



# HITS Committee

Highway Incident & Transportation  
Systems

## Goals and Strategic Directions 2011



## Goals and Strategic Directions

The **HITS Committee** of the National Association of State EMS Officials is committed to engaging NASEMSO on highway safety issues relevant to emergency medical services. By collaborating with our highway safety partners at the national and state levels, the HITS Committee's ultimate goal is to reduce the rates of death and disabling injury from motor vehicle crashes on our nation's highways.

**Leadership** refers to the role of state EMS offices as “lead agencies” for EMS as well as thoughtful leaders in public policy development. State EMS offices are looked to by the EMS community for guidance and approval, as well as regulation and licensure. NASEMSO works to support EMS officials nationwide in understanding and implementing processes that improve EMS practice and subsequent patient outcomes.

The **HITS Committee** supports leadership under these principle goals:

- Goal #1. Increase NASEMSO representation at national highway safety-related meetings.
- Goal #2. Recruit and engage HITS members to serve as active NASEMSO liaisons to various highway safety-related national committees and organizations.

**Systems Development** refers to the role of state EMS offices in the development of effective systems of emergency medical care. The growing national awareness of the importance of coordinated systems of care places NASEMSO squarely in a leadership role, demonstrating the need for state offices to coordinate the disparate functions that support effective systems. Such functions include Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMS), communications systems; regional asset coordination in daily operations and in natural and man-made disasters; EMS data collection, analysis and reporting; and ongoing review and refinement of systems operations.

The **HITS Committee** supports systems development under these principle goals:

- Goal #3. Educate State EMS Offices on effective collaboration with their respective state highway safety counterparts.

**Quality Improvement or “QI”** is the process of continually reviewing, assessing and refining practices to improve outcomes. The steps of developing an effective cycle of collecting high quality data, reviewing it in proven multidisciplinary processes, identifying strategies to implement needed changes and communicating them to all stakeholders are the key to QI success, and to subsequently improving patient outcomes.

The **HITS Committee** supports quality improvement under these principle goals:



- Goal #4. Complete a state by state assessment of the EMS system's capacity to respond to mass casualty incidents on the nation's roadways, using the newly developed EIRRA tool. Promote the use of the EIRRA (EMS Incident Response & Readiness Assessment) for measuring preparedness for response to highway MCIs as well as other manmade or natural disasters.
- Goal # 5. Promote the concept of a model inventory for EMS similar to the model inventories of highway partners (MIRE, MMUCC, etc).

The **HITS Committee** 2011 workplan will undertake strategies focused on the following issues:

- Recruit HITS Committee members to represent NASEMSO at national highway safety-related meetings and serve as established members of highway safety committees and organizations. Such representation is intended to mutually educate NASEMSO members and highway safety colleagues about each other's respective disciplines; build lasting professional relationships with highway safety peers; and promote cooperation in addressing mutual goals of saving lives and reducing debilitating injuries from motor vehicle crashes. [Goals 1 & 2]
- Educate NASEMSO members on the availability of opportunities for collaboration with state highway safety counterparts in their respective states. Develop "highway safety guide" about federal highway safety programs in all states including those where specific EMS components are required. [Goal 3]
- Complete the EMS Incident Response & Readiness Assessment (EIRRA) project started in 2010, including the pilot project and completion of EIRRA by all state EMS offices. Submit results and completed EIRRA proposal to NHTSA, Office of EMS. Develop a summary to promote EIRRA as a preparedness assessment tool for all types of MCIs.[Goal 4]
- Complete the Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE) Proof of Concept. Submit to NHTSA, Office of EMS. Determine whether to pursue additional funding to further develop MIECE. [Goal 5]



## 2011 Workplan Goals, Objectives and Action Steps

**Goal 1:** Increase NASEMSO representation at national highway safety-related meetings.

**Objective/Strategy:**

**Increase NASEMSO participation at national highway safety related meetings. Determine which meetings are most important to attend and identify members able to attend.**

Task	Responsibility	Due Date	Done	Budget
Compile list of national highway safety meetings for 2011.	Mary Hedges	March 2011	Yes	
Distribute to HITS Committee and solicit members interested in attending.	Mary Hedges, Dennis Blair	May 2011	Yes	
Secure funding to support NASEMSO member travel to national highway safety meetings.	Dia Gainor, NASEMSO leadership	2011-12		

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
Compile list of national highway safety meetings for 2011.													Yes
Distribute meeting list to HITS Committee soliciting persons interested in attending.													Yes
Seek travel funding for national meetings.													

