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1. NASEMSO Releases Issue Brief on the Need for Shared Regulation of Air Medical Services
The NASEMSO Executive Committee has released an issue brief on the need for shared state and federal regulation of air medical services. The Association believes that clearly defined areas of federal and state responsibilities can be delineated in order to ensure effective oversight of air and medical operations of AMS services. An unprecedented growth in the number of emergency medical aircraft has resulted from increases in reimbursement, not from proven medical necessity. Uncontrolled insertion of new AMS providers in an EMS system has been disruptive to states attempting to provide effective EMS system response and patient care. The federal government and the states should coordinate their Oversight of AMS operations in a manner that will ensure effective AMS use in state EMS and health care systems and appropriate use in meeting patient care needs. The federal government authority should be clarified to reserve to the states the oversight of the medical aspects of AMS operations. For more information, go to the NASEMSO web site at www.nasemso.org.

2. NASEMSO Comments on Activation and Reimbursement Concerns for EMS Disaster Response
The NASEMSO Executive Committee has released an issue brief on the need for the National Ambulance Contract to coordinate with the state EMS regulatory authority during a disaster response. During the 2008 hurricane season, NASEMSO identified two critical issues that would greatly improve and enhance our Nation’s emergency response to catastrophic events while preserving a State’s ability to manage its own assets in the face of competing interests for limited resources: 1. managing risks to state and territorial EMS Systems when the FEMA ambulance contract is activated and 2. the need for level reimbursement. For more information, go to the NASEMSO web site at www.nasemso.org.

3. HHS Issues Final ICD-10 Code Sets and Updated Electronic Transaction Standards Rules
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released two final rules that will facilitate the United States’ ongoing transition to an electronic health care environment through adoption of a new generation of diagnosis and procedure codes and updated standards for electronic health care and pharmacy transactions. The first final rule replaces the ICD-9-CM code sets now used to report health care diagnoses and procedures with greatly expanded ICD-10 code sets, with a compliance date of Oct. 1, 2013. The second final rule adopts an
updated X12 standard, Version 5010, for certain electronic health care transactions, an updated version of the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) standard, Version D.0, for electronic pharmacy-related transactions, and a standard for Medicaid pharmacy subrogation transactions. Version 5010 includes updated standards for claims, remittance advice, eligibility inquiries, referral authorization, and other administrative transactions. Version 5010 also accommodates the use of the ICD-10 code sets, which are not supported by Version 4010/4010A1, the current X12 standard. Both regulations were published on Jan. 16, 2009, and may be viewed at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/browse.html. Click “Go” next to where 2009 appears in the year selection box for “Back Issues (HTML Only).” A fact sheet describing both rules may be viewed at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp.

4. HHS Releases New Report on Medical Identity Theft
In May 2008, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) awarded an approximately $450,000 contract to Booz Allen Hamilton to assess and evaluate the scope of the medical identity theft problem in the U.S. Medical identity theft is a specific type of identity theft which occurs when a person uses someone else’s personal health identifiable information, such as insurance information, Social Security Number, health care file, or medical records, without the individual's knowledge or consent to obtain medical goods or services, or to submit false claims for medical services. A new report now available from HHS describes these efforts and includes considerations of policy and technical approaches to addressing issues of prevention, detection, and remediation of medical identity theft. Download the report here.

5. New Administration Announces Plans to Support Emergency Responders
President Obama’s new agenda for Homeland Security includes several items aimed at supporting the Nation’s emergency responders. The Agenda outlines the administration’s priorities for homeland security funding targeted at, among other things, protecting Americans from terrorist attacks and natural disasters. The agenda falls somewhat short on details for implementation but acknowledges the need to “increase federal resources and logistic support to local emergency planning efforts.” Through the appointment of a National Chief Technology Officer, the President expects to improve interoperable communications systems at the federal, state, and local levels. The Agenda also notes a plan to “Further improve coordination between all levels of government, create better evacuation plan guidelines, ensure prompt federal assistance to emergency zones, and increase medical surge capacity.” To view the President’s new agenda for homeland security, click here.

