



March 30, 2007

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1. NASEMSO Updates Vision and Mission

The NASEMSO Executive Committee on March 27, 2007, approved adoption of the new NASEMSO Vision and Mission that was drafted during the retreat earlier this year. The Vision and Mission have been added to the Web site at <http://www.nasemso.org/About/>.

Vision: A seamless nationwide network of coordinated and accountable state, region and local EMS and emergency care systems. The systems use public health principles, data and evidence as a basis for safe and effective care in day-to-day operations as well as during catastrophic events.

Mission: NASEMSO supports its members in developing EMS policy and oversight, as well as in providing vision, leadership and resources in the development and improvement of state, regional and local EMS and emergency care systems.

2. Trauma Systems Bill Heads to President for Signing

On March 27, 2007, the House of Representatives passed by a voice vote H.R. 727, the "Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act." The act reauthorizes through FY 2012 the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Trauma-EMS Program. According to the American College of Surgeons, the bill also creates a new competitive grant program for states that have already begun the

process of establishing a trauma care system using national standards and protocols. On March 29, the Senate also passed the bill and it was sent to the President to be signed into law. Following President Bush's signature, the Trauma-EMS program will be reauthorized, and at a level of \$12 million for FY 2008. NASEMSO was one of many that signed a letter coordinated by the Coalition for American Trauma Care (CATC) urging the House and Senate appropriators to include public health programs that support trauma care, trauma care research and injury prevention in the FY 2008 budget. For more information on the letter, contact Marcia Mabee at mmabee@ix.netcom.com.

3. STOP Stroke Act Passes House – Moves to Senate

The STOP Stroke Act was passed by voice vote in the House of Representatives on March 27, 2007. The bill will close existing gaps in the awareness and treatment of a deadly disease that afflicts about 700,000 Americans each year and threatens quality of life. Also on March 27, Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) joined with Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) to introduce the "Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act of 2007" in the Senate. This legislation is a companion to the House bill. The bill would authorize funds for the development of statewide systems for stroke care. This is the same bill approved by the Senate during the last (107th) Congress. For more information, including the text of the bill, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> and query for bill number S.999.

4. NASEMSO Submits Comments on the EMS Workforce Assessment Report

On March 23, 2007, NASEMSO submitted comments on the Draft EMS Workforce Report. Along with comments on specific sections of the report, NASEMSO shared a document regarding the volunteer workforce. The document examined volunteers (quantity, hours and dollar value) from 1989-2000. NASEMSO will provide a link to the Final EMS Workforce Report upon its completion.

5. DHS Requests Comments on NIMS and NRP – NASEMSO Is Coordinating Member Comments

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is coordinating a comprehensive review of the National Response Plan (NRP) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to assess their effectiveness and identify improvements. The second national comment period for the NIMS document is March 26 through April 6, 2007. The document is available at <http://www.dhs.gov/nrp>. Click on "currently under review" and scroll down to the "progress" section. NASEMSO Policy Advisor Leslee Stein-Spencer is leading the comment formulation for NASEMSO. Members are encouraged to provide comments to her at LesleeSS@aol.com.

6. Current Emergency Alert System Has Limitations According to New GAO Report

According to stakeholders, the media are generally prepared to participate in Emergency Alert System (EAS) as required, but EAS has limitations that could affect its performance. FEMA officials and other stakeholders told the Government Accountability Office (GAO) that the current EAS faces a range of technical, cultural, and other challenges, such as interfacing with new communications technologies and issuing alerts in multiple languages. In its report, "Current Emergency Alert System Has Limitations, and Development of a New Integrated System Will Be Challenging," GAO recommends that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) develop a plan to verify the dependability and effectiveness of the EAS relay system, and that EAS participants have the training to issue effective EAS alerts. Also, DHS and FCC should establish a forum for stakeholders to address the challenges of implementing an integrated alert system. The report is available at <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-411>.

7. Toolbox on Medical Direction Added to EMSC Web Site

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Web site has added a new topic, medical direction, to its current collection of toolboxes. The new toolbox features the latest information and

resources, as well as an interview with one of the nation's foremost leaders on medical direction. It also includes a PubMed database search. Three additional toolboxes are available through the EMSC Web site: Pediatric Pain Management, Pediatric Disaster Preparedness, and Prehospital Education. To access the toolboxes, visit <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/emsc/>.

