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.