

## Celebrate National EMS Week!

Every profession has some rendition of a Super Bowl or Academy Awards,” says **Bruce Evans, NREMT-P, BS, MPA**, of Durango, Colo., NAEMT Director for Region IV. “For EMS, we are fortunate to have National EMS week and a chance to celebrate our successes.”

National EMS Week 2012 is May 20-26. During this week, NAEMT joins together with other EMS organizations in celebrating and honoring the hundreds of thousands of EMS practitioners serving our communities across the nation.

National EMS Week offers a great opportunity for EMS services to recognize their members and promote the profession in their communities. This year, Wednesday, May 23, is designated as EMS for Children Day, a day dedicated to safety and injury prevention programs for children. On this day, practitioners are asked to focus their activities on special programs designed to keep children safe.

We’ve asked EMS professionals what National EMS Week means to them and how they celebrate it.

Evans says agencies in which he’s worked have held barbecues, made custom t-shirts, awarded trophies, held softball tournaments in honor of deceased colleagues, brought in speakers, and given away gifts. He says National EMS Week “should be done in a BIG way – that means VIP appearances, awards for various activities, press interactions and most importantly, including the families of our EMS practitioners,” he says. “Serving in EMS, the emotion and time away from families comes at a cost, and recognizing that and thanking them for a job well done should be a priority in any EMS agency.”

**Jason Scheiderer, EMT-P**, NAEMT state advocacy coordinator for Indiana, says that his service also has hosted cookouts for all shifts, with the medical directors and other administrative staff cooking for the crews. He says the EMS practitioners also receive a small gift as well, and one year, a manager researched the history of EMS and wrote a thank you note explaining their connection to it. Scheiderer says other hospitals in the area also have given the EMS crews small work-related thank-you gifts and have served them meals.

“It is important to celebrate National EMS Week to say thank you to all the people who are working so hard in our

profession. In EMS, it is easy to get caught up in the chaos and forget the reasons why we do it,” Scheiderer says. “EMS Week gives everyone a chance to pause, and say and hear thank you to everyone striving the other 51 weeks a year to bring reverence to the profession we all live and breathe.”

**Drew Dawson**, Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, agrees, saying, “National EMS Week provides an opportunity to recognize how important EMS is to all of us, and provides a chance to show our appreciation to dedicated EMS professionals for the amazing job they do, every week, every day of the year under often challenging circumstances.”

“National EMS Week is an important time set aside for every EMS professional to be recognized and honored for the services they do for their communities. Every one of us needs to seize this opportunity to educate the community on the vital role EMS providers play,” says **Debbie**

**Von Seggern-Johnson, NREMT-P, EMSI, EMS/Trauma Coordinator at University of Nebraska Medical Center and President, Nebraska EMS Association.**

“It is the one



EMS World

**National EMS Week 2012, May 20-26, offers great opportunities to promote the EMS profession.**

### INSIDE

- 10** Attend NAEMT preconference courses in New Orleans!
- 12** Documenting patient refusals protects you and your service
- 16** New online EMS E.V.E.N.T. notification system launched
- 18** EMS advocacy starts at home

Continued >> 17

# Thank you to our corporate partners

Without the support of our corporate partners, NAEMT could not carry out our critical mission of representing and serving EMS practitioners on a national level. NAEMT thanks our corporate partners for their continued support. We welcome the American Red Cross, Medic Alert Foundation and Nasco as our newest corporate partners.

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# NAEMT honors YOU during National EMS Week

**N**ext month, all of us in EMS will focus attention on our profession as we celebrate National EMS Week. We will conduct projects and hold events to increase awareness within our communities about the service we give, and the challenges we face in providing quality care to our patients. We will help community residents be better prepared by providing CPR and AED training, promoting the use of child safety seats and seat belts, or providing safety education for children.

Most importantly, we will honor the dedication of those who serve on medicine's "front line." We will celebrate the work that you do and the sacrifices you make for your patients. We will honor the EMS profession and the EMTs and paramedics who practice it.

NAEMT's mission is to serve and represent EMS practitioners. Honoring our profession is a core component of this mission. NAEMT will use the occasion of National EMS Week to honor you, our EMS practitioners, and your service to your communities.

One of the best ways we have found to honor you is to find ways to protect your safety and the safety of your patients.

Recognizing the scarcity of data on EMS safety issues, NAEMT, in collaboration with the Center for Leadership and Innovation in EMS, launched just last month an anonymous near miss and LODD reporting tool.

This new tool will collect data that will help our legislators and government agencies develop policies to protect us. Read more about this new tool on page 16.

We also honor you by protecting your health. With one in four EMS practitioners suffering a career-ending injury within the first four years of service, and with back injury reported as the number one reason for leaving the profession, we must take action to improve

our fitness levels in order to meet the increasing physical demands of our jobs. NAEMT has embarked on a project, in partnership with the American Council on Exercise, to develop suggested physical fitness guidelines for EMS practitioners that take into consideration the

variety of EMS delivery models and environments within

which EMS practitioners operate. These guidelines will be published early next year.

And, we honor you by providing you with the tools you need to help grow and enhance your career in EMS. This year's EMS Week Ideas site ([www.emsweekideas.org](http://www.emsweekideas.org)) has been updated with new information on career development, social networking, and leadership training. The site will help you explore the multitude of opportunities within EMS. I hope you will take advantage of this great resource. Learn more about the site on this issue's back cover.

Thank you for everything you do for your communities, your patients, and the EMS profession. I hope you have a great National EMS Week.



Connie A. Meyer  
President

**One of the best ways we have found to honor you is to find ways to protect your safety and the safety of your patients.**



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*NAEMT News* is the official quarterly publication of the NAEMT Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT). NAEMT is the only national membership association for EMS practitioners, including paramedics, EMTs, first responders and other professionals working in prehospital emergency medicine. Education, Membership and Advocacy are the three tenets of the NAEMT strategic plan.

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## CONTENTS

### CORPORATE PARTNERS

- 2 Thank you to our corporate partners

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

- 3 NAEMT honors YOU during National EMS Week

### EDUCATION

- 6 Education news  
9 Access your free information on Safety in EMS  
10 Attend NAEMT preconference courses at EMS World Expo in New Orleans  
11 New in 2012! World Trauma Symposium premieres

### MEMBERSHIP

- 12 Legal Matters: Documenting patient refusals protects you and your service  
13 Celebrate our service to the community during National EMS Week  
14 Use your continuing education member benefits  
15 Nominate a colleague for a National EMS Award  
15 Members save \$125 on EMS World Expo 2012 registration!  
16 New online EMS E.V.E.N.T. notification system launched  
Back Get ready for National EMS Week with EMS Week Ideas site

### ADVOCACY

- 18 EMS advocacy starts at home  
19 Grants assist members in attending EMS on the Hill Day

