

EMS Agenda For The Future

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has been taking a comprehensive look at EMS and its future in America. Relying on its 30-years of leadership in the field of emergency services, NHTSA has released an overview entitled, **EMS Agenda for the Future** which provides an opportunity to examine the accomplishments of the past three decades and create a vision for the future.

The *EMS Agenda for the Future* proposes continued development of several major components of successful EMS systems, including:

- integration of health service
- EMS research
- legislation and regulation
- system finance
- human resources
- medical direction
- education systems
- public education
- prevention
- public access
- communication systems
- clinical care
- information systems
- evaluation

EMS providers, health care organizations and institutions, government agencies and policy makers will find this vision useful in their commitment to improving the health of their communities. The vision for emergency medical services (EMS) of the future will be community based health management that is fully integrated within the overall health care system. It will have the ability to identify and modify illness and injury risks; provide acute illness and injury care and follow up; and contribute to treatment of chronic conditions and community health monitoring. It will improve community health, and result in more appropriate use of acute health care resources.

EMS will remain the public's emergency medical safety net.

The need for the EMS Agenda for the Future was initially recognized in 1992 by the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) and the National Association of State EMS Directors (continued on page 3)

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NOTE FROM THE CHIEF

On October 1, I will begin a new chapter in my 20-year government career and that will be as Chief, Impaired Driving Division, Traffic Safety Programs (TSP), NHTSA. It has been a terrific 12-years serving in the EMS Division and working with other government agencies and national organizations. I appreciate your support of NHTSA's EMS programs, we have been able to accomplish a great deal *together*. States and communities have greatly enhanced their emergency medical services programs by focusing on:

- trauma system development (DOTS workshop),
- public education (PIER, Make the Right Call),
- professional training (Blueprint, DOT National Standard Curricula),
- EMS involvement in injury prevention (Consensus Statement),
- Children's EMS issues (EMSC program), and
- uniform prehospital data.

Probably the most important undertaking and accomplishment has been the *EMS Agenda for the Future*. As the white paper of 1966 shaped EMS systems over the past 30 years, it is hoped that the *EMS Agenda for the Future* will drive EMS systems into the 21st century. I hope each of you will take action to implement the recommendations in the Agenda within your states and communities.

Susan D. Ryan, Chief
EMS Division

Other EMS Division Staff Changes

After 7 and ½ years with the EMS Division, Valerie Gompf is returning to the Impaired Driving Division, where she started her government career 10 years ago. "I have truly enjoyed working in EMS and have greatly appreciated the collegial atmosphere in the EMS community," says Valerie. "In EMS I have had the pleasure of working with dynamic, energetic people on a wide variety of projects over the years. I look at this change as a new beginning, and hope to continue to work with the EMS community in the future on impaired driving issues!"

Department of Transportation Award for Heroism

Do you know a person who has performed an act of heroism within the past two years, which resulted in the avoidance of a disaster and/or saving of a life, an heroic act not expected in the performance of his/her regular duty? We invite you to nominate the individual for the Secretary of Transportation's Award for Heroism. Your recommendation must identify the nominee, giving full name and current address, and must fully describe the act of heroism. Supporting material, including affidavits (made by witnesses containing an official seal), newspaper articles that describe the event, and any other pertinent information, should be included. The recommendation must also be accompanied by a proposed citation of 100 words or less summarizing the achievement. A medal and plaque bearing an appropriate citation will be arranged to be presented to the nominee. Send your nominations to the EMS Division.

NHTSA's World Wide Web Home Page

The EMS Division now has a new "home page" address on the World Wide Web. Our new address is: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems>

EMS Agenda for the Future *(continued from page 1)*

(NASEMSD). NHTSA and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration provided funding for the project. The development of the vision included the appointment of a steering committee, the scheduling of focus groups and the distribution of the draft document to some 500 EMS interested organizations and individuals for an extensive peer review process.

NHTSA, with support from MCHB, is now convening an implementation group to develop an action plan for the Agenda recommendations. The implementation team is comprised of representatives from the following fields:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ■ managed care | ■ physician |
| ■ fire service | ■ state EMS Director |
| ■ ambulance industry | ■ elected official |
| ■ academic medical institution/
research | ■ public health agent |
| ■ consumer | ■ EMS education
specialist |
| ■ economist | ■ communications
expert |

This team will provide guidance for the organized implementation of the *Agenda*. They will tackle the who, what, where, and when of making this "Vision" a reality.

■ The team is charged with prioritizing the recommendations in the *Agenda*, developing a plan of action for various EMS organizations, and creating a time line for implementation. The implementation group met for the first time in September and will continue their work through May 1997. An implementation plan will be completed by April 1997.

