

Washington Update August 16, 2004

Table of Contents

1. NASEMSD Providing Input on Universal Task List
2. National Preparedness Month Launches on September 9 – NASEMSD Part of National Coalition
3. Larry Weber, ND EMS Training Coordinator, Passed Away
4. CMS Implements Program to Help Hospitals Recoup Unpaid Emergency Room Costs
5. EMSC Needs Stories for Celebration Publication
6. ASTHO Publishes Leadership Perspectives on Injury Prevention and Control
7. HRSA Issues Monthly Updates on Web Site
8. Annual Congressional CPR Day on Capitol Hill Scheduled for August 24
9. AHRQ Releases Tool that Helps Local Officials Locate Alternate Health Care Sites During Potential Bioterrorism Emergency
10. The Stroke Prehospital Care CD Available
11. HeartCode ACLS Anywhere Available September 3
12. New Homeland Security Web Page Delivers NIMS Guidance
13. EMS Systems & Licensing Section Chief for Wisconsin Resigns
14. Upcoming Events

1. NASEMSD Providing Input on Universal Task List

The Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) is developing a Universal Task List (UTL) to define the homeland security tasks required to prevent, respond to, and recover from major terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies. The UTL includes tasks that will be performed at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. NASEMSD is preparing comments on the draft UTL by August 27, 2004. For more information, contact Steve Hise at stephenhise@cox.net.

2. National Preparedness Month Launches on September 9 – NASEMSD Part of National Coalition

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has joined with a coalition of more than 50 national organizations to engage Americans in emergency preparedness by launching National Preparedness Month on September 9. National Preparedness Month will provide Americans with a variety of opportunities to learn more about the ways they can prepare for an emergency, get an emergency supply kit, establish a family communications plan, and become better aware of threats that may impact communities. Details about the official launch of National Preparedness Month and local events will be distributed in late August. For further information, contact Kristin Gossel or Lara Shane at (202) 282-8010.

3. Larry Weber, ND EMS Training Coordinator, Passed Away

Larry Weber, past chairman and currently parliamentarian of the National Council of State EMS Training Coordinators, passed away in early August. Larry was truly one of the pioneers of modern EMS in the state of North Dakota. He was one of the original seven paramedics in the state. Larry has educated many providers, served on numerous committees, boards, and societies, and drafted EMS law. His funeral was on Monday, August 9, 2004, with an EMS Honor Guard. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

4. CMS Implements Program to Help Hospitals Recoup Unpaid Emergency Room Costs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new program to provide \$1 billion over four years to help hospitals and other providers recoup the costs of providing needed medical services to uninsured patients who cannot pay their hospital bills. Each state will receive funding based on the formula established in the law. Payments will be made directly to hospitals, physicians, and

ambulance providers, including Indian Health Service facilities, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations, as long as they did not receive payment from any other source such as the person treated or an insurance company. CMS posted a policy paper that outlines the proposed implementation approach. The proposed policy paper is at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/mma1011.pdf>.

5. EMSC Needs Stories for Celebration Publication

The EMSC NRC is collecting EMSC stories for potential use in the 20 year celebration publication, video, and during 2005 EMS Week. Of particular interest are stories about children who have benefited from EMSC state and local activities, providers who have a good story about how EMSC has helped them better care for children, and state successes. If you have ideas for stories, please email Karen Belli at kbelli@emscnrc.com.

6. ASTHO Publishes Leadership Perspectives on Injury Prevention and Control

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has published an issue brief on injury prevention and control. The issue brief is based on a survey of deputy directors of state health agencies. To view the brief, visit <http://www.astho.org/pubs/LEADERSHIPERSPECTIVESONINJURY061404.pdf>.

7. HRSA Issues Monthly Updates on Web Site

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has been sending periodic "Items of Interest" to stakeholders. These updates are now available on the Trauma-EMS Systems Program Web site. You can access them at <http://www.hrsa.gov/trauma> and click on "Monthly Update." The updates include data, statistics, report, prevention resources, and other resources.

8. Annual Congressional CPR Day on Capitol Hill Scheduled for August 24

The American Heart Association and the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) is hosting the Annual Congressional CPR Day on Capitol Hill on August 24, 2004. There will be two training sessions. Last year, approximately 100 congressional staff registered for the event. As in the past, CFSI is seeking sponsors for the event. The contributions pay for the mannequins, transportation of materials, lunches for instructors, t-shirts for participants, and other costs associated with the event. For more information, contact Sean Carroll at scarroll@cfsi.org.

9. AHRQ Releases Tool that Helps Local Officials Locate Alternate Health Care Sites during a Potential Bioterrorism Emergency

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released a tool to help state and local officials quickly locate alternate health care sites if hospitals are overwhelmed by patients due to a bioterrorism attack or other public health emergency. Available as an Excel spreadsheet, the new tool was produced by Denver Health, one of AHRQ's Integrated Delivery System Research Network (IDSARN) partners. The alternate care site selection tool is included in a new report, *Rocky Mountain Regional Care Model for Bioterrorist Events*. Copies of the report are available at <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/altsites.htm>.

10. The Stroke Prehospital Care CD Available

The Stroke Prehospital Care CD allows the EMS provider to enhance their ability to recognize the different types of stroke, to view it and learn at their convenience. Those that complete the CD course receive 1.25 CEH or CECBEMS credits. This program is available from the American Heart Association. To learn more, visit <http://www.americanheart.org/cpr>.

11. HeartCode ACLS Anywhere Available September 3

"HeartCode ACLS Anywhere: Prehospital (70-2446)" will be available from the American Heart Association's distributors on September 3, 2004. This CD-based learning activity uses microsimulation technology to present realistic, prehospital-based scenarios and is approved by the AHA Accreditation

Department for Continuing Education credits. For product ordering information, contact one of the distributors: Channing Bete Company (<http://www.channing-bete.com>), Laerdal Medical Corporation (<http://www.laerdal.com>), or WorldPoint ECC, Inc. (<http://www.worldpoint-ecc.com>).

12. New Homeland Security Web Page Delivers NIMS Guidance

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced the creation of a centralized Web portal to serve as a resource for emergency managers and first responders related to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The NIMS Web page, <http://www.fema.gov/nims>, is designed to offer a complete listing of NIMS requirements, tools and resources, and general information on Homeland Security's new incident management and maintenance tool.

13. EMS Systems & Licensing Section Chief for Wisconsin Resigns

Nan Turner, RN, MSN, EMT-P, has resigned her position as section chief for Wisconsin's EMS Systems and Licensing Section. She has been a member of NASEMSD's Executive Committee and worked on the Scope of Practice. Until the state fills the position, correspondence should be sent to Meg Taylor at taylome@dhfs.state.wi.us.

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

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>.

Conference on Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities, Sept. 22-24, 2004, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Va. Information is available at <http://www.nod.org>.

**"First Things First: Defining Local Public Health Practice for Safer, Healthier Communities" Public Health Grand Round, a national live satellite broadcast and Web cast, Sept. 24, 2004, 2:00-3:00 p.m. eastern time. Information is available at <http://www.PublicHealthGrandRounds.unc.edu>.

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. This conference is co-located with the Annual Meeting of the Association of Public Health Labs. Information is available at <http://www.astho.org/>.

Drive for Life, 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/>.

CAAS Fall 2004 Accreditation Seminar, Oct. 20, 2004, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Ga. Information is available at <http://www.caas.org>.

Air Medical Transport Conference, Oct. 25-27, 2004, Cincinnati Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. Information is available at <http://www.aams.org/amtc2004.html>.

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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