



December 30, 2006

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1. NASEMSO Launches New Web Site

NASEMSO has launched a new and improved Web site. The new site now offers a "Council" section, which includes mission, vision, scope, news and resources from the four NASEMSO Councils: Data Managers, Medical Directors, Training Coordinators, and Trauma Managers. The home page features NASEMSO news and EMS news and resources. A calendar of EMS industry events is updated regularly. Visit the new site at <http://www.nasemsso.org>.

2. House and Senate Appropriations Committees Intend to Pass Full Year 2007 Continuing Resolutions

On Dec. 11, 2006, Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) and Representative Dave Obey (D-WI) announced that they will lead the Senate and House Appropriations Committees when the new Congress convenes in 2007. They issued a joint statement outlining their plan to complete the unfinished federal funding bills for the current fiscal year. In short, they have decided to simply pass a year long continuing resolution

that will fund the government at the FY2006 levels instead of passing the remaining bills. This means that all programs in the Labor, HHS and Education bill, that had not been passed, will be funded at 2006 levels.

3. Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services Meets for First Time

The Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) met on Dec. 8, 2006, for the first time since it was codified in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, which was signed into law in August 2005. The purpose of FICEMS is to bring the various federal agencies that deal in some fashion with EMS together to ensure coordination of activities. FICEMS member agencies include the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Fire Administration, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Indian Health Service, and the Federal Communications Commission. FICEMS also will eventually include a state EMS director as a voting member. At the meeting it was determined that NHTSA will chair the committee. The members also decided that the committee will meet officially at least twice a year, with staff-level meetings twice a year as well. In the past, FICEMS agencies have met informally as a way to share information. In codifying FICEMS, Congress raised the profile of the committee and identified specific areas for the committee to work.

4. National EMS Advisory Council to Be Formed

The NHTSA Office of Emergency Medical Services on Dec. 18, 2006, announced its plan to form a National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC). NEMSAC will be a nationally recognized council of EMS and 9-1-1 representatives and consumers, who will provide advice and recommendations to NHTSA's EMS program on a broad range of issues. Any interested party may submit a nomination for NEMSAC, provided they comply with nomination procedures, which are described in the *Notice of Establishment* posted in the *Federal Register* (NHTSA-2006-26143, Dec. 18 2006). For a copy of the notice, visit <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> and search by page number (26143).

5. HHS Seeks Comments on Pandemic Vaccines

The Department of Health and Human Services on Dec. 22, 2006, published a request for comment in the *Federal Register* on the prioritization and distribution of pre-pandemic and pandemic vaccines. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. EST, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2007. The notice, and other related information, is available at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/PIV/RFI/>.

6. Congress Approves Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act

In the final hours of the 109th Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives followed earlier action in the Senate by passing the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act. The proposed statute reauthorizes a law passed soon after the tragedy of 9/11. The Act provides for improvements to our public health and medical preparedness and responses during emergencies and disasters.

7. Report Finds U.S. Bioterror, Bird Flu, and Health Disaster Preparedness Inadequate

Trust for America's Health (TFAH) on Dec. 12, 2006, released the fourth annual "Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Disease, Disasters and Bioterrorism," that found that five years after the 9-11 and anthrax tragedies, emergency health preparedness is still inadequate in America. The report contains state-by-state health preparedness scores based on 10 key indicators to assess health emergency preparedness capabilities. All 50 states and the District of Columbia were evaluated. Half of the states scored six or less on the scale of 10 indicators. Kansas and Oklahoma scored the highest with nine out of 10; California, Iowa, Maryland, and New Jersey scored the lowest with four out of 10. The report is available at <http://www.healthyamericans.org>.

8. EMSC National Resource Center Names New Director

Tasmeen Singh, MPH, NREMT-P, has been named as the new director of the EMSC National Resource Center, effective Jan. 1, 2007. Ms. Singh will succeed Jane Ball, RN, DrPH, who will be retiring at the end of December after more than 20 years of service. For the past eight years, Ms. Singh has held several management positions within the EMSC program, including EMSC coordinator of the District of Columbia's first EMSC grant, and most recently was administrative director and research coordinator of Children's National Medical Center's (CNMC) Center for Prehospital Pediatrics. She has been a key national leader within the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network and is a past recipient of the EMSC Product of the Year award for her work on the Special Children's Outreach and Prehospital Education (SCOPE) project.

9. OSHA Is Soliciting Comments on Emergency Response Regulations

Emergency responder health and safety currently is regulated primarily under the following standards: the fire brigade standard (29 CFR 1910.156); the hazardous waste operations and emergency response standard (29 CFR 1910.120); the respiratory protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134); the permit-required confined space standard (29 CFR 1910.146); and the bloodborne pathogens standard (29 CFR 1910.1030). Some of these standards were promulgated decades ago and none were designed as comprehensive emergency response standards. Consequently, they do not address the full range of hazards or concerns currently facing emergency responders. Many do not reflect major changes in performance specifications for protective clothing and equipment. Current OSHA standards also do not reflect all the major developments in safety and health practices that have already been accepted by the emergency response community and incorporated into the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and American National Standards Institute consensus standards. OSHA will be collecting information to evaluate what action the agency should take. Comments should be provided to OSHA by May 2007. For more information, visit <http://www.dol.gov/osharegs/unifiedagenda/2127.htm>.

