



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

**Ambulance Safety Subcommittee**

**DATE AND TIME:** September 5, 2002 2:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** National Emergency Training Center  
Room S-113  
16825 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

**MEMBER AGENCY  
REPRESENTATION:** **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**  
Mr. Jeff Dyar  
United States Fire Administration (USFA)

Mr. Bill Troup  
United States Fire Administration (USFA)

**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)**

Mr. Paul Moore  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
(NIOSH)

Ms. Nancy Romano  
Chairperson  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
(NIOSH)

**Department of Interior**  
No Representation

**Department of Transportation (DOT)**  
Ms. Susan McHenry  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
(NHTSA)

**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:**

**American Ambulance Association (AAA)**  
Ms. Brenda Staffan

**American Integrated Training Systems (AITS)**  
Mr. Billy Rutherford

**American Society for Testing and Materials  
(ASTM)**  
Mr. Pete Chambers

**Fairfax County Fire and Rescue**  
Captain Christine Woodard

**Medical Transportation Insurance (MTI)**  
Mr. Bill Leonard

Ambulance Safety Subcommittee Chairperson Ms. Nancy Romano called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. She welcomed everyone and went around the table for introductions.

**I. WELCOME:**

Ms. Romano welcomed everyone went into individual introductions and interest.

**II. INTRODUCTION:**

The Chairperson requested that we go around the table for introductions.

**III. INTEREST IN AMBULANCE SAFETY:**

Each person introduced him or herself and briefly mentioned the reason for their participation in the subcommittee.

**American Integrated Training System:** Mr. Billy Rutherford

Mr. Rutherford reported that during an Ambulance Driving course provided for NHTSA, they learned that the back of an ambulance is a dangerous place to do your job. Questions arose and functional analysis began, they came up with alternative designs. The problem with these designs is that the manufacturers haven't tested. He has minutes from this course analysis and would be glad to pass these along and share. It was a fantastic study with a variety of information and resources.

Mr. Leonard, MTI, suggested focusing on ground transportation rather than the total concept of patient transportation.

Mr. Chambers, ASTM, mentions that the industry needs to put science behind the standards.

Ms. Romano, Chairperson, recognizes that there are lots of aspects that fall under the safety and asked that we stay focused.

Mr. Rutherford, AITS, suggests that we stick with the patient compartment.

**DOT:** Ms. Susan McHenry, NHTSA

Ms. McHenry recommends both patient and operator safety should be considered.

**ASTM:** Mr. Pete Chambers

Mr. Chambers states no one is regulating safety. He would like to see science back-up the performance requirements.

**Fairfax County Fire and Rescue:** Captain Christine Woodard

Capt. Woodward reported that though she does not have direct experience, she does have input on what they can purchase for the ambulances for a safer environment.

**Medical Transportation Insurance:** Mr. Bill Leonard

Mr. Leonard is interested in the safety of the patient compartment. Recommended that we invite Dr. Levick to do a presentation.

**NIOSH:** Mr. Paul Moore/Ms. Nancy Romano

Ms. Romano and Mr. Moore address their interest and distributed a PowerPoint handout for further explanation.

**USFA:** Mr. Bill Troup

Mr. Troup also reported on the Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative project that is being done in partnership with DOT Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Joint Program Office. He reported that the second meeting regarding this project that was conducted in Kansas City, Missouri to develop endorsed recommendations from the national-level fire groups and others on how to mitigate the loss of life among emergency responders from vehicle crashes, being struck while operating, and falling from emergency vehicles. He mentioned that a press release on this meeting will soon be up on the USFA web site.

**NATEK EMS Specialist:** Sandy McMinn

Ms. McMinn is interested in assisting the FICEMS committee with her expert experience.

**IV. BRIEFING ON CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS:**

This topic became an action item for the next meeting agenda. See below.

Ms. Romano, Chairperson, discussed the next agenda items.

1. Each agency/organization collect references and historical information.
2. Discuss databases and the National Reporting System
3. Case Study- Crash Test

**V. AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:**

Mr. Leonard, MTI, mentioned that one facet that we needed to look at is the design, safety & crash worthiness of a vehicle. Statistics show that 99% were driver error.

Capt. Woodward, FFX Co., reported that she would like to see what options are out there to fix the problems verses redesigning the entire compartment. She also mentioned that she would like to know what statistics show as the reasons for death. Once we know what areas are the major causes, we can tackle those areas.

Mr. Moore, NIOSH, reported that he might have a video of a crash test in Canada that would provide insight. He will seek permission to show to the subcommittee. Mr. Chambers, ASTM, mentioned the need to understand all the components involved in the safety of the patient compartment and then evaluate which of these aspects we should focus on as a subcommittee.

**VI. NEXT MEETING:**

December 5, 2002, 2:30 p.m., Emmitsburg, Maryland

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further comments, Chairperson Romano made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.