**Goal 2:** Recruit and engage HITS members to serve as active NASEMSO liaisons to various highway safety-related national committees and organizations.

**Objective/Strategy:**

**Recruit HITS members to serve as NASEMSO liaisons to various highway safety committees and organizations with the intent of assuring EMS is represented and not overlooked as national strategies are formed.**

Task	Responsibility	Due Date	Done	Budget
Update list and descriptions of highway safety organizations/committees, indicating which need NASEMSO representation.	Mary Hedges			
Distribute list to HITS Committee soliciting persons interested in representing NASEMSO.	Mary Hedges, Dennis Blair			



Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
Update list/descriptions of highway safety organizations indicating which need NASEMSO representation.													
Distribute to HITS Committee soliciting persons interested in representing NASEMSO.													

- **Goal 3:** Educate State EMS Offices on effective collaboration with their respective state highway safety counter parts.

**Objective/Strategy:**

Educate NASEMSO members how to engage with their highway safety colleagues at the state level. The intent is to foster effective working relationships so that EMS and highway safety officials can share strategies to optimize roadway safety, both prevention and emergency response.

Task	Responsibility	Due Date	Done	Budget
Develop "highway safety guide" on federal highway safety programs in states, identifying those with EMS components.	Mary Hedges, Dia Gainor	Aug. 2011		
Distribute Guide to NASEMSO members.	Mary Hedges, Dia Gainor	Oct. 2011		

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
Develop Hwy Safety Guide													
Distribute guide and educate members on importance of participation in hwy safety /transportation activities.													

- **Goal 4:** Complete a state by state assessment of the EMS system's capacity to respond to mass casualty incidents on the nation's roadways, using the newly developed EIRRA tool.

**Objective/Strategy:**

Conduct the EIRRA pilot; make any changes deemed necessary and rollout EIRRA to the states. Ask state EMS offices to complete EIRRA assessment and provide results, along with EIRRA tool, to NHTSA per Cooperative Agreement.



Task	Responsibility	Due Date	Done	Budget
Conduct EIRRA Pilot	Mary Hedges	Jan. 2011	Yes	
Conduct EIRRA rollout for state EMS offices	Mary Hedges, Dia Gainor	Jan. 2011	Yes	
Complete EIRRA in the states and territories	M. Hedges, Dia G, state offices	Feb - Mar	Yes	
Submit EIRRA and state results to NHTSA	Mary Hedges	Apr 2011	Yes	
Develop brief summary promoting EIRRA's potential as a general preparedness assessment tool (beyond highway MCI's)	Mary Hedges, Dennis Blair	July 2011		
Determine next steps after EIRRA has been submitted to FICEMS by NHTSA	NASEMSO Leadership	Oct - Dec 2011		

  

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
EIRRA Pilot													Yes
EIRRA Rollout to the states													Yes
EIRRA completed by states													Yes
Submit EIRRA to NHTSA													Yes
Develop EIRRA summary													
Determine next steps after EIRRA has been presented to FICEMS in June 2011													

**Goal 5:** Promote the concept of a model inventory for EMS similar to the model inventories of highway partners (MIRE, MMUCC, etc). Determine whether to pursue funding for further development.

**Objective/Strategy:**

**Complete the Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE) Proof of Concept and submit to NHTSA. After product has been submitted to FICEMS in June 2011, determine if further development of MIECE should be pursued.**

Task	Responsibility	Due Date	Done	Budget
Complete MIECE Proof of Concept, submit to NHTSA	Mary Hedges, Dia Gainor, Hwy Mass Casualty Work Group	Feb. 2011	Yes	
After NHTSA submits MIECE to FICEMS in June, determine whether to pursue further development.	HITS Cmte, NASEMSO leadership			

  

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
MIECE draft to NHTSA													Yes
MIECE final to NHTSA													Yes
Determine if MIECE should be further developed.													



**Parked Issues** – Numerous issues and strategies are on the council’s radar, but are currently parked due to various reasons – awaiting completion of dependant activities; currently no champions to assign this to; limited funding, etc.

As practical, these will be moved up into the 2011 workplan or carried into the next year.

**Goal:** Form an ambulance safety subcommittee or work group.

**Objective/Strategy:**

Form an ambulance safety subcommittee or work group to focus on increasing patient and provider safety in ambulance transport.

Task	Responsibility												Due Date	Done	Budget	
Evaluate interest in/need for ambulance safety subcommittee																

  

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	done
													Y

