



September 17, 2007

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1. DHS Releases National Response Framework – NASEMSO to Comment

On Sept. 10, 2007, the Department of Homeland Security released a pre-decisional draft of the National Response Framework for review and comment by stakeholders and the public. The comment period is 30 days. NASEMSO will be submitting comments. Those members who wish to provide input should contact NASEMSO Policy Advisor Leslee Stein-Spencer, R.N., M.S., at lesleess@aol.com. Visit the NASEMSO Web site at <http://www.nasemso.org/documents/NRF091007.pdf> to view the draft framework.

2. NASEMSO Adopts Strategic Plan

The NASEMSO Executive Committee adopted the "Strategic Plan 2007-08" during its meeting last week. The document has been posted on the NASEMSO Web site. To download it, visit <http://www.nasemso.org/About/DocumentDownloads/documents/StrategicPlan2007-08.pdf>.

3. National Preparedness Month Web Site Launches New Section

The *Ready* Campaign has announced a new area on the National Preparedness Month (NPM) Web site. The NPM *Week-In-Review* Journal went live today and features a few of the efforts made by coalition members to educate *Ready Kids* on ways to help their families and schools be better prepared for emergencies. To view the NPM *Week-One-In-Review* Journal, visit <http://www.ready.gov/america/npm07/week1review.html>. This journal will be updated with Week Two events.

4. Florida's K.I.D. Kit Available through EMSC National Resource Center

The Florida Department of Health recently produced the K.I.D. (Kids in Disaster) Kit. This is a pediatric resource for disaster responders and receivers developed by Lou Romig, MD, Florida EMSC Medical

Advisor. It is now available through the EMSC National Resource Center (NRC). The NRC has received approximately 500 copies of the kit for distribution. Those interested in obtaining a copy should contact Steve Forest, NRC resource specialist, at sforest@emscnrc.com.

5. EMSC NRC Telephone Numbers Change Sept. 14

Effective today, Sept. 14, 2007, the EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) will begin using a new '476' telephone exchange. The area code and staff extensions will remain unchanged. NRC staff members' new numbers will be '202-476-XXXX' and not '202-884-XXXX'. The main NRC line now is 202-476-4927 and the fax is 202-476-6845. A recorded message indicating the correct number will be provided to external persons calling the old number.

6. HRSA Issues Health Center Emergency Management Guidance

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) issued a new guidance on emergency management expectations for health centers that are funded under the federal Health Center Program. The Policy Information Notice (PIN) provides guidance on developing and maintaining effective emergency management strategies, including development and implementation of emergency management plans. It also addresses planning, collaboration, communications, and financial and operational stability during an emergency. The full notice is available at <ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/bphc/docs/2007pins/pin200715.pdf>.

7. New Information on SCIP Development Posted to SAFECOM Web Site

New information on Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIPs) required by the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program and the Fiscal Year 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program has been posted to the SAFECOM Web site at <http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/statewideplanning/>. The new information includes the "SCIP Weighted Evaluation Criteria" and the "SCIP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)." These documents provide further clarification on how SCIPs will be reviewed and clarification on questions that have arisen in the development of SCIPs. States and territories have the option to submit a preliminary draft SCIP on Sept. 30, 2007. The Office of Emergency Communications will review the preliminary drafts and provide feedback.

8. CDC Issues Draft Guidelines for Population Monitoring During Radiation Emergencies

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a pre-decisional draft planning guide for state and local public health planners regarding population monitoring in radiation emergencies. The CDC welcomes comments and suggestions. The guide is intended to introduce public health officials and emergency preparedness planners at state and local levels to the process of identifying, screening and monitoring people for exposure to radiation or contamination from radioactive materials. It focuses on planning a public health response to radiological or nuclear terrorism incidents that result in mass casualties. To read the draft guidelines and information about submitting comments and suggestions, visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/pdf/population-monitoring-guide.pdf>.

9. GAO Releases Report on Influenza Pandemic Preparedness

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released "Influenza Pandemic: Further Efforts Are Needed to Ensure Clearer Federal Leadership Roles and an Effective National Strategy." The report assesses how clearly federal leadership roles and responsibilities are defined and the extent to which the "Strategy and Plan" address six characteristics of an effective national strategy. To do this, GAO analyzed key emergency and pandemic-specific plans, interviewed agency officials, and compared the "Strategy and Plan" with the six characteristics GAO identified. To read the full report, visit <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-781>.

10. Toolbox on Facility Categorization Added to EMSC Web Site

The EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) has posted a new toolbox on facility categorization to the federal EMSC Program Web site, located at <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/emsc/>. The new toolbox features the latest information and Web resources on facility categorization agreements, processes, and guidelines, as well as a pre-populated PubMed search string and the recently added feature "Example Practices." This new section includes a description for and relevant links to model facility recognition/categorization programs in the United States. Five additional toolboxes are available through the EMSC Web site: Pediatric Pain Management, Pediatric Disaster Preparedness, Prehospital Education, Medical Direction, and Interfacility Designation.

