

A close-up, low-angle shot of the top of a red ambulance, showing the emergency lights and the roof structure. The background is a blurred city street.

# ANNUAL UPDATE FALL 2017

The Office of EMS is housed within the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the U.S. Department of Transportation.

## OFFICE OF EMS INITIATIVES



### Advancing EMS Systems

Supporting the importance of developing EMS as a coordinated system of care



### Safety

Protecting the health and safety of EMS practitioners and their patients



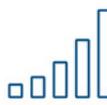
### Education

Supporting a nationwide systems approach to EMS education



### EMS Data

Collecting and sharing standardized EMS data to support improvements in patient care and EMS Systems



### Research

Analyzing data and measuring performance to enable improvements in EMS Systems



### Preparedness

Fostering collaboration to enhance readiness for catastrophic incidents



### Workforce

Supporting efforts to strengthen and prepare the EMS workforce nationwide



### 911 Systems

Providing leadership and coordination to support and promote optimal 911 services





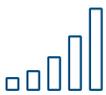
## Advancing EMS Systems

- **A National Trauma Care System** – The Office of EMS continues to work with its federal interagency partners and the EMS stakeholder community to implement the recommendations made by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report “A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury.” [nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2016/A-National-Trauma-Care-System-Integrating-Military-and-Civilian-Trauma-Systems.aspx](https://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2016/A-National-Trauma-Care-System-Integrating-Military-and-Civilian-Trauma-Systems.aspx)
- **Update to Model EMS Clinical Guidelines** – In June of 2017, as part of a cooperative agreement with NASEMSO, NHTSA gathered public comments on changes to the guidelines. An updated version was released in July of 2017. [nasemso.org/Projects/ModelEMSClinicalGuidelines/index.asp](https://nasemso.org/Projects/ModelEMSClinicalGuidelines/index.asp)
- **EMS Agenda 2050** – Twenty years ago, pioneers and leaders in the EMS industry described a vision of data-driven and evidence-based systems in the EMS Agenda for the Future. Throughout 2017 and 2018, EMS Agenda 2050 will create a bold plan for the next several decades. Community members, stakeholder organizations and the public are all encouraged to participate in the development of a vision for the next thirty years of EMS system advancement. [emsagenda2050.org](https://emsagenda2050.org)



## Promoting Education

- **EMS Focus Webinar Series** – This Federal webinar series provides the EMS community with a unique opportunity to learn more about collaborative Federal EMS efforts and programs. Recent webinars have discussed lights and siren use, fatigue in EMS, creating a national trauma care system and how to reduce workforce injuries and illness. [ems.gov/ems-focus.html](https://ems.gov/ems-focus.html)
- **AACN Education for EMS and 911 Medical Directors** – The American College of Emergency Physicians received funding from the Office of EMS to develop an online training course to teach EMS and 911 medical directors, as well as other healthcare professionals, about the uses of Advanced Automatic Collision Notification data to identify motor vehicle crash occupants with serious injuries. The online course is now available. [aacnems.com/](https://aacnems.com/)
- **National EMS Scope of Practice Model Revision** – NHTSA contracted with NASEMSO to revise the National EMS Scope of Practice Model. The goals of this project are to identify new evidence and science regarding the regulation and State licensure of EMS personnel, facilitate implementation of the Scope of Practice Model, and establish future revision cycles for the Scope Model. [nasemso.org/projects/emsscopeofpractice/](https://nasemso.org/projects/emsscopeofpractice/)



## Supporting Research

- **Prehospital Management of Suspected Opioid Overdose** – NHTSA's Office of EMS, in collaboration with other Federal partners, is supporting a systematic review of the scientific literature on prehospital management of opioid overdose. The report, which will focus on the optimal route(s) of administration, titration goals, and hospital transport following resuscitation, has been completed and will be published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, and on the AHRQ and NHTSA web sites.
- **Statewide Implementation of Evidence-based Guidelines** – The Office of EMS provided support to the National Association of State EMS Officials, to study the implementation of an evidence-based guideline on pain control in six states. The report discusses barriers and enablers for prehospital guideline implementation and includes an extensive implementation toolkit. [nasemso.org/Projects/ImplementationOfEBG/index.asp](https://nasemso.org/Projects/ImplementationOfEBG/index.asp)



## Enhancing EMS Workforce

- **Fatigue in EMS** – NHTSA and NASEMSO partnered with leading experts in the field to complete an extensive review of more than 30,000 published research articles, and release evidence-based guidelines this summer. The team is now testing the evidence-based recommendations, and will later develop a biomathematical model tailored to EMS shift scheduling. [nasemso.org/Projects/Fatigue-in-EMS/index.asp](https://nasemso.org/Projects/Fatigue-in-EMS/index.asp)



## Promoting Safety

- **Use of Lights and Siren** – A long-standing topic for debate in the EMS community, NHTSA funded the whitepaper “Lights and Siren Use by Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Above All Do No Harm,” an evidence-based review of this important safety topic. The paper is a resource for potential policy and action from the local to the national level. [ems.gov/pdf/Lights\\_and\\_Sirens\\_Use\\_by\\_EMS\\_May\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ems.gov/pdf/Lights_and_Sirens_Use_by_EMS_May_2017.pdf)



## Using EMS Data to Improve Care

- **Using EMS Data to Support Public Health Efforts** – NHTSA and its Federal partners have been collaborating with the Office of National Drug Control Policy to support the White House initiative to combat the opioid epidemic. Information from local and state EMS data systems, as well as the National EMS Database, provides valuable insight into the impact that opioid overdoses are having on communities across the country. [ems.gov/emsdata.html](https://www.ems.gov/emsdata.html)
- **Beyond Data Collection Summit: Envisioning an Information Driven Future** – In July 2016, NHTSA hosted stakeholders from more than 30 organizations to discuss data collection and use in EMS and the healthcare continuum. The final meeting summary is now available online. [ems.gov/pdf/ems-data/Provider-Resources/812361\\_Beyond-EMS-DataCollections.pdf](https://www.ems.gov/pdf/ems-data/Provider-Resources/812361_Beyond-EMS-DataCollections.pdf)
- **EMS Compass** – In late 2016, the EMS Compass team released candidate measures for public testing. By following the initiative's process and with NHTSA's support for the creation of the National EMS Quality Alliance, it's anticipated that more performance measures will be developed. The final results, helpful resources and additional information are available on the project's website.