8. EMS Network News Feed is Alive and Well at www.nasemso.org

For several years, NASEMSO has provided a link to the top news items posted by EMS Network News. Recently, our news feed has been down due to a restructuring change at EMS Network News. We now are back in business and have increased our previous news feed from the top 10 stories to the top 20 stories. EMS Network News (EMSN) is the #1 EMS news gathering and delivery site. EMSN delivers the most comprehensive and widest variety of EMS news anywhere on the Internet today, including a mixture of major breaking EMS news, as well as small town EMS news. In addition to posting the day's news, they typically update the site throughout the day, providing true news-as-it-happens. You will see ads on EMSN, but the news feed and information is provided free to organizations who post it on their Web sites. You can access the NASEMSO EMSN page by clicking on the EMSN link on the left-side of the home page, just below the Washington Update link. Visit <http://www.nasemso.org> and check out this feature.

9. NM Seeks EMS Bureau Chief

The New Mexico Department of Health is seeking qualified candidates to head the state's EMS Bureau. The application deadline is April 15, 2007. The person will lead and manage the EMS Bureau of the Epidemiology and Response Division in the New Mexico Department of Health. The bureau includes the EMS, Trauma and Stroke programs. To apply, visit <http://www.spo.state.nm.us> and select "State Job Openings." The position is "Job Order 6461. For more information, contact Lydia Perez at lydia.perez@state.nm.us

10. DHS Provides First Responders \$34.6 Million in Equipment and Training Programs

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on March 27, 2007, the award of \$34.6 million in equipment and training to first responders across the nation as a part of the fiscal year 2006 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). DHS awarded more than 2,000 direct assistance grants to ensure that law enforcement and emergency responders receive specialized equipment and training to meet their homeland security mission. CEDAP offers equipment in the following categories: personal protective equipment; thermal imaging, night vision, and video surveillance tools; chemical and biological detection tools; information technology and risk management tools; and interoperable communications equipment. This program also focuses on smaller communities and metropolitan areas not eligible for the Urban Areas Security Initiative grant program. Awardees are required to receive training on their awarded equipment either on-site or at a CEDAP training conference. DHS has provided more than \$69.7 million in equipment and training to law enforcement and fire departments through CEDAP since the program's inception in 2005. For more information on CEDAP, visit <http://www.dhs.gov>.

11. Firefighting Duties Pose Substantial Cardiovascular Risk

The sudden stress of firefighting poses a significant risk for cardiovascular death, according to an 11-year study in the March 22 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Using a national database, the authors estimated time typically spent in different firefighter duties and then estimated expected cardiovascular deaths during each. They measured actual cardiovascular deaths in firefighting centers serving communities of various sizes. The article is available at <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/356/12/1207>. An abstract of the article is available at <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/abstract/356/12/1207>.

12. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Issues Call for Proposals

New Routes to Community Health supports local partnerships among immigrant organizations, media production centers and established community institutions to foster collaborations to improve immigrants' health, work life and civic participation. Up to eight grants of up to \$225,000 each will be awarded in two phases – a planning phase and implementation phase – spanning 39 months. Eligible applicants must be made up of locally-based collaborations including at least one of each of the following: a media production center, an immigrant organization and a community institution acting as the partnership manager. The proposal deadline is May 17, 2007. The complete call for proposals is available on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Web site at <http://www.rwif.org/cfp/newroutes> and the program Web site at <http://www.newroutes.org>.

13. NCSA Web Site Moves to NHTSA's Main Site

The National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) Web site has integrated into the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) main site. All NCSA traffic safety fact sheets, research notes, crash stats, technical reports, manuals, brochures, PowerPoint presentations, annual assessments, and more, are now located on one Web site using the new Customer Automated Tracking System (CATS). To access CATS, go to <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>, and click on the NCSA homepage link under "Traffic Safety." Once there, click on "NCSA Publication" then "NCSA Publications, Documentation & Manuals (CATS)." This page provides users instant access to all NCSA publications. They can be searched in three ways: by category/topic, by publication type, or by the NHTSA DOT HS number. Users also are able to leave specialized data requests while on the CATS Web page.