6. New DHS Secretary Outlines Priorities for FEMA
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano has announced two “action directives,” including one on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) integration with state and local partners. In a press release outlining her expectations, Secretary Napolitano has asked FEMA to work with state and local emergency management to “Immediately review plans and activities underway to strengthen and coordinate preparedness activities and assess any overlaps and inconsistencies in these plans and activities” and to “Immediately submit any possible restructuring or consolidations for these plans and activities that are necessary and identify areas where state and local emergency management agencies can provide input.” An oral report is due Feb. 9, with a final report due Feb. 23. Read the press release here. Napolitano has said she will continue to issue additional action directives in the coming days focused on the missions critical to the department: Protection, Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Immigration.

7. IOM Hosts Regional Forums on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events
The Institute of Medicine’s Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events will host a series of regional workshops on “Standards of Care”. These workshops will take place in Irvine, CA (March 12th); Orlando, FL (April 14th); New York, NY (April 27th); and Chicago, IL (May 8th). The purpose of this workshop series is to illuminate the progress and successes of efforts underway to establish local, state, and regional standards of care protocols. In addition, the planning committee is hoping the workshops will help to improve regional efforts by facilitating a dialog and coordination between neighboring jurisdictions. Attendance at these workshops is free but registration is required. For more information and to register for a workshop, please visit...
8. CDC Publishes Report on Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response Activities
CDC's Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER) released its inaugural report on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) activities in public health emergency preparedness. The report, Public Health Preparedness: Strengthening CDC's Emergency Response, outlines the key role CDC plays in preparing our nation to respond effectively to all types of hazards and provides an overview of the broad range of preparedness activities that received Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (TPER) funding in Fiscal Year 2007. The report also describes CDC’s significant preparedness accomplishments, the diversity of challenges that remain, and priorities for ongoing and future work. This report builds on the analysis of state and public health preparedness presented in the February 2008 CDC report, Public Health Preparedness: Mobilizing State by State. Both reports are an important part of CDC's overall focus on demonstrating results, driving program improvements, and increasing accountability for the nation’s investments in public health preparedness activities. The full report is posted to the COTPER page on the CDC website and can be accessed directly at http://emergency.cdc.gov/publications/jan09phprep.

9. AHRQ Public Health Emergency Preparedness Webcast Scheduled
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed a range of emergency preparedness planning tools, including free, interactive computer models. To showcase a few of the newer tools and their uses, AHRQ will host a Webcast, Public Health Emergency Preparedness: Planning and Practicing for a Disaster on February 9, 2009 at 1:00 – 2:30pm (eastern.) This event will feature tool demonstrations by developers and insights from users. Presenters will offer diverse perspectives on emergency planning and the use of:

- Hospital Surge Model
- Tool for Evaluating Core Elements of Hospital Disaster Drills
- Mass Evacuation Transportation Model

Plus, Webcast attendees will get a preview of the National Mass Patient and Evacuee Movement, Regulating, and Tracking System: Recommendations. This Webcast bundles three AHRQ emergency preparedness tools together to show participants how they can complement each other when developing plans. Emergency preparedness planners, as well as Federal, State, and local community health planners, providers, and first responders are invited to attend. To register, please visit: https://ahrq-kt.webex.com/ahrq-kt/onstage/g.php?d=758677507&t=a

For more information, please e-mail: emergencypreparedness@academyhealth.org

10. Keep It With You: Personal Medical Information Form Available from CDC
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announce the availability of “Keep It With You” (KIWy) Personal Medical Information Form, which was designed for people who need care during disasters and similar situations, the tool helps individuals maintain concise personal medical records by listing medications, medical conditions, and other health related information. It is important for health care workers to have a simple and reliable way to learn information about past and new health concerns for people receiving help. For more information, go to http://www.emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/kiwy.asp.

11. CDC Provides New Guidance on Handling of Suspicious Packages or Envelopes
The CDC has developed new guidelines for recognizing and handling suspicious mail packages. The general guidance provided is also noteworthy for handling unattended packages. For more information, click here.