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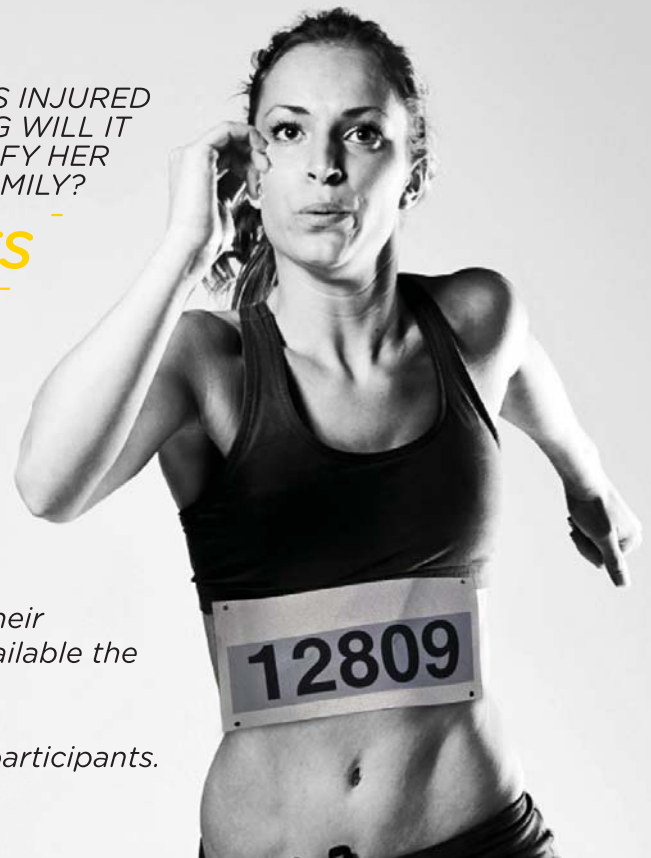
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# Education news

## Advanced Medical Life Support prepares for release of AMLS online



THE ADVANCED MEDICAL LIFE SUPPORT (AMLS) PROGRAM is pleased to announce that progress continues in the development of AMLS Online, with an anticipated release by the end of the year. This online program will bring the new first edition AMLS materials to even more students, providing them with the flexibility to learn at their own pace, access online content anytime, anywhere, and save time away from their jobs while learning important AMLS principles.

To enhance the program's growth and its ability to meet the needs of the course sites and students, the AMLS Committee is selecting state coordinators across the U.S. over this year. Internationally, Aruba, Israel, Japan and Spain will be hosting inaugural courses.

NAEMT thanks **Rosemary Adam, RN**, who recently resigned from the AMLS Committee. She has been an integral part of AMLS for many years and has advocated for and helped develop the program, as well as facilitated much of its growth. Her knowledge, skills and integrity allowed the program to grow exponentially, and we extend our best wishes to her on all of her future endeavors as she continues to be a strong force in EMS education.

The success of the AMLS course is due to the continued hard work of the instructors, affiliate faculty and regional faculty. NAEMT greatly appreciates their efforts.

## New Tactical Combat Casualty Care regional coordinators appointed



NAEMT OFFERS THE COMMITTEE ON TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE'S (CoTCCC) updated curriculum for the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) course, utilizing highly trained instructors in both PHTLS and TCCC. The TCCC course customizes the PHTLS principles of good trauma care for successful use on the battlefield. TCCC emphasizes three primary goals: 1. Treat yourself and the casualty; 2. Prevent additional casualties; and 3. Complete the mission.

The course is designed for military medics, corpsmen, and pararescuemen who are preparing to deploy in support of combat operations. Fully compliant with CoTCCC guidelines, the NAEMT TCCC course uses the PHTLS Seventh Edition Military textbook and offers 16 hours of CECBEMS continuing education credit and a certificate of completion.

The course continues to enjoy expansion and growth, leading to the appointment of TCCC specialists as regional coordinators to further support the TCCC course sites and instructors. They include:

**Chris VanHouten**, Long Island, N.Y., Regional Coordinator for the East Coast United States.

**Brandon Heming**, Louisville, Ky., Regional Coordinator for the Southern and Midwestern United States.

**William Justice**, Oklahoma City, Okla., Regional Coordinator for the Western United States.

The course's two military coordinators are MSG **Charles Halcome**, who will support military sites east of the Mississippi River, and SFC **Jason Pierson**, who will oversee sites west of the river. **Dr. Osvaldo Rois** is the coordinator for TCCC Latin America and **Eric Brunoe** is the coordinator for Canada.

To connect with your regional coordinator, please contact the NAEMT office.



Michael Hunter

In January, University of Massachusetts Medical Center EMS Deputy Chief Michael Hunter and paramedics Rodney Witkos, Russell Smith and Timothy O'Kane taught TCCC to members of the Westover Air Reserve Base 439 Security Forces Squadron, in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the Gulf.

## EMS Safety course receives award

The EMS Safety course has had a busy quarter, garnering its second award as well as expanding nationally and internationally. In January, the course received the 2011 EMS Safety Foundation Leadership Award – marking the first time the award has been presented to a program rather than an individual. The award was presented on January 23 to **Glenn Luedtke**, Chair of NAEMT EMS Safety Program Committee, by the Transportation Research Board’s EMS Safety Subcommittee at a meeting in Washington, D.C.

The course was recently launched in Japan when the Japanese Paramedics Association (JPA) indicated an interest after their president, **Tetsuji “Giko” Suzuki, EMT-P, MA**, attended the course held at EMS World Expo in Las Vegas. To bring the course to Japan, the JPA worked to have the book and classroom media translated into Japanese, and Luedtke represented the EMS Safety Program Committee at the inaugural course.

The course was held at Tokyo’s Teikyo Heisei University, where Suzuki is an associate professor in the Department of PreHospital Emergency Medical Care. Luedtke presented the introductory module and answered students’ questions with the assistance of a translator. During a breakout session, students were asked to present a difficult situation they’d encountered while on the highway – and a student presented a case nearly identical to one

Luedtke had encountered in a New Jersey class only a few months before. It quickly became clear that EMS safety concerns are universal.

After a firefighter/paramedic from Kobe, Japan, was killed during an incident on the highway, Suzuki stated that “in the wake of this accident, I am even more determined to popularize the EMS Safety course.” Students of the course were enthusiastic, and six paramedics completed the course and chose to become instructors.



Glenn Luedtke

(Above) The EMS Safety course was introduced in Japan.



(Right) Chair Glenn Luedtke accepts an award of recognition on behalf of the course from Giko Suzuki.

Take the opportunity to attend the award-winning course at these upcoming conferences:

Conference	Location	Date
MEMSA/MAA	Lake Ozark, Mo.	April 16
Fire-Rescue Med	Las Vegas	May 6
Plains Peak Conference	Limon, Colo.	May 5
Delaware State Conference	Delaware	September 9
EMS World	New Orleans	October 30

## Prehospital Trauma Life Support expands internationally

The Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) family of countries continues to grow with the addition of Brunei, India and Serbia. Moldova, the Dominican Republic and Singapore are in the planning stages for later this year.

The PHTLS Committee was represented at a recent meeting in the United Kingdom, during which representatives of the PHTLS European faculty discussed quality initiatives. Plans are underway for a beta training course in the UK in May to see how the new quality assessment tools work in a live course. Once they are finalized, they will be made available to our faculty everywhere.