14. Allstate Is Sponsoring Awards for National Youth Traffic Safety Month

National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS) has designated May as National Youth Traffic Safety Month because it is an important time for teens to be focused on driving safety. To support National Youth Traffic Safety Month, Allstate is awarding \$1,000 to 50 local youth organizations for their youth developed and implemented projects that demonstrate a strong focus geared towards youth traffic safety. With prom, graduation, and summer trips just ahead, youth led teams can work together with Allstate and NOYS to decrease the number of traffic-related deaths and injuries that involve young drivers and passengers. To apply for an Allstate National Youth Traffic Safety Month award, visit <http://www.noys.org>. The deadline for submission is May 31, 2007.

15. Wanted: Road Crash Stories from Abroad

Have you traveled or studied outside the United States? Have you witnessed or been part of a road traffic crash (pedestrian, bus, car, motorcycle, etc.) while you were abroad? If so, MAKE ROADS SAFE would like to hear about it and perhaps your experience can help prevent others from being killed or injured on the roads when they travel. Please send an email to Bella Dinh-Zarr at MAKE ROADS SAFE at dinhzarr@dinhzarr.org with your name, age, the country where you were traveling, and a few sentences describing your experience. Also, send a photo of yourself on the trip, if possible. MAKE ROADS SAFE will offer you an honorarium of \$100, if they use the story.

16. New Report Finds Severe Pandemic Flu Could Lead to Major U.S. Recession

Trust for America's Health (TFAH) on March 22, 2007, released a report that finds a severe pandemic flu outbreak could result in the second worst recession in the United States since World War II. The U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could drop more than 5.5 percent, leading to an estimated \$683 billion loss. States with high levels of tourism and entertainment could be the hardest hit. The report was funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts as part of the U.S. Pandemic Preparedness Initiative. In the report "Pandemic Flu and the Potential for U.S. Economic Recession," TFAH created a model to assess the potential losses each state could face during a severe pandemic. Based on estimates from financial and economic experts, TFAH examined the impact of a pandemic on 20 different industries, trade, and

worker productivity. The full report is available at <http://healthyamericans.org> and <http://www.pandemicfluandyou.org>.

17. Science and Technology Directorate Establishes TechSolutions Program to Support Emergency Response Community

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology (S&T) directorate has established a program, TechSolutions, to support the first responder community by accelerating delivery of emerging technologies. TechSolutions is designed to collect technological requirements and provide solutions for first responders. S&T's commitment to spiral development and rapid prototyping ensures funding for selected proposals within 45 days, and a solution demonstrated within 12 months of funding. Solutions should deliver up to 100 percent of identified requirements, and first responders will partner with the department from start to finish. First responders are encouraged to submit ideas that would aid the first responder community by increasing efficiency and on-the-job safety at <http://www.dhs.gov/techsolutions>.

18. Upcoming Events (*denotes event is newly added)

2007 Critical Care Transport Medicine Conference, April 2-4, 2007, San Antonio, TX. Information is available at <http://www.flightparamedic.org>.

2007 Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, "Continuing to Build Partnerships," April 10-11, 2007, Tacoma, WA. Information is available at <http://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emergencyprep/>.

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs Annual Meeting, April 13-14, 2007, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL. Information is available at <http://www.caahep.org/content.aspx?ID=26>.

ACEP Advanced Pediatric Emergency Medicine Assembly, April 17-19, 2007, New York, NY. Information is available at <http://www.acep.org/pemassembly>.

NAEMSP[®] National EMS Medical Direction Overview Course, April 23, 2007, 8:00 am-5:00 pm, in conjunction with the ACEP Spring Congress, San Diego, CA. Information is available at <http://meetings.acep.org/meetings/SpringCongress/SpecialEvents/NAEMSP.htm>.

Global Road Safety Week, April 23-29, 2007. Information is available at <http://www.who.int/roadsafety/en>.

ACEP Emergency Medicine Spring Congress, April 24-26, 2007, San Diego, CA. Information is available at <http://meetings.acep.org/meetings/SpringCongress>.

"How to Survey Effectively in EMS & EMSC," April 25-27, 2007, Seattle, WA. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>.

