

TRB EMS Subcommittee ANB10(5)

EMS Safety Summit 2012

Safety Systems, Strategies and Solutions

Making It Happen

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TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Current Status Today

- Minimal change in vehicle design for decades
- Hydraulic stretchers
- Existing areas remain in the nation that do not have:
 - Enhanced 9-1-1 service
 - Trained emergency medical dispatchers
 - Signal preemption devices
- EMS providers often lack:
 - Injury prevention education or protocols
 - Adequate and interoperable communication devices
 - Funding for training, vehicles, or equipment



Untapped Opportunities: Emergency Response Vehicle

- Unibody design
- Exterior reflective surfaces
- Passenger and patient restraint devices
- Storage compartments
- Medical equipment design and weight

Untapped Opportunities: EMS Personnel

- Uniform injury prevention training
- Mandatory initiatives within SOPs or via BWC
- Burden of Injury: Short-term/long-term disability
- Sleep deprivation
- Standardized emergency vehicle operations standards and training

Untapped Opportunities: The Terrain

- Rural versus metropolitan
- Mutual aid resources in remote areas
- Emergency medical resources and surge capacity
- Utilization of alternative transport vehicles in dangerous or austere terrain or conditions

Untapped Opportunities: Resource Utilization

- Emergency medical dispatch is a critical gatekeeper for resource allocation and distribution
- Paramedic versus emergency medical technician
- Air medical versus ground transport
- Critical care ground transport units
- Traffic and bystander management

Untapped Opportunities: Resource Utilization

- GPS systems
- Regionalized systems of emergency care and response
- Identification of high risk roadways and intersections
- Mass casualty incident emergency response plans/drills
- Telemedicine: Prehospital /Interfacility

DATA:

EMS IS **NOT** AN ISLAND

- Impact of formally trained emergency medical dispatchers on resource utilization and patient outcomes
- Impact of mandatory restraint use on EMS personnel and patient injury patterns
- Fatalities
- Inclusion of EMS in traffic incident management plans/drills

DATA:

EMS IS **NOT** AN ISLAND

- Impact of uniformity resulting from state and local implementation of the:
 - National EMS Education Agenda for the Future
 - National EMS Information System (NEMESIS)
 - Guidelines for Field Triage of Injured Patients
- Data linkage of prehospital crash records with hospital, EMS, trauma registry, rehabilitation, death certificate and other records

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