



FEMA



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

DATE & TIME:	December 4, 2003 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
	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 Mr. Scott Dugas

	<p>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>Pacific Institute Mr. Les Becker</p>

	<p>Trauma-EMS Technical Assistance Center Mr. Terry Mullins</p>
	<p>VFIS No representation</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>Priority Dispatch Corporation Dr. Jeff Clawson</p>
	<p>Research Science & Technology Mr. Joe Kausch</p>
	<p>Southwest Ambulance Mr. Matt Johnson</p>
	<p>The Insurance Professionals Mr. Bill Leonard</p>

I. WELCOME

Ms. Nancy Romano called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and motioned to approve the past minutes. Mr. Globerman passed the approval of the minutes from the September meeting.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

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

III. COMMITTEE OBJECTIVE

The following objectives were stated based on subcommittee feedback since the September meeting:

1. Driver Training and Education
2. Safe Environment for EMS Workers
3. Priority of Essential Response
4. Vehicle Safety
5. Identify the Real Issues for EMS Workers

Ms. Romano solicited suggestions from the group for which of the above stated objectives would be best to begin initiatives.

Mr. Globerman urged the use of the DOT training program and recommended that training as the standard training program for EMS drivers. The training is already in place complete with materials, and it just needs to be implemented.

Mr. Troup addressed the difference between the EVOC program and the VFIS program. He mentioned that USFA took the EVOC program from VFIS and published a manual based on the EVOC program but does not offer certification. VFIS includes instructor information and a diploma verifying certification which is recognized in many states. That is the big difference: USFA does not offer the certification, but VFIS does.

Mr. Moore inquired about content differences between the two programs (EVOC and VFIS).

Mr. Leonard commented about the VFIS and EVOC programs, stating that they basically mirror each other, with the exception of the instructor portion in the VFIS program.

Ms. Levick shared thoughts about the obstacles of these programs since it is not an approved program.

Mr. Moore inquired about the use of "EVOC" for both programs and received clarification that while both programs are based off of EVOC, the difference is that the DOT program does not offer certification. The DOT program was the one that was adopted by 38 states.

Mr. Globerman suggested that Mr. Bryson, as a representative from NHTSA, do a comparison of the two programs. He suggested integrating the best of the VFIS program into the DOT version of the program, putting pride of ownership aside to build a solid and successful program.

Mr. Thackery discussed an idea in support of the objective to strongly support a driver training program that is built on the fundamentals in the DOT program of EVOC, while referencing both EVOC and the VFIS program. There is also a National Safety Council program curriculum called CEVO (Coaching Emergency Vehicle Operator) that is in fairly wide use. Many have taken pieces of programs and created their own program. Mr. Thackery suggested that we establish the EVOC curriculum as the minimum standard that we advocate and then confirm, whether the number is 38 states that have adopted that we should push to get it approved and implemented in all 50 states.

Mr. Globerman made the above action a motion, and Mr. Thackery agreed if someone could repeat what he said.

Ms. Romano would like Mr. Thackery to email her his comments (above) so she can share it with the group.

Mr. Chambers inquired why we would promote any program that we're not sure has a positive effect. He suggested using the term "best practices" rather than continue to support programs that may not be successful. He would like to see documentation showing the effectiveness.

Ms. Levick noted that there is a publication from Europe addressing things relevant to today's presentation, linked to behavior monitoring for drivers. What program do we get the most benefit from?

Mr. Globerman suggested modifying the EVOC course by taking some pieces of the other programs and incorporating them into the already accepted EVOC course – if there is good data out there, we should use it.

Ms. Romano stated the following **ACTION ITEM**: Ms. Levick will email Ms. Romano a copy of the article mentioned above and Ms. Romano will send it out to the subcommittee. **ACTION ITEM**: Ms. Romano will email the subcommittee to gather info on what programs are available, what they offer, etc., so the subcommittee can be on the same page regarding what is offered.

Mr. Globerman stated that Mr. Billy Rutherford is someone who could reflect on the content and driving factors of the class.

IV. EXPLORATION OF DATA SOURCES

Ms. Romano mentioned the need to find out what data sources are available and what people have access to.

Mr. Leonard suggested that we move on to Jon Swanson's presentation relative to the topic.

Ms. Romano agreed to move on to Jon Swanson and do presentations out of agenda order.

V. JON SWANSON (MEMS) RESEARCH ON BLACK BOX SYSTEMS

Mr. Swanson delivered his presentation via teleconference. The presentation was displayed on screen in the meeting and is on CD for electronic distribution as well.

Ms. Levick suggested publishing the presentation information as a valuable resource.

Mr. Moore agrees that this information should be published.

Mr. Anderson noted that he has been using monitoring system since 1987.

Mr. Swanson mentioned that the key to the system is the behavior modification system. There is an audible alarm that allows a crew member to back off, as well as other technical features (spotter switch, etc.). Mr. Swanson noted that they have tried to get the partner to get out and spot the back of the vehicle to help with back crashes. They have seen about an 18 month return on investment in safety and have talked with road safety as well. This system has the ability to be integrated with satellites, complete with recognition software and mapping software, so you as a manager would know if the light was red or green when the crew went through the intersection.

Mr. Chambers inquired about the accident rate before and then after report.

Mr. Swanson answered that they averaged one serious accident (meaning they had to replace a vehicle), which put the rate in range of one per million.

Ms. Romano noted that we ran out of time and proposed that we carry over other presentations to next meeting.

VI. DAVID BRYSON (NHTSA) RESEARCH BRIEFING

Mr. Bryson will email everyone his presentation, and mentioned that there will be further delay getting NIOSH's data.

VII. RICHARD PATRICK (VFIS) NHTSA PREEMPTIVE SYSTEM INFORMATION

There was not time for this presentation.

VIII. CAPTAIN WOODWARD AND JOE ROBINSON DATA COLLECTION INFORMATION

There was not time for this presentation.

IX. RON THACKERY (AMR) EMS VIDEO

There was not time for this presentation.

X. NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Romano proposed that the subcommittee select a different time and/or day for the subcommittee meeting due to lack of time, noting that they need a minimum of two hours to get through the agenda. She will email members to get suggestions. This was added as an **ACTION ITEM**.

Mr. Leonard asked if there could be another conference call so we can hear Larry Anderson's presentation before Christmas.

Mr. Anderson offered to distribute his PowerPoint presentation to the group, through Ms. Romano. This was added as an **ACTION ITEM**. Ms. Romano will forward the presentation to members.

XI. NEW ACTION ITEMS REVIEW

The following new action items were discussed:

1. Ms. Levick will email Ms. Romano a copy of the article mentioned above and Ms. Romano will send it out to the subcommittee.
2. Ms. Romano will email the subcommittee to gather information on what programs are available, what they offer, etc., so the subcommittee can be on the same page regarding what is offered. (This was in reference to EVOC and VFIS.)
3. Ms. Romano will email members to get suggestions on subcommittee meeting time and/or day to allow the group to have more time to get through the agenda.
4. Mr. Anderson will email his PowerPoint presentation to Ms. Romano, and Ms. Romano will distribute it to the subcommittee members.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.