PHTLS Europe held its fourth annual meeting in Weisbaden, Germany in February, attended by PHTLS Committee Chair Will Chapleau and Medical Director Dr. Norman McSwain. Items discussed at the meeting included the quality initiative and promulgation into European countries where PHTLS is not yet taught.



Continued >> 8

Education news > > continued from page 7

# Emergency Pediatric Care welcomes new committee member

The Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) program welcomes new EPC Committee member **Kyle David Bates**. Bates is a NREMT-Paramedic with the Town of Tonawanda (N.Y.)



Bates

Police Department and holds a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Photographic Communication and a Master of Science in Emergency Health Services - Education.

Bates is an experienced flight paramedic and instructor and owns a company that provides educational design, medical photography, EMS instruction and other services.

Bates and **Dr. Lou Romig**, EPC's Medical Director, regularly host a Pedi-U podcast, which brings together industry experts and seasoned professionals to discuss topics in the assessment and management of pediatric patients in the out-of-hospital environment.

With 16 episodes to date, the Pedi-U podcast has addressed topics such as respiratory emergencies, children with special healthcare needs, syncope, chest pain, and fever. The panel also addressed a stressful topic in a three-part series, "Death of a Child." Currently these free podcasts are recorded once or twice a month.

A link to the podcasts is located on the EPC page in the Education section of the NAEMT web site, [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org), at Pedi-U.com. They also can be downloaded from iTunes or Stitcher Radio.

Dr. Romig has been appointed by the American Academy of Pediatrics to serve as its representative on the federal EMSC Program's National Resource Center (NRC) Advisory Council. The NRC helps the EMSC Program improve the pediatric emergency care infrastructure throughout the United States and its territories and provides services designed to proactively

assist EMSC grantees, program partners, and family advocates in their efforts to improve all aspects of medical care for children and families in emergencies.



Romig

The EMSC NRC Advisory Council is a collaborative group of health care professionals, consumer and family advocates, and EMSC grantees convened to advise the NRC on its administrative operations and serve as its sitting expert panel.

Dr. Romig will be assisting the NRC as a subject matter expert in pediatric education for EMS practitioners and pediatric disaster planning and response. Congratulations to Dr. Romig on this important appointment.

The EPC program continues to make strides in providing the best in pediatric education, and is looking to add states in which the course is offered. Currently, the course is looking to expand to Arkansas, Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

**If you are a pediatric educator interested in becoming an EPC instructor and bringing this course to your state, please contact us at [education@naemt.org](mailto:education@naemt.org) or 800-346-2368.**

Joining the EPC family of courses – the Provider and Hybrid courses – EPC also recently released the EPC Instructor Transition Course. This course allows individuals holding instructor certifications in other pediatric classes to learn the logistics, philosophy and coursework needed to teach EPC.



**In 2011, EPC added 19 new course sites.**



## Access your free information on Safety in EMS

A special section on **Safety in EMS** published by *Prehospital Emergency Care (PEC)* is provided free to members, courtesy of NAEMT, one of the sponsors of this special section. The collection of studies advances the knowledge of EMS safety and provides much needed evidence to support a safe working environment for EMS practitioners and secure care for patients.

Article topics include:

- EMS Provider and Patient Safety during Response and Transport: Proceedings of an Ambulance Safety Conference;
- Patient Safety in Emergency Medical Services: A Systematic Review of the Literature;
- Experience with an Anonymous Web-Based State EMS Safety Incident Reporting System
- The Association between EMS Workplace Safety Culture and Safety Outcomes
- EMS Providers' Perceptions of Safety Climate and Adherence to Safe Work Practices;
- Association Between Poor Sleep, Fatigue, and Safety Outcomes in Emergency Medical Services Providers, and more.

NAEMT members receive free access to this special section at [http://informahealthcare.com/stoken/default+domain/PEC\\_ACCESS\\_2012/abs/10.3109/10903127.2011.627108](http://informahealthcare.com/stoken/default+domain/PEC_ACCESS_2012/abs/10.3109/10903127.2011.627108).

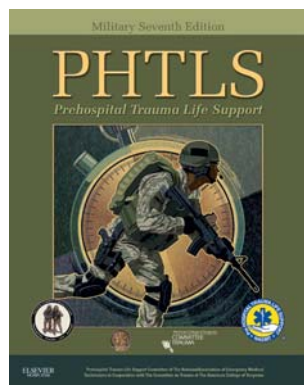
"By its sponsorship of the 'Special Section: Safety in EMS', NAEMT has played a major leadership role in advancing improvement in both patient and provider safety. This special safety issue could not have been published without the support of NAEMT. I hope that the NAEMT membership will take advantage of the free access to these articles, as they are both informative and actionable," says James J. Menegazzi, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, *PEC*.

*Prehospital Emergency Care* is the official clinical journal of NAEMT. NAEMT full members receive members-only rates of more than 50 percent off the regular subscription price. The journal, published quarterly, is an authoritative resource delivering up-to-date clinical and research information on advances in medical care in the prehospital setting, and provides cutting-edge articles on all facets of EMS. To sign up for *PEC*, please go to the Member Resources page of the NAEMT web site and log in to access your benefits.

Members also can stay up to date on the latest articles and get notified when new content is available by signing up for FREE e-TOC alerts. To receive the alerts, log in or register at <http://informahealthcare.com/alerts>.

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# Attend NAEMT preconference courses at EMS World Expo in New Orleans!

**N**AEMT's industry-leading continuing education courses help save lives, one course at a time. Based on the latest research and emphasizing critical thinking skills, our courses provide the best in EMS continuing education. All NAEMT continuing education courses are accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS) and are recognized for recertification requirements by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) – so they offer a great opportunity to pick up needed credits.

Courses to be held at EMS World Expo 2012 in New Orleans include:

## Two-day courses

**Monday, October 29 and Tuesday, October 30  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

### Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS) – Faculty: AMLS Committee

Endorsed by the National Association of EMS Physicians, the dynamic AMLS course addresses how to use critical thinking to fully assess and manage the most common medical crises in adult patients, offering a “think outside the box” methodology and emphasizing scene size-up, history, interactive group discussion on potential treatment strategies, and physical exam to systematically rule out and consider differential diagnoses. The newly updated course will use the new first edition materials and textbook, which focus on a dynamic rather than a linear approach to assessment and management using a newly defined AMLS Assessment Pathway algorithm and other expanded content. Scenario-based, interactive lecture presentations and practical stations offer the opportunity for all levels of healthcare providers to review the pathophysiology, assessment and management skills of various medical emergencies.

The curriculum includes Respiratory, Cardiovascular, Abdominal and Neurological Disorders; Shock; Infectious Disease; Endocrine, Metabolic, Environmental and Toxicological Emergencies; HazMat; and WMD. Successful completion requires competency on a written and practical evaluation. Advanced level health-care providers with two years experience teaching at the ALS level who obtain a score of 84 percent or greater are eligible to participate in the instructor course immediately following the conclusion of the provider course on Tuesday evening.

**Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) – Faculty: EPC Committee**  
Learn about the best in emergency care for sick and injured pediatric patients through EPC, which provides a unique, advanced and in-depth scientific approach to the emergency care of pediatric patients, offering techniques that can help EMS practitioners rapidly and accurately assess life-threatening situations using the Pediatric Assessment Triangle (PAT), and incorporating family-centered care throughout all scenarios. The course gives students a practical understanding of respiratory, cardiovascular, medical and traumatic emergencies in pediatric patients, and lessons are consistent with current pediatric knowledge and skills. It also includes a component on caring for children with special needs. This course is approved for 16 contact hours by the Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association, an approved provider for the California Board of Registered Nursing.

The target audience for the accelerated two part EPC Provider-Instructor program is experienced EMS educators with prior pediatric CME experience or interest. Qualified participants may attend the four-hour instructor course following the provider course on Tuesday evening. Proof of recognition as an instructor in any EMS certification licensure or CME course is required.

### Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) – Faculty: PHTLS Committee

NAEMT offers the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care's updated curriculum for the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) course, utilizing highly trained instructors in both PHTLS and TCCC. The TCCC course was developed to customize the principles of good trauma care for successful use on the battlefield. Using PHTLS principles, TCCC emphasizes three primary goals: 1. Treat yourself and the casualty; 2. Prevent additional casualties; and 3. Complete the mission.

The course is designed for military medics, corpsmen, and pararescuemen who are preparing to deploy in support of combat operations. Fully compliant with CoTCCC guidelines, the NAEMT TCCC course uses the PHTLS seventh Edition Military textbook and offers 16 hours of CECBEMS continuing education credit and a certificate of completion. Participants are welcome to bring their tactical gear.

## One-day courses

**Tuesday, October 30, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**EMS Safety Course – Faculty: EMS Safety Program Committee**  
Take the award-winning EMS Safety course, the first national and most comprehensive education program of its kind that teaches techniques on how to best achieve safety on the job. The course increases students' awareness and understanding of EMS safety standards

New Orleans Visitors Bureau



and practices and develops their ability to effectively implement these practices while on duty, with the intention of reducing the number and intensity of EMS work injuries. EMS Safety is designed for EMS practitioners at all certification

levels, other medical professionals providing prehospital patient care, EMS supervisors and administrators. The curriculum will cover Emergency Vehicle Safety; Operational Scene Safety; Safe Patient Handling; Patient, Practitioner and Bystander Safety; and Personal Health. In recognition of its excellence, the EMS Safety course has won the 2011 Nicholas Rosecrans Award for Excellence in Injury Prevention and the 2011 EMS Safety Foundation Leadership Award.

**PHTLS Instructor Course – Faculty: PHTLS Committee**

Developed in cooperation with the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma and recognized as the world’s premier program for prehospital emergency trauma care, Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) offers a unique approach to trauma care, promoting critical thinking and addressing multi-system trauma for the best patient care. Those who have successfully completed a PHTLS Provider course are welcome to take the PHTLS Instructor Course, designed to train instructor candidates to conduct Provider and Refresher courses on the latest PHTLS philosophies and techniques. Individuals who attend will need to be experienced instructors, coordinators, or administrators with proven clinical skills at the EMT-Basic level or above. Proof of current PHTLS provider status is required.

**Half-day course**

**Wednesday, October 31, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**EPC Instructor Transition Course – Faculty: EPC Committee**

This FREE course welcomes currently certified pediatric course instructors who are interested in teaching the EPC course. This four-hour lecture covers the philosophy and logistics of teaching an EPC course, and identifies how the EPC content differs from other pediatric programs. Participants will be introduced to the EPC content and format through presentation of one module from the EPC course. Proof of current instructor status of a pediatric course is required.

**Advance registration is required for all courses. Space is limited, so register early at [www.emsworldexpo.com](http://www.emsworldexpo.com).**

**Learn more about your NAEMT member discount on EMS World Expo 2012 registration on page 15!**

## New in 2012! World Trauma Symposium premieres

The World Trauma Symposium debuts on November 1 at EMS World Expo in New Orleans.

The World Trauma Symposium has been developed by the creators of the world-renowned Prehospital Trauma Life Support program (PHTLS) committee to extend the PHTLS philosophy of critical thinking as the foundation for quality care to an international forum. The program is designed to present the diversity of opinions on best practices and expose controversies in prehospital trauma care.

The event will bring together internationally recognized



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experts in prehospital trauma care, including Dr. Ken Mattox, Dr. Karim Brohy, Dr. Michael Rotondo, Dr. Frank Butler, Dr. Robert Mabry, Dr. Osvaldo Rois and

Steve Greisch. Dr. Norman McSwain and Dr. Jeff Guy will serve as moderators for the event.

The World Trauma Symposium provides an opportunity to meet with other stakeholders in prehospital trauma care from around the world to:

- Obtain the most up-to-date information on new techniques and protocols, lessons learned, and trends in the prehospital care of trauma patients.
- Exchange perspectives on the issues and challenges faced in prehospital trauma care with an international audience and discuss how they may be addressed.
- Take advantage of the many networking opportunities at breakfast, lunch, breaks, and the reception, all included in the full program registration fee.

The program is designed for paramedics, emergency physicians, trauma surgeons, EMS educators, emergency room nurses, trauma nurse coordinators, and other medical professionals who seek the best knowledge and information in prehospital trauma care. Attendees will receive eight hours of CECBEMS, CME, or nursing continuing education credit.

**For more information and to register, visit [www.worldtraumasymposium.com](http://www.worldtraumasymposium.com).**

# Legal matters:

## Documenting patient refusals protects you and your service

by Doug Wolfberg

**P**atient refusals are a common scenario for EMS practitioners. While refusals may be common, they aren't routine, and EMS practitioners must ensure that they document a detailed and accurate record of the call. Doing so will help protect the practitioner in the event of a lawsuit down the road.

First, a thorough and complete Patient Care Report (PCR) – including a detailed narrative – is the starting point in creating defensible documentation in a refusal situation. Many refusal narratives consist merely of statements like “patient refused care.”

Unfortunately, that is not enough! You'll need to document the performance of a patient assessment (or as much of the assessment as the patient permitted) and the findings from that assessment.

### Document refusals, narrative

One key finding that must be documented is whether the patient had the legal and mental capacity to refuse care. Legal capacity means the patient must at least be the legal age for giving (and, by implication, refusing) consent for healthcare. This varies by state, but typically it is 18 with certain exceptions for minors in some states. Mental capacity means that the patient must be capable of understanding the risks of a refusal and the benefits of treatment. A patient who suffers from a mental defect, such as dementia, or who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, may lack the mental capacity to refuse care. Where a patient lacks legal and/or mental capacity to refuse care, be sure to document the identity and relationship (parent, legal guardian, POA, etc.) of the legal representative who refused on the patient's behalf.

The narrative also needs to document the risks that were explained to the patient and that could result from the refusal. For instance, a patient with chest pain who refuses care must



Wolfberg

specifically be informed (in terms that a layperson can understand) that their symptoms could mean a heart attack, and that untreated, a heart attack could lead to death. The narrative should also document that alternatives were explained to the patient, such as calling 911 again if symptoms persist, or taking other steps to promptly seek care if needed.