12. House Supports Children’s Health in Two New Bills
With the 111th Congress now under way, the U.S. House of Representatives has voted to reauthorize and expand the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The Bill (H.R. 2 in the House) is now being considered by the Senate (as S. 275.) HHS recently announced that 7.4 million children were enrolled in the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in 2008 -- a four percent increase over the previous year. For more information on H.R. 2, click here. In addition to the expansion of coverage, notable highlights of particular interest to Title V MCH programs include authorization of $100 million for outreach and enrollment activities; $20 million for
development of a recommended core set of child health quality measures for use by State Medicaid and SCHIP programs; and $25 million to conduct a demonstration project to develop a comprehensive and systematic model for reducing childhood obesity. Details on how state MCH programs can link with these efforts will be shared as they become available. A copy of the bill under Senate consideration is available [here].

H.R. 479 (better known as the Wakefield Act) has been reintroduced by Rep. Jim Matheson (UT) to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program. The Bill currently has 4 co-sponsors. Sens. Inouye and Hatch are expected to introduce their version in the Senate shortly. There will only be a couple revisions to the text. The new bill will contain the authorization levels negotiated when the bill passed the House ($25M the first year and a 5% increase in each of the following 4 years.) The new version will also eliminate the "Purpose," which was posing difficulties with some offices. Finally, a reference was added in the Findings to note that 2009 is the 25th anniversary of the program. For more information on H.R. 479, click [here].

13. NRC Seeks Nominations for 2009 National Heroes Awards
The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) National Resource Center (NRC) is currently seeking nominations for the 2009 EMSC National Heroes Awards (NHA). These awards are presented to individuals who make an outstanding contribution to the EMSC Program. This year’s award categories include: EMSC Project Coordinator/ Manager of Distinction, EMSC Provider Leadership, EMSC Family Representative Volunteer of the Year, EMSC Advisory Committee Member, Outstanding EMSC Research Project, State EMSC Policy Leader of Distinction, and EMSC Lifetime Achievement. Nominations are due Friday, April 3, 2009. Winners will be announced at the 2009 Annual EMSC Program Meeting in June. Note that one person can make multiple nominations, and that the selection process for each awardee has changed. Copies of the brochure/nomination form are available through the NRC [website].

14. NIOSH Blog Reviews Improved Criteria for Emergency Medical Protective Clothing
The NIOSH Science Blog facilitates directed discussion on a specific topic. The current topic for discussion is "Improved Criteria for Emergency Medical Protective Clothing." Over one million firefighters and an additional 500,000 Emergency Medical Technicians and other first responders are engaged in emergency medical service (EMS) operations. NIOSH research has led to revised standards for personal protective equipment for EMS workers and, in turn, new equipment and products providing a level of protection not previously available to the nation’s EMS responders. To view the discussion, click [here].

15. OSHA QuickCards Available
“Protecting Worker Safety and Health under the National Response Framework” is the newest of various “QuickCards” available from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) relevant to the Emergency Services Sector. The new QuickCard explains that the Federal Emergency Management Agency can activate OSHA to coordinate worker safety and health following a disaster when federal, state, tribal, and local assets are overwhelmed and assistance is needed to protect employees. OSHA QuickCards can be downloaded [here].

