



## DHS Emergency Medical Services

A Vision of the Future...

### Introduction

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System, as the second largest Federal Agency EMS System, is a nationally aligned and operationally diverse framework overseeing the medical direction, standardization, and support to over 3,550 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and prehospital providers. These providers include emergency medical technicians at the basic, intermediate, and paramedic levels who are held to the highest national standards of care. Across the various Components, the DHS EMS System provides workforce protection and emergency medical services/care for both its employees, those in our care and custody, and the communities in which we serve.

DHS EMS providers render care during both traditional medical and trauma emergencies and therefore also receive training and continuing education aligning with standards of EMS, while maintaining certifications through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) or a given State office of EMS. The operating environment of DHS providers range from rural, urban, tactical, and austere conditions. Additionally, the DHS EMS workforce is deployable, and may respond to large-scale disasters, nationally significant events, international requests for aid and assistance, and as part of specialized Department or Agency operations. To effectively meet these needs and function under diverse conditions, the DHS EMS system functions effectively throughout the country under a “One – DHS” Strategic System framework. The DHS EMS System conforms to the national model of state governed EMS Systems by providing direct operational support, medical oversight, licensing/credentialing, quality management, EMS education, development of Department wide protocols and engagement in liaison activities consistent with best practices and standards of EMS Care.

### Strategic Goals of the DHS EMS System

1. Improvement of medical outcomes of those receiving care by DHS EMS Personnel.
2. Conforming to the national model of state governed EMS Systems under a “One-DHS EMS” framework.
3. To represent DHS to Federal, State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (FSLTT) stakeholders on First Responder and EMS Related Matters.

### The Future of DHS EMS

Through standardization and collaboration efforts of a unified system framework, DHS seeks to establish itself as a Premier Federal Agency and Leader on EMS practices and oversight. These efforts and responsibilities include but are not limited to: oversight of operational medical programs, accreditation of educational training programs and standardization of specialized medical supply across DHS.





### **Medical Credentialing (Project Sentinel)**

Through standardization and management efforts of a unified system framework, DHS seeks to establish itself as a premier federal agency and lead on EMS practices and oversight. This includes more formalized and standardized medical authorities throughout the Department and medical licensing/credentialing of providers under a Federated System with portability across the United States.

### **Patient Care Reporting (ePCR)**

Providing exceptional care for those in need within the DHS mission space is paramount, along with the ability to analyze current practices as well as to improve and respond to new and emerging threats. DHS seeks to implement a singular system of record for Emergency Medical Services Patient Care Reporting throughout the Department with complex and multi-faceted infrastructure. This utility provides key insight into the statistics and norms of DHS EMS and will serve as another baseline to more precisely adapt training objectives and standardize practices to reflect the best possible outcomes to patients requiring care. This objective is consistent with the further development of the DHS Medical Information Exchange.

### **Clinical EMS Immersion Training (Project Cadence)**

Collaboration and educational efforts with key industry leaders across the spectrum of EMS missions is essential for the validation and refinement of any given EMS Program or System. Through partnerships with key academic institutions and medical facilities, DHS will be adopting a mechanism for clinical immersion training for all DHS EMTs. This is supportive of the objective to meet or exceed national standards of care in EMS.

### **EMS Center of Excellence (Project Lighthouse)**

DHS seeks to adopt a singular center of excellence to standardize EMS Practices and Programs under a unified educational command. This command will function as a “DHS EMS University” merging Component educational practices and creating a joint learning environment capable of delivering instruction centric to all aspects of the DHS EMS mission.

### **HAZMAT Medical Specialist (Project Phoenix)**

Given the current operational environment, the DHS requires specialized operational assets readily available for the new and emerging threats facing the United States. DHS EMS Providers with specialized HAZMAT and Crisis Response training, can be called upon as a “Surge Force” strengthening response efforts and reducing impact of critical incidents. Project Phoenix would support a larger framework of critical skillsets readily available for utilization in support of critical incidents ranging from natural disaster, acts of terrorism, pandemic response or civil unrest.

**Prepared By:** Cameron Hamilton  
Chief, Emergency Medical Services Branch  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

