



National Association of State EMS Officials

DHS Office of Intergovernmental Programs Questionnaire for State, Local and Tribal Associations

In order to begin facilitating a more productive relationship between the Department and our state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) partners, we ask you to complete the following questionnaire. With regard to your previous interactions with DHS, we are interested in what works, what doesn't, and how we can improve.

1. What are your association/stakeholders' key homeland security areas of concern for the upcoming year?
 - Federal support for EMS is lacking and homeland security funds are not reaching EMS agencies. While state and local EMS agencies are eligible to receive funding under the Homeland Security and Fire Grant programs, experience indicates that EMS is too often overshadowed by the needs of other first responder organizations and little funding is being allocated to state and local EMS to improve domestic preparedness. The underlying reasons for this remain unknown. As the agencies primarily responsible for the architecture of the EMS systems, clearly the state EMS offices have a major role to play in preparedness endeavors.
 - Risks to state/territory EMS systems must be managed and are not when the FEMA ambulance contract is activated for disaster response. Activation of the contract often removes state EMS assets without the knowledge of state EMS offices, compromising their ability to coordinate local responses.
 - FEMA ambulance contract reimbursement must be consistent with arrangements made under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), and this is not currently the case.
 - National Credentialing for EMS providers is not established.

2. Please briefly outline your organizational structure and processes for engaging in homeland security and related issues (i.e., committees, working groups, staff councils.) How can DHS best engage these processes already in place in order to bring SLTT input into the development of DHS policies and programs?
 - The National Association of State EMS Officials represents all aspects of emergency medical services systems and functions including data, EMS for children, medical direction, training and trauma. Because state-level EMS regulates all EMS provider types (fire-based, non-fire private, public, hospital and other), federal partners regularly seek comment from NASEMSO for comprehensive and unbiased input on national policy matters.
 - It is appropriate for DHS to interface with NASEMSO through the leadership of the association and through its Domestic Preparedness Committee:
 - Mr. Steven Blessing, President, Steven.blessing@state.de.us

- Mrs. Elizabeth B. Armstrong, MAM, CAE, Executive Director, armstrong@naseonso.org
 - Mr. Joe Schmider, Domestic Preparedness Chair, Jschmider@state.pa.us
 - Mrs. Leslee Stein-Spencer, Policy Advisor, LesleeSS@aol.com
3. What have been your most successful interactions with DHS? If there is an instance in which successful outreach and consultation with SLTT authorities has resulted in significant improvements to policy and operations, please describe.
- NASEMSO hopes that the new administration will bring increased interaction between DHS and the association representing the nation's state EMS systems. To date, primary interaction has been with the Office of Health Affairs on disaster credentialing matters, and with FEMA on EMS disaster resources. NASEMSO additionally has taken comment opportunities to provide feedback through its seat on the Emergency Services Sector – Coordinating Committee to documents such as the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.
4. Are there consultative processes with other Federal Agencies (i.e., Advisory Councils, established outreach procedures) that your membership has found particularly successful? Any “best practice” models that DHS should examine and consider adopting?
- The National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of EMS provides a valuable channel to address national EMS matters.
 - DHS and FEMA's outreach efforts to include state and local stakeholders in policy discussion have been much appreciated and it is hoped that they will continue, with adequate lead time given on important policy matters.
 - The DHS support provided to the National Homeland Security Consortium has helped NASEMSO coordinate with public safety partners on domestic preparedness issues.
5. Secretary Napolitano has outlined the following areas as priorities for increased state and local collaboration:
- a. Critical Infrastructure
 - b. Grant making
 - c. Interoperability
 - d. Intelligence collection and dissemination
 - e. Emergency Services

While this list is not inclusive, please share your comments or suggestions on how cooperation on these vital issues can be improved. IGP is also considering cyber security, secure communications, operations, customs and border issues to name a few.

- When federal agencies provide special funds, training and equipment, or coordinate related planning, they should include state and territorial EMS offices

for the purpose of planning, developing and coordinating the awareness, training and equipment needed by the medical community for recognizing, responding, managing and treating victims of terrorist attacks.

- Incentives must be devised to ensure all licensed EMS providers are prepared for disaster operations. Minimum standards should include:
 - NIMS training for all EMS responders - ICS 100, 200, 700, etc.
 - At least annual exercises coordinating EMS with other agencies
 - Disaster credentialing consistent with the national EMS Scope of Practice (http://nasmso.org/Projects/ScopeOfPractice/FINALEMSSept2006_PMS314.pdf.pdf.pdf).
 - Equipment upgrades to ensure interoperable communications.
 - Appropriate available Personal Protective Equipment for all Emergency Medical Technicians.

SUBMITTED BY: Elizabeth B. Armstrong, MAM, CAE, Executive Director
National Association of State EMS Officials
201 Park Washington Court, Falls Church, VA 22046
703-538-1799 x7, Armstrong@nasmso.org

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