.net/phec/>. There is no fee to attend, but space is limited.

9. President Signs H.R. 3403 Into Law

On Wednesday, July 23, 2008 the President signed into law H.R. 3403, the "New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008," which requires Voice over Internet Protocol service providers to: provide 911 service and Enhanced 911 service to their subscribers; interconnect with public safety answering points (PSAPs); and provide call location information to PSAP's. HR 3403 was touted as a bill to promote and enhance public safety by facilitating the rapid deployment of IP-enabled 911 and E-911 services, encourage the Nation's transition to a national IP-enabled emergency network, and improve 911 and E-911 access to those with disabilities. Click here to view the bill-- <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.3403>:

10. FCC Announces Public Safety Clearinghouse

The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau has launched a Clearinghouse dedicated to the collection, evaluation and dissemination of public safety communications information. This site contains valuable information for first responders. Topics include Best Practices, Case Studies/ Lessons Learned, Communications Plans, Continuity Plans, Emergency Plans, FAQs, Federal Resources/ Grant Information, Guidelines, Handbooks, Interoperability Plans, and Reference Materials. The PSHSB Clearinghouse can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

11. NASEMSO Withdraws from COMCARE

The NASEMSO Executive Committee recently voted to withdraw as a member of ComCARE, a national non-profit emergency response coalition. The decision was based on differences with the organization's departure from its original mission of enhancing public safety through interoperable communications. NASEMSO has recently learned that a reorganization of ComCARE is currently progressing with its membership and public policy efforts transitioning to an as yet unnamed organization with guidance from eCopernicus, a government affairs consulting firm in Washington, DC.

12. CDC Provides New Shelter Assessment Tool

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed an Environmental Health Shelter Assessment Tool to assist environmental health practitioners in conducting a rapid assessment of shelter conditions during emergencies and disasters. The tool is an assessment form that covers 14 general areas of environmental health, ranging from basic food safety and water quality to pet (companion animal) wellness, and allows for the documentation of immediate needs in shelters. It can be easily modified to meet local needs. For more information, go to <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/shelterassessment/>

13. TFAH Releases Report on Community Based Prevention Programs

A report just released by Trust for America's Health finds that a small strategic investment in disease prevention could result in significant savings in U.S. health care costs. In its report, entitled *Prevention for a Healthier America: Investments in Disease Prevention Yield Significant Savings, Stronger Communities*, TFAH concluded that an investment of \$10 per person per year in proven community-based programs to increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and prevent smoking and other tobacco use could save the

country more than \$16 billion annually within five years. This is a return of \$5.60 for every \$1. To view TFAH's "Prevention for a Healthier America, go to <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/prevention08/> .

14. University of Kentucky Looks for Participants to Study EMS Crew Staffing

The University of Kentucky, Department of Emergency Medicine is conducting a research project to evaluate the effect of EMS crew staffing on scene times, cost of prehospital care and transport, and the rate of work-related injury. The participation in this survey is strictly voluntary and may be discontinued at any time. The information will be kept confidential and not be used for any purposes other than this research project. There will be no compensation for either participants or persons conducting this research. This research project has been reviewed by the University of Kentucky IRB committee. The questionnaire should take less than 20 minutes to complete. The Lead Investigator is Elizabeth Davis, MD, telephone 859-323-5908, email Eajohn8@email.uky.edu. Interested persons should click on the following link to access the survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=lkFk6sbeRpquDYG_2bKx45BA_3d_3d

15. EMS Workforce Draft Now Available for Comment

The EMS Workforce for the 21st Century Project has released its current draft of the *EMS Workforce Agenda for the Future*. The draft will be posted soon for public comment at www.emsworkforce.com, along with instructions for submitting comments. The comment period will be July 24 through Aug. 22, 2008. On Nov. 30, the final draft will be submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The draft document including a summary from the recent stakeholders meeting is currently available on the NASEMSO web site at www.nasemso.org .

16. States Welcome Additional Federal Support to Assist Pan Flu Planning

According to a new GAO Report, states told the Government Accounting Office (GAO) that they would welcome additional guidance from the federal government in a number of areas to help them to better plan and exercise for an influenza pandemic, in areas such as community containment (community-level interventions designed to reduce the transmission of a pandemic virus). To view the report "Influenza Pandemic: Federal Agencies Should Continue to Assist States to Address Gaps in Pandemic Planning GAO-08-539, June 19" go to <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-08-539> For highlights of the report, go to <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d08539high.pdf>.

17. EMS Study Tour to Visit Ambulance Services Across the Western U.S.

An EMS Study Tour will embark on a multi-city tour Oct. 7 – 14, 2008 to foster greater collaboration and learning from each other in the EMS community. The diverse tour of EMS and ambulance services will give participants first-hand experience on how departments are resolving and reacting to today's EMS needs. Participants can go on line at <http://worldemstour.ncemsi.org> and www.emsexpo2008.com to learn more about the tour.

18. FEMA Advisory Council to Reconvene

The next FEMA National Advisory Council meeting will be held in Washington, DC on August 13-14. More information is available in the Federal Register [notice](#).

19. USFA Releases Special Report on After Action Critiques

A new report just released by the USFA intended to assist the fire service, "Special Report: The After Action Critique—Training Through Lessons Learned" includes information on and can be applied to EMS activities. The new report provides information on gathering critical preparedness, response, and recovery information from all emergencies; documenting the lessons learned; and assisting with the continuous evolution of firefighter training. Interested persons can download the report, which is only available online, by clicking [here](#).

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

The 3rd Annual Disaster Planning for Hospitals Conference. August 11-12, 2008, Washington (DC) Marriot. For more information go to <http://www.worldrg.com/showConference.cfm?confCode=hw08075>.

NAEMSE Annual Symposium 2008. September 10-15, 2008. St. Louis, MO. To download the program, go to http://www.naemse.org/symposium/2008_program.pdf .

The Pediatric Disaster Resource and Training Center at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles is hosting the Pediatric Disaster and Emergency Services National Summit, in collaboration with the Los Angeles Emergency Medical Services Agency, with funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The conference will be held in Los Angeles, CA on September 11th and 12th, 2008. For more information go to www.ped-trauma-chla.info.

2008 NASEMSO Annual Meeting, September 21-September 25, 2008, Hotel Murano (formerly Sheraton Hotel), Tacoma, WA For more information contact Kathy Robinson, NASEMSO Program Advisor at (703) 538-1799, ext 4 or email robinson@nasemsso.org.

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 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.

The Emergency Medicine Learning Resource & Center (EMLC) and the Florida EMSC program is presenting the 2008 Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium November 11-12, 2008 in Orlando, Florida. This symposium is designed to create an educational experience that will empower EMS and ED personnel to provide the highest quality emergency care to their pediatric patients. Paramedics, EMT's, Nurses, Physician, Physicians Assistants and other allied health professionals involved in providing pediatric emergency medical care should attend. Please go to: <http://www.emlrc.org/prepeds2008.htm> for more information.

Mark Your Calendar: Rural EMS and Trauma Summit series conference-- Hosted by the Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation. August 25-27, 2009. The Summit at Deer Valley Lodges Park City, UT. For more information, contact Nels Sanddal at nsanddal@citmt.org.

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