



Washington Update

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August 15, 2013

In This Issue...

NASEMSO NEWS

1. 2013 NASEMSO Annual Meeting Right Around the Corner!
2. NASEMSO Finalizes EMS Workforce Guidelines Draft
3. Armstrong Reappointed to FEMA National Advisory Council
4. NASEMSO Supports Safety Performance Measures for Non-Motorized Transportation
5. NASEMSO Members Asked to Review Strategies to Increase Survivability in Mass Casualty Shootings
6. Survey Results Posted: State EMS Office Involvement in Domestic Preparedness Efforts
7. NASEMSO Supports Efforts to Save Highway Trust Fund
8. McGinnis Working to Assist Tribal Participation in Nationwide Wireless Broadband Efforts

FOR THE STATES

9. Patient Centered Outcomes Research Focus of New Grant Opportunity from AHRQ
10. OMB Issues 2013 Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement

AIR MEDICAL

11. NTSB Issues Safety Alert on Use of PEDs Before and During Flight

DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

12. CDC Issues Updated Guidance on MERS-CoV
13. APIC Releases Infection Control Guide for Ambulatory Care Centers During Disasters
14. DHS Appropriations Passed in Senate
15. NIOSH Emergency Response Office Director Retires, New Director/Deputy Named
16. NIOSH Seeks Comment on Personal Protective Technology (PPT) Program
17. Upcoming Webinars on Respiratory Protection and Fit Test Panels
18. NIOSH Uses Headforms to Test N95 Fit
19. IOM Crisis Standards of Care: A Toolkit for Indicators and Triggers
20. CDC Seeking Nominations for BSC/OPHPR
21. WHO Provides Clinical Protocols for PTSD, Stress, and Bereavement
22. IOM Addresses IND Response Requirements

- 23. Post-Incident Recovery Considerations of the Health Care Service Delivery Infrastructure
- 24. Senate Hearing on Lessons Learned from Boston Marathon Bombings Posted
- 25. PA Toolkit for Public Health Emergencies that Impact Children
- 26. Wildland Fire Resources Identified
- 27. NASA 'Fire Towers' in Space Watch for Wildfires on the Rise
- 28. CALL FOR NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS) SERVICE ASSESSMENT CONSULTANTS
- 29. FEMA Posts AAR on Hurricane Sandy
- 30. National Preparedness Month Toolkit 2013 Now Available
- 31. NAGC Offers Webinar on Crisis Communications

EMS HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 32. A Day All About N95s!
- 33. TWH Program Aims to Improve Occupational Safety and Health

MEDICAL DIRECTION

- 34. NGC Updates Evidence Based Trauma Guidelines from EAST; ASA Guideline on Difficult Airway Management
- 35. Nova Max Glucose Test Strips: Recall - May Report False, Abnormally High Blood Glucose Result

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE

- 36. Now Available: Archived NHPP Webinar on Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions
- 37. New Studies on Youth Concussions Identify Challenges in Studying the Issue
- 38. New CDC Foundation Concussion Tools Teach Parents about Concussion and Helmet Safety
- 39. NIH Provides Online Course for Alcohol Screening in Youth

TRAUMA

- 40. CDC Updates Trends on Firearm Related Homicides and Suicides

FEDERAL PARTNERS

- 41. HHS and DOT Release Draft White Paper on EMS Innovation Opportunities
- 42. GAO Evaluates FDA Oversight in Drug Compounding
- 43. Domestic and Sexual Violence Screening Toolkit Now Available
- 44. Free Online Violence Prevention Training for Nurses Now Available

INDUSTRY NEWS

- 45. NAEMT Board Revises EMS Code of Ethics
- 46. NFPA Improves Access to Committee Documents and Public Comments

JOBS

- 47. Position Available: Health Program Supervisor (working title: EMS Education and Compliance Supervisor)

UPCOMING EVENTS

STATEWIDE EMS CONFERENCES
 National Conferences and Special Meetings

1. 2013 NASEMSO Annual Meeting Right Around the Corner!

Plans are moving into high gear for the 2013 NASEMSO Annual Meeting in Nashville September 16-20!! The Program Schedule and Council Agendas are now posted on the NASEMSO web site and many quality sessions are planned. It's not too late to register!! Our room block at the Gaylord Opryland is nearly sold out – currently rooms are available on all nights of NASEMSO's meeting week except Thursday and Friday (Sept. 19 and 20). If you plan to attend and have not yet booked hotel accommodations, an **overflow block of rooms** has been secured at the Inn at Opryland, which is located across the street from the Gaylord; complimentary shuttle operates between the two hotels. The NASEMSO rate at the Inn at Opryland is \$109 plus tax and is available **until August 23, 2013 or until the NASEMSO room block is sold out** – call 1-615-889-0800 or book on line: [Book your group rate: National Association of State EMS Officials](#). Unfortunately, for anyone wishing to extend their stay on the back end of NASEMSO's meeting, the Inn at Opryland is sold out for several nights beginning September 20. ***Special request to those who have Gaylord Opryland reservations:*** If you find that you are unable to attend Annual Meeting, **please don't cancel your room**. Instead, we ask that you contact NASEMSO's Meetings & Exhibit Manager Sue Denston (denston@nasems.org; 703-538-3540) who will assume responsibility for your reservation and instruct the hotel to remove your credit card information from their system and refund your room deposit. Sue is compiling a waiting list of persons who are unable to secure a room at the Gaylord. As members turn over Gaylord reservations to Sue, she will contact wait-listed individuals in the order their names were received. [For more information...](#)