10. U.S. Marshals Seek Help from EMS Community to Locate Missing Child

The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) along with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) requests assistance from the EMS community in locating a missing child and her abductors. Mary Elizabeth Nunes was abducted from her New Hampshire home in November 2004 by her non-custodial mother, Genevieve Kelly, and her stepfather, Scott David Kelly. Nunes has been diagnosed with a neurological illness that caused her to experience "reoccurring complicated migraine episodes with accompanying weakness in both legs." Due to the serious nature of this illness and the need for immediate specialized medical care and hospitalization, it is highly possible that EMS providers could have encountered the child and her abductors, or may do so in the future. Photos and information on the child and her abductors may be found on the following Web sites:

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PubCaseSearchServlet?act=viewPoster&caseNum=1004242&orgPrefix=NCMC&searchLang=en_US

http://www.usmarshals.gov/district/nh/fugitives/kelley_g.htm

http://www.usmarshals.gov/district/nh/fugitives/kelley_s.htm

<http://usmarshals.gov/district/nh/nunes.htm>

11. McGinnis to Represent NASEMSO on FCC Commercial Mobile Service Alert Advisory Committee

Kevin McGinnis recently was appointed to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Commercial Mobile Service Alert Advisory (WARN) Committee of the new Public Safety and Homeland Security

Bureau. The CMSAAC's mission is to develop recommendations on technical standards and protocols to facilitate the ability of commercial mobile service (CMS) providers to voluntarily transmit emergency alerts to their subscribers. The FCC established the committee pursuant to Section 603 of the Warning, Alert and Response Network (WARN) Act, which was enacted on Oct. 13, 2006. McGinnis will represent NASEMSO, Joint National EMS Leadership Conference and National Public Safety Telecommunications Council on the new committee. For more information, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/cmsaac.html>.

12. NASEMSO Supports NPSTC's Reply Comments Addressing the Petition for Rulemaking Filed by Cyren Call Communications, Inc.

NASEMSO expressed support of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council's (NPSTC) reply comments regarding Cyren Call Communications' proposal to create a public safety wireless broadband network. The plan calls for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a public safety broadband trust to hold the license for a key segment of spectrum in the 700 megahertz (MHz) band, and to structure innovative arrangements for its use, placing public safety needs first but requiring commercial usage secondarily. Learn more at http://www.cyrencall.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=59&Itemid=42.

13. FCC Pilot Program to Enhance Providers' Access to Advanced Telecommunications and Information Services

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has initiated a pilot program to help public and non-profit health care providers build state- and region-wide broadband networks dedicated to the provision of health care services, and connect those networks to Internet2, a dedicated nationwide backbone. The construction of such networks will bring the benefits of innovative telehealth, and particularly, telemedicine services to those areas of the country where the need for those benefits is most acute. The pilot program is designed to encourage health care providers to join together to aggregate their needs and develop a strategy for creating statewide and/or regional networks that will connect numerous health care providers, including rural health care providers, through a dedicated broadband network. For additional information, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/rural/rhcp.html>.

14. NVFC Releases Comprehensive Guide to Retention and Recruitment

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), in partnership with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), has released an in-depth guide on two of the biggest challenges facing the volunteer fire and emergency services – retention and recruitment. *Retention and Recruitment for the Volunteer Emergency Services: challenges and Solutions (Second Edition)* addresses each of the main obstacles departments face regarding retention and recruitment and then outlines proven solutions to overcome the obstacles. Among the challenges identified and addressed in the new guide are time demands, training requirements, increasing call volume, changes in the "nature of the business," changes in sociological conditions, leadership challenges, federal legislation, internal conflict, higher cost of housing, aging communities, and the effects of the decline in volunteers. The resource is available for free download at <http://www.nvfc.org>.

15. Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Application Period Ends January 12

The 2006 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S) application period opened Dec. 4, 2006, and will remain open until 5:00 p.m. EST on Jan. 12, 2007. Administered by the Office of Grants and Training in the Department of Homeland Security, FP&S grants are part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants and support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The main focus of the FP&S grants is to reduce incidences of injuries and deaths among high-risk groups, including firefighters, children and adults over 65. This year, \$27 million is available in competitive awards to fire departments and fire prevention and firefighter safety research organizations through the FP&S grant program. For more information, visit <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fps/>.

16. Fellowships Are Available from AHA

Philips Medical Systems and the American Heart Association (AHA) have joined to create a fund for the purpose of establishing a research fellowship in the field of resuscitation. Philips will make a \$100,000 donation to fund a fellowship from the January 2007 application pool of qualified proposals. AHA and the Emergency Medicine Foundation/Society for Academic Emergency Medicine have joined to support a career development award for an individual interested in embarking on an academic career in emergency medicine research. Interested parties can learn more about these opportunities at <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1200050>.

