



FEMA



**MINUTES OF THE
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)**

DATE & TIME:	December 4, 2003 10:30 a.m.
LOCATION:	National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Building J, Room 102 16825 South Seton Avenue Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
MEMBER AGENCY REPRESENTATION:	Department of Homeland Security <i>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</i> Mr. Bill Troup Acting FICEMS Chairperson United States Fire Administration (USFA) Mr. John Brasko United States Fire Administration
	Department of Agriculture No Representation
	Federal Communications Commission No Representation
	Department of Defense (DOD) No Representation
	General Services Administration (GSA) Mr. Mel Globerman Engineering Division, FCAE Mr. Jim McDonald Engineering Division Mr. Russ Miller GSA Automotive
	Department of Health and Human Services

	<p>Mr. Scott Dugas Health Resources and Services Administration</p> <p>Mr. Jeremy Nelson Health Resources and Services Administration</p>
	<p>Department of Interior No Representation</p>
	<p>Department of Transportation (DOT) Mr. Dave Bryson National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)</p>
	<p>Department of Veteran Affairs No Representation</p>
	<p>Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) No Representation</p>
	<p>Department of Labor No Representation</p>
OTHER FEDERAL ATTENDEES:	<p>Department of Commerce (DOC) No Representation</p>
	<p>Department of Justice (DOJ) No Representation</p>
OTHER ATTENDEES PRIVATE SECTOR:	<p>American Ambulance Association (AAA) No Representation</p>
	<p>American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Mr. Pete Chambers</p>
	<p>Maryland Institute for EMS Systems Mr. John Young</p>
	<p>Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Captain Christine Woodard</p>
	<p>National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Mr. Joe Robison</p>
	<p>NTIS/EMS</p>

	<p>Ms. Patricia Gresham</p> <p>Ms. Lu Lathan</p>
	<p>Pacific Institute Mr. Les Becker</p>
	<p>Trauma-EMS Technical Assistance Center Mr. Terry Mullins</p>
	<p>VFIS No representation</p>
	<p>Yale University School of Medicine/National Association of EMS Physicians Dr. Sandy Bogucki</p>
DIAL-IN PARTICIPANTS:	<p>Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Ms. Nancy Romano AS Subcommittee Chair National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)</p> <p>Mr. Paul Moore National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)</p>
	<p>American Medical Response Mr. Ron Thackery</p>
	<p>Cetronia Ambulance Corps, Inc. Mr. Larry Wiersch</p>
	<p>Harlem Hospital Ms. Nadine Levick</p>
	<p>Lifecare Ambulance Service Mr. Larry Anderson</p>
	<p>Little Rock, AR, Metropolitan Emergency Medical Systems (MEMS) Mr. Jon Swanson</p>
	<p>Research Science & Technology</p>

	Mr. Joe Kausch
	Southwest Ambulance Mr. Matt Johnson
	The Insurance Professionals Mr. Bill Leonard

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS/HANDOUTS

Acting FICEMS Chair Mr. Troup announced the retirement of Mr. Globerman, to be discussed further later in the meeting.

II. REVIEW OF PAST MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Globerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the September 4, 2003 meeting. Mr. Bryson 2nd the motion and the minutes were approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Counter-Terrorism

Mr. Brasko will be facilitation the CT meeting in place of Mr. Sachs following the FICEMS main meeting today. No further report at this time.

Ambulance Safety

Ms. Romano shared that the main objective of the AS Subcommittee as discussed in their meeting this morning is driver training and education. She noted that the subcommittee continues to be short on time and would like to discuss alternatives which would allow the group the time needed to accomplish the agenda items. One suggestion was to hold the subcommittee meeting on a different day, noting that holding all the meetings on the same day makes it a long day for those involved with each subcommittee.

Mr. Troup opted to put this under new business for discussion for the March 4, 2004 meeting.

Mr. Leonard inquired if the group could have a conference call on EMS driving outside the regularly scheduled committee meeting.

Mr. Troup responded noting that getting together as a “work session” outside the FICEMS meeting is ok. Non-feds are “other interested parties”, and Ms. Romano will follow through with an additional meeting as needed.

V. MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS

HRSA: Mr. Dugas and Mr. Nelson

Mr. Dugas distributed a HRSA program fact sheet. This program was around in the early 1990's and bounced back in 2000. They provide grant funding for states, such as a trauma grant to develop plans and trauma system development. HRSA is working on a trauma system plan and recently did a survey to identify areas of strength and weakness regarding terrorism threats. Results should be on website soon (www.hrsa.gov).

GSA: Mr. Globerman

Mr. Globerman mentioned an issue with ASTM canceling federal specs and GSA recommends they do not cancel federal specs. ASTM will not provide an interpretation to any standard they have which makes it unsuitable for use in the Federal Government because you have to use judgment and expertise in interpreting the document. The government needs clear, unambiguous documents otherwise the case ends up in court. The government needs information not subject to interpretation. Mr. Globerman will send more information to be shared at the next meeting regarding the voluntary standard document.

Mr. McDonald added that change notices will be on their website by the end of year. He added that they are working with NIOSH on safety.

Mr. Miller is new to GSA and briefly introduced himself. His background is in industry.

NTIS: Ms. Lathan

Ms. Lathan did not have new information to report. They are working with Federal agencies to develop and submit their training programs. Please let Ms. Lathan know if there's anything they can do to assist, and visit www.ntis.gov for additional resources.

NHTSA: Mr. Bryson

Mr. Bryson has been working on wireless e-911. They are one of a few organizations that may get \$0, \$100 million or \$500 million for their program. There has been a minor adjustment to their organization: Ms. Lori Flarity is now a full DOT employee officially 2 weeks ago. Mr. Bryson will be facilitating a meeting to implement the EMS Education Agenda to educate on EMS standards next week. He visited NIOSH for a meeting and is looking forward to working closer with NIOSH. There are talks about having the two organizations put together a meeting on ambulance safety in the future.

NIOSH: Ms Romano

Ms. Romano reported that the evaluation of restraint systems report is still waiting on further analysis. They had a productive meeting with NTSA & GSA thanks to relationships built at FICEMS.

USFA: Mr. Troup

Mr. Troup introduced Mr. Woody Stratton, an experienced medic who is working on USFA research & technology initiatives.

Mr. Troup's organization has initiated a project with the Society of Automotive Engineering (SAE) regarding research on non-blinding emergency lighting systems. He noted that there is an SAE standard on just about everything on vehicles except emergency vehicle lighting system.

The Fire Service Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative report is almost done. USFA is in the process of developing the report in final format. It should be available by the March 2004 FICEMS meeting and Mr. Troup will make it available to FICEMS members interested in obtaining a copy.

USFA is looking to partner with NIOSH regarding a project dealing with Ambulance and small fire vehicle crash testing in 2004.

The Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire Service is nearing completion and should be available by the March 2004 FICEMS Meeting. USFA partnered with the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) in the development of this document.

The 2002 USFA Firefighter Fatality Report is available as well as the Fire Service Needs Assessment. Contact Mr. Troup if you are interested in receiving hard copies of any of the above.

VI. REPORTS – OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Pacific Institute: Les Becker

Mr. Becker had nothing to report but gave a brief overview of the Pacific Institute, which does a lot of work in alcohol & substance abuse prevention. Their research involves motor vehicle crash issues.

NVFC: Mr. Robison

Mr. Robison had nothing to report, but added that the AS Subcommittee does need more time for their meetings as they are growing.

National Association of EMS Physicians: Dr. Bogucki

Dr. Bogucki announced that there will be an annual meeting on January 8-10th in Tucson, AZ. Information is available on <http://www.naemsp.org/>

Metro Washington Council of Governments (COG): Capt. Woodard

Capt. Woodard mentioned that they are moving forward on disaster programs. They are going to produce a document about mass casualty units available in each jurisdiction as a resource.

ASTM: Mr. Chambers

Mr. Chambers stated that they won't defend any consensus standard in court because they go through multiple industries. He mentioned the need for an interpreter in the government for those standards. Their approach is to go with evidence-based science standards, but now they use KKK standards and cannot support them as well. They are hoping for ongoing

cooperation with GSA to make sure that whatever gets put on paper is able to be scientifically proven. They are still working forward with ambulance specifications. When they come out in a report, it is doubtful that they will find technical differences.

