EMS Transport Safety Summit 2012

Safety Systems, Strategies and Solutions

NTSB/DHS/NEMSAC/NIST/NIOSH

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OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Federal Agencies

The NTSB investigates aviation, marine, train and highway accidents but not specific to ambulances.

www.ntsb.gov

DHS – FEMA became part of the Department of Homeland Security 3/1/03

www.fema.gov

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Federal Emergency Management Agency

"Mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to and recover from and mitigate all hazards."

Working Groups include: Search and Rescue, Animal Rescue, EMS and Aviation Management Working Group.

- Developing Resource Guides

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DHS/NIST/NIOSH

NIST and Partners Seek Input on Safer Ambulance Designs

From NIST *Tech Beat*: November 22, 2011

Contact: Michael E. Newman
301-975-3025

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is seeking input from paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and other interested parties on the development of new design guidelines for ambulances to reduce the crash risk to emergency workers.

Emergency medical service (EMS) workers riding in the back of ambulances are at high risk of suffering injuries during a crash or a maneuver to avoid a crash if they're not using restraints. However, restraints make it difficult to access and treat patients while in route to a hospital. To meet the challenge of finding a balance between these two demands, NIST, the Department of Homeland Security's Human Factors and Behavioral Sciences Division (DHS HFD) and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) are developing design guidelines for ambulance patient compartments that maximize safety without compromising effectiveness.

These guidelines will be used to update current, and enhance emerging, ambulance design criteria, such as National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1917, the "Standard for Automotive Ambulances."

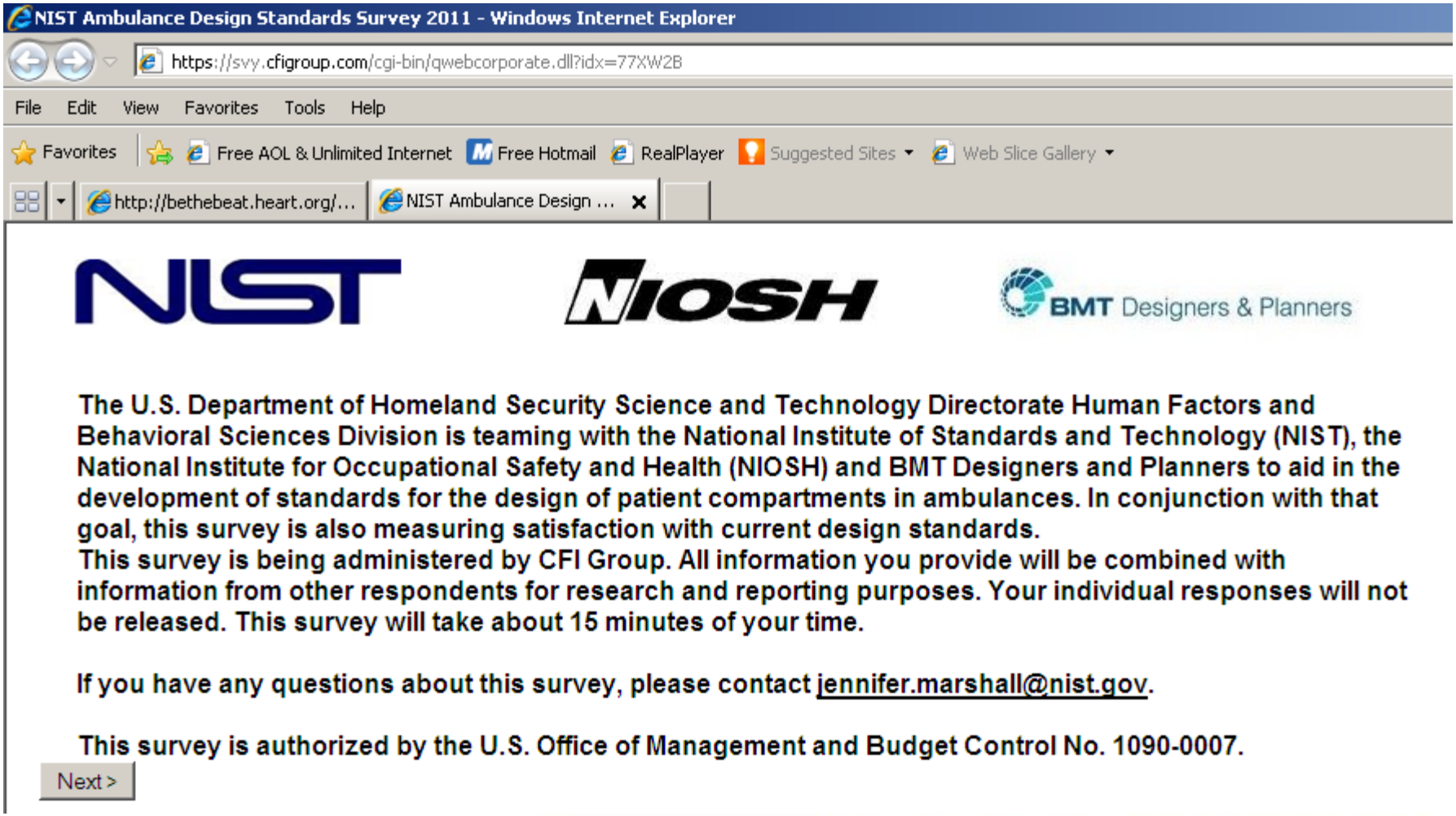
To gather input for the guidelines from a broad cross-section of the key stakeholders, EMTs and paramedics, the three agencies are conducting an anonymous web survey from Nov. 28, 2011, to Dec. 28, 2011. Insight and opinions from this survey will supplement data previously gathered from focus groups, interviews with individual EMS workers, visits to equipment manufacturers and EMS stations, and "ride-along" experiences aboard on-duty ambulances.

