



EMS SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

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2009 Accomplishments

Top achievements in 2009 and a list of events, meetings & initiatives involving EMS Section representation on behalf of the IAFC and fire service based EMS

- The EMS Section played a strong role on Capitol Hill to reinstate the EMS personnel notification provisions of the 1991 Ryan White Act; Defending Public Safety Helicopter use by opposing regulation that would limit the use of FAA Part 91 helicopters; Public Safety Officer Benefit program advancements; Medicare/Medicaid Ambulance Fee Schedule funding; and FIRE and SAFER Grant funding for pre-hospital 9-1-1 emergency medical patient care; among others.
- The EMS Section and its Medicare/Medicaid Committee wrote a letter to the Centers for Medicare Services (CMS) requesting it extend the deadline of CMS change request #6372 so software vendors can modify the existing electronic billing systems for municipal emergency services to reflect the new CMS date of service for ambulance services.
- IAFC – through the EMS Section – joined with the IAFF in a letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committee leaders calling for increased pandemic influenza funding for the EMS community in the Fiscal Year 2009 Supplemental. The letter highlighted specific funding for necessary medical equipment and personnel training needs, priority status for medical countermeasures and the need to ensure local public-health agencies coordinate with local fire and EMS services.
- The EMS Section's *Emerging Disease Committee* worked in the opening months of 2009 to monitor the spread of H1N1 flu and develop the IAFC educational website, www.iafc.org/flu. The site serves as a source for fire and emergency service chief officers to understand H1N1 flu and access various guidance documents and resources being generated for public health and safety officials. The IAFC's EMS Section has maintained its Emerging Disease Committee following work in 2005-2006 on Avian Influenza.
- The EMS Section's Emerging Disease Committee compiled a best-practice document in response to inquiries on administering influenza vaccines for fire/EMS personnel. The document answers questions about the vaccines, provides background information on requirements and explains their importance.
- The IAFC – with the effort and funding by the EMS Section – became a sponsoring agency for the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). Chiefs David Becker, Ret., and Paul Berlin now serve as directors on the CoAEMSP Board and Chief Becker serves as the Commissioner from the IAFC to the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The IAFC is the first fire representative to CoAEMSP, which is the major accrediting body for EMS educational programs.
- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1901 Technical Committee on Ambulances formally met to develop ambulance construction safety standards. Chief Gary Morris, Ret., was named and funded by the EMS and SHS Sections to this

effort. The Group is now formally titled the NFPA 1917 Committee and will work in 2010 to develop the important standards.

- The EMS Section worked with the Massimo Corporation and Dr. Bryan Bledsoe on development and distribution of, *Rehabilitation and Medical Monitoring; A guide for Best Practices, an Introduction to NFPA 1584 (2008 Standards)*, and related on-line educational tools.
- The EMS Section worked with the Volunteer & Combination Officers Section (VCOS) on development and distribution of the Orange Ribbon Report, which serves as a toolkit for volunteer departments transitioning into EMS response. The report considers the role and benefits to patient care in pre-hospital 911 EMS deployment response; costs involved in adding EMS to departments; communications; funding avenues and cost-recovery systems; legal requirements; human resources considerations; and quality-management systems.
- The EMS Section participated in the November BARDA Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Medical Countermeasures End-User Roundtable Meeting, which focused on emergency response capabilities post-event.
- The annual Heart Safe Community Awards – sponsored by the EMS Section and Physio-Control – were presented at Fire-Rescue Med 2009 in Las Vegas for the Heart Safe Community PAD Program Large and Small Community Awards and the STEMI Awareness Community Program Award.
- The EMS Section continued its work with US Fire Administration and National Fire Academy staff to integrate EMS into the mission and deliverables coming from those two organizations. The EMS Section represents the IAFC on the National Fire Academy EMS Education Agenda Advisory group.
- The EMS Section continued its work with IAFC National Programs on a US Fire Administration grant for a Fire Service and EMS Medical Directors handbook. The EMS Section met with Bill Troup of USFA in June, 2009, on the project and is now part of the development team.
- The EMS Section worked with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) on jointly released position papers on the role and importance of fire service based EMS. The two also worked in conjunction to create a new video on fire service based EMS to properly articulate and highlight its beneficial role in America's communities.
- The EMS Section continues its involvement in the NHTSA EMS Workforce Data Definitions Project. The Section named Chief Roxy Barnes to represent the IAFC on the project's expert panel, which initially met in April 2009 and has subsequently worked in June and July on the definitions. Of note, Chief Barnes was the first person named under the new IAFC Liaison Appointment Agreement.
- The EMS Section wrote the IAFC's comments to the Federal Communication Commission's November 12 request seeking information on the Health Care Delivery Elements of National Broadband Plan (NBP Public Notice #17). The IAFC comments highlight the roles and needs of the emergency medical responder
- The EMS Section produced 7 podcasts for section member and public distribution. Topics included how Hollywood portrays EMS, including the newly released television show *Trauma*; the June 2009 Metrorail crash in Washington, D.C.; EMS quality-improvement programs; the *NFPA 1584 Rehabilitation Standards*; the *National EMS*

