

Draft for FICEMS Technical Working Group consideration
Not yet approved by FICEMS ... for discussion only

NTSB Mexican Hat Bus Crash – Recommendations to FICEMS - Update

Recommendation #2: H-09-5

Evaluate the system of emergency care response to large-scale transportation related rural accidents and, once that evaluation is completed, develop guidelines for emergency medical services response and provide those guidelines to the States.

- On behalf of the FICEMS Preparedness Committee, NHTSA is currently developing an agreement with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to have their Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events (the Forum) to host a workshop on evaluating the system of emergency care response to large-scale transportation related rural accidents.
- The Forum's workshop summary report will be provided to FICEMS and the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO's) Highway Incidents and Transportation Systems (HITS) committee.
- Input from the FICEMS Preparedness Committee and the Forum's workshop summary report will be used by the NASEMSO HITS Committee, in coordination with their Rural EMS Committee, to define an assessment and evaluation process for today's system of emergency medical response to highway incidents, with particular emphasis on risks related to mass casualties (i.e., crashes involving large buses or motorcoaches). On behalf of the FICEMS Preparedness Committee, NHTSA is developing an agreement with NASEMSO to support this HITS Committee activity.
- The HITS Guidelines will focus on EMS system developments needed at the State level to improve the EMS response to rural transportation-related mass casualty incidents. The HITS Guidelines may address both infrastructure and operational issues. Possible infrastructure issues may include development of uniform defined criteria for purpose of measuring risk, vulnerability and capabilities of EMS response on rural roadways.
- Among tools expected to be developed by NASEMSO HITS Committee are:
 - Event Response Readiness Assessment tool
 - Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements
 - Integration and Response Capability Guidelines
- Projected Timeline for IOM forum and NASEMSO deliverables
 - IOM Forum workshop on rural mass casualty response – Spring/Summer, 2010
 - IOM Proceedings from above workshop – Winter, 2010
 - NASEMSO Draft Matrix of Emergency Care Inventory – Winter, 2010
 - NASEMSO First Edition of Integration & Response Guidelines – Spring, 2011
 - NASEMSO First Scorecard of State level guideline findings – Spring, 2011
 - NASEMSO HITS Committee Final Report and presentation to FICEMS – June, 2011

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NASEMSO-NHTSA Systems Activities

Proposal for Modification 3 (Year 4 – January-December 2010)

Proposal for Modification 4 @11-20-2009

New Task 16 – Highway Mass Casualty EMS Readiness and Response

The Mexican Hat Motorcoach crash and resultant National Transportation Safety Board recommendations have generated new perspectives for NASEMSO. Discussions in the wake of the Mexican Hat incident and interactions with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) officials and American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) colleagues have led to a different angle of awareness for state EMS officials. Through NASEMSO's HITS Committee, NASEMSO considers how to maximize its potential contribution to reducing death and disability following mass casualty motor vehicle crashes, including those involving buses and motorcoaches.

NTSB issued recommendations for the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) (H-09-4 and H-09-5) and the Federal Highway Administration to explore with AASHTO and NASEMSO (H-09-7 and H-09-8) various options to assist States in addressing rural safety challenges for motorcoaches. This task specifically addresses H-09-5, related to an evaluation of emergency care response to mass casualty crashes and development and dissemination of guidelines to the states and H-09-8, recommending the development and implementation of criteria that can be used to assess the risks of rural travel by large buses.

Approach: Define an assessment and evaluation process for today's system of emergency medical response to highway incidents with particular emphasis on risks related to mass casualties (i.e., crashes involving large buses or motorcoaches).

- **Develop an Event Response Readiness Assessment tool (ERRA)** that state and local EMS agencies can use to assess their level of multidisciplinary system integration and response capability for mass casualties on highways. These guidelines, when completed as a self-evaluation at the local, regional, or state level, will provide a basis for critical programmatic decisions and point to activities that can contribute to safety as well as benchmark activity levels allowing comparison of local to local, region to region, state to state, and aggregate information. Findings from applying the guidelines should be key to state DOTs as safety assessments are performed and strategic highway safety plan projects are selected.
 - Develop ERRA using indicators of maximum integration and capability, such as adoption of incident command systems, mutual aid plans, participation in mass casualty exercises, etc.)
 - Response capability will include local practices as outlined above as well as regional or state level activities such as implementation of the National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management.

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- Use a technical writer and a subject matter expert work group to produce the guidelines, vet through appropriate stakeholder organizations. The work group would convene in-person three times and additionally via webinar or teleconference as needed. It is anticipated that the work group will consist of about 15 representatives of stakeholder groups and subject matter experts in the areas of traffic incident management, communications, emergency management, emergency medical services and other appropriate disciplines.
 - Conduct rollout session followed by on-line interactive workshops to promote states' self-assessment and adoption of corrective action plans.
 - Disseminate guidelines and monitor implementation (uptake, use and findings)
 - Do annual status check and report card of the states such as has been conducted for EMS Education Agenda implementation
 - A Project Director (Dia Gainor) will facilitate completion of these activities, supported by a Program Manager (Mary Hedges).
- Demonstrate the feasibility and utility of an emergency care infrastructure assessment that displays resource availability and system capacity by segment of interstates and US highways. US DOT's Model Inventory of Roadway Elements (MIRE) will be used as an example of how a geographically organized resource inventory using defined characteristics and classification standards can contribute to risk assessment, system improvement, and sound decisions about use of routes of interest. This will not entail the complete development of all elements in an emergency care inventory, rather, a "proof of concept" at this time.
 - Develop a working matrix of data elements demonstrating what a **Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE**, pronounced "mice"), if adopted and implemented by states, could contribute to the "new generation of safety data analysis tools and methods." (MIRE, 2009).
 - MIECE would include characteristics of the emergency care system, to include ground EMS agencies, rescue services that provide vehicle extrication, helicopter emergency medical services, hospitals and designated trauma centers.
 - Disseminate MIECE drafts and solicit feedback from states, especially about data collection methods in concert with their state regulatory activities
 - Conduct Blue Ribbon Panel assessment of feasibility and utility, to include stakeholders with companion safety data such as MMUCC and MIRE and representatives of Governors' Highway Safety Representatives and state DOTs to evaluate usefulness as they implements strategic highway safety plans
 - Prepare a more comprehensive project description aligned with the work and findings of the national EMS assessment
 - A Project Director (Dia Gainor) will facilitate completion of these activities, supported by a Program Manager (Mary Hedges).

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Deliverables (in 2010):

- Draft matrix of emergency care inventory
- First edition of integration and response capability guidelines
- First “scorecard” of state level guideline findings

Outcome/Performance Measure:

- Increased number of states with evidence of emergency medical system integration and response capability (count and type of integration/involvement efforts generated by the guidelines by state)
- Baseline setting for comparison in future years
- Ability to graphically display Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements in proof of concepts, including an outline of benefits and next steps.

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