



## NEWS RELEASE

October 27, 2015  
Contact: Kathleen Taormina  
1-800-346-2368  
[kathleen.taormina@naemt.org](mailto:kathleen.taormina@naemt.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# EMS is One-of-Five Critical Elements of a Disaster System

## NAEMT Position Calls for EMS To Be Included In National Emergency Response Network

Clinton, Miss. – The NAEMT Board issued a [Position Statement](#) calling for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), a recognized pillar of medical surge response critical in disasters, to be included in the national emergency response network. Currently, EMS only receives four percent of federal disaster preparedness funds. Including and funding EMS disaster preparedness will help eliminate gaps in our nation's emergency response network, which may delay, deter or disrupt medical care delivery. The statement specifically calls for:

- Inclusion and integration of EMS as a primary partner in all aspects of preparedness planning.
- Equitable and stable funding comparable to other partners within the emergency response network.
- Resources and training opportunities that are accessible to all EMS providers.

### EMS is One-of-Five Critical Elements of a Disaster System

The National Academies of Medicine (*formerly Institute of Medicine*) [vision](#) is for EMS to be well integrated with the other four pillars of medical surge response – hospital care, public health, out-of-hospital care, and emergency management/public safety – to create a unified disaster care response system. However, the Academies' vision is not currently implemented because EMS is not adequately funded and is left out of important disaster planning discussions.

“As the initial source of medical care to the public during disasters, the critical interventions and decision-making provided by EMS personnel play a crucial role in the survival of victims,” said Carol A. Cunningham, MD, FAAEM, FACEP, State Medical Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS, and a member of NAEMT's EMS Preparedness Committee. “Yet, EMS remains a secondary afterthought during disaster planning and consistently emerges as a low priority pauper in the matrix of funding and training support. NAEMT, along with our EMS colleagues, welcomes the opportunity to collaboratively establish and support an equitable and valued position for EMS within our nation's emergency preparedness and disaster response system.”

-- more --

**Federal Disaster Preparedness Funds for EMS Are Not Proportionate to Critical Role Funding** from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is inadequate, has no mandated minimum, and creates a weak link that may result in the collapse of our emergency response and healthcare systems during disaster. NAEMT believes that EMS has a vital role in the response to all threats to our nation, serves as an invaluable source of support to the public and is effective in building community resilience.

Read the full text of the position statement [here](#).

### **About NAEMT**

Formed in 1975 and more than 50,000 members strong, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) is the only national association representing the professional interests of all emergency and mobile healthcare practitioners, including emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical responders, paramedics, advanced practice paramedics, critical care paramedics, flight paramedics, community paramedics, and mobile integrated healthcare practitioners. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military.

# # #