Education Agenda for the Future status; and the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) on and how accreditation of paramedic education programs will shape licensing in the future for all paramedics.

- The EMS Section sent a letter to chairman of NBC Television, asking for either cancellation or modification of its show, "Trauma" due to the inappropriate portrayal of paramedics on the show.
- The EMS Section was involved with 3 seminar and pre-conference courses at Fire Rescue International, 2009, in Dallas, TX. These included: Chief- Do You Know About This? Current and Emerging EMS Topics for the Fire Chief; Untapped Revenue Sources for Fire-based EMS; Mentoring in Memphis: A Case Study for Developing Firefighter/Paramedic Recruits.
- The February 2009 edition of *EMS Insider* profiled the section and highlighted its purpose and focus on issues important to the entire EMS community. The article also noted the work of the IAFC Economic Challenge Task Force. The group, chaired by EMS Section Treasurer Chief Rob Brown, released *Weathering the Economic Storm: Fiscal Challenges in Fire and Emergency Medical Services* as guidance for departments facing economic change in 2009.
- Successful Fire Rescue Med 2009 Conference with over 600 in attendance and strong educational programs and panel discussions covering various issues faced by EMS systems. The show floor saw over 55 vendors exhibiting the newest technology and services in pre-hospital emergency response and patient care. FRM attendees also enjoyed informative keynote addresses by John McManus, Director for US Army Center of Pre-Deployment Medicine; Bryan Bledsoe, Professor, Emergency Medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine; and forensic scientist Dr. Henry Lee, Chief Emeritus, Connecticut State Police.
- The 2009 *James O. Page EMS Achievement Award* was presented to Mark Lockhart, fire chief of the Maryland Heights Fire Protection District, Missouri in recognition of a 25 plus year impact at the local, state and national organization level on issues important to the future of fire service based EMS.
- The EMS Section's Meritorious Service Award was created in 2009 to acknowledge work of merit in the 2008/2009 year. The 3 award winners were: outgoing IAFC President Chief Larry Grorud for his work on EMS within the IAFC; former U.S. Fire Administrator Chief Greg Cade for his efforts in making EMS as one of the missions of USFA and NFA; and EMS Coordinator Mike McEvoy for his unwavering and influential help in many EMS Section activities, including keeping the membership updated on H1N1.
- EMS Section Treasurer, Chief Rob Brown, was named to the Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS) Editorial Board; and to the EMS Today Program Planning Committee. The IAFC EMS Section also hosted a roundtable discussion at EMS Today 2009 on emerging issues in fire service based EMS.
- Elections for the EMS Section Executive Board positions of chair and treasurer were up for election in 2009 and On 6 March 2009 when nominations closed, two candidates had announced their intentions to run: Chief Gary Ludwig for Section Chair and Chief Robert Brown for Section Treasurer. Both were installed for 2009-2010 at Fire Rescue-Med.

