

State EMS Office Involvement in Domestic Preparedness Efforts

NASEMSO 2008 Status Report

National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials

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Introduction and Background

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) is the professional organization of the administrators of EMS systems in each of the states, territories and the District of Columbia. As part of our core mission to improve emergency medical services nationwide, we have undertaken the task of measuring the involvement of the emergency medical services systems in the states and territories with domestic planning and preparedness efforts at the national level.

State EMS Office Involvement in Bioterrorism Preparedness Efforts is a report based upon a survey 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 survey population consisted of the EMS Directors of the States, Territories¹ and the District of Columbia. Of 56 surveys, 55 were returned, for a 98% rate of return².

¹ Territories include Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands

² American Samoa did not return the survey.

Response Analysis

Section A: Organization and Coordination

Organizational affiliation of the state EMS office

The survey instrument posited four choices for respondents to identify agency affiliation.

Public Health was identified by forty-one of fifty-three respondents as the state agency within which the EMS office is organizationally positioned.

Public Safety was identified by five of fifty-three respondents as the state agency within which the EMS office is organizationally positioned.

Three of fifty-three respondents indicated that **EMS is separately organized**; not within another department or agency.

Six of fifty-three respondents indicated “**Other**” as the type of government agency within which EMS is positioned.

Position in the State EOC

31 respondents indicated state EMS does have a designated position in the state EOC

22 respondents indicated state EMS does not have a designated position in the state EOC

Mobilization requests

This item inquired whether the state EMA contacted state EMS with requests for the mobilization of EMS assets.

Ambulance assets – 36 respondents indicated they were contacted by state EMA to request mobilization of ambulance assets.

Personnel assets – 33 respondents indicated they were contacted by state EMA to request mobilization of personnel (human) assets.

Other EMS assets – 16 respondents indicated they were contacted by state EMA to request mobilization of other kinds of EMS assets.

EMA/EMS Collaboration in EMAC initiatives

Public Ambulance Availability – 34 respondents indicated EMS had worked with state EMA on this type of initiative.

Private Ambulance Availability – 29 respondents indicated EMS had worked with state EMA on this type of initiative.

EMT Credentialing – 16 respondents indicated EMS had worked with state EMA on this type of initiative.

Medical Oversight – 11 respondents indicated EMS had worked with state EMA on this type of initiative.

Respondents were asked to identify the level of involvement of the state EMS office with select other state or regional offices of Federal agencies. The following section shows, by each potential partner organization, the number of respondents indicating whether state EMS is very involved, involved, occasionally involved, rarely involved, or not involved.

State EMS involvement with the state Homeland Security office

Very involved - 12
Involved - 13
Occasionally involved - 16
Rarely involved - 11
Not involved - 3

State EMS involvement with the DHS regional office

Very involved - 4
Involved - 8
Occasionally involved - 10
Rarely involved - 16
Not involved - 17

State EMS involvement with the state EMA

Very involved - 19
Involved - 13
Occasionally involved - 16
Rarely involved - 6
Not involved - 0

State EMS involvement with the FEMA regional office

Very involved - 5
Involved - 5
Occasionally involved - 9
Rarely involved - 20
Not involved - 16

State EMS involvement with the state Public health

Very involved - 35

Involved - 15

Occasionally involved - 4

Rarely involved - 1

Not involved - 0

State EMS involvement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regional office

Very involved - 6

Involved - 6

Occasionally involved - 8

Rarely involved - 19

Not involved - 16

State EMS Medical Direction Involvement

43 respondents indicated they have a state EMS Medical Director, or equivalent. 12 respondents indicated they do not have any such position or equivalent. Of those who do have a state EMS Medical Director, we asked how involved this person is with select areas of preparedness. The following section shows, by each area of potential involvement, the number of respondents indicating whether the state EMS Medical Director is very involved, involved, occasionally involved, rarely involved, or not involved.

