



FEMA

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

DATE & TIME:	March 4, 2004 9:00 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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Mr. Bill Troup United States Fire Administration Mr. John Brasko United States Fire Administration Office for Domestic Preparedness Mr. Terrance Flynn
	Department of Agriculture No Representation
	Federal Communications Commission No Representation
	Department of Defense (DOD) No Representation
	General Services Administration (GSA) No Representation
	Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Ms. Nancy Romano AS Subcommittee Chair National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

		Department of Interior No Representation
		Department of Transportation (DOT) Mr. Dave Bryson National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Ms. Susan McHenry National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
		Department of Veteran Affairs No Representation
		Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) No Representation
		Department of Labor No Representation
OTHER FEDERAL ATTENDEES:		Department of Commerce (DOC) No Representation
		Department of Justice (DOJ) No Representation
OTHER ATTENDEES PRIVATE SECTOR:		International Safety Equipment Association Mr. Joe Walker Mr. Dan Glucksman
		Little Rock, AR, Metropolitan Emergency Medical Systems (MEMS) Mr. Jon Swanson
		Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System Ms. Rene Fechter
		National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Mr. Joe Robison
		Trauma-EMS Technical Assistance Center Mr. Terry Mullins
DIAL-IN PARTICIPANTS:		Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

	Mr. Paul Moore National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
	American Ambulance Association Mr. Kurt Krumperman
	American Medical Response Mr. Ron Thackery
	Dynamic Science Incorporated, Research, Science and Technology Division Ms. Fran Bents
	Estero Fire & Rescue Department Mr. Jeff Lindsey
	Harlem Hospital Ms. Nadine Levick
	Lifecare Ambulance Service Mr. Larry Anderson
	Road Safety International, Incorporated Mr. Larry Selditz
	VFIS Mr. Rick Patrick
	KK Ambulance Mr. John Russell
	Mr. Brian Walker
	Urgent Care in PA Mr. David Light

I. WELCOME

Ms. Nancy Romano called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and proceeded with introductions.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves and Ms. Romano made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December. Minutes were approved.

Dial-in participants expressed their difficulty hearing people in the room, and though efforts were made to improve this condition, those on the phone continued to experience difficulty hearing.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE OBJECTIVE

Ms. Romano began the discussion on the first objective of this subcommittee to ensure the group is working toward the same goal. This objective was stated as driver training and education. Since the December meeting, there was a teleconference presentation on the EVOC course given by Mr. Billy Rutherford, as well as insight offered by Mr. Dave Bryson regarding national curriculum.

Ms. Romano added that the subcommittee needs to determine an approach to address this objective to see how the subcommittee can make an impact.

Mr. Larry Selditz commented that concerning driver education and training as it relates to EMS demands identifying the whole process, to include hiring, training, coaching, and monitoring.

Mr. Ron Thackery noted a written statement regarding the position FICEMS could take regarding driver training programs. However indications from the group were that it goes beyond the actual training programs.

Mr. Bill Troup reminded the group that FICEMS is an information sharing body, not an organizational body purposed to redevelop procedures, create policies, or recommend driver training programs.

Mr. Rick Patrick added that it is not about adopting or endorsing any one program, but taking what NHTSA already has and making it a national standard curriculum, or recommend that it become the national standard curriculum.

Ms. Susan McHenry noted that the committee does not need to push for standardization, but may be able to provide guidance.

Mr. Larry Selditz mentioned developing best practices and successful implementations, collaborating those ideas and sharing them among the agencies.

Ms. Nancy Romano inquired about the first goal to meet this objective.

Mr. Paul Moore replied noting that he is not certain the group knows if the goal is to collaborate best practices. He also noted confusion as to the role of FICEMS in making suggestions on best practices.

Mr. Bill Troup reiterated that FICEMS is an information sharing group, not one to set policies.

Mr. Kurt Krumperman asked about the possibility of the Federal agencies within FICEMS to encourage their own agencies to get on board with one standard curriculum.

Mr. Troup noted that the only major Federal agency in FICEMS that has a standard program is NHTSA. He suggested that the group take the initiative to share the downloadable curriculum from NHTSA with their organizations as they see fit. This would qualify more as recognition rather than endorsement.

Ms. Susan McHenry added that in addition to agreeing on a curriculum, we should encourage the development of best practices in this whole area. You need to be able to prove that the best practices make a difference in performance by providing some science behind the practices.

Mr. Bill Troup mentioned that his organization is putting out a document that will include some best practices aimed at the overall fire community, but will include some EMS relevance as well.

Ms. Nancy Romano returned to the question of what this committee can do.

Mr. Bill Troup replied mentioning joint crash testing, partnerships, and recognition of EMS training curriculum.

Ms. Romano addressed the group asking what they could do between now and the June meeting.