A good narrative helps to paint a picture of an incident. So, it is acceptable to document the exact words that a patient uses in refusing care. These words may be put in quotation marks when you are sure that you are documenting the exact words used by the patient. If you consulted with online medical control, be sure to document that discussion and any orders or advice given by the online physician.

In addition to a thorough narrative, ensure that all of the operational information on the PCR is complete, such as times, crew member names, nature of dispatch and response, and other essential information.

### Obtain signatures

Be sure to obtain the signature of the patient or legal representative. Ideally, this signature should be witnessed and the witness also should sign. Be sure that the refusal form you use for the signatures is appropriately worded and approved by your agency's legal counsel and medical director. A model refusal form is available for download on our firm's EMS law web site, [www.pwwemslaw.com](http://www.pwwemslaw.com).

Documenting patient refusals is an important skill for all EMS practitioners. These incidents should be treated seriously and a thorough, well-documented chart should be prepared. Taking the extra time to document properly can help protect you and your service down the road.

*Doug Wolfberg is an attorney and founding partner of Page, Wolfberg & Wirth, LLC, The National EMS Industry Law Firm. He serves as general counsel to NAEMT and was a longtime EMS practitioner before becoming an attorney. Visit the firm's web site at [www.pwwemslaw.com](http://www.pwwemslaw.com).*

# Celebrate our service to the community during National EMS Week

by Mark Tornstrom, BA, EMT-P

THE CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY IS EMBEDDED in the history of EMS. Many of our agencies were created when communities felt that EMS services were not adequate in their area. We are all members of the EMS community, a unique group bonded by a sense of purpose and dedication to helping others.

Every year, for one week, we focus our attention on connecting our communities. However, really, this is an activity that never ends, or never should end – all of us need to become ambassadors for EMS and the service we provide.

I have been fortunate to work and lead agencies that were very focused on community integration. Although we provided many different “community services” – loan cupboard, CPR training, explorer post and blood pressure screenings – it was not until we focused our attitude to one of daily service to others that we started to see a difference. Don’t get me wrong – the actions and programs are important – but the attitude of service can make all the difference.

We have all heard the adage that our trucks are mobile billboards. The same concept holds true for every person in your agency. Each patient contact, each interaction with the public and every meeting you attend is an opportunity to integrate within our communities. I am amazed at the community connection opportunities that are lost because we don’t smile and say hello while standing in line waiting for a cup of coffee, or while we are at the local grocery store.

## Open your doors

One of the best lessons I learned was from a fire chief of a small, rural community. I worked as a per diem paramedic there and they had a rule: Every day at 7 a.m., weather permitting, we had to open all of the bay doors. Most of us grumbled about doing that, because of course that invited visitors – which meant we had to stay awake. I was amazed by the reaction that our openness created in that little town.

People understood and actually believed that we were there for them. Whenever I went to the grocery store, people talked to me like I was their best friend – and I didn’t even live in their town. Members of the community genuinely were grateful for our service – all because they were proud every time they drove by the hall and saw the doors open. Opening your doors is an open invitation to members of the community to be a part of the agency. And a few old-timers even stopped in to talk and drink coffee from time to time as well.



EMS World

**During National EMS Week 2012, open your doors to the community!**

## Serve as ambassadors to the community

I took that concept of open service to the large commercial agency that I managed, and focused on the concept of serving as ambassadors to the community. Every employee was encouraged to interact in a positive way with strangers in the community. The results were amazing. Complaints went down and compliments in writing to our agency increased. Employee morale improved as they started to feel appreciated.

As National EMS Week approaches, I strongly encourage you to find programs that instill the ambassador attitude during that week and throughout the year. Engage your community in simple ways – training, preparedness, and most importantly, make the members of that community a part of your daily lives. Reward employees who take the minute to smile and talk with strangers while sitting on post, getting their coffee and while providing patient care.

Our communities expect us to provide the highest level of service always, but more importantly, appreciate the sense of connection when we recognize the importance of community.

**For great ideas for National EMS Week, visit [www.emsweekideas.org](http://www.emsweekideas.org).**

*Mark Tornstrom, BA, EMT-P, is Executive Director of the National Medic Network ICEdot.org and Chair, Monroe-Livingston Regional EMS Council. He also serves as Regional Faculty for New York State Department of Health and Adjunct Faculty at Finger Lakes Community College. ICEdot is a NAEMT sponsor and provides a valuable NAEMT member benefit. Learn more at [www.icedot.org](http://www.icedot.org).*

# Use your continuing education member benefits

The benefits you receive as a NAEMT member far exceeds the low cost of membership. Be sure to take advantage of your membership benefits, which include valuable continuing education discounts. The following continuing education benefits are available to all full NAEMT members.

## NEW in 2012! Medic-CE online education

You receive **two free online continuing education courses** and a **15 percent discount** off the regular price of any individual subscription. Medic-CE serves America's EMTs, licensed paramedics, first responders and other fire and rescue personnel by providing high-quality, easy-to-use and affordable online continuing education. Learn more at [www.medic-ce.com](http://www.medic-ce.com).



## NEW in 2011! NAEMT course education voucher

You receive a non-transferable voucher upon renewing your membership each year. Your voucher is valid for one-time use during your membership year and is **valued up to \$15 toward an industry-leading NAEMT continuing education course**, including AMLS, EPC, EMS Safety and PHTLS. All NAEMT courses are accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS) and recognized by the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT). Learn more at [www.naemt.org/education/education\\_home.aspx](http://www.naemt.org/education/education_home.aspx).



## New in 2011! Apex Innovations STEMI and ACS education

You receive a **30 percent discount**, paying \$34.30 annually, on the Responder® STEMI Recognition program, a web-based, interactive education and competency program that helps EMS practitioners better recognize and treat STEMI (ST segment elevation myocardial infarction) and acute coronary syndrome (ACS) according to national guidelines. Including interactive case study ECGs and ECG STEMI drills, the program is available 24/7 to help EMS practitioners accelerate and complete their ACS-STEMI education. Learn more at [www.apexinnovations.com/Responder.php](http://www.apexinnovations.com/Responder.php).



## CentreLearn free online courses

You receive **two free credits** of online accredited EMS continuing education per year through CentreLearn. Credit can be used toward online individual courses or toward the price of an annual subscription. You also have immediate access to a free online course as an introductory lesson. The newest course topics include Excited Delirium, Advanced Shock Management and Assessment Part I and II, and Acute Coronary Syndrome. In addition to these courses, CentreLearn offers a variety of courses on other topics. Each of these courses offers one CE hour. Learn more at [www.centrelearn.com](http://www.centrelearn.com).



## The College Network online college education courses

You can take advantage of accessible educational opportunities at reduced cost and exceptional value. You receive \$150 upon enrollment and a 10 percent discount on The College Network learning modules. The College Network partners with several of the nation's foremost institutions of higher learning to provide college degree programs through distance learning to working adults. Learners begin by using The College Network's online Comprehensive Learning Modules (CLMs) to earn college credit for general education and prerequisite courses by passing end-of-course college equivalency exams. Credits earned by passing these exams are then transferred to a partner university, where you can complete your degree online – saving time and money. Learn more at [www.collegenetwork.com](http://www.collegenetwork.com).



