

EMS Focus

A Collaborative Federal Webinar Series

Working Together for Safer Responses: *Collaboration Strategies for EMS and Highway Safety Partners*

NHTSA's Office of EMS
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Today's Agenda

Moderator

- **Clary Mole**, Emergency Medical Services Specialist, Office of EMS, NHTSA

Speakers

- **Lauren V. Stewart**
Director, Maine Bureau of Highway Safety
Maine Department of Public Safety

- **Wil O'Neal**
State EMS Director
Staff Representative, Maine EMS Board

EMS FOCUS WEBINAR



VARIETY OF TOPICS

Provides the EMS community with a unique opportunity to learn more about Federal EMS efforts and programs.



EXPERIENCE

Brings Federal, State and local leaders to you!



REGISTER

With opportunity for Q&A. Closed captioning is available.



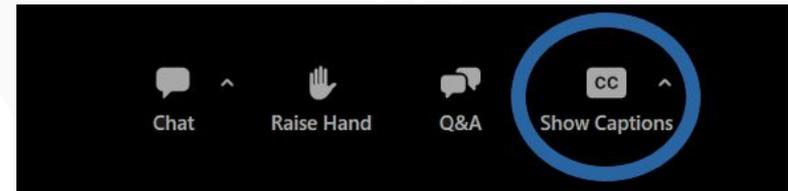
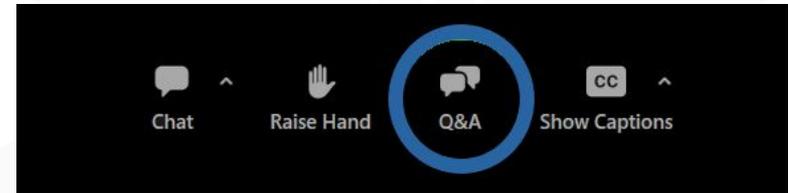
FEEDBACK & QUESTIONS

nhtsa.ems@dot.gov

Zoom Functions

This webinar will utilize three features in the Zoom Meeting controls.

- “Raise Hand” - Use this feature to ask your question live. You will be called upon and unmuted
- “Q&A” - Use this feature to submit your question virtually in a pop-up window/chat box
- “Show Captions” - Use this feature to turn on closed captions at any point during the webinar



NHTSA Office of EMS



Mission



Reduce death & disability



Provide leadership & coordination to the EMS community



Assess, plan, develop & promote comprehensive, evidence-based emergency medical services & 911 systems

EMS.gov Resources



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[Important Issues In EMS](#) | [Resources](#) | [About the Office of EMS](#) | [What Is EMS?](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Home / Resources

Featured Resources

Use these links to find the most popular resources on EMS.gov:

- "Star of Life" Brochure
- Education Standards
- EMS Agenda 2050
- Evidence-Based Guidelines
- Innovation Opportunities for Emergency Medical Services: A Draft White Paper
- Managing Emerging Diseases
- NEMSIS
- Scope of Practice Model
- State Assessments

