

FICEMS Statement on Mental Health and the Public Safety Community

Emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, and their partners in public safety, face extraordinary challenges in the practice of their professions. It is the responsibility of stakeholders at all levels to support efforts to strengthen the mental and behavioral health resilience of these practitioners.

Effective emergency services systems rely on resilient workers who are educated and encouraged to respond to their own needs in addition to those of the public they serve.

FICEMS supports a culture of safety and health in emergency services that prioritizes the mental and behavioral health of responders and recognizes the unique challenges that these professionals endure. Leaders should promote the recognition of subtle indicators of psychological stress, and inspire personnel to access available resources for support and wellness.

Federal partners involved in emergency services, through FICEMS and other organizations, should collaborate to provide recommendations and guidance to State and local agencies, and the emergency services community, to support individual's mental and behavioral health.

Department of Defense

Office of the Assistant
Secretary of Defense for
Health Affairs

**Department of
Homeland Security**

Office of the Assistant
Secretary for Health
Affairs/Chief Medical Officer
U.S. Fire Administration

**Department of Health &
Human Services**

Office of the Assistant
Secretary for
Preparedness and Response

Indian Health Service

Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Health Resources and
Services Administration

Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services

**Department of
Transportation**

National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration

**Federal Communications
Commission**

Public Safety and
Homeland Security Bureau

FICEMS c/o
Office of Emergency
Medical Services

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
NTI-140
Washington, DC 20590
(202) 366-5440
nhntsa.ems@dot.gov