



## **National Association of State EMS Officials**

201 Park Washington Court • Falls Church, VA 22046-4527 • [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org)  
703-538-1799 • Fax 703-241-5603 • [info@nasemso.org](mailto:info@nasemso.org)

*Contact* Joe Ferrell  
*Telephone* 515-291-2550  
*Email* [joe@nasemso.org](mailto:joe@nasemso.org)

### **Montana Joins National Collaborative for Bio-Preparedness**

**March 29, 2018** (Falls Church, Va.) – The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (MDPHHS) has completed Data Use and Analytic Agreements with Biospatial, Inc., to become the seventh state to join the National Collaborative for Bio-Preparedness (NCBP). Montana will be submitting National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) data elements both to assist in national preparedness and to enhance the state’s ability to visualize their data with other data layers of relevance. The other states participating include Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Mississippi and Rhode Island.

Jim DeTienne, section supervisor for EMS and Trauma Systems, states that the collaborative provides an “opportunity to collect information from disparate datasets in other agencies that will help us all strengthen our programs and partnerships. I can’t think of a better way to utilize data to help strategize and prioritize our programs and initiatives.” To this end, he has a wide range of data he would like to incorporate into the system, including trauma registry, hospital discharge, crash records and CDC’s syndromic surveillance data (ESSENCE). DeTienne believes that the NCBP project gives his office the ability, “to actually use data, not just collect it.” Also, this will provide EMS services the tools to see the value of their data.

The NCBP is a collaborative of state and local responders and the national preparedness enterprise to provide early warning of health events and trends not otherwise detectable. NCBP has been a ground-breaking, multi-year pilot cooperative research and development program between the University of North Carolina (UNC) and the Office of Health Affairs in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Through a new partnership between UNC and Biospatial Inc., NCBP is transitioning to a commercially-hosted system, while maintaining NCBP’s unique mission and capabilities through growing and sustaining our national network of data owners and NCBP users. In exchange for access to EMS data, NCBP provides operational and clinical insight to state and local data owners to help improve operations and patient outcomes. NCBP provides alerts to anomalous health events, visualization of syndromic events and trends, and clinical and operational dashboards.

Biospatial and UNC are working closely with the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) to develop and grow the Collaborative through state EMS offices. NASEMSO has partnered with the NCBP because of the value the analytics can provide to the NEMSIS data that state EMS offices collect. The NCBP has created a pathway to contribute to state-specific surveillance and offer real-time value to state epidemiologists and state health officers.

*The National Association of State EMS Officials is a leading national organization for EMS, a respected voice for national EMS policy with comprehensive concern and commitment for the development of effective, integrated, community-based universal and consistent EMS systems. Its members are the leaders of their state and territory EMS systems. State EMS Offices that are interested in participating in the NCBP should contact Joe Ferrell at [joe@nasemso.org](mailto:joe@nasemso.org) or 515-291-2550.*

###