## 24-7 EMS refresher training classes

You receive a 10 percent discount off 24-7 EMS, an award-winning integrated subscription training service that delivers everything you need for 12 comprehensive refresher training classes a year. Easy to use, straight to the point, and flexible for busy schedules, these classes can be used by an instructor in a classroom or by an individual student online. Each class includes an instructor guide, PowerPoint presentation, skills practice scenarios, dynamic 15-20 minute video, online training and secure testing. Online or DVD course options are available. Courses are accredited by CECBEMS and meet your state's continuing education requirements for EMS providers. Choose from a library of over 100 EMS courses sorted by topical area to meet renewal or recertification requirements. Learn more at [www.24-7ems.com](http://www.24-7ems.com).

You can access all these benefits by logging in on the Access Your Benefits web page in the Member Resources section of [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org).

# Nominate a colleague for a National EMS Award

If you have a colleague who goes beyond the call of duty, helps out colleagues, and who everyone looks up to... or an instructor who has impressed you with exemplary caring as well as knowledge... help provide them with the recognition they deserve by nominating them for one of the 2012 National EMS Awards of Excellence.

Each year, NAEMT collaborates with other national EMS organizations to recognize outstanding achievements and contributions in EMS. By submitting a nomination, you not only recognize the candidate, you honor and recognize the EMS profession and all EMS professionals who provide quality emergency patient care to their communities.

The following 2012 National EMS Awards of Excellence are granted:

**NAEMT EMT of the Year**, sponsored by Braun Industries – recognizes an emergency medical technician who demonstrates excellence in the performance of emergency medical services, with their primary role being that of prehospital patient care.

**NAEMT Paramedic of the Year**, sponsored by Nasco – recognizes a paramedic who demonstrates excellence in the performance of emergency medical services, with their primary role being that of prehospital patient care.

**NAEMSE EMS Educator of the Year**, sponsored by Cengage/Delmar – recognizes an “unsung hero” educator from around the world for their contributions to the EMS community.

**NEMSMA EMS Executive of the Year**, recognizes outstanding performance of an EMS manager.

**Dick Ferneau Paid EMS Service of the Year**, sponsored by Ferno – recognizes outstanding performance by a paid EMS service.

**Impact Volunteer EMS Service of the Year**, sponsored by Impact Instrumentation, Inc. – recognizes outstanding performance by a volunteer EMS service.



2011 NAEMT Paramedic of the Year Anne Edwards accepts her award from Scott Cravens.

Award recipients receive a monetary award, three core program registrations, plus \$1,000 for travel and lodging at EMS World Expo and the NAEMT Annual Meeting in New Orleans, October 29 - November 2, 2012. Award recipients will be announced in the November 2012 issue of *EMS World Magazine* and will be recognized at the opening ceremony of EMS World Expo.

“The field of EMS continues to grow in scope and complexity, and organizations and their EMS providers are challenged constantly to meet growing needs with limited resources,” says Scott Cravens, NREMT, Publisher, *EMS World*. “It’s as big a job as people want to make it, and recognizing excellence gives us the opportunity to showcase the individuals and organizations that rise above the job description and participate actively in the community.”

The EMT of the Year, Paramedic of the Year, Paid Service of the Year and Volunteer Service of the Year awards also are presented at the NAEMT General Membership Meeting and are recognized in *NAEMT News*.

**Nominations are now open and will be accepted until July 2, 2012. For more information on each of the awards and to submit a nomination, please visit the National EMS Awards of Excellence web page on [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org).**

## Members save \$125 on EMS World Expo 2012 registration!

Full NAEMT members save \$125 on EMS World Expo. That’s more than triple your NAEMT membership fee! The discount applies only to the Three-Day Core Program individual registration fee and cannot be used with other discounts or for preconference registration fees.

To receive your discount, simply provide your membership number when selecting the Three-Day Core Program NAEMT Member Rate on the conference registration form.

**Register at [www.emsworldexpo.com](http://www.emsworldexpo.com).**

# New online EMS **E.V.E.N.T.** notification system launched

In an effort to address the lack of data in EMS, NAEMT, in collaboration with the Center for Leadership, Innovation and Research in EMS, has developed an anonymous system for EMS practitioners to report near-miss and line of duty death (LODD) incidents by answering a series of questions in an online format.

The system was introduced on March 1 at the opening ceremonies of EMS Today, the JEMS conference and exposition in Baltimore, by NAEMT President Connie Meyer and Gary Wingrove of the Center for Leadership, Innovation and Research in EMS.

The system will collect and aggregate data to be analyzed and used in the development of EMS policies and procedures, and for training, educating and preventing similar events from occurring in the future. No individual responses will be shared or transmitted to other parties. These Near Miss and LODD Online Reporting Tools, along with an already existing tool to report patient safety events, form the EMS Voluntary Event Notification Tool (E.V.E.N.T.).

The aggregated data collected will be regularly provided to state EMS offices and the appropriate federal agencies with jurisdiction over EMS. Time-ly aggregated reports submitted through a variety of venues will make E.V.E.N.T. a living mechanism for change. One of the primary end users of this data will be those responsible for developing EMS policies at the state and federal levels.

## System 'connects the dots'

"As healthcare providers, we need to be mindful of what is happening in the other sectors of health as change inevitably makes its way to EMS," says Wingrove. He explains that the reporting of performance now addresses both 'never events' and preventable readmissions. The E.V.E.N.T. system is structured to address both patient and practitioner safety.

"We provide an opportunity for the EMS community to collectively learn about how and why the things we do, or the tools we work with, sometimes end with bad outcomes," he says. "We can use E.V.E.N.T. to aggregate data to spot trends, discover practices that are safe or risky, and provide analysis."

Wingrove explains that if a piece of equipment has a failure in more than one state or Canadian province, until now there has been no system to connect the dots, showing the number of actual events. Therefore, there is no way to alert a manufacturer of a product defect, or to alert the EMS community about changes in practice that may prevent failures altogether. This much-needed system should be able to change that.

Support of this online reporting tool by EMS organizations across the nation will be key to its successful use. NAEMT has asked all national and state EMS organizations to become site partners, which are recognized by posting their logos on the site, and will receive quarterly and annual system reports. In exchange, site partners will post a link to the system in a prominent location on their web sites and encourage their members to use the system. Services that already have internal reporting processes are asked to also submit their events into E.V.E.N.T.

"This project will allow us to start collecting information which will help reduce injuries and possibly save lives of those of us in the profession," says Don Lundy, NAEMT President-Elect. "We have no idea how many 'near-misses' are not recorded and, later on, become a 'hit' — creating a devastating injury," he says.

Visit the E.V.E.N.T. system at [www.emseventreport.org](http://www.emseventreport.org).





## National EMS Week >> continued from cover

week of the year when the media wants to highlight what you do and celebrate your achievements. As EMS providers, we need to capitalize on this as much as we can to educate the public on what to do in an emergency situation," she says. "Many departments also use this time to recruit new members and host fundraisers. In my community we are featured in the local newspaper and use this opportunity to educate the elementary school kids in various ways." She says that a tour of the ambulance and its lights and sirens is always a hit with the kids.