16. NIOSH to Hold NPPTL Stakeholders Meeting
The Personal Protective Technology Program (NIOSH) will hold a stakeholders meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport in Pittsburgh, PA. This meeting will also be available through remote access capabilities. Participants simultaneously listen and view presentations over the internet. The presentations will be available for download at the start of the meeting. The remote access capabilities will include the ability to submit questions on the presentations and/or projects. To register to use this capability, please contact Dawn Zubasic at 412-386-6111. This option will be available to participants on a first-come, first-serve basis and is limited to the first 50 participants. Group participation by companies, organizations, associations, and academic institutions is encouraged. For additional information please visit our website at [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl]
17. FTC Will Grant Six-Month Delay of Enforcement of ‘Red Flags’ Rule
Many ambulance services may not realize that they are obligated to follow the Federal Trade Commission’s new “Red Flag Rules” that could indicate identity theft. In November 2007, the Federal Trade Commission published final rulemaking in the Federal Register (72 FR 63718) finalizing the Identity Theft Red Flags regulations and guidelines. This rule, promulgated pursuant to the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (“FACTA”), requires financial institutions and creditors to develop and implement written “identity theft prevention programs.” The programs must provide for the identification, detection, and response to patterns, practices, or specific activities—known as “red flags.” During the course of the Commission’s education and outreach efforts following publication of the rule, the Commission has learned that some industries and entities within the FTC’s jurisdiction have expressed confusion and uncertainty about their coverage under the rule. These entities indicated that they were not aware that they were undertaking activities that would cause them to fall within FACTA’s definitions of “creditor” or “financial institution.” Many entities also noted that because they generally are not required to comply with FTC rules in other contexts, they had not followed or even been aware of the rulemaking, and therefore learned of the requirements of the rule too late to be able to come into compliance by November 1, 2008. Under FACTA, “creditor” is defined the same way as in the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (“ECOA”), as any entity that regularly extends, renews, or continues credit; any entity that regularly arranges for the extension, renewal, or continuation of credit; or any assignee of an original creditor who is involved in the decision to extend, renew, or continue credit. The ECOA definition of “credit” includes a right granted to defer payment for any purchase. Thus, any person that provides a product or service for which the consumer pays after delivery is a creditor—including emergency medical services agencies. The Federal Trade Commission will suspend enforcement of the new “Red Flags Rule” until May 1, 2009, to give creditors and financial institutions additional time in which to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs. Download the original FTC rule, which describes the requirements here. Download the FTC’s notice about the extension here.

The House Appropriations Committee just released their economic stimulus bill, “The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.” Links to the legislation, the house report, and Chairman Obey’s press release about the measure are included below. The draft bill contains major proposed increases for public health programs within the Department of Health and Human Services, much of it through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The House plan includes a proposed investment of:
- $3 billion for disease prevention
- $20 billion for health information technology (HIT)
- $900 million for biomedical advanced research and development, pandemic flu, and cyber security

19. Getting Beyond Getting Ready for Pandemic Influenza
The Committee on Homeland Security has released a Majority staff report entitled “Getting Beyond Getting Ready for Pandemic Influenza,” which examines the Nation’s state of preparedness and response capabilities in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak. The new report suggests that planning guidance to states has been inadequate and that the national level of preparedness for pandemic influenza remains unclear. Download the House report here. As an aside, Federal funding for state and territorial pandemic preparedness ended in August 2008. $900 million to prepare for a pandemic influenza, support advanced development of medical countermeasures for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, and for cyber security protections at HHS is contained in the House stimulus draft.

20. Call for 2009 National Roadway Safety Awards Nominations
The Federal Highway Administration and the Roadway Safety Foundation co-sponsor an award program biennially to provide national recognition for exemplary roadway safety efforts and to publicize award-winning “best practices”. Participation in the awards program is an excellent opportunity to recognize your members’ innovative and successful roadway safety programs. Federal, State, regional, and local organizations are eligible to apply, as
are companies and associations. Awards are given for infrastructure, operational and program-related improvements and programs that address safety needs. The 2009 nomination application materials provide more detailed information. These documents can be downloaded from the program website, www.roadwaysafetyawards.org. Completed applications along with their supporting documentation can be submitted electronically via the program Web site or delivered in hard copy by overnight express to the National Roadway Safety Awards c/o J. Taylor, 3402 Brookwood Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Applications must be received by June 1, 2009. Please refer to the program guidelines for additional information.

21. Drinking Age Laws and Driving Report Now Available

22. Field Triage Materials Now Available from the CDC
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR) has published Guidelines for Field Triage of Injured Patients: Recommendations of the National Expert Panel on Field Triage available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr. It includes additional material on trauma systems, a thorough description of the decision making process for the field triage guideline development, a more extensive review of the literature, and free continuing education for multiple disciplines. The CDC has worked to ensure this document achieves its purposes to 1) Widely disseminate the field triage decision scheme; 2) Provide the rationale for selection of the field triage criteria; and 3) Provide a foundation for an upcoming field triage toolkit for use by injury care providers and trauma system leaders. With additional funding from NHTSA, CDC is developing a companion educational initiative for local EMS medical directors, state EMS directors, public health officials, and EMS providers. Educational materials will be tailored to meet the needs of their communities and include: a user’s guide, poster and pocket card of the Decision Scheme, a slide presentation for use in trainings, and the MMWR article that includes continuing education opportunities. For further information and resources related to field triage, members can also refer to the website: http://www.cdc.gov/FieldTriage.