2. NASEMSO Finalizes EMS Workforce Guidelines Draft

Wrapping up a two-year project involving national EMS stakeholder organizations, NASEMSO has submitted a final draft of the EMS Workforce Planning and Development Guidelines for State Adoption. NASEMSO proposed to demonstrate at a national level that systematic workforce evaluation and planning is vital for ensuring a robust and capable EMS workforce. This effort will yield state EMS workforce data collection, planning and development guidelines. An invitational National Stakeholder Meeting was held in Washington, DC on July 25, 2013. The draft available includes changes as recommended by the Stakeholder Meeting participants and has been submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for review and approval. More information is available through Dia Gainor, NASEMSO Executive Director, by e-mailing dia@nasems.org. Click here to download the [Draft EMS Workforce Planning and Development Guidelines for State Adoption](#).

3. Armstrong Reappointed to FEMA National Advisory Council

Beth Armstrong, Executive Director for the International Association of Emergency Managers and NASEMSO Executive Vice President has been reappointed to the FEMA National Advisory Council (NAC). The NAC is an advisory committee established to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. Members represent the whole community including public health, tribal government and functional and access needs, and provide recommendations on a variety of issues within emergency management to the FEMA Administrator. FEMA received over 500 applications for these positions. Each applicant was carefully considered through an intensive review process that included a membership recommendation panel of senior government officials. Additional information on the NAC, including a list of current members, can be found at www.fema.gov/national-advisory-council.

4. NASEMSO Supports Safety Performance Measures for Non-Motorized Transportation

The US Department of Transportation is required to set performance measures on safety under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) section 1203(c)(4). A coalition of national organizations committed to the public health has noted that while overall traffic deaths have gone down, the number of bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities has risen for the past two years – both in terms of actual numbers and percentage of overall deaths - from 12 percent of all roadway fatalities in 2008 to nearly 16 percent in 2011. Each year, approximately 700 bicyclists are killed and 52,000 are injured. MAP-21 has nearly doubled the amount of funding available to states for their Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) has joined national organizations in a letter urging Transportation Secretary Foxx to establish safety performance measures for non-motorized transportation. Signatories have noted that without safety goals, there will be little incentive for states to target these funds to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The available HSIP funds provided under MAP-21 will allow states to focus some of their funds on bicycle and pedestrian safety without taking away from their safety efforts aimed at other road users.

5. NASEMSO Members Asked to Review Strategies to Increase Survivability in Mass Casualty Shootings

NASEMSO has an opportunity to review, comment on, and/or endorse the [Hartford Consensus II document](#). On Apr. 2, 2013, representatives from a select group of public safety organizations, including law enforcement, fire, prehospital care, trauma care and the military, convened in Hartford, Connecticut, to develop consensus regarding strategies to increase survivability in mass casualty shootings. A concept document resulted and became known as the Hartford Consensus. The NASEMSO Board of Directors will be reviewing this document at its August or September Board meetings. Members are encouraged to [review the document](#) and forward any comments to the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council via [Mary Hedges](#).

6. Survey Results Posted: State EMS Office Involvement in Domestic Preparedness Efforts

NASEMSO announces "*State EMS Office Involvement in Domestic Preparedness Efforts*" is a report based upon an assessment of the 56 state and territorial EMS agencies, and is intended to ascertain the extent to which state and territorial EMS offices are represented and supported in ongoing multi-agency coordination for readiness and planning. The report includes sections on: (A) the integration of preparedness and response activities; and (B) funding, including the degree of engagement of state and territorial EMS offices with federal grant resources for preparedness and response activities. [For more information...](#)

7. NASEMSO Supports Efforts to Save Highway Trust Fund

According to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), revenues for the federal Highway Trust Fund, which supports about half of the nation’s highway and bridge improvements, have not been increased in 20 years. As a result, the trust fund has teetered on the edge of insolvency for the past five years. Absent action from Congress means the Highway Trust Fund faces another “fiscal cliff” in 14 months that threatens to eliminate federal highway and transit investment in 2015. This funding crash—and the uncertainty leading up to it—jeopardizes highway and traffic safety improvements, state transportation funding, and other programs at the US Department of Transportation and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that are extremely valuable to NASEMSO members. ARTBA has recently unveiled the “Transportation Construction Advocate App,” or “TransCon App” that gives individuals in the public and private-sectors a powerful, new tool to communicate with their elected officials about the importance of transportation investment to the U.S. economy and the need to fix the Highway Trust Fund. The app provides users with key information to convey to congressmen and senators while they are home during the August congressional recess, including “Talking Points” about the 90 percent cut the trust fund faces next year, as well as “Facts & Stats” about the industry’s economic impact in their state. Read

[recent testimony](#) from the Congressional Budget Office on the status of the Highway Trust Fund. Click here [for more information on the app...](#) The House and Senate are in recess until September 9. Contacting your congressional delegation during the recess will help elevate the need to stabilize federal surface transportation investment and set the stage for future action.