## Enabling Preparedness

- **Stop the Bleed Initiative** – The Office strongly encourages EMS agencies throughout the country to engage in community education activities that give bystanders the tools to help save lives before professional help arrives. [dhs.gov/stb-learn-how-stop-bleed](https://www.dhs.gov/stb-learn-how-stop-bleed)



## Assisting the 911 System

- **Next Generation 911 & FirstNet Guide** – The National 911 Program and the National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA) developed a non-technical resource for state and local 911 leaders and their staffs highlighting the important benefits of NG911 and FirstNet working together. [https://www.911.gov/pdf/NASNA\\_National\\_911\\_Program\\_NG911\\_FirstNet\\_Guide\\_State\\_Local\\_Authorities.pdf](https://www.911.gov/pdf/NASNA_National_911_Program_NG911_FirstNet_Guide_State_Local_Authorities.pdf)
- **Standards for Enhanced and Next Generation 911** – The number of standards development organizations (SDOs) addressing NG911 issues can make understanding and tracking the developing standards a daunting task. Since 2011, the National 911 Program has assisted the community's important standards development efforts by compiling and sharing all of the current standards information in one complete report. [https://www.911.gov/pdf/NASNA\\_National\\_911\\_Program\\_NG911\\_FirstNet\\_Guide\\_State\\_Local\\_Authorities.pdf](https://www.911.gov/pdf/NASNA_National_911_Program_NG911_FirstNet_Guide_State_Local_Authorities.pdf)
- **2016 National 911 Progress Report** – The National 911 Program released the latest report of 911 statistics and progress deploying NG911 from more than 45 states and territories. The data is useful for States and 911 stakeholders in developing effective policies, planning and implementation strategies. [https://www.911.gov/project\\_national911progressreport.html](https://www.911.gov/project_national911progressreport.html)
- **911 Grant Program** – The Department of Transportation and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) have been asked by Congress to distribute more than \$115 million in support of the implementation of NG911 nationwide. Next steps are to receive public comments on the draft regulations. The funds are expected to be available in early 2018. [https://www.911.gov/project\\_911grantprogram.html](https://www.911.gov/project_911grantprogram.html)
- **State 911 Assessment Program** – Modeled after the State EMS Assessment Program, the National 911 Program-sponsored assessments provide peer feedback on the operational capabilities of statewide 911 systems based on a set of objective benchmarks. The assessment guidelines have now been revised to include the Task Force on Optimal PSAP Architecture's NG911 Readiness Checklist. [https://www.911.gov/project\\_state911assessmentprogram.html](https://www.911.gov/project_state911assessmentprogram.html)



## FICEMS

The Federal Interagency Committee on EMS was established in 2005 to ensure coordination among Federal agencies involved with State, local, tribal and regional emergency medical services and 911 systems. NHTSA's OEMS, in cooperation with its federal partners, provides administrative support to the Committee. [ems.gov/ficems.html](https://www.ems.gov/ficems.html)

- **Integration of EMS and Health Information Exchange** – FICEMS agencies affirmed their support for integrating EMS into local, regional and state health information exchange and shared resources available to assist with the integration process. [ems.gov/ficems-reports.html](https://www.ems.gov/ficems-reports.html)
- **Rapid Interagency Coordination During Health Emergencies** – The members of FICEMS have developed a process to quickly disseminate consistent information in a coordinated fashion during health emergencies. For example, FICEMS recently made a recommendation regarding obtaining a travel history during the initial assessment of all prehospital patients.
- **Evaluating and Mitigating Risk to Providers Responding to Opioid Overdoses** – FICEMS members and other partners gathered to discuss the evidence and best practices related to first responder safety and protective equipment during the response to opioid overdoses.



## NEMSAC

The National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) is a nationally recognized council of EMS representatives who provide advice and recommendations regarding EMS to the DOT and FICEMS, which often influence EMS programs and priorities. [ems.gov/nemsac.html](https://www.ems.gov/nemsac.html)

- **NHTSA and DOT Thank NEMSAC Members** – As NEMSAC members conclude their two-year terms, the Department of Transportation and NHTSA wish to thank them for their service to the EMS community. The Secretary of Transportation is reviewing the numerous fantastic nominees and an announcement of the members of the next NEMSAC will be made as soon as that process is complete.
- **New Appointments** – Nominations are pending a formal review process by the Secretary of Transportation.

## ABOUT NHTSA'S OFFICE OF EMS

Consensus building, collaboration, and supporting significant national projects are the hallmarks of NHTSA's contribution to EMS system development. Its mission is to reduce death and disability by providing leadership and coordination to the EMS community in assessing, planning, developing, and promoting comprehensive, evidence-based emergency medical services and 911 systems.

For more information about the office's programs and initiatives, visit [EMS.gov](https://www.ems.gov). There, you can sign up to receive EMS Update, the office's official newsletter or register to attend EMS Focus: A Federal Webinar Series.