11. CDC Announces System to Send Important Health Information

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced a system to send important health information in real time to subscribers, including alerts about any evidence of suspected pandemic influenza in the United States. The CDC Public Health Information Rapid Exchange (PHIRE) will disseminate important and timely information concerning actual or potential public health emergencies. To subscribe to this system and to learn more, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/phire/>.

12. AHRQ Report Identifies State-Level Privacy and Security Solutions for Health Information Exchange

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released a set of reports titled *Privacy and Security Solutions for Interoperable Health Information Exchange*. The reports review 34 state Health Information Exchange plans and identify the challenges and feasible solutions for ensuring the safety and security of electronic health information exchange. The reports can be downloaded from AHRQ's Health IT Web site at <http://www.healthit.ahrq.gov>.

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

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>.

2007 National Summit on Primary Care Emergency Preparedness, September 19, 2007, Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, New York, NY. Information is available at <http://www.pcdcn.org/documents/PCEPNationalSummitBrochure.pdf>.

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>.

National First Responder Appreciation Day, September 23, 2007. For more information, visit <http://www.FirstResponseCoalition.org>.

PSIC Grant Program Investment Justification Workshop, September 24, 2007, Dallas, TX. For more information, visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/news.html>.

5th International Bird Flu Summit, September 25-26, 2007, Las Vegas, NV. Information is available at <http://www.new-fields.com>.

PSIC Grant Program Investment Justification Workshop, September 26, 2007, Denver, CO. For more information, visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/news.html>.

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

"Public Health is Global Health: An Innovative Approach to Fighting Disease in Uganda." A National Satellite Broadcast and Webcast, September 27, 2007, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. ET. Information is available at <http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/>.

"Improving Health Care, Improving Lives" AHRQ 2007 Annual Conference, September 27-29, 2007, Bethesda, MD. Information will be available at <http://www.ahrq.gov>.

PSIC Grant Program Investment Justification Workshop, September 28, 2007, Newark, NJ. For more information, visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/news.html>.

NEMESIS 2007 Software Developers Meeting, Sept. 29, 2007, Clearwater Beach, FL. For information, contact paige.nielsen@hsc.utah.edu.

PSIC Grant Program Investment Justification Workshop, October 1, 2007, Los Angeles, CA. For more information, visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic/news.html>.

EMS Expo and NAEMT Annual Meeting, October 9-13, 2007, Orlando, FL. Information is available at <http://www.naemt.org/PHTLS/resourceLibrary/ConferenceExpo.htm>.

Third Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference: Preparing for the Unknown: "Are You Ready?", October 10-11, 2007, Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria, VA. Information is available at <http://www.jcrinc.com/24835/>.

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

135th APHA Annual Meeting, November 3-7, 2007, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.apha.org/meetings/>.

****"Quality of Health Information on the Internet: 10 Years On," a Health Improvement Institute Workshop**, November 12, 2007, Hyatt Regency Bethesda, MD. Information is available at <http://www.hii.org>.

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

Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium, November 27-28, 2007, Orlando, FL. Information is available at <http://www.emlrc.org/prepeds2007.htm>.

NAEMSP Annual Meeting, January 10-12, 2008, Pointe Hilton at Squaw peek Resort, Phoenix, AZ. Information is available at <http://www.naemsp.org>.

12th International Conference on Emergency Medicine, April 3-6, 2008, San Francisco, CA. Information is available at <http://meetings.acep.org/2008icem/EducationalPrograms/abstractprogram.htm>.

NASEMSO Staff Contacts

Elizabeth B. Armstrong, CAE, MAM / Executive Director
(703) 538-1799 ext. 7 - armstrong@nasemsso.org

Melissa M. Trumbull / Program Manager
(703) 538-1799 ext. 3 - trumbull@nasemsso.org

Sharon Kelly / Executive Assistant
(703) 538-1799 ext. 2 - kelly@nasemsso.org

Dawn M. Shiley-Danzeisen / Washington Update Editor
(703) 533-0251 ext. 3 - dshiley@asmii.net

Karen Thompson / Web Site Content Manager
(703) 644-2266 - thompson@nasemsso.org

201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church VA 22046
Phone: (703) 538-1799
Fax: (703) 241-5603
Website: www.nasemsso.org

The Washington Update is supported by a cooperative agreement between NASEMSO and NHTSA's EMS Division. Feel free to share this publication with your colleagues.

NASEMSO Washington Update is published two times a month by e-mail for association members and partners. Comments should be directed to the editor, Dawn M. Shiley at dshiley@asmii.net.

Cordially,

Dawn M. Shiley-Danzeisen
Marketing & Communications Director
NASEMSO
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA 22046
Phone: 703-538-1799
Fax: 703-241-5603
Email: dshiley@asmii.net
Website: www.nasemsso.org