8. McGinnis Working to Assist Tribal Participation in Nationwide Wireless Broadband Efforts

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) announces that FirstNet Board Member Kevin McGinnis will head the organization’s stakeholder outreach with tribes. McGinnis is leading FirstNet outreach and education efforts with the sovereign tribes that have a formal government-to-government relationship with the U.S. government, focusing on gathering tribal requirements, priorities and concerns for design of a nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. The network is intended to improve communication among police, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel. FirstNet is working with tribal leaders to assist in identifying public safety priorities, users and infrastructure. FirstNet also will meet with each state individually during the consultation process and has encouraged state governors to include tribal nations in these consultations. McGinnis currently heads North East Mobile Health Services, the largest paramedic service in Maine. He is a nationally recognized advocate for broadband communications within the emergency medical services (EMS) community. He serves as the communications technology representative for five national EMS organizations, including NASEMSO. A member of the Public Safety Alliance, Kevin also is Chair of the SAFECOM Executive Program, the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security advisory committee on communications interoperability in public safety.

9. Patient Centered Outcomes Research Focus of New Grant Opportunity from AHRQ

State governments are eligible to apply for a new grant opportunity from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The purpose of this funding opportunity is to disseminate and implement existing evidence for improving the quality of health care delivery. Applicants are required to demonstrate the ability and commitment to leverage the capacities of existing broad-based networks of providers and other key stakeholders in their dissemination and implementation activities. Letters of intent are due August 26, 2013. For more information on *RFA-HS-14-003 Disseminating Patient Centered Outcomes Research To Improve Healthcare Delivery (R18) Agency for Health Care Research and Quality — Department of Health and Human Services*, click [here](#).

10. OMB Issues 2013 Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently released the [2013 Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement](#). Recipients of federal grants should refer to the supplement to stay in compliance with federal requirements. This year’s supplement includes four new programs and three programs with changed titles. In addition, programs under Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 15.000 are now administered by the Bureau of Indian Education rather than the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the section’s title was changed to “BIA/BIE Cross-Cutting Section.” The supplement also identifies 23 deleted programs, many of which were American Reinvestment and Recovery Act programs that were completed or had reduced funding to the point that they no longer met the single audit threshold. Under the compliance requirements, OMB modified “Procurement and Suspension and Debarment” with updates and suggested audit procedures for testing compliance. Some federal programs or offices may have authorized recipients to use the new \$150,000 simplified acquisition threshold. Although it has not been changed in government-wide financial assistance policy, the formal revision is anticipated by the end of the year under OMB’s grants reform initiative. OMB revised the “Reporting” compliance requirement to address issues related to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act. It also made other various amendments and updates.

11. NTSB Issues Safety Alert on Use of PEDs Before and During Flight

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has issued a safety alert encouraging anyone engaged in flight activities to avoid the nonoperational use of portable electronic devices (PEDs) before and during flight. Citing an air medical crash that killed all occupants in 2011, the NTSB warns that use of PEDs can divert attention from activities necessary for safe operations, both in the air and on the ground. PED-related distraction has played a role, or at least been present, in accidents involving improper fuel management, loss of positional awareness, loss of automation mode awareness, collision with obstacles, and loss of control. [For more information...](#)

12. CDC Issues Updated Guidance on MERS-CoV

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a new advisory via its Health Alert Network, "Notice to Healthcare Providers and Public Health Officials: Updated Guidance for the Evaluation of Severe Respiratory Illness Associated with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)." *To date, no cases have been reported in the United States. The purpose of this health update is 1) to provide updated guidance to healthcare providers and state and local health departments regarding who should be tested for MERS-CoV infection, 2) to make them aware of changes to CDC's "probable case" definition, and 3) to clarify what specimens should be obtained when testing for MERS-CoV.* [For more information...](#)

13. APIC Releases Infection Control Guide for Ambulatory Care Centers During Disasters

When disasters strike, the threat of infection spikes, especially if overwhelmed hospitals have to rely on surgical centers to help handle the influx of patients. A free [downloadable guide](#) from the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) is designed to help ambulatory care centers prepare for disasters and prevent the spread of infection by developing and implementing an emergency management plan. The 112-page guide, *Infection Prevention for Ambulatory Care Centers During Disasters*, includes recommendations on operational expansion, program planning, patient scheduling, triage and surveillance, and occupational health issues.

14. DHS Appropriations Passed in Senate

On July 18, 2013 the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the FY2014 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. The bill provides \$1.502 billion for state and local preparedness grant programs, \$38 million above the pre-sequester FY2013 level. The bill rejects the Administration's proposed consolidation of state and local FEMA grants into a National Preparedness Grant Program. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Health Affairs received \$128 million, including \$88million for the BioWatch program. [For more information...](#)

15. NIOSH Emergency Response Office Director Retires, New Director/Deputy Named

CAPT James Spahr is stepping down as the associate director of the NIOSH Emergency Preparedness and Response Office (EPRO) in preparation for his retirement from the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps in October of 2013 after a distinguished 30-year career. Effective July 15, CDR Lisa Delaney has been appointed NIOSH EPRO associate director. Also on July 15, CAPT Renee Funk assumed the duties of the NIOSH EPRO deputy associate director.