Mr. Chambers is the chairman of the fixed and rotary wing group, which is trying to adopt technology used in ambulances for airplanes. If members are interested in contributing your thoughts and/or expertise (clinicians, operators, etc.) please contact Mr. Chambers to gain access to the website.

Harlem Hospital: Ms. Levick

Ms. Levick commended AAA's work noting that it's a big step forward.

Trauma-EMS Technical Assistance Center: Mr. Mullins

No report.

VII. ACTION ITEMS REVIEW

Old Action Items were not addressed.

New Action Items:

1. Members should submit recommendations as to how to enable the AS Subcommittee to have enough meeting time to Ms. Romano, and NATEK will compile and return information to the chair.
2. Ms. Romano requested that discussion of the AS Subcommittee time slot be finalized in New Business at the March FICEMS meeting.
3. Mr. Chambers will send Mr. Troup contact information for Chuck.
4. NATEK will include the NTIS website in the minutes for those who are new so they know what NTIS has to offer.
5. Mr. Troup will distribute upon request reports to those who express interest in newly developed USFA documents.
6. The FICEMS chair will follow up with Art regarding this PT subcommittee.
7. The FICEMS chair/USFA will research the rules/bylaws for Fed vs. non-Fed participation in meetings/work groups, etc.
8. Member will review the letter distributed by Mr. Troup addressed to the Surgeon General in preparation for discussion at the March meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Troup noted that the subcommittee meetings are getting too long and asked the group to reevaluate and come up with ideas to talk about in the March meeting.

Mr. Chambers mentioned that one of the effective ways to deal with ongoing issues is to have an open forum on a website. He added that additional calls/meetings should be for resolving issues that could not be resolved on the website.

Mr. Troup noted that there may be an issue for non-federal members participating in a “membership” with Federal agencies.

Mr. Globerman added that there is some criteria that has to be followed regarding Federal inter-agency committees.

Mr. Thackery noted that one hour time for the AS subcommittee is insufficient. He wondered if it is possible for that group to meet the afternoon before the FICEMS meeting, and also if the venue needs to be in Emmitsburg. If this was the case, then the one hour meeting is for giving reports and generating minutes. Our one hour time slot is not sufficient to do things that are asked of us.

Mr. Globerman added that there does have to be minutes of an official meeting, but there may not be an issue with having a “work group” prior to the official meeting.

Mr. Troup inquired if they would need to advertise a “work group” meeting in the Federal registry. We can take these suggestions and discuss them at the March meeting.

Ms. Romano added that she likes meeting in person better than teleconferencing.

Mr. Brasko commented on how the CT subcommittee time after the main meeting has more flexibility to run over time, so it has not been an issue thus far.

Mr. Troup suggested members submit recommendations to Ms. Romano, and NATEK will compile and return information to the chair. This was added as an **ACTION ITEM**. Put it on the agenda for March for further discussion. In the mean time, we need to find out what the rules are for Fed vs. non-Fed participation. This was another related **ACTION ITEM**.

Mr. Troup brought up forming a Performance Technology committee, which hasn't met yet.

Mr. Globerman cautioned against forming another committee as our time is all thinned out already.

Mr. Chambers noted that the idea for a PT Subcommittee was from Art French who he thinks is back in DC and is involved again.

Mr. Troup opted to put the PT subcommittee on hold for now until Art can update us on the status. **ACTION ITEM**: The FICEMS chair will follow up with Art regarding this PT subcommittee.

Mr. Troup handed out a letter to the Surgeon General and requested members think about it for March. This will be added to the March agenda.

Mr. Troup requested that GSA provide contact information to the FICEMS chair regarding GSA staff involved with the AED issue.

Dr. Bogucki corrected spelling of the name Carmona (not Carbona).

Mr. Globerman noted that Carmona was at the expo and had a great presentation and is very much into EMS and law enforcement.

IX. NEXT MEETING

March 4, 2004, 10:30 a.m., NETC, Emmitsburg, Maryland

There was a motion to make Mr. Globerman an ad-hoc member post-retirement.

Mr. Troup encouraged that he can be an “interested party” after retirement, and thanked Mr. Globerman for his efforts.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.