

# Ambulance Transport Safety Summit

## Bridging the gap between what we do and what is known

EMS Subcommittee of the TRB Ambulance Transport Safety Summit  
Kevin Roche, Phoenix Fire/EMS

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009



## SESSION 4: Information Sharing and Policy

### Challenges – Knowledge Transfer/Dissemination

Kevin Roche  
Phoenix Fire Department, Arizona



## Challenges – Knowledge Transfer/Dissemination

- ▶ Size of the Fire and EMS Services
- ▶ Variety of Service Delivery Models
- ▶ Variety of Organizational Models
- ▶ Lack of Standardization
- ▶ Culture
- ▶ Tradition



## Fire and Emergency Medical Services in the United States:

*The only statement that you can make with complete confidence is that there is no statement that you can make with complete confidence.*



## Size of the Service:

- ▶ 30,635 Fire Departments
  - Half dozen members to 10,000
  - Village to Metropolitan Area
  - 12% career or mostly career
  - 88% volunteer or mostly volunteer
  - Fierce Independence – to a fault
- ▶ 47,100 Fire Stations



## Size of the Service:

- ▶ 1.2M firefighters
- ▶ Career firefighters protect most of the population – Volunteer firefighters protect most of the area
- ▶ 121,228 NREMT Certified
  - Portion of the total service
- ▶ 40,000+ ambulances



## Service Variety:

- ▶ Service Models
  - Fire Service Only
  - Fire/EMS
  - First Responder
    - BLS
    - ALS
  - Fire/EMS/Ambulance Transport
  - EMS/Transport Only
  - Emergency and Interfacility



## Service Variety:

- ▶ Organizational Models
  - Volunteer
  - Combination
  - Career - Paid
    - Public
    - Private
  - Everything In Between
- ▶ Governance
- ▶ Funding Levels and Means of Support



## Standardization:

- ▶ Little real standardization
- ▶ Ambulance and Fire Apparatus Standards
  - Triple K
  - NFPA
- ▶ Training standards for fire and EMS
- ▶ Higher EMS certification – generally – more standardized control
- ▶ State Ambulance Certification



## Fire Service Culture and Tradition

- ▶ Pride in Service to the Community
- ▶ History
- ▶ Tradition
- ▶ Change
- ▶ Risk-Takers
  - Invincibility



## How To Get Through:

- ▶ Focused Message
- ▶ Consistent Message
- ▶ Involvement in the Standards Process
- ▶ Involvement in the Regulatory Process
- ▶ Good Research
  - Conveyed in a Way that Can be Understood



Thank you.



## Questions??

- Please raise your hand or type in the message box