16. NIOSH Seeks Comment on Personal Protective Technology (PPT) Program

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of a document titled “Framework for Setting the NIOSH PPT Program Action Plan for Healthcare Worker Personal Protective Equipment: 2013–2018”, now available for public comment at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments are sought in three specific areas:

1. Proposed use of the 2011 IOM report recommendations as the basis for the 12 overarching recommendations and 36 activities in next revision of the action plan;
2. Proposed use of improving healthcare worker PPE compliance as the overarching goal for prioritization; and
3. Specific actions that NIOSH and the NIOSH PPT program should take to address the proposed recommendations.

Comments must be received by Friday, September 13, 2013. [For more information...](#)

17. Upcoming Webinars on Respiratory Protection and Fit Test Panels

NIOSH will host a webinar on August 20, from 1:00 to 3:00 EDT. This webinar, Variability of Respirator Fit Test Panels—NIOSH Study Results, Part 2, will provide attendees further opportunity to discuss the information presented in Part 1 on July 23. This webinar will include further information concerning implementation of subject panels for NIOSH certification of respirators. Pre-registration is required. Go to <http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/npptl/resources/certpgmspt/meetings/08202013/>

In related news, NIOSH and the University of IOWA’s Heartland Center for Occupational Safety and Health will host a webinar on August 27 on respiratory protection: How to Best Protect from Workplace Exposures. The objectives of this webinar include sharing recent clinical events and related research findings on breaches in respiratory protective compliance as well as suggested strategies to reinforce healthcare workers’ proper use of respiratory protection. The webinar will begin at 11:30 and is open to all who wish to participate. To register, or for more information, go to <https://www.magnetmail.net/events?93104ab26d ce4e45885cb0df5bc78cdda>.

18. NIOSH Uses Headforms to Test N95 Fit

Over three million Americans are required to wear respirators in their workplaces. In order to strive for the highest level of protection, ongoing research is essential for learning more about the factors that affect how respirators fit to the face. As part of this pursuit, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has developed a new robotic manikin headform for respirator fit evaluation research. Use of advanced headforms will greatly expand the opportunities for research into respirator inward leakage, which includes the penetration of particles through the filter itself combined with the leakage around the face seal. This technology has the potential to aid in respirator design and contribute to the advancement of respirator certification and consensus standards. NIOSH is focusing on certified N95 filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs) for the initial fit evaluation research using the advanced headform. NIOSH-approved N95 respirators are commonly used in the healthcare industry to reduce exposure to respiratory pathogens such as influenza and Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The robotic advanced headform performs head movements, as well as the lip and jaw movements of speech, in order to simulate a respirator fit test. The dimensions of the robotic advanced headform were derived from a large-scale NIOSH-led study of facial measurements of U.S. respirator wearers. [For more information...](#)

19. IOM Crisis Standards of Care: A Toolkit for Indicators and Triggers

Disasters and public health emergencies can stress health care systems to the breaking point and disrupt delivery of vital medical services. During such crises, hospitals and long-term care facilities may be without power; trained

staff, ambulances, medical supplies, and beds could be in short supply; and alternate care facilities may need to be used. Planning for these situations is necessary to provide the best possible health care during a crisis. The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) reports on crisis standards of care contain key concepts, guidance, and practical resources to help actors across the emergency response system develop plans for crisis standards of care and response to a catastrophic disaster. The resources in report may be used by federal, state, and local governments; public health agencies; emergency medical services; emergency management and public safety agencies; hospitals; and out-of-hospital health care organizations and agencies. This report examines indicators and triggers that guide the implementation of crisis standards of care and provides a discussion toolkit to help stakeholders establish indicators and triggers for their own communities. [For more information...](#)

20. CDC Seeking Nominations for BSC/OPHPR

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is soliciting nominations for possible membership on the Board of Scientific Counselors, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (BSC, OPHPR). CDC provides technical assistance and resources to state and local public health agencies to support their efforts to build prepared and resilient communities. CDC provides subject-matter expertise and assistance for domestic and global surveillance, laboratory, occupational health and epidemiology functions, and health threats including anthrax, smallpox, influenza and other infectious diseases, food-borne illness, and radiation, among others. OPHPR leads the agency's preparedness and response activities by providing strategic direction, support, and coordination for activities across CDC as well as with local, state, tribal, national, territorial, and international public health partners. The deadline for nominations is November 15, 2013. [For more information...](#)

21. WHO Provides Clinical Protocols for PTSD, Stress, and Bereavement

The World Health Organization (WHO) is releasing new clinical protocols and guidelines to health-care workers for treating the mental health consequences of trauma and loss. WHO's "Mental Health Global Action Program (mhGAP)" was developed in 2008 to scale-up care for mental, neurological and substance use disorders with simple treatment protocols that can be offered by primary health-care doctors and nurses. Now, WHO is extending this program by including care for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), acute stress and bereavement within its global program. Using the new protocol, which is co-published with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), primary health-care workers can offer basic psychosocial support to refugees as well as people exposed to trauma or loss in other situations. Types of support offered can include psychological first aid, stress management and helping affected people to identify and strengthen positive coping methods and social supports. This new mhGAP module on Conditions Specifically Related to Stress by WHO and UNHCR contains assessment and management advice related to acute stress, post-traumatic stress and grief in non-specialized health settings. [For more information...](#)

