

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.

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

Mental Health of EMS and 911 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

Category	Sample Product
Educational Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Literature and Research Resources for EMS
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19: Considerations, Strategies, and Resources for EMS Crisis Standards of Care
911 and EMS Response Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practices for COVID-19 Call Screening and Modified Response
Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the shot videos
PPE and Decontamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Protective Equipment Supply for EMS
Behavioral Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Behavioral Health Resources for First Responders
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19: Supplemental Funding for Emergency Medical Services
Webinars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What EMS and 911 Need to Know about COVID-19