Mr. David Light inquired if the group could take similar programs and combine them to reach a national standard.

Mr. Bill Troup replied that Federal agencies can develop policy or create curriculum, but role of the FICEMS committee is information sharing and coordination, and not to develop policy.

Mr. Ron Thackery mentioned that there are a lot of good ideas, but wondered what FICEMS as a group could do, since the group is simply a mechanism for communication.

Mr. Bill Troup noted that the FICEMS group can collaborate and gather information from other agencies and interested parties, etc.

Mr. Jon Swanson mentioned sharing tools such as lessons learned from accident reports and research.

Discussion continued regarding sharing of information from various organizations reporting to include crash testing reports, fire fighter fatality reports, accident reports, etc.

In the interest of time, Ms. Nancy Romano concluded that they need to seek guidance from USFA as to what this committee can and cannot do. She suggested holding a teleconference to discuss this further prior to the next meeting. Mr. Bill Troup added that the minutes from these meetings are posted on-line, and this would be an effective method of disseminating information discussed, including links to websites, etc. There currently is a webpage listing links to Federal agencies, and Mr. Troup will investigate the potential of linking private sector websites as well. **(ACTION ITEM)**

IV. ACTION ITEM REVIEW

Ms. Nadine Levick emailed the publication from Europe to Ms. Nancy Romano, who distributed it to all members.

Thank you to Mr. Larry Anderson for doing the PowerPoint presentation, to Mr. Billy Rutherford for the EVOG presentation via teleconference, and to Mr. Jon Swanson for the presentation on black box use in the December meeting.

Mr. Ron Thackery sent the DVD to interested parties.

Mr. Jon Swanson updated the group on his black box research. They hired 18 new employees in January and their driving habits were shocking in comparison to those who had been driving with the black box for a year. However it was easy for new hires to adapt, and they have done well transitioning to the new standards. There is not good objective data available yet, because drivers were not allowed to stay away from the training for very long.

Ms. Nancy Romano added that if help is needed to disseminate information on the black box training, the committee has offered assistance. Ms. Nancy Romano and Mr. John Russell added that they are putting together a database with good information on crash data and information on organized training programs which she will send out next week. **(ACTION ITEM)** This is a work in progress and they're continuing to look at it with additional questions and revisions as to where data collection efforts should start. Ms. Romano suggested a teleconference next month to discuss this further.

Ms. Romano announced that Mr. Jeff Lindsey has been working on a dissertation paper covering the topic of using simulators to train emergency drivers, and everyone should have received a copy of this paper. At the National EMS Academy meeting in LA in mid March, they will be using the simulator and any members are welcome to visit the demonstration. Mr. Jeff Lindsey will be doing a presentation on his paper at the June meeting. **(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Jeff Lindsey added that they will be using the VFIS training program and sending about 130 students through the training in mid March. They will incorporate the use of the simulator and compare the results with those without simulator training.

Mr. Larry Selditz added that there are two components to their research and training: developing good driving skills, and maintaining good driving habits. They are also incorporating the use of the National Advanced Driving System (NADS).

Ms. Nancy Romano noted that more information regarding the above will be addressed in the June meeting.

Ms. Romano mentioned that Mr. Brian Walker had inquired about discussing how EMS agencies respond to bio-terrorism incidents, and this topic has been referred to the Counter-Terrorism subcommittee chair, Mr. Gordon Sachs.

Ms. Nancy Romano will forward information to the group from Mr. Brian Walker regarding dealing with bio-terrorism events. **(ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Bill Troup will forward information he has on HAZMAT to Mr. Jon Swanson.
(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Brian Walker explained his interest in counter-terrorism, and the question of are we going to use ambulances in the incident, and if we are, how are we going to protect the crew. That is the concern.

ACTION ITEMS from this meeting:

1. Mr. Bill Troup will investigate the possibility of developing web links from the FICEMS Page of the USFA web site that could include Federal agencies that participate in FICEMS as members, and potentially non-member organizations.
2. Ms. Nancy Romano will send members the database that she and Mr. John Russell are putting together with good information on crash data and information on organized training programs.
3. Mr. Jeff Lindsey will do a presentation on his paper on using simulators to train emergency drivers at the June meeting.
4. Ms. Nancy Romano will forward information to the group from Mr. Brian Walker regarding dealing with bio-terrorism events.

V. NEXT MEETING AGENDA

At the June meeting, there will be a presentation from Mr. Jeff Lindsey with input from Mr. Larry Selditz on the dissertation mentioned today. Ms. Nancy Romano will be working on the agenda and requests that the group send her an email if there are suggestions or items that should be included.

VI. NEXT MEETING

June 3, 2004, 9:00 a.m.
Building J, Room 101
NETC, Emmitsburg, MD

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.