| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Louis V. Lombardo |
| **To:** | Strickland, David (NHTSA) |
| **Subject:** | Open Letter Request to NHTSA Administrator and to Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) |
| **Date:** | Sunday, December 18, 2011 8:46:58 AM |
| **Attachments:** | Nov. 25 Federal Interagency meeting.pdf<br>amj paper.pdf |

---

December 18, 2011

The Honorable David Strickland
Administrator
NHTSA
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC

Dear Administrator Strickland:

In your role as Administrator of NHTSA and as a managing member of the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) this is to request that you take following 3 simple steps -- actions to increase safety of motorists in America:

**1. Adopt a Timely & Optimal Treatment of Serious Crash Injuries Goal**

Currently more than half the crash fatalities each year are not taken to any medical facility for treatment. That is nearly 50 Americans per day.

A 2005 paper published by NHTSA cited the 1965 National Academy of Sciences report "*Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society*, focused on emergency care noting that "*Data are lacking on which to determine the number of individuals whose lives are lost or injuries are compounded by misguided attempts at rescue or first aid.*" That remains a problem to this day 46 years later. See
http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/CareForCrashVictims/2005_ESV_Paper_on_URGENCY.html

If Secretary of Defense Robert Gates can be proud of giving our troops "***one-hour medevac or less in Afghanistan***" we certainly can achieve **t**his goal for crash victims by 2020 here in America. So today, NHTSA (and President Obama) certainly can endorse such an aspirational goal to be achieved by 2020.

Since President Obama took office, more Americans have died of crash injuries in America than died in the entire Viet Nam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars combined.

**2. Adopt a National Goal for 2012 to Gather and Re-Publish Existing State Crash Injury Data**

As we did in the attached 2005 Air Medical Journal paper, see Table 3, we were able to calculate "Fatalities per 1,000 injuries" for each State. This measure is important for improving timely, optimal, care for crash victims. Since we were able to do this in 2005, NHTSA certainly can do this better today now that there is a national FICEMS.

**3. Adopt a National Goal for 2012 to Publish the First Annual NHTSA Recommended URGENCY Algorithm**

As we proposed to NHTSA in March of 1997, we can do a much better job of saving crash victims with application of Automatic Crash Notification (ACN) information technologies. See http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/CareForCrashVictims/2005_ESV_Paper_on_URGENCY.html Since then, more than 500,000 Americans have died of crash injuries and about 2,000,000 suffered serious crash injuries -- all without the benefit of a NHTSA URGENCY algorithm. For too many Americans, rescue resources have been too little, too late. You, FICEMS, and the President have a duty to do better than this. What the public has been told by NHTSA for too long "We are working on this with CDC" is no longer tolerable. CDC has taken GM funding and URGENCY has been delayed too long for too many Americans.

So I ask that at tomorrow's FICEMS Meeting (see attached FR Notice) that you consider and adopt these simple steps to building a Safer America.

Sincerely,

Lou Lombardo

--

Lou Lombardo
Louis V. Lombardo, LLC
4523 Sangamore Rd. #203
Bethesda, MD 20816
louis.v.lombardo@gmail.com
240-687-6058 (Mobile)
301-365-0412
www.CareForCrashVictims.com