The web survey can be found at either the NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards site, www.nist.gov/oles, or the DHS Responder Knowledge Database site, www.rkb.us.

For more information, or to get more involved in the effort to improve safety in ambulance patient compartments, contact Darren Wilson, DHS, at (202) 254-6657 or darren.wilson@dhs.gov; Larry Avery, BMT Designers & Planners, at (919) 713-0383 or lavery@dandp.com; or Jennifer Marshall, NIST, at (301) 975-3396 or jennifer.marshall@nist.gov.

Recent Survey – results pending

https://svy.cfigroup.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=77XW2B



NEMSAC In 2007, the National EMS Advisory Council was formalized to serve as an ongoing forum to provide to NHTSA and the DOT advice and recommendations from non govt. organizations and people on a range of issues –
One of the designated NEMSAC Committees is Safety
www.EMS.gov

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NEMSAC follows a very specific process –the committee drafts "Advisories" that are then reviewed by the full NEMSAC in public session until final approval - According to Daniel Patterson, Chair of NEMSAC Safety Committee - recent issues with NEMSAC include:

1) Intersection of Leadership and Safety Culture;
2) Emergency Vehicle Operator Education, Training, and Safety;
3) Fatigue Management; and
4) Role of Crew Resource Management in EMS

For the remainder of our tenure on this committee, we will be addressing numbers 3 and 4 listed above. Our goal will be to produce a draft or final advisory for each of the two focus areas.

The public may provide feedback during designated public comment periods when NEMSAC meets in Washington DC, by providing comments by e-mail to nemsac@dot.gov

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Published “Guidelines for Field Triage of Injured Patients” in 2009 . The goal of this process is to ensure that injured patients are taken to the most appropriate facility in a timely manner.

The expert panel reconvened in 2011 to evaluate new evidence and examine the criteria for field triage in light of new findings.

The 2011 Guidelines include:

Step 1 Physiologic Criteria
Step 2 Anatomic Criteria
Step 3 Mechanism of Injury
Step 4 Special Considerations

www.cdc.gov

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Summary

There are various agencies within the federal government working on EMS issues that provide EMS providers with the opportunity to comment, participate and communicate.

It is important that these agencies work together so that we do not waste valuable time and resources in addressing the future of EMS.