23. NHTSA Fall/Winter EMS Update Newsletter Now Available
The latest issue of the "EMS Update" has been posted by NHTSA’s Office of EMS. You'll find it at: www.EMS.gov. This innovative Web site, developed to meet the varied needs of the EMS community, contains not only the latest news from OEMS – but also functions as a portal to other Federal EMS Web sites and resources. Here you’ll find background and updates on groundbreaking initiatives and programs, including Emergency Medical Services for Children, the National EMS Information System, the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS, Enhanced 9-1-1 and Next Generation 9-1-1, the National EMS Advisory Council, and more. You’ll find "EMS Update" by going to www.ems.gov and clicking on "EMS Update Newsletter" in the small lower left box of the home page. If you have questions or comments, or if you have a national EMS story to submit for “Special Features" News, Email us at nhtsa.ems@dot.gov.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responsible for oversight of medical devices sold in the United States. Regulations place devices into three classes, with class III including those with the greatest risk to patients. Unless exempt by regulation, new devices must clear FDA premarket review via either the 510(k) premarket notification process, which determines if a new device is substantially equivalent to another legally marketed device, or the more stringent premarket approval (PMA) process, which requires the manufacturer to supply evidence providing reasonable assurance that the device is safe and effective. In a new report just released by the Government Accounting Office, the GAO makes a recommendation that FDA expeditiously take steps to issue regulations for class III device types currently allowed to enter the market via the 510(k) process by requiring PMAs or reclassifying them to a lower class. For more information, see "Medical Devices: FDA Should Take Steps to Ensure That High-Risk Device Types Are Approved..."

25. CDC Publishes Interim Guidance for Smallpox Vaccines
On January 14, CDC published on its website the CDC Interim Guidance for Revaccination of Eligible Persons who Participated in the US Civilian Smallpox Preparedness and Response. The guidance can be found at http://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/revaxmemo.asp. The interim guidance addresses only the revaccination of public health and healthcare volunteers and does not address routine revaccination guidance for laboratory workers or primary vaccination of emergency responders. The guidance document also includes considerations for state and local public health agencies. Following is the proposed recommendation.

26. IOM Plans Workshop on Emergency Care
In 2006, the Institute of Medicine released a series of three reports on the Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System. This new workshop provides an opportunity to examine the progress that has been made since that time in moving the nation towards the IOM’s vision of a “regionalized, coordinated, and accountable” emergency care system. One of the central recommendations contained in the IOM reports encouraged the federal government to more effectively coordinate emergency care-related activities that are widely dispersed through various federal departments and agencies. Now, three years later, structures are being put in place to address this challenge. This workshop is being convened to bring stakeholders and policymakers together to discuss which of the many challenges facing emergency care are most amenable to coordinated federal action.

The Workshop will be held May 21-22, 2009 in Washington, DC. Registration information will be provided as it becomes available.

27. NREMT Seeks Item Writers
The National Registry of EMT’s invites state EMS officials to participate in a series of Item Writing Workshops. Below are the dates of the meetings scheduled for this year. Please identify the date(s) and level(s) of the meeting(s) in which you wish to participate. NREMT also needs correct contact information (mailing address, phone #, e-mail address) to confirm participation and forward item writing assignments. The 2009 NREMT Item Writing meetings are as follows: March 19-21, April 16-18, and April 30 - May 2 for EMT; June 25-27 for EMR; July 16-18 for Paramedic; and October 1-3 for AEMT. If you would like to participate in any of these meetings, please contact Gabe Romero at gromero@nremt.org.

28. 2009 AHA Environmental Scan Webcast is Now Available
In a new webcast available from the American Hospital Association (AHA), hear AHA discuss critical issues and emerging trends that have the highest probability of impacting the health care field in the foreseeable future. The 2009 Environmental Scan is compiled from about 30 nationally recognized sources with recommendations from select AHA governance committees. Click here to view the Webcast on-demand.