 Sign up for the EMS Focus Webinars

 Sign up for the EMS Update Newsletter

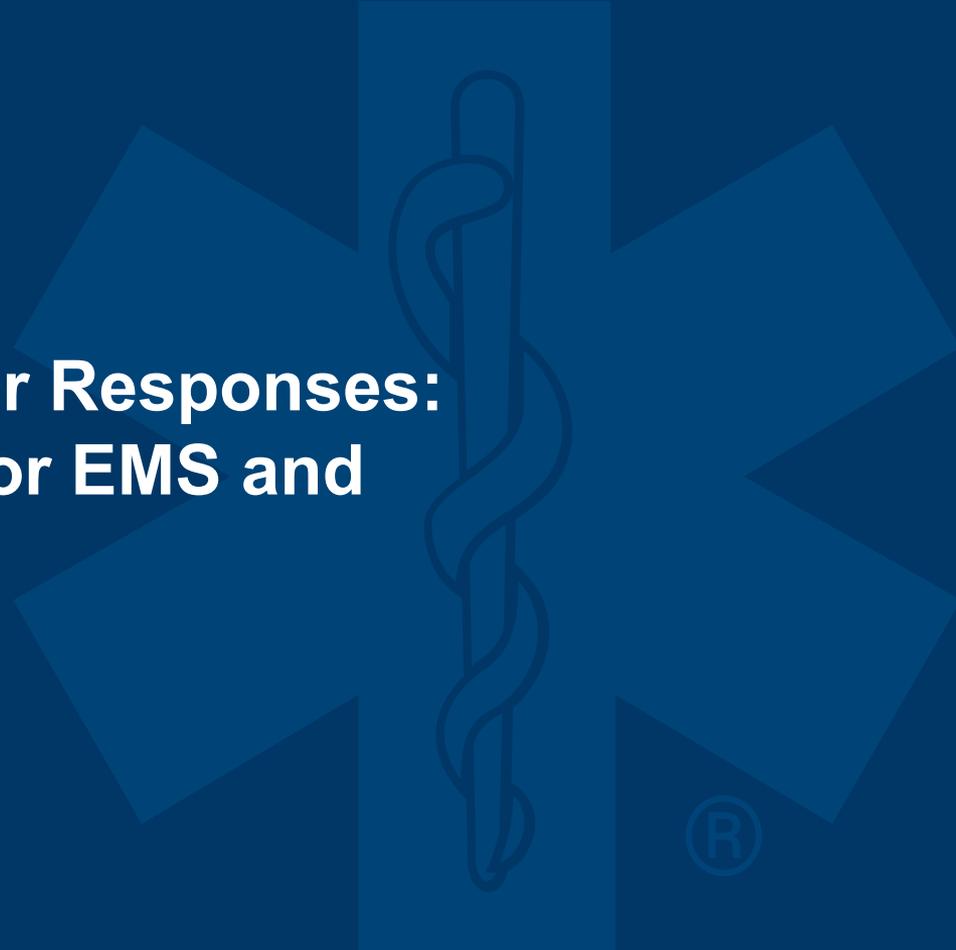
Resources

BROWSE BY CATEGORY

Advancing EMS Systems	Education	Emerging Diseases
EMS Data	EMS Focus Webinars	EMS Update Newsletters
Evidence-Based Guidelines	FICEMS	National EMS Instructional Guidelines



Working Together for Safer Responses: Collaboration Strategies for EMS and Highway Safety Partners



