



# National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council

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April 24, 2014

**Aarron  
Reinert**

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Chair

**Kyle Gorman**

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Vice-Chair

Drew Dawson  
Designated Federal Officer  
Director, Office of EMS  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Re: Next Steps for Developing a Culture of Safety in EMS

Mr. Dawson:

Recently, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of EMS released the much-anticipated National EMS Culture of Safety Strategy ([www.emscultureofsafety.org](http://www.emscultureofsafety.org)). The document highlights a growing concern among EMS constituents for patient and provider safety. It exposes a significant gap in research and resources for improving EMS patient and provider safety.

The purpose of this letter is to request the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Office of EMS, the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS), and their Federal and non-Federal partners take swift action to address the recommendations of the National EMS Culture of Safety Strategy.

As representatives of the greater than 19,000 EMS organizations, more than 800,000 individual EMS clinicians, and more than 30 million patients nationwide; the NEMSAC feels immediate action is required to change the status quo and improve safety for patients, providers, and the community.

The National EMS Culture of Safety Strategy describes the formation and maintenance of a service-oriented EMS Safety Resource Center as an ultimate and overarching goal that can help the industry improve safety nationwide.

The National EMS Advisory Council considers the following as logical and feasible first steps towards achieving that overarching goal. Specifically, the National EMS Advisory Council recommends the Department of Transportation NHTSA Office of EMS, Federal Interagency Committee on EMS, and their Federal and non-Federal partners address the following:

- 1: Coordinate an effort that can support the [www.EMSCultureOfSafety.org](http://www.EMSCultureOfSafety.org) website as a repository of data, information and resources germane to EMS patient, provider and community safety.
- 2: As a component on that website and repository, coordinate an effort that will:
  - a) Support the inclusion and dissemination of peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed literature germane to EMS patient, provider, and community safety;

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**The National EMS Advisory Council**

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- b) Support the collection and dissemination of diverse practices, processes, protocols, and programs designed to address safety concerns and challenges that affect EMS patients, providers, and the community;
- c) Support the capability of persons and organizations to share information germane to EMS patient, provider, and community safety;

3: Coordinate an effort that can address concerns for EMS ambulance safety standards, lack of standardization in safety reporting, and lack of education/training of EMS clinicians in safety practices.

4: Coordinate an effort to assemble concerned members of the EMS community to discuss EMS safety; preferably in the form of an annual meeting on EMS patient, provider, and community safety.

Thank you for your consideration of these important safety recommendations.

Sincerely,

Aarron Reinert  
Chair