



NASEMSO Highway Mass Casualty Readiness Project – 2010-2011

Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE)

The **Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE**, pronounced “mice”) is a safety data analysis tool currently being developed by a multi-disciplinary team led by the **National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO)**. This project is intended to demonstrate the feasibility and utility of *an emergency care inventory that displays resources and capacity by segment of interstates and US highways*. This working matrix of data elements is modeled after the US DOT’s Model Inventory of Roadway Elements (MIRE), which is also a geographically organized resource inventory using defined characteristics intended to contribute to risk assessment, system improvement, and sound decisions about use of travel routes. The MIECE project does not entail the complete development of all elements in an emergency care inventory; rather, it will produce a “proof of concept” for what could emerge as a full scale project in the future. MIECE includes characteristics of the emergency care system, such as ground EMS agencies, rescue services that provide vehicle extrication, helicopter emergency medical services, hospitals and designated trauma centers. The ultimate goal of MIECE is to score segments of roadways, primarily in rural areas where emergency care resources can be limited.

MIECE was conceptualized following the 2008 Mexican Hat, Utah, crash involving a bus transporting 53 people returning from a ski vacation. All 53 passengers were injured, nine fatally. The roll-over occurred in a remote area challenged by limited access to communications, emergency medical response/transport services and hospital capacity, particularly trauma centers.

A special focus of the NASEMSO HITS (Highway Incident and Traffic Systems) Committee, the MIECE project is being led by Dia Gainor, Chief of the Idaho EMS Bureau and Chair of the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) to the US Department of Transportation. MIECE is funded by NASEMSO through a grant from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, Office of Emergency Medical Services. The projected completion date for the MIECE proof of concept is March 2011.

For further information about the Highway Mass Casualty Readiness Project, contact NASEMSO Program Advisor Mary Hedges at hedges@nasemso.org or visit NASEMSO’s website at <http://www.nasemso.org/Projects/HITS/index.asp>.