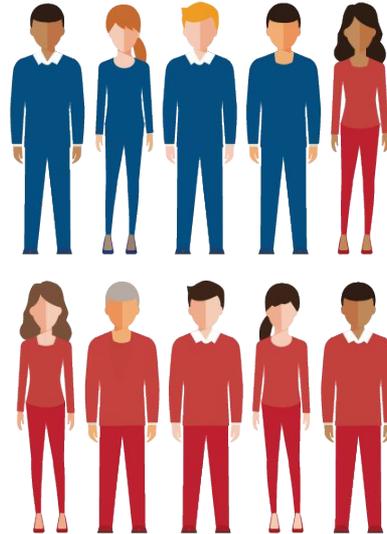
POST-CRASH CARE COUNTERMEASURES: HOW TO SAVE MORE LIVES

THE PROBLEM

IN 2023, NEARLY

41,000

PEOPLE DIED OF
INJURIES SUSTAINED IN A
MOTOR-VEHICLE CRASH.¹

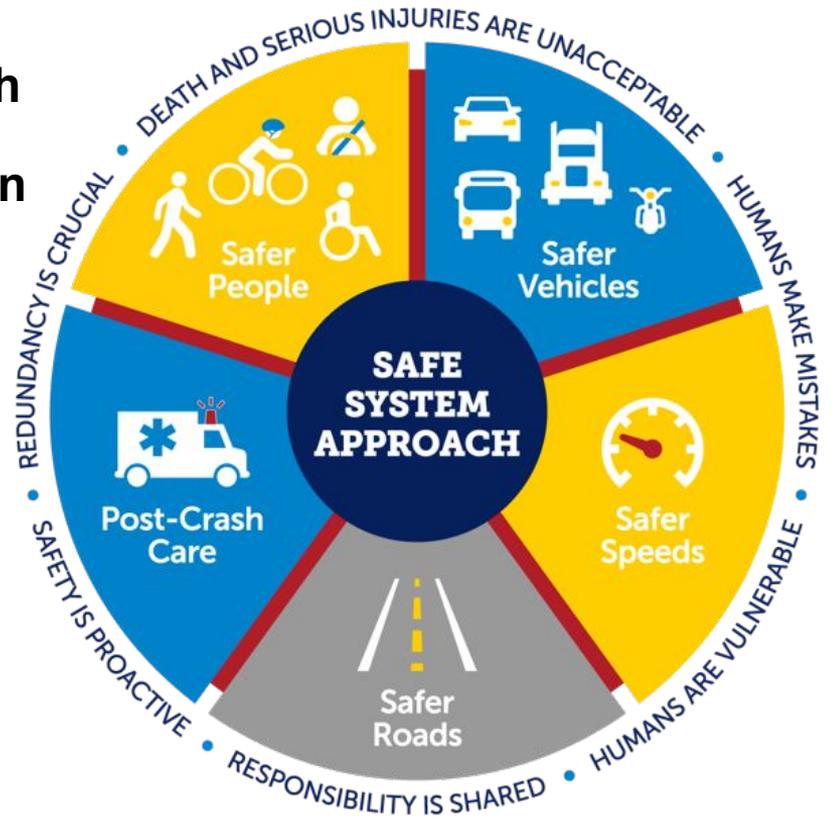


OF THOSE, **43%**
WERE STILL ALIVE
WHEN FIRST RESPONDERS
ARRIVED.¹

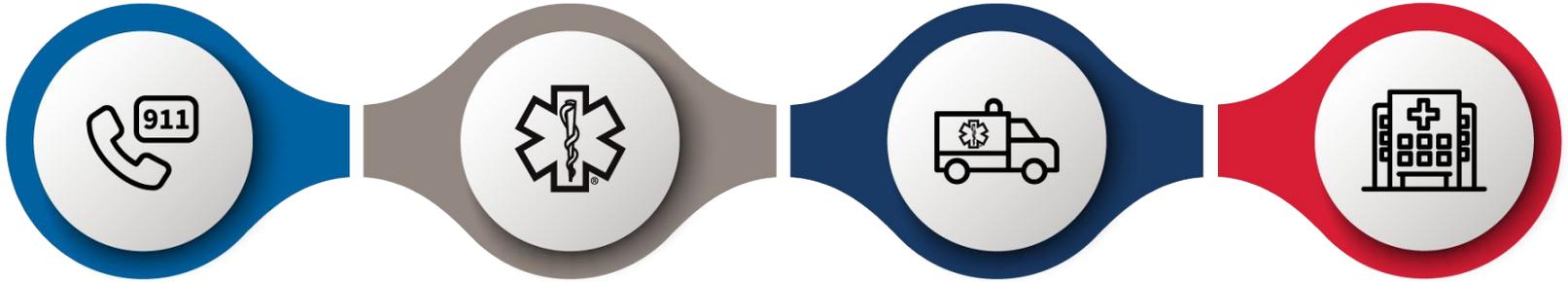
ROADWAY SAFETY

Roadway Safety Doesn't End at the Crash

- EMS responds to **more than 1.5 million roadway crashes each year**
- Coordinated EMS, 911 and highway safety response saves lives
- Aligned Traffic Incident Management practices improve responder safety