■ Additionally, NHTSA will launch a rather aggressive campaign to inform and educate the public and local EMS leadership of the need to work together to make the Agenda recommendations a reality.

■ For a copy of the **EMS Agenda for the Future**, please contact the Traffic Injury Control Program, EMS Division, NTS-14, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington D.C. 20590 or fax your request to 202-366-7721.

New Campaign for Passenger Safety Announced —National Automotive Occupant Protection Campaign

At a news briefing on May 21, 1996, Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña announced the National Automotive Occupant Protection Campaign. The unprecedented coalition of automobile manufacturers, air bag suppliers, insurance companies, safety organizations, and the Federal Government was formed to prevent injuries and fatalities which may be inadvertently caused by vehicle air bags. The campaign was started with contributions from the automobile and insurance industries totaling nearly \$10 million. The campaign is organized into three committees:

- ① Public Education to inform the public of the life saving value of proper safety belt and child safety seat use in all vehicles, with a special emphasis on those equipped with air bags;
- ② Legislation to support state efforts to upgrade occupant protection laws, with an emphasis on enacting standard/primary enforcement of safety belt laws; and,
- ③ Enforcement to provide assistance at the local level to increase enforcement of all occupant protection laws.

EMT-Intermediate and EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curricula Revisions

The objective of this project is to revise the 1985 release of the *Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate* and *Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic* National Standard Curricula and develop accompanying refresher programs for each. This project was supported by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HHS.

The revised curricula will evolve from the 1994 *Emergency Medical Technician-Basic: National Standard Curriculum*, and utilize the same instructional design and format template. The content will be based on the *National EMS Education and Practice Blueprint* and the *EMS Agenda for the Future*. The revised curricula must transition from the EMT-Basic, and assure effective bridging between the EMT-Basic and EMT-Intermediate, through the EMT-Paramedic, particularly where the advance curricula enter the areas of diagnostic evaluation. It is the intent of this project to focus on the needs of the traditional EMT-I and EMT-Paramedic in an acute care setting.

A meeting of the National Review Team took place in McLean, Virginia, on June 7-8, 1996. The team had an opportunity to discuss the process and the philosophies surrounding the curricula.

Everyone who has a stake in this revision is encouraged to be an active peer reviewer in this process. To become a peer reviewer for this project, contact the Center for Emergency Medicine at 412-578-3233. The current draft of the curriculum (version 8.1) can be obtained in hard copy or on disk and a standardized comment form will be included for you to fill out and return to the Center for review. To view the curriculum faster and for up-to-date progress reports, please visit the Center for Emergency Medicine's Web site through the following address:<http://www.pitt.edu/~paramed>

National Conference on EMS Training

On January 23-24, 1990, NHTSA sponsored a two-day Consensus Workshop on EMS Training Programs. The purpose of that meeting was to bring together leaders in the EMS field to discuss the current training curricula for EMS providers - nurses, physicians, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics (EMT-Ps), emergency vehicle operators, and emergency medical dispatchers - and to reach a consensus on the most urgent needs for improving training curricula. NHTSA has implemented most of the top ten recommendations generated by that meeting.

It is now time to revisit EMS training to address future EMS training issues, focusing on the information in the EMS Agenda for the Future. The results of the 1990 Consensus Training Conference, the National EMS Education and Practice Blueprint, and the EMS Agenda for the Future will provide background for this consensus conference.

The conference agenda will include broad training issues, such as: new training technologies; role of Federal agencies in national standard curricula development; process for revising curricula—just to name a few.

The workshop will be held December 5-6, 1996, in the Washington, DC area. Invitations have been sent to key national EMS organizations.

For more information on the project, please contact Gary Criddle, EMS Division, 202-366-5440.

Leadership Guide for Quality Improvement in EMS Systems

NHTSA and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration, are sponsoring the development of a *Leadership Guide for Quality Improvement in EMS Systems*. The Leadership Guide, which is being developed by an Expert Writing Panel, under the leadership of the National Study Center for Trauma and EMS, was the subject of a National Review Panel Meeting held on August 21, 1996, in Arlington, VA. The Guide is aimed at leaders throughout state, regional and local EMS organizations, though providers at every level are encouraged to participate in quality improvement efforts. The Guide is due to be completed in November 1996 and will be distributed to the State EMS Offices and other interested parties in early 1997.

EMS Workshops—One Just For You

NH TSA invites you to sponsor or attend one of our EMS workshops. After attending one of these workshops you will come away with an understanding of the importance of hosting these informative highway safety workshops in your state. Talk to states that have sponsored these workshops to learn the value for your state.

