



**National EMS Safety Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 16, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm PT**  
**Embassy Suites San Diego Bay Downtown**

**Notes**

**In Attendance:** Rick Murray, ACEP; Ron Thackery, AAA; Rick Sherlock, AAMS; Dave Evans, AAMS; Lee Varner, Center for Patient Safety; Mike McEvoy, IAFC; John Todaro, NAEMSE; Jason White, NAEMT; Paul Patrick, NASEMSO; Allison Bloom, NEMSMA; Tre Rodriguez, NREMT; John Marshall, NHTSA; Noah Smith, NHTSA; Dave Bryson, NHTSA; Cathy Gotschall, NHTSA; Rob Rehburg, NSC; Pam Lane, NAEMT; Lisa Lindsay; NAEMT

1. Rick Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Review and approval of proposed methodology for vetting resources – Allison had provided a draft methodology for consideration. Points raised during discussion included:
  - a. Resources should be categorized (policy statements, peer reviewed research, opinions, etc.), and posted under categories on the web site.
  - b. Resources must be consistent with how federal agencies review articles.
  - c. Resources should include a disclaimer that we do not necessarily endorse the documents.

A motion was made by John Todaro and seconded by Paul Patrick to adopt the methodology for vetting NEMSSC resources as presented. The Council approved the motion.

Allison, Paul, and Cathy Gotschall volunteered to develop a framework for categorizing resources. The Council discussed grade methodology. Cathy noted that grade methodology is generally used on clinical trials, and that there are very few examples in EMS. This methodology also gives credit to the results of observational studies, and can be used to appraise the general quality of evidence.

3. Review and finalization of proposed outline of topics to be covered in template safety program for EMS agencies – Rick asked if the template covered the issue adequately. The Council discussed next steps.
  - a. Mike suggested a “cross-walk” as the next step.
  - b. Jason suggested that patient safety should be a separate category.
  - c. Allison suggested that the issue of governance (policy) should also be included.

- d. Ron and Rick Sherlock indicated that they had additional topics to include.
- e. The Council discussed the commonalities/differences between ground and air; and operational/patient safety.
- f. Noah suggested that EMS fatigue should be added under provider health.

Rick Sherlock, Jason, Lee, John volunteered to work with Rick and Ron to develop the template.

4. Pam reported that the NEMSSC's E.V.E.N.T. site partnership had been completed.
5. "Just Culture" resources for the EMS community – Lee Varner presented on this subject, and distributed high quality resources on the subject of patient safety. His presentation defined what is a culture of safety, how culture can be measured, the components of a culture of safety including the role of the team, and what is "just culture."

Following the presentation, the Council discussed the topic:

- a. Lee made suggestions regarding how to implement a culture of safety in an EMS agency.
  - b. The Council members discussed the cultural component of safety and possible next steps. Lee asked how the Council can help the conversation.
  - c. Jason suggested developing a draft policy statement on the concepts of a culture of safety.
  - d. Rick asked for everyone to share organizational examples of policy statements.
  - e. John mentioned the need to embed this into the primary education. Tre noted that CRM will be incorporated into new NREMT competencies.
6. The Council reviewed EMS safety related events:
    - a. Safety management training 13-17 June at AAMS.
    - b. August 23-26 Safety Summit in Colorado
    - c. EMS World – Safety Track. Oct. 3-7 in New Orleans
    - d. Patient safety conference - April 6-7 St. Louis
    - e. Pinnacle, AAA, JEMS, and Eagles may have safety sessions

Pam will reach out to Nancy about article on National Safety Council.