- The section continued its outreach to members via the EMS Section Facebook Group; Google Newsgroup; monthly e-blast; the 3 EMS Chief Advisor newsletters; and in securing the new EMS Section website address, www.iafcems.org

A Calendar of Representation and Advocacy in 2009 on behalf of the EMS Section Membership and its goals

January 22-24: National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) 2009 Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL

January 29-30: National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council Committee Meeting, Crystal City, Arlington, VA

February 3-6: National Transportation Safety Board Public Hearing on the Safety of Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) Operations, Washington, D.C.

February 9-13: Participation on the AFG /SAFER Grant Modification Task Force at the National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD

February 19-22: IAFC EMS Section 2009 Strategic Planning Meeting, Memphis, TN

March 16-17: Presentation to the National Fire Service Staff and Command Course in Ocean City, MD

March 26-28: EMS Today 2009, Baltimore, MD

March 27: Meeting with the National EMS Management Association Board of Directors, Baltimore, MD

April 2: The 21st Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner, Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.; Presentation with the Fire Service Based EMS Advocates; and meetings with several members of Congress

April 6-8: Participation in the curriculum revision meeting at the National Fire Academy to assist in mainstreaming EMS in to the core courses

April 15-16: The Microsoft Public Safety Symposium

April 16-17: EMS Section Member, Division Chief Roxy Barnes, Vancouver Fire Department, represented the IAFC and the Section at the NHTSA EMS Workforce Data Definitions Meeting in Washington, D.C.

April 18-21: 2009 CAAHEP Meeting, San Antonio, TX

May 1-6: Fire Rescue Med 2009, Las Vegas, NV

May 2: Meeting with the IAFC VCOS Board of Directors, Las Vegas, NV

May 3: Annual EMS Section Membership Meeting, Las Vegas, NV

May 8: IAFC Strategic Positioning Meeting, Washington, DC

May 9-21: National Registry of EMT's Governance Committee Meeting, Chicago, IL

June 2-3: National EMS Advisory Committee (NEMSAC) meeting, Alexandria, VA

June 3: Federal Interagency on EMS (FICEMS) meeting, Alexandria, VA

June 7-10: The IAFF 10th Biennial Dominick F. Barbera EMS Conference, Miami, FL

June 10: National Registry of EMT's Board meeting, Chicago, IL

June 17: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1901 Technical Committee on Ambulances, Quincy, MA

July 9: White House Pandemic Flu Preparedness Summit, Washington, DC

July 9: U.S. Department of Justice Mass Casualty Victims Working Group Teleconference

July 19-24: AFG/SAFER Grant Criteria Meeting, Emmittsburg, MD

August 2-4: FETN/PULSE Meeting, Dallas, TX

August 11-12: U.S. Department of Homeland Security First Responder Workforce Protection and Service Delivery Alternative Work Group, Arlington, VA

August 12: Fire Service Based EMS Advocates Quarterly Meeting, Washington, DC

August 18-23: National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) Annual Symposium, Orlando, FL

August 21-22: Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) Board Meeting, Orlando, FL

Aug 27: EMS Section Business meeting at Fire Rescue International, Dallas, TX

August 28: EMS Section Board meeting with National Fire Academy Superintendent, Dr. Denis Onieal, FRI, Dallas, TX

September 23-25: National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Annual Convention, Little Rock, AR

October 5-8: American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Scientific Assembly 2009, Boston, MA

October 14: Attendance at the House Committee on Energy & Commerce mark-up of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act Of 2009, Washington, D.C.

October 21: Attendance at the Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee hearing on H1N1 Response, Washington, D.C.

October 29-30: Fire Rescue International Program Planning Council meeting, Chicago, IL

October 26-30: EMS Expo, Atlanta, GA

November 2-3: BARDA CBRN Roundtable, Denver, CO

November 5-8: VCOS Symposium in the Sun Conference, Clearwater Beach, FL

December 1-3: American Ambulance Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV

December 3-5: Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association Annual Meeting, Keystone, CO

December 6-8: CoAEMSP KAB Task Force Meeting, at National Registry in Columbus, OH

December 15-16: National EMS Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting, Arlington, VA