**Lisa M. Camp, BS**, of Friendswood, Texas, 2010 NAEMT Paramedic of the Year, agrees, noting that "National EMS Week lets EMS professionals spotlight their role in the community as an essential service. Most of our encounters with the community are during times when patients are ill and/or injured and EMS does not have an opportunity to profile their accomplishments." She says, "I am always excited to share my enthusiasm over the event with my crews and the community. This week allows time to interact with your local government officials, local hospitals and the community, spotlighting your public education programs and the service that EMS provides to the community as a public service." She adds that, "Using the time to profile your department is the greatest PR message that you can send out," noting that her team will be stopping by schools and a day care center for tours of the ambulances.

**Glenn Luedtke, EMT-P**, of Sussex, Del., and chair of the NAEMT EMS Safety Program Committee, says that while the public has an appreciation of the work done by its fire and law enforcement services, there is generally less understanding of the scope of services, depth of education required, and challenges faced by their EMS practitioners. "EMS Week presents a unique opportunity for us to 'tell our story' to the public," he says. "By telling the public what we do, how we do it, and the intense training involved, we can raise the opinions of those who still regard us as merely 'ambulance drivers', give the public realistic expectations of their EMS service, and encourage those looking for a profession to consider a career in EMS."

He says that his service is recognized each year by a resolution presented by the County Council declaring the week "EMS Week", and recognizing the achievements of the department's personnel. Newly trained paramedics are recognized, as well the achievements of the department's Paramedic Competition Team, which last year won the Gold Medal at the JEMS Games



Clear Lake Regional Medical Center

The Webster, Texas, area celebrates National EMS Week. (Left to right) Steve Jones, CEO, Clear Lake Regional Medical Center; Lisa Camp, EMS Chief, Friendswood VFD EMS; City of Webster Mayor Floyd Myers; Roy Hunter, Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corp.; James Fisher, EMS Director, League City EMS.

competition at EMS Today in Baltimore, and in previous years has garnered five other medals.

"The role of EMS has evolved greatly since 1974 from being ambulance attendants to highly trained professionals," says **Kyle David Bates, MS, NREMT-P, CCMET-P**, of Tonawanda, N.Y., and EPC Committee member. "EMS Week allows us to not only celebrate how far we have come but where we are going. It creates an interaction and an avenue to start a dialogue with those we typically only engage during a time of emergency," he says. "From the volunteer EMT to the career paramedic, EMS Week allows not only others in healthcare and the public to recognize the pivotal role we play, but also serves as a celebration for ourselves."

**Curtis Halmrast, EMT-P**, President, North Dakota EMS Association, says that celebrating EMS week is vital to gain more awareness and attention to EMS. "We often do our work in 'silence,' so many are simply unaware of what role EMS has in the healthcare profession. When we have

the opportunity to share with the public what we do, we can talk about our dedicated and professional work," he says. "As there is a better understanding of EMS, more can look to it as a career, which could improve the workforce stability."

**Ken Bouvier, NREMT-P**, Deputy Chief of EMS, New Orleans EMS, and former NAEMT President, says, "EMS Week allows EMS the opportunity to educate and inform the residents and elected officials of our communities about the important services provided by EMS – and it continues to grow." He says the event is a chance to show the community how well-equipped and ready their EMS services are to respond to medical emergencies. Bouvier says his service also will honor their team with a barbecue, and has reached out to local restaurants to offer discounts to EMS professionals during National EMS Week. He says New Orleans EMS also sends a press release to remind the community of the event, and thanks the local emergency departments, first responders and the 911 communication center.

In addition to hosting the EMS Week Ideas web site – [www.emsweekideas.org](http://www.emsweekideas.org) – NAEMT is participating in and co-sponsoring the 2012 National EMS Week Planner, which is designed to help EMS services build recognition in their communities. It offers tips, tools and products that can help you communicate with the public, media, elected officials and the medical community.

Order the National EMS Week Planner at [www.acep.org/emsweek](http://www.acep.org/emsweek).

# EMS advocacy starts at home

by Jim Judge and Cory S. Richter

**I**T HAS BEEN SAID THAT ALL POLITICS ARE LOCAL. As such, advocacy starts at home, in your home town, city, or county. You don't have to be anywhere near Washington, D.C., to be an advocate for EMS.

**What is an advocate?** An advocate is someone who supports or defends a particular cause. Advocacy presents itself in many forms. Many EMS practitioners advocate for better patient care, better working conditions or even higher pay. Being an advocate keeps you informed of the issues and helps you make a statement about a particular issue. Your advocacy efforts can make a difference for our profession and for those who will be following in our footsteps.

**How can you become more involved in advocacy from your home?** Stay informed on local issues by watching the news, reading the local papers, and following social media. Most importantly, attend community political functions to meet your local, state and federal leadership. Be proactive in building relationships; don't wait for an emergency to get to know your representatives. Introduce yourself and explain your role within the community. Building professional relationships with other public safety agencies is also a very important component of community advocacy efforts. Attend other public safety agency meetings and interact with people in those communities.

While advocating on a national level, NAEMT also has taken advocacy right down to the local, grassroots level by creating a network of state advocacy coordinators. These volunteers are charged with building a groundswell of support for EMS so we all can better advocate for important federal legislative issues that affect EMS. To learn who your state's advocacy coordinator is, visit the NAEMT web site and click on the Advocacy tab. To get involved, simply reach out to your state advocacy coordinator and join his or her grassroots network. If your state advocacy coordinator position is vacant, consider applying!

**Why is advocacy important?** Once you build relationships with your local, state and federal lawmakers, you can work to make sure they understand what it is you do and the EMS perspective on proposed legislation affecting our profession and the patients we serve.

Advocacy for EMS is crucial. If we don't speak up for ourselves and our patients, no one will. It's up to us to drive the debate and inform our leaders about the issues that affect our profession. And our leaders want to hear from us so they better understand their constituents and our concerns.

**How can you get involved on a national level?** You can visit the NAEMT web site weekly to view news from Washington, D.C., affecting EMS. It's also easy to review NAEMT's positions, comments, and legislative priorities. Utilize NAEMT's robust Capwiz service in the Advocacy section of the site – just click on "Contact Congress" to view current EMS legislation. You also can use Capwiz to easily correspond with your federal representatives on issues that are important to you, the NAEMT membership, and the EMS profession. Just enter your ZIP code, and Capwiz determines your congressional representatives and provides their contact information. You can draft your message through Capwiz, and the system then e-mails or faxes it to the representative. You've just advocated for EMS without even leaving your computer screen!

**Interested in visiting Washington, D.C. once a year to see EMS advocacy in action?** EMS on the Hill Day is a perfect opportunity to start your advocacy efforts and build relationships with your federal representatives and their DC staff. EMS on the Hill Day also presents the opportunity to see the collective power of all of us in action, network with your colleagues from across the country, and build relationships with the NAEMT Board and other national EMS organizational leaders.

