

## Washington Update October 30, 2004

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### **1. NASEMSD Resolutions Adopted at the Annual Meeting**

During NASEMSD's Annual Meeting in early October, the membership adopted five resolutions: 1) in recognition of the life and leadership of James O. Page; 2) on the National Registry of EMTs computer adaptive testing system; 3) on critical trauma systems in the face of weapons of mass destruction; 4) on funding of EMS, trauma, and EMSC; and 5) on state EMS Medical Director leadership. These resolutions have been posted on the NASEMSD Web site at <http://www.nasemsd.org>.

### **2. ComCARE Warns That "Safety Divide" Is Being Created in Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1**

The ComCARE Alliance has issued a report, "Wireless E9-1-1: Phase II Progress Report ComCARE Alliance Warns of Safety Divide." According to the report, 9-1-1 centers covering 40 percent of the population now are receiving automatic location information from at least some wireless 9-1-1 callers. But 9-1-1 centers representing more than 40 percent of the population have yet to even request E9-1-1. According to ComCARE, the safety divide is occurring between 9-1-1 centers in large communities, and those representing smaller towns, which have fewer resources to address the issue. More information is available on their Web site at <http://www.comcare.org>.

### **3. South Carolina and Kansas Join the NEMSIS MOU**

South Carolina and Kansas have joined the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), bringing the total to 50 states and territories that have signed the agreement to promote and use the NHTSA Version 2.0 dataset. There are only four states and two territories remaining. The updated MOU is available at <http://www.nemsis.org>.

### **4. NEMSIS Version 2.1 XSD and Comprehensive Data Dictionary Available**

The NEMSIS Version 2.1 XSD and the comprehensive Data Dictionary now are complete and posted at <http://www.nemsis.org>. These documents reflect input associated with the implementation of the NEMSIS XSD and are considered final. Any revision of these documents will be a movement toward Version 3.0 and should not be expected for a few years. The changes reflected in this version did not change the NEMSIS Version 2 dataset, but do reflect changes in the XSD. The Data Dictionary provides more detail on each data element and its application.

### **5. Special Trauma-EMS Systems Program To Be Held November 18**

The Trauma-EMS Systems Program will conduct a Web Cast on the National Standardization of Trauma Care Data Elements Project on Nov. 18, 2004 at 2:00 pm eastern. The speakers will include John

Fildes, MD, and N. Clay Mann, Ph.D. Each audience member requires prior online registration. A technical check of your computer will be conducted automatically during the registration process. Registration, at least one-day prior to the event, is available at <http://www.mchcom.com>.

## **6. NREMT Issues Annual Report**

The National Registry of EMTs has issued its 2004 Annual Report. The report provides highlights of their very successful year. The National Registry now is used by 45 states as part of the initial licensure of EMS providers. Last year NREMT administered 112,598 examinations, a 10 percent increase over the previous year. The one millionth EMS professional was registered and 45,988 EMS professionals re-registered. You can read all the details in the electronic version of the Annual Report available at <http://www.nremt.org>.

## **7. Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative Report Now Available**

On Oct. 25, 2004, Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), announced the release of the Fire Service Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative Report. This initiative, jointly sponsored by the U.S. Fire Administration and the Department of Transportation, will enhance the safety of firefighters while responding and returning from emergencies and while operating on the roadway. In the last 10 years, more than 225 firefighters have been killed in the line of duty from roadway accidents – the second leading cause of death for U.S. firefighters. To read the report, visit <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-272.pdf>.

## **8. DHS Appropriations Bill Signed by President**

On Oct. 18, 2004, President Bush signed the FY 2005 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, which provides \$28.9 billion in net discretionary spending for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This is \$1.8 billion more than the FY 2004 enacted level. Including Project BioShield, mandatory and fee-funded programs, a total of \$40.7 billion will be available to the Department in FY 2005. A fact sheet with more details is available at <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4065>.

## **9. GAO Releases Study on Effective Regional Coordination and Emergency Preparedness**

The Government Accounting Office (GAO) reviewed coordination practices in various metropolitan areas to find regional programs with lessons learned that could be applied in the National Capital Region (NCR) and elsewhere. Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Tampa Bay-St. Petersburg were selected for detailed analysis. These locations are considered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to be high-threat urban areas because of their population and critical infrastructure, among other factors. GAO also analyzed regional coordination in the planning and implementation of transportation and environmental programs because of their history of requiring such collaboration. The complete report and analysis is available at <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-1009>. For highlights, visit <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d041009high.pdf>.

## **10. New Mexico Department of Health Hiring EMS Bureau Chief**

The New Mexico Department of Health, Office of Health Emergency Management, EMS Bureau, is seeking a highly qualified individual to fill the Emergency Medical Systems Bureau Chief position. The position (Admin/Ops A-9111, TOOL #: 665-66-30-15-00-01) will be posted Oct. 25 through Nov. 5, 2004. Job qualifications and application are available on the State Personnel Web site at <http://superspo4.state.nm.us/recruitment/JobSearch.html>.

## **11. Rally for Public Health on November 9**

At 8:30 am on Nov. 9, 2004, hundreds of American Public Health Association (APHA) members will rally for public health. The rally will be held at upper Senate Park (intersection of Delaware Avenue, NE and

C Street, NE, in Washington, D.C.). The park is located two blocks from Union Station. APHA encourages all interested parties to join the rally. For more information, visit <http://www.apha.org/legislative/walkhill/rallymeet/> or contact Lakitia May at [lakitia.mayo@apha.org](mailto:lakitia.mayo@apha.org).

## **12. Sign Up Today for the 2005 JEMS Games**

The JEMS Games provide an opportunity for EMS providers to compete and win awards based on providing quality clinical care. Teams need to have three members with at least one paramedic. EMTs, RNs and military paramedics are eligible to compete as long as they work in a prehospital setting. During the preliminary competition, teams will be judged on their performance of critical prehospital assessment skills and treatment rendered to simulated patients. The final competition will pit finalists against each other as they react to and manage a number of patient assessment, treatment, and transportation challenges. Scoring will be based on skill, speed, and technical accuracy. Team prizes are \$1,000 for gold, \$750 for silver, and \$500 for bronze. For more information or to download an application, visit <http://www.emstodayconference.com> or call (800) 266-5367. The 2005 JEMS Games will be held at EMS Today Conference and Exposition, March 18-22, 2005, in Philadelphia, Pa.

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

Panamerican Trauma Society XVII Congress, Nov. 17-20, 2004, Miami Beach, Fla. Information is available at <http://www.panamtrauma.org/meeting>.

4<sup>th</sup> 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>.

\*\*NAEMSP Annual Meeting, Jan. 13-15, 2005, Registry Resort, Naples, Fla. Information is available at <http://www.naemsp.org>.

2005 Trauma-EMS Systems Program Leadership Meeting, Feb. 2-4, 2005, Key Bridge Marriott, Arlington, Va. Information will be provided closer to the meeting date.

“Delivering Results: Improving Pregnancy & Birth,” 2005 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Annual Conference, Feb. 19-23, 2005, Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at <http://www.amchp.org/conference>.

Homeland Defense Training Conference®: Medical Planning and Operations in Support of Consequence Management: “Managing the Un-thinkable in the Era of Asymmetrical Threats” – Preparing Healthcare Professionals for New Challenges in the Medical Arena, Feb. 24-25, 2005, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at [http://www.marketaccess.org/event\\_consmgmt.asp](http://www.marketaccess.org/event_consmgmt.asp).

\*\*EMS Today Conference and Exposition, March 18-22, 2005, Philadelphia, Pa. Information is available at <http://www.emstodayconference.com>.

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