22. IOM Addresses IND Response Requirements

Earlier this year, in partnership with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events hosted a workshop that focused on key response requirements faced by local and regional public health and health care systems in response to an improvised nuclear device (IND) detonation. Topics discussed at the workshop included understanding the differences between types of radiation incidents and the implications of an IND attack on outlying communities as well as the roles of regional health care coalitions in coordination of health care response. A new document -- *Nationwide Response Issues After an Improvised Nuclear Device Attack: Medical and Public Health Considerations for Neighboring Jurisdictions - Workshop Summary* is now available from the IOM. [For more information...](#)

23. Post-Incident Recovery Considerations of the Health Care Service Delivery Infrastructure

The IOM Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events sponsored a town hall session at the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit, held February 21-24 in Anaheim, CA. The session focused on sustaining health care delivery beyond the initial response to a disaster and facilitating the full long-term recovery of the local health care delivery systems. While the local communities impacted by a disaster are the first responders and the drivers of long-term recovery, this session also discussed the important supportive roles played by the federal government, the private sector, NGOs, and state officials. A [newly released document](#) summarizes the session.

24. Senate Hearing on Lessons Learned from Boston Marathon Bombings Posted

The proceedings and related testimony of a recent hearing by the US Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs-- *Lessons Learned from the Boston Marathon Bombings: Preparing for and Responding to the Attack* are now available for viewing [here](#). Witnesses included:

- Richard Serino, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Kurt Schwartz, Undersecretary for Homeland Security and Emergency Management of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Edward Davis, Commissioner of the Boston Police Department and
- Arthur Kellermann, RAND Corporation.

FEMA Deputy Administrator Serino noted that Boston was well-prepared for the attack because of the federal investment in preparedness and response. He noted "It was years of planning, years of training, years of purchasing the right equipment for the right people at the right time, and it saved lives." RAND's Kellerman said that Boston should not be viewed as a test case for domestic terrorism response because Boston is unique in having seven trauma centers and that level of resource cannot be replicated around the country.

25. PA Toolkit for Public Health Emergencies that Impact Children

The Pennsylvania Department of Health in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Drexel University School of Public Health has developed the *Communications Toolkit for Public Health Emergencies that Impact Children: Resources for Pediatric Practices, Schools, and Childcare Programs*. This toolkit includes communication checklists on disaster medicine and public health topics related to children's health issues for pediatric practices, schools, and child care settings. Also included are templates and guidelines for developing fact sheets, phone scripts, text messages, and social media messages. [For more information...](#)

26. Wildland Fire Resources Identified

Many, many thanks to the University of Utah Burn Center for sharing a new resource document: *Wildland Firefighter: Burn Injury Guidelines for Care* now available on the [NASEMSO web site](#). In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NIOSH offers the following related information:

[Rhabdomyolysis: What Wildland Fire Fighters Need To Know](#) Wildland firefighters are at increased risk for rhabdomyolysis. This document defines rhabdomyolysis, identifies the sign and symptoms and what to do if a fire fighter has symptoms.

[Preventing Heat-related Illness or Death of Outdoor Workers](#) The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends that employers have a plan in place to prevent heat-related illness. The plan should include hydration (drinking plenty of water), acclimatization (getting used to weather conditions), and schedules

that alternate work with rest. Employers should also train workers about the hazards of working in hot environments.

[Worker Safety During Fire Cleanup](#) CDC Fact Sheet details types of hazards that workers may face during fire clean up efforts, including electrical hazards, carbon monoxide poisoning, musculoskeletal hazards, heat stress, hazardous materials, & confined spaces.

[Preventing Fire Fighter Fatalities Due to Heart Attacks and Other Sudden Cardiovascular Events](#) NIOSH recommends that fire departments and fire fighters follow established medical screening guidelines, adopt risk reduction measures during fire fighting operations, and develop and participate in comprehensive wellness/fitness programs.

[Hazard ID: Fire Fighters Exposed to Electrical Hazards During Wildland Fire Operations](#) NIOSH investigated two separate incidents in 1999 in which fire fighters died or were seriously injured from exposures to electricity while fighting wildland fires.

27. NASA 'Fire Towers' in Space Watch for Wildfires on the Rise

As the western United States enters what is typically the most active time of its fire season, scientists, firefighters and residents are keeping close watch on what's burning – not just this year, but over the long term. As temperatures warm and weather patterns change, scientists from NASA, universities and other government agencies are putting their satellite observation and computer modeling capabilities to work. Circling the globe every 99 minutes, the two MODIS sensors provide four daily observations of active fires that are relayed to forest managers worldwide. The coordinates of active fires detected by MODIS are sent by text message, often within an hour after the satellite overpass, so agencies responsible for land management can assess ongoing fire activity and respond accordingly. According to the USGS, the newest generation of climate models project drier conditions that likely will cause increased fire activity across the United States in coming decades. These changes are likely to come in a number of different forms, including longer fire seasons, larger areas at risk of wildfire, and an increase in the frequency of extreme events—years like 2012 in the western United States. A study published by Morton and colleagues this year suggests that the increase in burned area across the United States may already be underway. [For computer animations and more information on fire monitoring from space...](#)

28. CALL FOR NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS) SERVICE ASSESSMENT CONSULTANTS

The National Weather Service (NWS) is looking for social scientist consultants to join our network of professionals and subject matter experts, and to be consultants to service assessment teams. Assessment teams are comprised of NOAA/NWS experts, but may also include experts from other government agencies or from other weather enterprise entities. The NWS conducts Service Assessments to evaluate its performance after significant hydrometeorological, oceanographic, or geological events resulting in warning or other operational activities. Assessments may be initiated when one or more of the following criteria are met:

- Major economic impact on a large area or population
- Multiple fatalities or numerous serious injuries
- Extensive national public interest or media coverage
- Unusual level of attention to NWS performance

Assessment teams evaluate activities before, during, and after events to determine the usefulness and efficacy of NWS products and services. Finally, the team generates a report, which serves as an evaluative tool used to identify and share best practices in operations and procedures, and to identify and address service deficiencies. The goal of the activity is for the NWS to continuously improve its services to the nation. The NWS will provide

travel expenses including food and lodging while on-site. If you are interested and potentially available, or have questions, please contact Vankita Brown at vankita.brown@noaa.gov.

29. FEMA Posts AAR on Hurricane Sandy

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has recently released an After-Action Report (AAR) on Hurricane Sandy. The AAR reviews all aspects of the Agency’s preparations for, immediate response to, and initial recovery from, the October 2012 storm. The response and recovery from Hurricane Sandy provided a significant test of FEMA’s capabilities and those of its whole community partners. The final AAR document identifies both strengths and areas for improvement and provides recommendations for future response and recovery efforts. [For more information...](#)

30. National Preparedness Month Toolkit 2013 Now Available

The 2013 National Preparedness Month (NPM) Toolkit is here! The 2013 Toolkit includes suggestions for activities and events that state, local, tribal and territorial governments, business, non-governmental organizations, and community organizations can use to promote NPM. This toolkit also includes templates and drafts of newsletter articles, blogs, posters, and other collateral material that you are able to use in various outreach efforts. Join the [National Preparedness Community](#) and download the 2013 National Preparedness Month Toolkit now!

31. NAGC Offers Webinar on Crisis Communications

The National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) offers a look at how collaboration can help government communicators paint a clear picture for their constituents in an upcoming webinar on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 2-3 pm EDT. The webinar will cover:

- Crisis communications strategies
- Collaboration at the departmental, internal and external levels
- Identifying the attributes of an effective crisis communications team
- Understanding how many people and how much time should be allocated per person during a crisis
- Defining the triggers that should mobilize the crisis communications personnel
- Establishing drills that provide opportunities for the team to learn to respond to a crisis in real time
- Developing your plan in 60 minutes or less
- Case studies from Memphis/Shelby County

Registration is \$25 for NAGC Members and 50 for non-members. For more information, email info@nagconline.org.

32. A Day All About N95s!

It’s that time of year again! This September 5 will be the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health’s (NIOSH) second N95 Day! For the best N95 resources, tune in to NIOSH’s social media, including the NIOSH Facebook page, on Twitter @NPPTL, and the NIOSH Science Blog. This year, we are particularly excited to host a webinar on how to emphasize a learning environment to enhance compliance and proper use of N95 respirators. In this webinar NIOSH will be debunking myths regarding respirator use. For more on how to sign up for the webinar, as well information on other N95 Day goodies, visit NIOSH via our social media channels like twitter (<https://twitter.com/npptl>.)

33. TWH Program Aims to Improve Occupational Safety and Health

In June 2011, NIOSH launched the Total Worker Health™ (TWH™) Program as an evolution of the NIOSH Steps to a Healthier US. Workforce and the NIOSH WorkLife Initiatives, TWH™ is defined as a **strategy integrating**

occupational safety and health protection with health promotion to prevent worker injury and illness and to advance worker health and well-being. The TWH™ Program supports the development and adoption of groundbreaking research and best practices of integrative approaches that address health risk from both the work environment (physical and organizational) and individual behavior. NIOSH defines [Total Worker Health™](#) (TWH™) as an organizational strategy that integrates occupational safety and health protection with health promotion to prevent worker injury and illness and to advance health and well-being. Persons interested in encouraging improved EMS practitioner health are strongly encouraged to download CDC's "[Worksite Health ScoreCard](#)"—a tool to assist employers in identifying gaps in health promotion programs, and to prioritize high-impact strategies for health promotion at worksites on a range of health topics such as organizational supports, stress management, depression, and physical activity.

34. NGC Updates Evidence Based Trauma Guidelines from EAST; ASA Guideline on Difficult Airway Management

The National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) is a public resource for evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. NGC is an initiative of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NGC was originally created by AHRQ in partnership with the American Medical Association and the American Association of Health Plans (now America's Health Insurance Plans [AHIP]). The NGC mission is to provide physicians and other health professionals, health care providers, health plans, integrated delivery systems, purchasers, and others an accessible mechanism for obtaining objective, detailed information on clinical practice guidelines and to further their dissemination, implementation, and use. The Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) has updated and/or developed the following evidence-based guidelines:

- [Clinical practice guideline: red blood cell transfusion in adult trauma and critical care.](#)
- [Guidelines for prehospital fluid resuscitation in the injured patient.](#)
- [Screening for blunt cardiac injury: an Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma practice management guideline.](#) *This updates a previously published guideline summary.*
- [Screening for thoracolumbar spinal injuries in blunt trauma: an Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma practice management guideline.](#)

In related news, [Practice guidelines for management of the difficult airway: an updated report by the American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Management of the Difficult Airway](#) has been updated by the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). For these updated Guidelines, a review of studies used in the development of the previous update was combined with new studies published from 2002–2012. The scientific assessment of these Guidelines was based on evidence linkages or statements regarding potential relationships between clinical interventions and outcomes. A related algorithm is available [here](#).