State EMS Medical Director involvement in the state's DHS capability assessment

Very involved - 9

Involved - 10

Occasionally involved - 16

Rarely involved - 7

Not involved - 1

State EMS Medical Director involvement in the state's DHS vulnerability assessment

Very involved - 5

Involved - 13

Occasionally involved - 12

Rarely involved - 12

Not involved - 1

State EMS Medical Director involvement in the state’s Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program

Very involved - 12

Involved - 10

Occasionally involved - 9

Rarely involved - 6

Not involved - 5

The following section shows, by each area of potential involvement, the number of respondents indicating whether the state EMS office is very involved, involved, occasionally involved, rarely involved, or not involved.

State EMS involvement in the state’s DHS capability assessment

Very involved - 11

Involved - 8

Occasionally involved - 12

Rarely involved - 8

Not involved - 10

State EMS involvement in the state’s DHS vulnerability assessment

Very involved - 6

Involved - 13

Occasionally involved - 10

Rarely involved - 10

Not involved - 16

State EMS involvement in the state’s Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program

Very involved - 8

Involved - 18

Occasionally involved - 11

Rarely involved - 10

Not involved - 8

Overall state EMS involvement in preparedness

Respondents were asked to identify whether, since 2002, state EMS office involvement in preparedness had increased, decreased, or remained the same.

More involved - 40

Less involved - 7

Unchanged - 8

Section B: Funding

Degree of state EMS office involvement in grant application process

The following section shows, by each area of potential involvement, the number of respondents indicating whether the state EMS office is very involved, involved, occasionally involved, rarely involved, or not involved in the application process for select areas of grant activity.

CDC

Very involved - 6
Involved - 10
Occasionally involved - 10
Rarely involved - 7
Not involved - 20

HPP

Very involved - 14
Involved - 10
Occasionally involved - 8
Rarely involved - 3
Not involved - 16

DHS

Very involved - 5
Involved - 8
Occasionally involved - 10
Rarely involved - 10
Not involved - 21

EMPG

Very involved - 1
Involved - 2
Occasionally involved - 3
Rarely involved - 4
Not involved - 40

Block Grants

Very involved - 13

Involved - 3

Occasionally involved - 2

Rarely involved - 5

Not involved - 28

Other

Very involved - 5

Involved - 4

Occasionally involved - 4

Rarely involved - 3

Not involved - 11

FY 2006 grant dollars received by funding source

The combined federal dollars to state EMS offices from all sources for Federal Fiscal Year 2006 was \$66,959,492. This figure includes \$24,936,357 in funds that were not received by EMS, but were passed through EMS from another agency.

CDC

10 respondents reported receiving funding from this source. The combined total of funding reported was \$3,312,718. The highest amount reported to be received by a single grantee was \$1,500,000 and the lowest amount of those that received any funds at all was \$20,000.

HPP

20 respondents reported receiving funding from this source. The combined total of funding reported was \$28,779,713. The highest amount reported to be received by a single grantee was \$15,578,388 and the lowest amount of those that received any funds at all was \$10,044.

DHS

6 respondents reported receiving funding from this source. The combined total of funding reported was \$2,497,470. The highest amount reported to be received by a single grantee was \$1,036,470 and the lowest amount of those that received any funds at all was \$30,000.

EMPG

2 respondents reported receiving funding from this source. The combined total of funding reported was \$380,000. One grantee received \$330,000 and the other received \$50,000.

Block Grants

12 respondents reported receiving funding from this source. The combined total of funding reported was \$5,997,673. The highest amount reported to be received by a single grantee was \$1,684,000 and the lowest amount of those that received any funds at all was \$30,000.

Other Federal Grants

6 respondents reported receiving funding from other sources. The combined total of funding reported was \$1,055,551. The highest amount reported to be received by a single grantee was \$330,551 and the lowest amount of those that received any funds at all was \$45,000.

Federal support of EMS providers by other federal grants in FFY 2006

The survey asked respondents whether they were aware of any federal grants to the provider community to support other specific EMS resources (training, equipment, etc...)

30 respondents indicated they were aware of other federal monies going to the provider community for such resources.

4 respondents indicated no such funding was available to EMS providers in their jurisdictions.

19 respondents indicated it was unknown whether such funding was available to the EMS community in their jurisdictions.

Conclusion

This survey was conducted to ascertain the extent to which state EMS offices are involved and included in federally supported preparedness efforts occurring at the state level.