2007 EMS Outcome Measures National Consensus Meeting, April 26-27, 2007, Courtyard by Marriott Country Club, Kansas City, MO. Information is available at <http://emsoutcomes.ncemsi.org/>.

American Trauma Society 2007 Conference, April 27-28, 2007, Arlington, VA. Information is available at http://www.amtrauma.org/conference/annual_conference.html.

Fire-Rescue Med 2007, April 30-May 2, 2007, Las Vegas, NV. Information is available at <http://iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=6>.

Inaugural "Emerging Issues in Fire and EMS" Conference, May 2-4, 2007, Presented by the California Fire Chiefs Association, Temecula, CA. Information is available at <http://www.fhfnct.com/cfc>.

The Disease Management Colloquium, May 7-9, 2007, Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA. Information is available at <http://www.DMConferences.com>.

15th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine "Preparedness: Knowledge, Training and Networks", May 13-16, 2007, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.. Information is available at <http://www.wcdem2007.org>.

**National Rural Health Association 2007 Annual Conference, May 16-18, 2007, Anchorage, AK. Information is available at <http://www.nrharural.org/conferences/index.html>.

EMS Week 2007: "EMS: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Service", May 20-26, 2007. Information is available at <http://www.acep.org/emsweek>.

**2007 Maryland Emergency Management Association Director's Conference, May 21-25, 2007, Princess Royale Hotel and Conference City, Ocean City, MD. Information is available from Amy LePore at alepore@ccgov.org.

"California EMS: The Road Ahead," EMS Administrators Association of California Annual Conference, May 29-30, 2007, Newport Beach, CA. Information is available at http://www.emsaac.com/emsaac_documents/EMSAAC%20Conference_2007.pdf.

**Western States Trauma Conference, June 10-12, 2007, Park City, UT. Information is available from Jolene Whitney, jrwhitney@utah.gov.

NASEMSO Mid Year Meeting, June 18-19, 2007, Silver Spring, MD.

EMSC Annual Grantee Meeting, June 19-21, 2007, Silver Spring, MD.

AMA/CDC Second National Congress on Health System Readiness, July 18-20, 2007, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17239.html>.

**IAFF 9th Biennial EMS Conference, June 24-27, 2007, Houston, TX. Information is available at <http://www.iaff.org/>.

**17th World Conference on Disaster Management, "Emergency Management & Business Continuity Working Together," July 8-11, 2007, Toronto, Canada. Information is available at <http://www.wcdm.org>.

**AMA-CDC Congress on Health System Readiness, July 18-20, 2007, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17239.htm>.

**Dept. of Defense Fire & Emergency Services Training Conference, August 21-24, 2007, Atlanta, GA. Information is available at <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=520>.

**Second Annual FDA Regulatory & Compliance Symposium, August 22-24, 2007, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Information is available at <http://www.FDASymposium.com/>.

Scientific Grant Writing," August 29-31, 2007, Chicago, IL. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>.

**National Association of EMS Educators 12th Annual Educational Symposium & Trade Show, September 10-16, 2007, Hollywood, CA. Information is available at <http://www.naemse.org>.

**AAMS' Air Medical Transport Conference, September 17-19, 2007, Tampa, FL. Information is available at <http://www.aams.org/Content/NavigationMenu/EducationMeetings/AMTC2007/default.htm>.

3rd International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine and Rural Healthcare Delivery, September 19-21, 2007, Australia. Information is available at <http://ircp.ncemsi.org/>.

2007 Governors Highway Safety Association Annual Meeting, September 23-26, 2007, Portland Hilton Hotel, Portland, OR. Information is available at <http://www.ghsa.org>.

**EMS/EMSC Data Analysis Workshop, September 26-28, 2007, New Orleans, LA. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>.

**Emergency Nurses Association 2007 Conference, September 26-29, 2007, Salt Lake City, UT. Information is available at <http://www.ena.org/conferences/default.asp>.

NASEMSO Annual Meeting, October 28-November 2, 2007, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN. Information is available at <http://www.nasemso.org/Meetings/Annual/>.

**International Association of Emergency Managers 55th Annual Conference & EMEX 2007, September 17-19, 2007, The Silver Legacy, Reno, NV. Information is available at <http://www.iaem.com>.

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