29. The National Academies Need Your Help!
What topics in science, engineering, and medicine matter most to you? The National Academies are interested in developing useful and engaging print and web-based educational materials on the topics that you’d like to learn more about. We invite you to participate in a brief survey. In the 2-minute survey you’ll be presented with a list of topics and asked to select the five that matter most to you. At the end, you can see how your answers compare with the results so far. And you can enter a drawing to receive a National Academies tote bag! As a special thanks to our loyal customers, the National Academies Press is offering a 20% discount to those who complete the survey. You’ll find the discount code on the last page of the survey.

30. IAFC Reflects on Economic Challenges for Fire and EMS
“Weathering the Economic Storm: Fiscal Challenges in Fire and Emergency Medical Services” compiles best practices from Emergency Services Sector (ESS) leaders across the U.S. The goal of the guide, from the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), is to help senior officers and their departments understand the most effective strategies and best practices for, and common pitfalls of, making tough resource decisions.
The guide includes a matrix of best practices, and, to help departments explore new options, a list of 10 key principles for successful innovation. Revisions and updates are planned for the guide, in addition to webinars. Specific advice or assistance with budget or economic issues is available by contacting the IAFC’s Economic Challenge Task Force at economy@iafc.org or by calling (703) 273-0911. See the guide at http://www.iafc.org/associations/4685/files/deptAdminEcon_WeatheringTheEconomicStorm.pdf.

31. US District Court Denies Motion for Class Certification in FEMA Emergency Housing Case

A motion for class certification filed by all plaintiffs reportedly exposed to high levels of formaldehyde in emergency housing trailers provided by FEMA following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has been denied by the US District Court in Louisiana. The Court concluded that because Plaintiffs’ interactions with FEMA vary greatly on an individual basis and require an individualized assessment, no class representative can be said to adequately represent the interests of all class members involved. Download the Court’s ruling here.

32. Gasping During Cardiac Arrest Is Associated with Improved Survival

Early and uninterrupted bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation is often critical to patient survival after cardiac arrest. However, the presence of agonal or gasping respirations might delay recognition of arrest and, therefore, delay initiation of CPR. Researchers retrospectively reviewed cardiac arrest reports from Arizona emergency medical services systems to assess the frequency of gasping respirations in adults with out-of-hospital nontraumatic cardiac arrest. The study concludes that gasping is common and shouldn’t delay initiation of CPR. Berger S. Gasping, survival, and the science of resuscitation. Circulation 2008 Dec 9; 118:2495.
http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/118/24/2550


Emergency medical services (EMS) responses to mass gatherings have been described frequently, but there are few reports describing the response to a single-day gathering of large magnitude. This University of Wisconsin report describes the EMS response to the largest single-day, ticketed concert held in North America: the 2003 “Toronto Rocks!” Rolling Stones Concert.

UPCOMING EVENTS

***STATEWIDE EMS CONFERENCES***

Symposium 2009 March 5 – 8, 2009 Radisson Inn, Sharon, PA EMMCO West, Inc. Northwestern PA’s Continuing Education Event featuring national, state, and regional guest speakers. PA Department of Health Approved Con Ed Credits. Online Registration at www.emmco.org (Events)

The EMS Institute (www.emsi.org) is sponsoring EMS Update 2009, being held March 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2009 at Seven Springs Resort (www.7springs.com) located one hour east of Pittsburgh PA. Additional information on EMS Update 2009 can be found at www.emsupdate.com


2009 South Carolina Emergency Care Symposium. April 15 - 18, 2009, Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC. For more information, go to www.scemsnetwork.org.


9 | National Association of State EMS Officials


**EMS Administrator’s Association of California 2009 Conference - Redefining the Landscape**, Palm Springs, CA. June 2-3, 2009


*The Kentucky Ambulance Providers will be hosting their annual EMS conference in Lexington Kentucky on September 23-25 2009 at the Lexington Convention Center. The website for the conference is as follows: [http://www.hultgren.org/conference/](http://www.hultgren.org/conference/). Other details will be forthcoming to keep you updated.*


*15th Annual Pocono EMS Conference - October 23, 24, 25, 2009. Pre-conference golf tournament October 22, 2009. The conference will be held at The Inn at Pocono Manor, Pocono Manor, PA. For additional information and conference registration visit [www.easternemscouncil.org](http://www.easternemscouncil.org) or call Eastern PA EMS Council at 610-820-9212.*

SDEMTA 2009 Conference. South Dakota’s premier EMS conference will be October 23-25, 2009 in Sioux Falls, SD. As information becomes available, it can be found at [http://www.sdemta.org/](http://www.sdemta.org/).


