COVID-19 Response

On March 20, 2020, the Prehospital/EMS team was formed within the FEMA/HHS Healthcare Resilience Taskforce, which later became a HHS working group.

Our Team Goals:

• Work to ensure the resilience of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response capabilities throughout the U.S.

• Promote safety of the EMS workforce, to include physical and behavioral health, as well as keeping their families safe at home.

• Support planning for alternative workforce strategies.

• Facilitate improved interface among 911, EMS, public health, health care systems and emergency management from the local to the national level.

• Identify and fill any training gaps for crisis standards of care and innovative protocol adoption.

• For the EMS system to provide optimal patient care, given the current resources available.

• Maintain the logistics to provide necessary resources to all EMS agencies: workforce, supplies, training and education, reimbursement.
COVID-19 Response

Our Team:

• 27 federal employees with EMS/911 subject matter expertise joined
• More than 450 years of combined EMS/911 experience represented
• Although many had 30d deployments, most stayed engaged all 11 months

• Agencies represented:
  o NHTSA Office of EMS
  o National 911 Program
  o Federal Emergency Management Agency
  o US Fire Administration
  o Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  o Cybersecurity& Infrastructure Security Agency
  o National Institutes of Health
  o HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
  o Indian Health Service
  o Army
  o Coast Guard
COVID-19 Response

• PPE
  • Significant problem, need better integration in supply chain

• Funding
  • Reduced reimbursement due to reduced call volume
  • EMS reimbursement has to change

• Vaccine
  • Access, Acceptance and Administration

• Workforce
  • Now and in the future
  • Mental health of our workforce
Collaboration with CDC and NIOSH to research first responder suicide.
  - NIOSH Blog post, Paper using NVDRS Data, Collaboration on NVDRS public safety module (HERO act)

Collaboration with SAMHSA office of Suicide prevention
  - Encouraging more EMS/911 Suicide Prevention collaboration including with 988 implementation.
    - Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention Public Safety working group

OEMS has ongoing collaboration with federal, state, academic and nonprofit partners to improve EMS/911 workforce mental health as well as that of patients.

Improve mental health, stress management and health resources on EMS.gov
Prehospital/EMS Team Products

- 8 resource categories with more than 50 products available
- Variety of formats: videos, webinars, charts and whitepapers
- Full list with links available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Sample Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational Resources</td>
<td>COVID-19 Literature and Research Resources for EMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>COVID-19: Considerations, Strategies, and Resources for EMS Crisis Standards of Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>911 and EMS Response Modifications</td>
<td>Best Practices for COVID-19 Call Screening and Modified Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Videos</td>
<td>Take the shot videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPE and Decontamination</td>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment Supply for EMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health</td>
<td>COVID-19 Behavioral Health Resources for First Responders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>COVID-19: Supplemental Funding for Emergency Medical Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webinars</td>
<td>What EMS and 911 Need to Know about COVID-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>