EMS Public Information, Education and Relations (PIER) Workshop

This workshop promotes the development of proactive EMS PIER programs that raise public awareness, understanding and participation in the EMS system. The workshop provides participants with an understanding of why PIER is important to EMS; identifies essential elements of a PIER program; and introduce techniques for implementing effective PIER programs. The course is taught from the PIER National Standard Curriculum and also includes a videotape and Student Resource Manual. (Completed workshops: MA; FL; VA(3); SC; CO; IA; NM; VT; WA.)

NHTSA/NAGHSR EMS Information System Workshop

A one-day EMS Information System (EMSIS) Workshop that is expected to serve as a role model for EMS systems around the country was developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Association of Governors' Highway Safety Represen-

tatives with support from the Transportation Safety Institute and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services. The workshop is designed to assist states in developing and implementing standardized out-of-hospital EMS information systems, using the Uniform Prehospital Data Elements and Definitions.

The EMSIS Workshop provides an overview of EMS information systems, stressing the importance and benefits of incorporating the Uniform Prehospital Data Set, a discussion of major implementation issues, including financial, political, legal and technological implications, and assists the states in designing a plan of action. The workshop is now available for request by the States. (Completed workshops: NM, IA.)

Development of Trauma Systems (DOTS) Workshop

A one-day NHTSA developed workshop that provides the participants with the necessary tools to develop a state and community trauma system necessary to decrease morbidity and mortality associated with traumatic injury from traffic-related crashes. The focus of the program is on three phases of trauma system development: planning, implementation and evaluation. (Completed workshops: AL; AK; AR; AZ; CO(2); CT; DE; FL; GA; ID; IO; KS; KY; MA; MI; MS; MT; NH; NJ; NC(2); OH; OK(3); RI; TX(10); UT; VT; WY.)

For additional information on any of these workshops, please contact the EMS Division, on 202-366-5440.

A Guideline For Medical Directors

The new Department of Transportation *EMT-Basic: National Standard Curriculum* has incorporated invasive procedures that were not in the old EMT-Basic curriculum. These new procedures require the direction and supervision of a physician before an EMT-Basic can perform them. This change in the EMT-Basic curriculum will greatly increase the national demand for medical direction.

The National Association of Emergency Medical Service Physicians and the American College of Emergency Physicians have jointly been awarded a two year National Highway Traffic Safety Administration project to develop a guideline for medical directors. This guideline will supplement the existing medical direction courses and will be useful to the physician new to the task of being a medical director for EMT-Basics in the pre-hospital setting.

**Complete the
Reader
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survey on
the
last page.**

New Documents Available

RSPA 1996 North American Emergency Response Guidebook

Guide to aid first responders, such as firefighters, police and EMS when there are transportation incidents involving hazardous materials. The book may be purchased for \$9 by writing the U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Stop: SSMB, Washington, DC 20402 or by fax: 301-489-8995.

EMS Agenda for the Future

This report serves as guidance for EMS providers and other medical or health professionals to examine what has been learned during the past 30 years and create a vision for the future. The report focuses on aspects of EMS related to emergency care outside traditional health care facilities, and outlines the most important directions for future EMS development efforts. The *Agenda* describes 14 attributes and provides recommendations for moving EMS into the 21st century.

This report is available from the EMS Division, 400 Seventh Street, SW, NTS-14, Washington, DC 20590; or by fax: 202-366-7721.

SAFE (Safety Advice from EMS), Guide to Injury Prevention

The SAFE Guide to Injury Prevention, with accompanying video, is to assist emergency medical services (EMS) providers (rural and urban, and all types of services) and other medical/health professionals in educating the public on how to prevent serious injuries. It is designed to make it easy for EMS personnel to conduct public presentations on selected traffic safety topics, including yielding to emergency vehicles, occupant protection, impaired driving, speed, and bicycle and pedestrian safety. Note: This guide is an excellent companion piece with the EMS PIER National Standard Curriculum. Single copies of the SAFE manual and video may be ordered from the EMS Division, 400 Seventh Street, SW, NTS-14, Washington, DC 20590; or by fax: 202-366-7721.