SEAMLESS CARE IMPROVES SURVIVAL



911, Emergency Medical
Dispatch, & Bystander Care

Timely On-Scene Care

Triage & Transport

Definitive Care at a
Trauma Center

A STATEWIDE MODEL IN ACTION

Maine demonstrates how:

- Cross-agency data sharing supports smarter planning
- Integrated EMS and highway safety leadership strengthens response
- Coordinated practices create a **scalable model** other states can adapt



Lauren V. Stewart

Director Bureau of Highway Safety
Maine Department of Public Safety



Population of
Maine in 2022
1.385 million

Counties: 16

Land Area:
30,843 square
miles

Length of
Coastline:
3,500 miles

Lakes and
Ponds: 6,000

Forest: 17
million acres

Persons per
Square Mile:
43.8

Largest City:
Portland

State Capital:
Augusta





MAINE
KEMS



Working together
toward Zero

What can your
EMS Office offer?



Helpful data EMS can share with Highway Safety

- ▶ Annual number of crashes EMS responds to
- ▶ Seriously injured crash patients treated
- ▶ Unrestrained or ejected patients
- ▶ High-risk roadway locations
- ▶ Response times, including rural areas and outcomes
- ▶ Crashes involving first responders (in or out of vehicles)

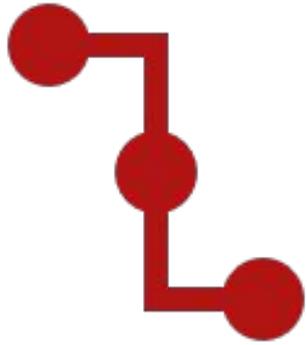


Working together toward Zero

What can the State Highway
Safety Office offer to EMS?

State Highway Safety Opportunities for EMS

- ▶ Traffic records integration
- ▶ First responder safety
- ▶ NHTSA gap assessments and resources
- ▶ Research funding (lights and sirens, data analysis)
- ▶ EMS education (seat belts, fatigue)
- ▶ Public education (emergency response, Slow Down Move Over)



Making the Connection

Strengthening EMS and Highway Safety Partnerships

- ▶ Identify your **State EMS Office and EMS Director** (structures vary by state)
- ▶ Ensure EMS participation in **SHSP and THSP** development
- ▶ Ensure your EMS agency is a member of the state **Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC)**
- ▶ Collaborate on **data and funding opportunities (training, outreach and equipment)**

Lauren V. Stewart, Director

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Department of Public Safety

Maine Bureau of Highway Safety

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STATE OF MAINE

Department of Public Safety

Bureau of Highway Safety

Wil O'Neal
State EMS Director
Staff Representative, Maine EMS Board





Highway Safety + EMS: A Shared Mission

- Two agencies. One system. One shared responsibility for safety.
- Roadways and emergency response meet in more than just intersections
- Highway Safety and EMS Systems often find mutual safety programs
- Maine's rural geography amplifies roadway and response risk.

How Alignment Improves Safety in Maine



Formal cross-agency
working groups



Shared crash,
response, and
outcome data



MAINE
EMS

Opportunities for Practical Collaboration



Joint roadway and
scene safety
education

Micro-learnings and
Podcasts

Reducing Risk Where it is Highest

Seatbelts worn by all patients and providers at all times



Speed detection and roadway monitoring



Reducing unnecessary Code 3 responses



Dash cameras for education and quality improvement



What the Evidence is Telling Us

- “Wake Effects” remain understudied.
- Whole blood administration by EMS has the potential to improve prehospital trauma outcomes related to vehicle crashes .
- Seatbelt use dramatically reduces provider injury.
- Code 3 overuse increases risk without improving outcomes for nearly every response category.
- Physician response models increase roadway exposure.





The Safety Loop: Where Our Agencies Connect



Q&A

Watch Previous
Webinars:



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 [ems.gov](https://www.ems.gov)

 [NHTSA](https://www.nhtsa.gov)

 [911.gov](https://www.911.gov)

THANK YOU!

Feedback & Questions

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