32nd Annual West Virginia EMS Conference. November 12 - 14, 2009 at the Days Inn Hotel & Conference Center. Flatwoods, WV. More information will be provided when it becomes available.

*The 5th Annual New Jersey Statewide Conference on EMS November 12th – 14th, 2009 at the Sheraton Atlantic City Conference Website: [www.njemsconference.com](http://www.njemsconference.com)*


***National Conferences and Special Meetings***

National Health Policy Conference. Feb. 2-3, 2009. Washington, D.C. The 2009 National Health Policy Conference (NHPC) is the first post-inaugural opportunity to hear directly from new and returning policymakers about plans to tackle pressing national health policy issues. NHPC offers perspectives on health care reform from experts such as administration officials, members of Congress, state policymakers, executives from the health care industry, and campaign pollsters. The conference will take place Feb. 2-3 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. This program is ideal for researchers, policymakers, advocates, and health care employees who want to get a comprehensive look at the nation’s health policy agenda for 2009. Early registration discounts are available until Dec. 22 – visit [http://academyhealth.org/nhpc/register.htm](http://academyhealth.org/nhpc/register.htm) for full registration details. Additional information
about the conference agenda, adjunct meetings, and travel accommodations is available on the NHPC Web site at www.academyhealth.org/nhpc. The conference is hosted by AcademyHealth and Health Affairs.

NTSB Hearing on EMS Operations. February 3-5, 2009. NTSB's Board Room and Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. The hearing will be broadcast live via the Internet. An agenda and webcast details will be posted on the Board’s website, www.ntsb.gov, when available.

Public Health Preparedness Summit. The Summit is the largest conference for public health and emergency preparedness professionals offering a variety of plenary, panel, and poster presentations, roundtable discussions, and interactive workshops all focused on building, enhancing, and sustaining our nation’s ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other public health emergencies. The 2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit will be held in San Diego, February 18-20, 2009. For more information, visit http://www.phprep.org/2009/?CFID=1518091&CFTOKEN=15027974.


*EMSC Town Hall Conference Calls 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (eastern) April 21, 2009. The local number is (202) 476-6338 or call toll-free dial (877) 355-6338 and enter EMSC (3672) for the meeting ID#.

June 8-9, 2009, NASEMSO Mid-Year Meeting, Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria, VA. For more information contact Kathy Robinson, NASEMSO Program Advisor at (703) 538-1799, ext 4 or email robinson@nasemso.org.

*EMSC Town Hall Conference Calls 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (eastern) July 21, 2009. The local number is (202) 476-6338 or call toll-free dial (877) 355-6338 and enter EMSC (3672) for the meeting ID#.


*Pinnacle 2009 will take place August 3-7, 2009 in St. Pete Beach, Florida. Additional information on this event can be found at www.pinnacle-ems.com.


Rural EMS and Trauma Summit series conference-- Hosted by the Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation. August 25-27, 2009. The Summit at Deer Valley Lodges Park City, UT. For more information, contact Nels Sanddal at nsanddal@citmt.org.

For more information contact Kathy Robinson, NASEMSO Program Advisor at (703) 538-1799, ext 4 or email robinson@nasemso.org.

*EMSC Town Hall Conference Calls 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (eastern) September 29, 2009. The local number is (202) 476-6338 or call toll-free dial (877) 355-6338 and enter EMSC (3672) for the meeting ID#.


Fifth Annual International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine and Rural Healthcare Delivery. October 12-17, 2009 Auckland, New Zealand. For more information go to http://www.ircp.info/.


*EMSC Town Hall Conference Calls 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (eastern) January 5, 2010. The local number is (202) 476-6338 or call toll-free dial (877) 355-6338 and enter EMSC (3672) for the meeting ID#.

See more EMS Events on NASEMSO’s web site at http://www.nasemso.org/Resources/Calendar/index.asp

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