Through advocacy, we help ensure that the EMS profession and our perspective are understood and that our elected officials fully comprehend our jobs and issues. Advocacy is the most vital and effective way to move our national EMS agenda forward. Your individual involvement with advocacy does make a difference.

*Jim Judge is chair of the NAEMT Advocacy Committee and Director, Region II. He has worked in EMS for more than 38 years and is Executive Director of the award-winning Lake Emergency Medical Services, Mount Dora, Fla.*

*Cory S. Richter is NAEMT State Advocacy Coordinator for Florida and is Battalion Chief, Indian River County Fire Rescue, Vero Beach, Fla.*

**Advocacy for EMS is crucial. If we don't speak up for ourselves and our patients, no one will.**

# Grants assist members in attending EMS on the Hill Day

**T**O ASSIST ACTIVE MEMBERS IN ATTENDING EMS ON THE HILL DAY, the nation's only EMS advocacy event, NAEMT awards grants of up to \$1,200 each to four active members.

Our 2012 grant winners are:

**Ryan Greenberg, EMT-P, Hewlett, N.Y. - Region 1**

**Emery (Paul) Roberts, EMT-P, Canton, N.C. - Region 2**

**Jason Scheiderer, EMT-P, Indianapolis, Ind. - Region 3**

**Eugene Dickson, EMT-P, Lexington, Okla. - Region 4**

“The leaders and innovators of yesterday have built the amazing prehospital care framework we call with pride ‘emergency medical services.’ As we have progressed so much in such a small period of time, we are still the youngest of the public safety branches,” says **Greenberg**, EMS Division Chief, Hackensack University Medical Center EMS. “It is our role as today’s EMS leaders to ensure we continue to promote the importance, professionalism and growth of EMS into the future.”

Greenberg says that he is honored to be chosen for a grant, as “the more we help our congressional leaders understand about the unique needs of EMS practitioners, the diversity of our roles in each of our communities, and the expectations of those we serve, the better those leaders can make informed decisions on the Hill to help us achieve our goals into the future.” He is proud

to be a 20-year volunteer and a 15-year career EMS practitioner with diverse experience, and believes he is a good resource and representative of EMS to federal lawmakers.

He says today’s top EMS issues are defining a lead federal agency for EMS, providing adequate financial support of EMS operations, and nationally recognizing EMS as a public service and supporting EMS practitioners as professionals and public servants.

**Roberts**, Assistant Supervisor, NuCare Ambulance, notes that he has been involved in EMS on the Hill Day since its start

**Emery (Paul) Roberts at EMS on the Hill Day 2011.**

in 2010, and that he enjoys serving as a voice for EMS practitioners and the public they serve. He explains that often when he speaks to federal representatives, it’s their first real exposure to EMS and the needs of its practitioners. He says, “I have continued to be a voice for EMS even when not in D.C. I have met with

local, state and federal leaders and lawmakers to promote the EMS field and its large and small issues.”

He, too, believes that a single lead federal agency for EMS is needed. With a lead agency, he says, “We would have a stronger and united voice with which to speak, rather than multiple federal agencies trying to regulate a field that is dynamic and fluid. We need to have a fair and complete field of play so we can provide the best possible vital community services, and have the needed regulations and same opportunities as other public safety groups.”

**Scheiderer**, EMS Educator, Indianapolis EMS, and NAEMT’s state advocacy coordinator for Indiana, is looking to increase communications with his state’s congressional representatives at the event as well as network with other EMS practitioners working in Indiana. He says, “The top issue that needs to be brought to the attention of Congress is to urge them to continue providing funding to EMS agencies through Medicare. It is important to all EMS agencies that they are reimbursed for services provided. EMS services can’t continue to function without covering their costs of equipment and personnel at a fair wage.”

He reiterates the need for a lead federal agency for EMS, saying, “There needs to be a consistent, strong national leader to guide EMS.” If there is additional time in the visits to federal leaders, Scheiderer also would like to address providing death benefits to all members of the EMS community. “It doesn’t matter if we are paid, volunteer, private or public – we are all serving the needs of the community and should be provided with the same benefits as other agencies that serve the community.”

**Dickson**, Director of EMS Operations, Valley View Regional Hospital EMS, Ada, Okla., and a NAEMT instructor, says, “I believe it’s of the utmost importance to be in an association of like-minded individuals, with the goals and foresight to move EMS as a whole forward... and it’s very important to be involved,” he says. His top concerns, he says, are, “From the top down, how do we recruit quality employees to choose EMS as a career? How do we retain them once we’ve trained them? How do we secure funding? How do we change Medicare reimbursements so they can fund smaller EMS services?” He says number one on his list is, “How do we as EMS providers have our voices heard by elected officials so the problems can even be addressed?” Dickson notes that EMS on the Hill Day is a great chance to visit with elected officials and discuss the problems – “just to sit down and visit about the critical state of EMS in America,” he says.

Look for a full summary of EMS on the Hill Day 2012 in the next issue.





National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians  
 Foundation  
 P.O. Box 1400  
 Clinton, MS 39060-1400



# Get ready for National EMS Week with EMS Week Ideas site

The National EMS Week Ideas web site, [www.emsweekideas.org](http://www.emsweekideas.org), helps our nation's EMS practitioners celebrate their profession during National EMS Week, May 20-26, and is an excellent professional resource for members year round. The site, hosted by NAEMT and sponsored by EMS World, helps EMS practitioners explore new ways to celebrate, participate in, and grow their profession.

The site presents a wealth of ideas for engaging in the full spectrum of EMS activities. You can access:

- Great resources to advance your career
- Tips for using social networking as a professional tool
- A guide to advocating for EMS in your communities, within your states, and at the federal level
- Planning tools for EMS Week
- Ideas for providing community education and increasing public awareness
- Information about the history of EMS and the people who have made significant contributions to its progress

Additional resources on each page help site visitors learn more about activities of interest and assist them in getting involved.

NAEMT President Connie Meyer urges EMS practitioners across the nation to get involved, stating, "This is the most comprehensive National EMS Week resource available. I hope that all EMS practitioners will visit the site and take advantage of the information and materials to promote our profession and enhance their careers."

Share your thoughts about National EMS Week using the links on the newly redesigned site to the NAEMT Facebook page and on Twitter.

**Visit [www.emsweekideas.org](http://www.emsweekideas.org) today!**



The screenshot shows the homepage of the EMS WEEK Ideas website. At the top, there is a blue header with the site title 'EMS WEEK Ideas' and the date 'National EMS Week is May 20-26, 2012'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Plan Your Week, Plan Your Career, Social Networking, Be an Advocate, Connect with your Community, and Celebrate Our History and Heroes. The main content area features a large image of EMS practitioners and a prominent 'Plan Your Career' section with the text 'Learn about your options and opportunities to grow your EMS career.' and a 'Read More >' link. Below this, there are sections for 'Great Ideas for EMS Week and EMS Everyday!', 'Featured Resources' (listing EMS Leadership, EMS World Expo 2012 New Orleans, ACEP EMS Week Kit, and EMS Job Center), and a social media section for 'EMS Week Ideas, NAEMT EMSWeekIdeas' with a 'Join the conversation' link. The footer contains copyright information for NAEMT.