35. Nova Max Glucose Test Strips: Recall - May Report False, Abnormally High Blood Glucose Result

Nova Diabetes Care initiated a voluntary recall of 21 lots of the Nova Max Glucose Test Strips distributed both in the USA and outside the continental USA. Nova Max Plus glucose meter kits that include test strips from the recalled lots are also included in this voluntary recall. The company has recently determined that some of the blood glucose test strips contained within the indicated Nova Max Glucose Test Strip lots and Nova Max Plus glucose meter kits may report a false, abnormally high blood glucose result. A false abnormally high blood glucose result could, under certain conditions, result in an insulin dosing error that could lead to a serious health risk requiring immediate medical attention. EMS Medical Directors are advised that units could be dispatched to patient scenarios where confusion exists regarding a test strip reading. [For more information...](#)

36. Now Available: Archived NHPP Webinar on Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions

The June 30, 2013 Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions [webinar](#) hosted by the National Healthcare Preparedness Programs is now available. The goal of this webinar was to provide information and identify resources that Coalition partners can use to strengthen the pediatric component within each of their Healthcare Preparedness Program's healthcare capabilities. Dr. Elizabeth Edgerton, Branch Chief, EMS for Children and Injury and Violence Prevention was a featured speaker discussing improving the emergency care system for America's children. [For more information...](#)

37. New Studies on Youth Concussions Identify Challenges in Studying the Issue

According to the *Scientific American*, a long overdue and growing body of research on concussions is providing today's young athletes, parents and coaches with more information about identifying and treating head injuries—but not all of that research is reliable. For instance, one new study on youth concussions offers valuable information about recovery time, whereas potentially flawed conclusions in a second new study illustrate one of the biggest challenges in studying youth concussions—missed diagnoses. [For more information...](#)

38. New CDC Foundation Concussion Tools Teach Parents about Concussion and Helmet Safety

The CDC Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have launched a new *"Heads Up"* website and app. New resources provide an important tool for parents and coaches who play a key role in helping to keep kids and teens safe from concussion and other serious brain injuries. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also created two free online courses – one for health care professionals and another for youth and high school sports coaches, parents, athletes – that provide important information on preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion. [For more information...](#)

39. NIH Provides Online Course for Alcohol Screening in Youth

A new online training course will help health care professionals conduct fast, evidence-based alcohol screening and brief intervention with youth. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), part of the National Institutes of Health, produced the course jointly with Medscape, a leading provider of online continuing medical education. The course presents three engaging case scenarios of youth at different levels of risk for alcohol-related harm. The scenarios illustrate a streamlined, 4-step clinical process outlined in Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention for Youth: A Practitioner's Guide. NIAAA produced the guide in 2011 in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which recommends screening all adolescents regarding alcohol use. [For more information...](#)

40. CDC Updates Trends on Firearm Related Homicides and Suicides

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), firearm homicides declined and firearm suicides increased between 2006 and 2010 — continuing longer-term trends — according to an analysis of national data published in MMWR. This includes 3,397 firearm homicides and 1,548 firearm suicides among persons aged 10–19 years; the firearm homicide rate for this age group was slightly above the all-ages rate. During 2009–2010, there were more than 22,000 firearm homicides (3.7 per 100,000 residents) and 38,000 firearm suicides (7.0 per 100,000) across the U.S. Some 85% of victims were male. People aged 10 to 19 years had higher rates of firearm homicide and lower rates of firearm suicide than those of other ages. Most major metropolitan areas had higher firearm homicide rates and lower firearm suicide rates than the national average. Rates varied widely among metropolitan areas, with the highest firearm homicide rate in the New Orleans area (19 per 100,000) and the highest firearm suicide rate in the Las Vegas area (11.4 per 100,000). [For more information...](#)

41. HHS and DOT Release Draft White Paper on EMS Innovation Opportunities

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at HHS have jointly collaborated on the development of a draft white paper that presents one example model of the potential for cost savings if EMS systems adopted protocols and strategies to innovatively triage and treat patients. The draft white paper, "Innovation Opportunities for Emergency Medical Services," can be [downloaded here](#). The draft paper and model concept will be helpful as local, regional, tribal, and state EMS and health system planners prepare frameworks, options and funding strategies for innovative collaboration among health providers. Readers are encouraged to review the white paper and to provide the agencies with comments, suggestions or additional data. Comments on the draft paper can be submitted to nhtsa.ems@dot.gov.

