

# 2018 ANNUAL UPDATE

## OFFICE OF EMS INITIATIVES

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



### Advancing EMS Systems

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



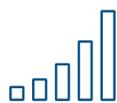
### Preparedness

Fostering collaboration to enhance readiness for catastrophic incidents



### Education

Supporting a nationwide systems approach to EMS education



### Research

Analyzing data and measuring performance to enable improvements in EMS Systems



### Workforce

Supporting efforts to strengthen and prepare the EMS workforce nationwide



### Safety

Protecting the health and safety of EMS practitioners and their patients



### EMS Data

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



### 911 Systems

Providing leadership and coordination to support and promote optimal 911 services



## What's New at the Office of EMS?

At the NHTSA Office of EMS, we believe that it truly takes a village to address the critical challenges our community faces. Collaborating with our partners allows us to support work at the national, state and local levels that is improving EMS systems across the country, while also tackling specific public health issues like opioid overdoses, traumatic deaths from motor vehicle crashes and sudden cardiac arrest.

In this look back on the past year, you'll find highlights of some of the efforts currently underway at the Office of EMS. These projects would not be successful without contributions from people around the nation and throughout EMS and beyond. We encourage you to find ways to be a part of these initiatives and to share with the Office of EMS staff, our federal partners and members of the National EMS Advisory Council, other ways we can support EMS professionals who serve their communities selflessly and with dedication every day.

As we move into the future, I am excited to build on the work we achieved over the past year. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you and look forward to continuing these efforts in 2019 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jon R. Krohmer, MD, FACEP, FAEMS  
Director, Office of EMS, NHTSA

## EMS AGENDA 2050

Building on the foundation laid by the 1996 EMS Agenda for the Future, EMS Agenda 2050 is a multi-year initiative that puts forth a vision of a people-centered EMS system. The guiding principles that serve as the basis for that vision will steer the evolution of our profession over the next several decades.

The inclusive and collaborative process used to develop EMS Agenda 2050 reflects the people-centered vision, which is meant to include everyone involved in or impacted by the EMS system: patients, their families, the EMS clinicians who care for them, and their partners in public safety, public health and beyond. While the initial two-year effort has concluded, the real work starts now, as we come together to embrace the vision and work together to make it a reality. <https://www.ems.gov/projects/ems-agenda-2050.html>



### Advancing EMS Systems

- **CPR LifeLinks** - This national initiative aims to help communities save more lives through the implementation of telecommunicator and high-performance CPR programs. NHTSA convened a group of public safety leaders to draft the CPR LifeLinks Implementation Toolkit - a how-to guide for EMS and 911 agencies interested in implementing programs to improve cardiac arrest survival rates in communities across the nation. [ems.gov/projects/cpr-lifelinks.html](https://www.ems.gov/projects/cpr-lifelinks.html)
- **State EMS Assessments** - In this effort, the Office of EMS brings together a small group of experts to evaluate how effectively a state EMS system is working. A report is then developed, capturing the efficacy of data, emergency preparedness and 911 communications, and delivered to the State EMS office.



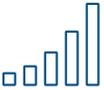
### Enabling Preparedness

- **MUCC Instructional Guidelines** - The Model Uniform Core Criteria for Mass Casualty Incident Triage (MUCC) were created to help ensure that every responder is using triage protocols that follow similar evidence-based standards. NHTSA released new materials to help EMS instructors educate providers of all levels about MUCC. [ems.gov/preparedness.html](https://www.ems.gov/preparedness.html)



## Promoting Education

- **National EMS Education Standards** – The National EMS Education Standards outline the minimal terminal objective for entry-level EMS personnel consistent with the levels outlined in the National EMS Scope of Practice Model. This year, NHTSA plans to begin a collaborative process to revise the National Education Standards to reflect updates made to the Scope of Practice Model. [ems.gov/education.html](https://www.ems.gov/education.html)
- **National EMS Scope of Practice Model** – NHTSA supported a revision of the National EMS Scope of Practice Model to make sure it reflects today's practice and evidence base. A process for making emergent updates to the model was also developed, which will ensure the Scope of Practice Model can be adapted and improved to remain current in the future. [ems.gov/education.html](https://www.ems.gov/education.html)



## Supporting Research

- **Field Trauma Triage Guidelines** – Following an analysis of the scientific literature supported by NHTSA and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) Office of Behavioral Research, the field trauma triage guidelines are being updated so EMS clinicians across the country have the tools they need to make sure appropriate patients are taken to trauma centers.
- **Prehospital Management of Suspected Opioid Overdose** – The use of naloxone by EMS providers has become a critical component in the fight against deaths from opioid overdoses. The Office of EMS is supporting the development of an evidence-based guideline for prehospital management of patients with suspected opioid overdoses.
- **Statewide Implementation of Evidence-based Guidelines** – Funded by NHTSA and HRSA, and led by NASEMSO, the three-year project aimed to support the use and further refinement of the National Evidence-Based Guideline (EBG) Model Process. [nasemso.org/projects/implementation-of-evidence-based-guidelines/](https://www.nasemso.org/projects/implementation-of-evidence-based-guidelines/)
- **Systematic Review of Prehospital Pain Management** – With a need to properly manage patients' pain even as the opioid epidemic continues, NHTSA is partnering with AHRQ to perform a systematic review of scientific literature exploring pain management options for prehospital clinicians. This research will help support future updates to clinical treatment guidelines.