17. NEMSIS TAC Adds Information to Web Site

The NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center is providing additional information about the software developer testing process on the NEMSIS Web site. The information includes two additional testing sessions for 2007 and relevant deadlines for each session. The information about the testing schedule is available at <http://www.nemsis.org/compliance/complianceTestingSchedule.html>.

18. OASIS EM Technical Committee Seeks Public Comment on EDXL HAVE

The OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee recently approved the Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) Hospital Availability Exchange (HAVE) v1.0 specification as a committee draft. It is available for public review until Jan. 19, 2007. The draft document and additional information are available at <http://www.oasis-open.org/archives/tc-announce/200611/msg00012.html>.

19. New Foundation Created to Focus on Sudden Cardiac Arrest

The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation (SCAF) is a new national nonprofit information clearinghouse focused on reducing death and disability from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). They aim to increase awareness and influence attitudes and behaviors among the public and healthcare professionals so that more lives can be saved. The foundation's focus is on developing a comprehensive Web site on SCA and creating an online SCA community where people personally affected by SCA and others can share information, insights and experiences. The Web site is located at <http://www.sca-aware.org>. The forum is accessible from the Web site.

20. NASEMSO President Provides New Contact Information

NASEMSO President Fergus Laughridge's office has moved. His new contact information is:

Fergus Laughridge, CPM
Program Manager
Emergency Medical Services and Trauma
Nevada State Health Division
4150 Technology Way, Suite 200
Carson City, NV 89706
Phone: 775-687-7590
Fax: 775-687-7595
Email: flaughridge@ems.state.nv.us

21. Dan Williams Resigns as Wisconsin EMS Director

Dan Williams announced his resignation as chief of EMS for the State of Wisconsin. He continues in the position until the end of December. His replacement will be announced in January.

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

NEDARC's Advanced Statistical Analysis for EMS and EMSC Workshop, January 10-12, 2007, Salt Lake City, UT. Information is available at http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/workshopDetails.jsp?workshop_id=9.

NAEMSP Annual Meeting, January 11-13, 2007, Naples Grade Resort & Club, Naples, FL. Information is available at <http://www.naemsp.org/meetings.html>.

**EMS Research Ethics Conference, February 7-8, 2007, Four Points Sheraton, Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the National EMS Research Agenda Team, NHTST, NAEMSP and AHRQ. Information is available at <http://www.naemsp.org>.

Second National Pay for Performance Summit, February 14-16, 2007, Beverly Hilton, Los Angeles, CA. Sponsored by the Integrated Healthcare Association. Information is available at <http://www.PFPSummit.com>.

International Congress of Victims of Terrorism, February 20-21, 2007, Oklahoma City, Okla. Information is available at <http://www.victimcongress.org>.

National Emergency Management Summit, March 4-6, 2007, New Orleans, LA. Sponsored by *Harvard Health Policy Review*, *Health Affairs* and the Louisiana Hospital Association. Information is available at <http://www.EmergencyManagementSummit.com>.

Second Medical Device Regulatory and Compliance Congress, March 28-30, 2007, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Information is available at <http://www.DeviceCongress.com>.

Fourth HIT Summit, March 28-30, 2007, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC. Sponsored by the eHealth Initiative. Information is available at <http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org>.

Fourteenth National HIPAA Summit, March 28-30, 2007, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.HIPAAsummit.com>.

2007 Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, "Continuing to Build Partnerships," April 10-11, 2007, Tacoma, Wash. Information is available at <http://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emergencyprep/>.

The Disease Management Colloquium, May 7-9, 2007, Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA. Information is available at <http://www.DMConferences.com>.

EMS Week 2007: "EMS: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Service", May 20-26, 2007. Information is available at <http://www.acep.org/emsweek>.

NAEMSO Annual Meeting, October 28-November 2, 2007, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN.

NAEMSO Staff Contacts

Elizabeth B. Armstrong, CAE, MAM / Executive Director
(703) 538-1799 ext. 7 - armstrong@nasemso.org

Melissa M. Trumbull / Program Manager
(703) 538-1799 ext. 3 - trumbull@nasemso.org

Sharon Kelly / Executive Assistant
(703) 538-1799 ext. 2 - kelly@nasmso.org

Dawn M. Shiley-Danzeisen / Washington Update Editor
(703) 533-0251 ext. 3 - dshiley@asmii.net

201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church VA 22046
Phone: (703) 538-1799
Fax: (703) 241-5603
Website: www.nasmso.org

The Washington Update is supported by a cooperative agreement between NASEMSO and NHTSA's EMS Division. Feel free to share this publication with your colleagues.

NASEMSO Washington Update is published two times a month by e-mail for association members and partners. Comments should be directed to the editor, Dawn M. Shiley at dshiley@asmii.net.

Cordially,

Dawn M. Shiley-Danzeisen
Marketing & Communications Director
NASEMSO
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA 22046
Phone: 703-538-1799
Fax: 703-241-5603
Email: dshiley@asmii.net
Website: www.nasmso.org