42. GAO Evaluates FDA Oversight in Drug Compounding

Drug compounding is the process by which a pharmacist combines, mixes, or alters ingredients to create a drug tailored to the medical needs of an individual. An outbreak of fungal meningitis in 2012 linked to contaminated compounded drugs has raised concerns about state and federal oversight of drug compounding. GAO was asked to update its 2003 testimony on drug compounding. Specifically, this report addresses (1) the status of FDA's authority to oversee drug compounding, and the gaps, if any, between state and federal authority; (2) how FDA has used its data and authority to oversee drug compounding; and (3) the actions taken or planned by states or national pharmacy organizations to improve oversight of drug compounding. GAO reviewed relevant statutes and guidance; reviewed FDA data; and interviewed officials from FDA, national pharmacy organizations, and four states with varied geography, population, and pharmacy regulations. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released a new letter report addressing these issues. *Drug Compounding: Clear Authority and More Reliable Data Needed to Strengthen FDA Oversight*, GAO-13-702, July 30. A related podcast is also available. [For more information...](#)

43. Domestic and Sexual Violence Screening Toolkit Now Available

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force issued new recommendations to support screening and response to intimate partner violence, also known as domestic violence, and recommended that health plans provide the service in February 2013. The National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence has created a new toolkit that offers health care providers and advocates for victims tools to prepare a clinical practice to address domestic and sexual violence. The toolkit includes screening instruments; sample scripts for providers; patient and provider education resources; and strategies for forging partnerships between health care and domestic and sexual violence programs. Find more [information and access the toolkit](#).

44. Free Online Violence Prevention Training for Nurses Now Available

In 2012, the Healthcare and Social Assistance (HCSA) sector was amongst the largest industry sectors in the U.S. employing an estimated 19.4 million workers (13.5% of the total workforce). On average, over the last decade, U.S. healthcare workers have accounted for two-thirds of the nonfatal workplace violence injuries in all industries involving days away from work. Healthcare workers face the risk of both physical violence and non-physical violence, such as verbal abuse, on the job. These numbers represent only the assaults that resulted in time away from work and not the less severe physical injuries or the psychological trauma that HCSA workers experience from workplace violence. Additionally, these data only capture the reported incidents. The literature suggests that the number of assaults reported by healthcare workers is greatly underreported. NIOSH and its partners recognized the lack of workplace violence prevention training available to nurses and other healthcare workers. To address this need, NIOSH and healthcare stakeholders, including nursing and labor organizations, academic groups,

other government agencies, and Vida Health Communications, Inc. developed a new free on-line course aimed at training nurses in recognizing and preventing workplace violence. The course also encourages nurses to become proactive in working with their employers to prevent violence in the healthcare setting. The multi-media training incorporates text, videos depicting workplace violence incidents, testimonials from real nurses, and module quizzes. Nurses can also receive free continuing education credits for completing the online course. The course is available on the [NIOSH website](#).

45. NAEMT Board Revises EMS Code of Ethics

The NAEMT Board of Directors recently approved several revisions to the professional Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners adopted by the NAEMT in 1978. President Don Lundy appointed a special committee to review and update the code. The proposed revisions were reviewed and approved by the NAEMT Board on June 15, 2013. View the revised Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners [here](#).

46. NFPA Improves Access to Committee Documents and Public Comments

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has added the capability for anyone (public access) to “View Public Inputs” and “View Public Comments” after all public inputs and public comments have been emulated and proofread. Starting with the Annual 2015 cycle (other than NFPA 1730 which has a public input closing date of 9/9/2013), NFPA has posted “View Public Inputs” links on the doc info pages of the Next edition tabs under the category First Drafts. The links will remain visible until roughly around the start of the first draft/second draft meetings. The non-committee member view will be titled “Archived Public Input” whereas a committee member/staff view will be titled “Committee Review Stage”. Interested persons can log into the system and view all of the submitted public inputs on NFPA documents such as NFPA 1917. Users need to sign in or create an account in order to view them.



47. Position Available: Health Program Supervisor (working title: EMS Education and Compliance Supervisor), Department of Health, Public Health Division, Health Readiness and Response, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Open until filled. [Online job listing.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

*****STATEWIDE EMS CONFERENCES*****

43rd Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference. August 15-18, 2013 Cheyenne, Wyoming. [For more information...](#)

Pennsylvania 36th Annual Statewide EMS Conference 1 Curriculum~2 Locations! Lancaster ~ August 15-16, 2013. Altoona ~ September 26-27, 2013. [Click here for more information.](#)

Colorado State EMS Conference November 7-10, 2013 Keystone, CO [For more information...](#)

*****National Conferences and Special Meetings*****

World Trauma Symposium. September 9, 2013 Las Vegas, NV [For more information...](#)

EMS World Expo 2013. September 9-13, 2013 Las Vegas, NV [For more information...](#)

NASEMSO 2013 Annual Meeting September 16-20, 2013 National Association of State EMS Officials Nashville, TN. [For more information...](#)

ENA 2013 Annual Conference September 17-21, 2013 Emergency Nurses Association Nashville, TN [For more information...](#)

ACEP 2013 Scientific Assembly October 14-17, 2013 Seattle, WA. [For more information...](#)

*The Council of Ambulance Authorities. 2013 CAA Conference 'Exploring the Frontiers: Paramedicine of Tomorrow' October 16 -17, 2013. Canberra, Australia. Registration is now available. [For more information...](#)

Air Medical Transport Conference (AMTC 2013) October 21-23, 2013 Virginia Beach, VA [For more information...](#)

IAEM-USA Annual Conference & EMEX 2013 International Association of Emergency Managers October 25-30, 2013 Reno, NV [For more information...](#)

SAVE THE DATE! National Organization for State Offices of Rural Health Annual Meeting. October 28 - 30, 2013. Asheville, NC. Information to follow.

See more EMS Events on NASEMSO's web site at <http://www.nasemso.org/Resources/Calendar/index.asp>

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