## Enhancing EMS Workforce

- **Fatigue Risk Management in EMS** – After a recommendation by the National EMS Advisory Council, the project kicked off in February 2016 to identify challenges associated with managing and mitigating the effects of fatigue among EMS workers. In 2018, the team released its evidence-based guidelines for fatigue risk management after reviewing more than 30,000 published research articles. They continue with the remaining phases of the project, which include collecting data to evaluate the guidelines and developing a biomathematical model for shift scheduling. [ems.gov/projects/fatigue-in-ems.html](https://www.ems.gov/projects/fatigue-in-ems.html)



## Promoting Safety

- **Characterizing EMS Driver Training** – This initiative continues to collect data from EMS agencies across the nation to understand the state of Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training requirements, assess which areas of training are effective to ensure better driving, and determine an evidence-based foundation for EVOC training. NHTSA is currently soliciting input from each state to generate a nationwide consensus. [ems.gov/projects/ems-provider-patient-safety-in-ambulances.html](https://www.ems.gov/projects/ems-provider-patient-safety-in-ambulances.html)



## Using EMS Data to Improve Care

- **Development of EMS Quality Measures** – Leaders in the EMS community have joined forces to create the National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA), which continues the work of EMS Compass by developing, validating and endorsing evidence-based performance measures to measure, benchmark and improve EMS care. [ems.gov/projects/ems-compass.html](https://www.ems.gov/projects/ems-compass.html)
- **EMS-Hospital Data Linkage** – NHTSA is working with the American College of Surgeons and National Association of State EMS Officials to develop a policy statement that would work as a template for efforts to improve data sharing between hospitals and EMS.
- **NEMSIS** – The National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) is a national effort to standardize the type of data collected by EMS agencies. NEMSIS provides the framework for collecting, storing and sharing standardized EMS data from states nationwide. Many states have upgraded to NEMSIS Version 3.4.0, which allows for better data collection and facilitates the use of data to improve EMS systems. [ems.gov/projects/nemsis.html](https://www.ems.gov/projects/nemsis.html)



## Assisting the 911 System

- **911 Grant Program** – The 911 Grant Program provides funding to support state and local efforts to deliver optimal 911 services. In August of 2018, the National 911 Program published the final regulations and began accepting initial application packages from qualified applicants. [911.gov/project\\_911grantprogram.html](https://www.911.gov/project_911grantprogram.html)
- **Current National 911 Projects** – Throughout 2018, the National 911 Program convened volunteer 911 experts to lead four national projects to create new resources for the 911 community. Input from the entire 911 community was requested for each project to ensure the resulting resources best met the needs of 911 systems nationwide.
- **Next Generation 911 Interstate Playbook Chapter 2** – Building on Chapter 1, the NG911 Interstate Playbook Chapter 2 shares firsthand experiences and best practices from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota as they transition to NG911 and interconnect 911 systems. Topics covered include what NG911 is and is not, NG911 transition standards, lessons learned regarding voice and text-to-911, and GIS in the NG911 ecosystem. [https://www.911.gov/project\\_nextgeneration911interstateplaybook.html](https://www.911.gov/project_nextgeneration911interstateplaybook.html)



## FICEMS

- **EBOLA PREPAREDNESS AND GUIDANCE** – FICEMS provides awareness and guidance on potential risks and diseases facing the EMS community. In July, FICEMS released a letter assessing the cases of Ebola Virus Disease prevalent in the Democratic Republic of Congo and advising on the necessity of Ebola-specific travel screening by 911 telecommunicators and other first responders. FICEMS will continue to monitor Ebola and other emerging diseases and provide guidance to the public safety community. [ems.gov/ficems/FICEMS\\_July\\_2018\\_Letter\\_on\\_Ebola\\_Guidance\\_for\\_EMS\\_and\\_911.pdf](https://www.ems.gov/ficems/FICEMS_July_2018_Letter_on_Ebola_Guidance_for_EMS_and_911.pdf)
- **OPIOID OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC** – FICEMS members and partners gathered to discuss the opioid overdose crisis and the use of naloxone by emergency medical services systems. FICEMS continues to monitor the issue and support EMS efforts to prevent deaths from opioid overdoses through efforts including the development of an evidence-based guideline for the prehospital management of patients suffering from opioid overdose. [ems.gov/ficems/FICEMS\\_Letter\\_on\\_EMS\\_Response\\_to\\_Opioid\\_Overdose\\_Epidemic.pdf](https://www.ems.gov/ficems/FICEMS_Letter_on_EMS_Response_to_Opioid_Overdose_Epidemic.pdf)



## NEMSAC

- **New 2018 – 2020 Appointees** – In July, the Secretary of Transportation appointed 23 members to the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC), each representing a different sector of the community. The new NEMSAC membership reflects the addition of a member representing EMS quality improvement professionals. [ems.gov/nemsac.html](https://www.ems.gov/nemsac.html)

- **EMS Focus Webinar Series** – Throughout the year, EMS Focus provides a venue to discuss critical initiatives, issues and challenges for EMS stakeholders and leaders nationwide. Be sure to visit the [ems.gov](https://www.ems.gov) for information about upcoming webinars and to view past recordings. [www.ems.gov/ems-focus.html](https://www.ems.gov/ems-focus.html)
- **EMS Update Newsletter** – This newsletter delivers the latest updates on projects and efforts in EMS from NHTSA and its federal partners. With easy to read summaries and sources for more information, EMS Update provides the right amount of news to help you stay abreast of important topics and events. [www.ems.gov/ems-update.html](https://www.ems.gov/ems-update.html)

## ABOUT NHTSA'S OFFICE OF EMS

Consensus building, collaboration, and supporting significant national projects are all 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.