Let Them Through -- It Could Be You

Earlier this year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Emergency Medical Services Division and Hanson Industries of New York initiated a public-private partnership to develop a program to focus on yielding to emergency vehicles. One of the products was a brochure, "Let Them Through--It Could Be You," which is designed to educate the driving public to move out of the way of emergency vehicles. The brochure is based on the lesson plan *Yielding to Emergency Vehicles* contained in the *SAFE*

manual. The brochure is an excellent handout to accompany the *SAFE* lesson or to give away at open houses, stand-bys, etc. To obtain copies of the *Let Them Through--It Could Be You* brochure or *SAFE* manual, please write: EMS Division, 400 Seventh Street, SW, NTS-14, Washington, DC 20590; or fax: 202-366-7721.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Resource Catalog

This catalog provides a collection of information on EMS materials that are available from NHTSA or the Superintendent of Documents. The resource catalog addresses such subjects as: DOT National Standard Curriculum; Public Information; Education and Relations and Injury Prevention; EMS Systems; Research and Development; National Resource Centers and general information about the EMS Division. For copies of this catalog write: EMS Division, 400 Seventh Street, SW, NTS-14, Washington, DC 20590; or fax: 202-366-7721.

Getting Started: A Guide to Developing Safe Communities

This guide offers insights and guidance for community practitioners considering implementing Safe Community programs. The guide outlines a process for implementing Safe Community programs listing the tools necessary to document and organize your data collection, community coordination, and planning efforts. These approaches are based on a combination of strategies used in traffic safety, injury prevention and health programs. This guide (Report No. DOT HS 808 404) is available from NHTSA, State and Community Services, NSC-01, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

The Economic Cost of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 1994

This report presents the results of an analysis of motor vehicle crash costs in 1994 to the Nation. The total economic cost of motor vehicle crashes in 1994 alone was a staggering \$150.5 billion. The annual economic impact of motor vehicle crashes alone is the equivalent of \$580 for every American. These costs include: medical costs and emergency medical services; property damage; lost productivity; administrative and legal costs; travel delay; vocational rehabilitation; and workplace costs. Crash costs funded through public revenues cost taxpayers \$13.8 billion in 1994, which is the equivalent of \$144 taken from the taxes of every household in the United States. The report will explain the significant findings of economic costs, incidence, alcohol-involved, speed-related and trends in motor vehicle crash costs. An electronic version of this document can be obtained via the World Wide Web at:

New Documents Available (continued)

explain the significant findings of economic costs, incidence, alcohol-involved, speed-related and trends in motor vehicle crash costs. An electronic version of this document can be obtained via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/index.htm>; or it may be ordered from NHTSA, NAD-40, 400 7th Street, SW, Room 6117, Washington, DC 20590; or by fax: 202-366-2559. Report No. DOT HS 808 425.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Strategic Execution Plan, 1996

The Strategic Execution Plan (SEP) is a companion document to the Strategic Plan (October 1995) which identifies NHTSA's mission, major goals and supporting objectives. The SEP specifies the programs and activities that NHTSA will implement to achieve the 11 goals and supporting objectives. The various goals describe aspects of the Agency's programs and should be considered as a whole representing the range of the Agency's responsibilities. The four goals of the first section involve establishing a national climate and basis for a reinvigorated road safety program. The three goals of the second section are for the programs that will directly affect the safety of motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. The third section, with its four goals, concerns how the Agency conducts its business and serves the public. The SEP also contains performance measures that help assess the progress NHTSA is making toward meeting the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan through 1999. An electronic version of this document can be obtained via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>; or by fax: 202-366-2559. Report No. DOT HS 808-377.

Approaching Alternative-Fueled Vehicle Crashes

This document is for use by all public safety personnel who may be the first to arrive on the scene of a crash involving an alternative-fueled vehicle. The document is intended to assist initial responders in identifying vehicles that are powered by alternative fuels. It is **not** the intent of this document to be used as a training manual to deal with these crashes, but only to increase the responders awareness of alternative-fueled vehicles in their community. An electronic version of this document can be obtained on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> (Go to: Enforcement); or by fax: 202-366-7721.

Upcoming Meetings

October 20-25 <i>Coeur d'Alene, ID</i>	National Association of State EMS Directors
November 11-15 <i>Philadelphia, PA</i>	American Ambulance Association
November 16-18 <i>New Orleans, LA</i>	ASTM F30 Committee on EMS
November 17-24 <i>New York, New York</i>	American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

EMS Division Staff

Jeff Michael, Chief
Dave Bryson
Susan McHenry
Garry Criddle
Helen Dear
Cynthia McNair, Secretary

READER FEEDBACK/FAX-BACK

We welcome your feedback on the usefulness of this newsletter and any other topics you would like to see included. Please use the space below to share your thoughts and suggestions for future NHTSA EMS Star volumes. Also please use this form to notify us of any address changes, so we can keep our mailing lists current. Then fax back!

Comments/Suggestions:

Address Change:

