

A focus on personal, patient and community safety...



APRIL 1, 2025 13th EMS Financial Symposium | APRIL 2-4, 2025 17th Annual National EMS Safety Summit: A Safety Academy



17th Annual National EMS Safety Summit

A Focus on Personal, Patient, and Community Safety

***Convened by the Mile-High Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma
Advisory Council (Mile-High RETAC) since 2008
Embassy Suites by Hilton- Downtown Denver
1420 South Street, Denver, Colorado 80202***

17th Annual National EMS Safety Summit Course Descriptions

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

High Reliability- Just Culture

9:15 – 10:45

Managing Risk in a High-Risk Environment

Krista Haugen MN, RN, CMTE

National Director of Patient Safety, Global Medical Response

Course Description:

This presentation addresses risk mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery related to adverse events in EMS and air medical transport. Based in the context of a helicopter crash, this presentation outlines essentials for preparation for

managing risks, promoting resilience and healthy recovery, and effectively managing adverse events to promote learning so future risks can be mitigated. A framework consisting of High Reliability principles, Just Culture, and Human Factors will be discussed. Systems-thinking, along with striving for individual peak performance, will also be addressed.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the foundational principles of high reliability organizations
- Discuss methodologies of systems-thinking
- Describe the “shared accountability” aspect of the Just Culture model
- Outline the basic physiology of traumatic stress & potential treatment modalities
- Explain the relationship between individual well-being & the ability to mitigate risk

Patient Safety

11:30 – 12:15

Inter-Facility Transport (IFT) Risk Assessment

Austin Wingate, NRP, CCEMT-P

EMS Chief, Grand County EMS

Course Description:

Ground interfacility transports present unique and often overlooked danger for patients and providers alike. This discussion examines the often ignored and downplayed risk in these critical transfers, from vehicle crashes to delays in care, and explores strategies to identify and mitigate these risks. By prioritizing proactive safety measures and system improvements, we can enhance outcomes and protect those involved in every transport. Join us to learn why safety isn't just for the skies—it's essential on the ground, too.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify risk assessment tool components
- Discuss risks of transporting patients during adverse conditions
- Identify keeping personnel and patients safe during requested transports

Patient Safety

1:00 – 1:45

Sedation and Physical Restraint- Protecting Your Patients, Employees, and Department

Roger Patterson

Commander, Health and Safety Officer

Austin-Travis Co. EMS

Course Description:

This presentation will discuss the ATCEMS approach to the evaluation and treatment of patients presenting with Hyperactive Delirium and Severe Agitation and another Behavioral Health Emergencies. This includes discussion on

utilizing the RASS to guide how to approach and treat the patient, chemical and physical restraint procedures and equipment, interacting with law enforcement, and an overview of the training we provide to our medics.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss why EMS restrains patients- when it's appropriate and when it's not
- Ensuring your medics have the proper resources to sedate and restrain a patient
- Using the RASS to determine a treatment plan
- Do you have a procedure and checklist?
- Discuss training to prepare your employees to treat these emergencies safely

Patient Safety

1:45 – 2:45

***Case Studies in Patient and Provider Safety
2025***

Scott Bourn, PhD, RN, FACHE

*VP Clinical Quality & Impact, Securisyn Medical,
Co-Founder and Faculty, NAEMSP Quality and Safety Course*

Course Description:

One of the challenges in reducing the frequency of patient and provider harm in EMS is recognizing cases when they occur. This session, made up entirely of actual NEW safety incidents, will enable participants to recognize the elements of patient/provider harm, understand what type of harm occurred, and consider strategies to prevent them in the future.

Learning Objectives:

- Define “harm”, “adverse event”, and “error.”
- Given a case study, recognize the harm that occurred to patient and /or provider
- Identify the category of harm presented in a case
- Describe potential strategies to reduce future harm caused by a specific cause category

Safety Culture & Safety Miscellaneous

2:45 – 3:30

Promoting Post-Crash Care

David Bryson, EMT

EMS Specialist, US DOT NHTSA

Course Description:

Based on US DOT's 2022 National Roadway Safety Strategy, the NHTSA Office of EMS is promoting the Safe System Approach and Post-Crash Care to help reduce roadway deaths to zero. Promoting the use of prehospital whole blood programs and improved rapid extrication are some of the key performance measures for success.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the US DOT NRSS and Safe Systems Approach
- Understand where most roadway fatalities occur and where there are gaps in whole blood programs
- Learn about effective safety counter measures for improving Post-Crash Care.

Wellness - Lifting

4:00 –5:00

Functional Testing in EMS

Frederick Haas, Jr., MS, NRP, DICO-C
Geisinger EMS, Safety Manager

Course Description:

This presentation will review the development and implementation of a physical testing program for our EMS agencies. This program looks at a task analysis to serve as a baseline for designing a fitness evaluation program for EMS providers.

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize the importance and methodology behind a job task analysis
- Develop testing scenarios to evaluate provider ability to conduct job-related tasks
- Demonstrate (by using a video) the physical testing process used at Sussex County EMS
- Discuss how this testing applies to initial recruitment/hiring process, bi-annual physical assessments, and fit-for-duty evaluations,

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Patient Safety

9:15 – 10:15

Never Have I Ever: Never - Events in EMS

Matthew Streger, Esq. MPA, NRP
Attorney at Law, Keavney & Streger, LLC

Course Description:

The National Quality Forum has a list of “Never Events” that should simply never happen in healthcare - actions that are clearly identifiable, serious, and preventable. This list of 29 serious preventable events has some application to the EMS profession, but because of our unique environment of care, some of these do not apply while others require some modification.

We will review the definition of a “Never Event” in the EMS profession and contrast these events with “best practices.” We will then discuss a series of EMS-specific Never Events in the clinical, operational, and legal segments of our system, and for each one we will clearly define the event and the mandatory preventative measures that can help prevent them from occurring. This lecture is a unique look at a major safety aspect of EMS as part of healthcare that we do not typically focus on. Attendees will take home real-world tools to put into action in their systems to help improve patient care and reduce these preventable major safety events.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the concept of a never event in EMS
- Understand the various types of clinical, operational, and administrative never events.
- Develop tools for preventing these never events from happening

Safety Culture & Safety Miscellaneous

10:15 – 11:00

The Way We’ve Always Done it: How Normalization of Deviance is Dangerous to an Organization

Chris Hilliard, MS, GSP, DICO-C, NR-P
*Health and Safety Coordinator
Sussex County EMS*

Course Description:

The presentation is half explaining what normalization of deviance is and how it can negatively affect an organization. The other half is a case study looking at the RaDonna Vaught case and how normalization of deviance led to a catastrophic medical error, leading to a patient's death.

Learning Objectives:

- Provide an understanding of normalization of deviance
- Demonstrate how this can be detrimental thinking through a case study
- Provide participants with methods on how to curve the thought process and objectively look at current safety protocols through observation while applying a Just Culture mindset.

11:15 – 12:00

EMS/Law Enforcement Consensus Statement

Douglas Kupas, MD, NRP, FAEMS, FACEP
*Professor of Emergency Medicine
Medical Director, Geisinger Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Program
Director, Resuscitation Programs*

David McCardle, MD
President Tac Med MD PLLC

Course Description:

The speakers will present the recent consensus statement on Best Practices for Collaboration Between Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services During Acute Behavioral Emergencies. This is a joint statement among the National Association of EMS Physicians, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. EMS and law enforcement agencies frequently are involved in caring for individuals who are agitated and may also have a medical condition or need medical intervention. The speakers are coauthors of this consensus statement and will discuss the nuances of both EMS and law enforcement interventions in these situations to ensure that the care of these individuals is coordinated and safe.

Learning Objectives:

- Review the consensus document on collaboration between EMS and law enforcement at joint incidents.
- Understand differences in the organizational cultures among EMS, law enforcement and fire services.
- Discuss approaches to medical care and law enforcement restraint for individuals who are patients, perpetrators, and both.

Risk Management

12:45 – 1:45

Legal Privileges and Self- Protection

Matthew Streger, Esq. MPA, NRP
Attorney at Law, Keavney & Streger, LLC

Course Description:

Are you really covering your...? Legal privileges shield certain information from being used against you, such as your quality improvement data, or your internal investigations. But the attorney-client, work-product, and self-critical analysis privileges are poorly understood and easy to misuse. There are opportunities here for protecting our agencies and our providers, but missteps can open the door to this information being used against us. This session will review concepts of civil litigation, evidence, discoverability, and exclusion, then look at state and national laws that govern this area. We will use real cases to illustrate how these privileges work, and help you develop best-practices for self-protection.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of the civil litigation process and evidence.
- Develop an understanding of the three main privileges - attorney-client, work-product, and self-critical analysis.
- Develop self-protective skills for protecting critical information using these three privileges.

Wellness - Lifting

1:45 – 2:30

A Guide to Becoming a Professional Pickup Artist: Techniques for Safe Patient Handling in EMS

Rick Binder, EMT (R)
CEO, PHASE Int'l

Course Description:

In the good ol' days, EMS providers were like superheroes, using only bedsheet capes and ingenuity to lift, carry, transfer, and restrain patients. Although these methods were effective, patient handling is now the leading cause of injury for EMS providers, according to the CDC. It's time to rethink patient handling from the ground up. Using a \$20k power stretcher only to manually lift patients by their extremities seems more paradoxical than professional. This presentation will offer sample policies, training resources, and an engineering control roadmap designed to keep EMS personnel injury-free and support long, successful careers as modern-day heroes.

Learning Objectives:

- How to create and implement a patient handling policy
- How to create and implement an annual patient handling training program
- How to implement operational changes to encourage alternatives to lifting and carrying bariatric patients, such as utilizing pushing, pulling techniques, or mechanical equipment.

Patient Safety

3:00 – 4:00

Falls in the Elderly- The Gravity of the Epidemic & EMS Interventions

Douglas Kupas, MD, NRP, FAEMS, FACEP

Course Description:

As our population ages, falls have become the most common reason for EMS response and the most common reason for admission to a trauma center. These responses run the gamut from requests for lift assistance to life-threatening traumatic injuries. EMS practitioners must be able to safely differentiate between these. This session will highlight initiatives for safe and appropriate treatment-in-place as well as community strategies that prevent future falls.

Learning Objectives:

- List the risk factors that increase the chance of falls in the elderly.
- Discuss EMS programs that can recognize fall risks and prevent falls in the elderly.

-Discuss the approach to assessing patients who fail to reduce unnecessary ED visits but also identify patients that require further ED care.

Wellness- Physical Fitness

4:00 – 5:00

My Diagnosis is Exactly the Gift I Needed

Robert Weisbaum, BS, NRP, MPO, FP-C

EMS & Fire Chief, Crested Butte Fire Protection District

Course Description:

In this talk, I share my journey of living with multiple sclerosis and transforming my life from 298 lbs. I emphasize the importance of self-care and overall well-being, especially for first responders facing high stress. With rising rates of depression, anxiety, cardiovascular disease, and other health challenges in emergency services, it's crucial to inspire change and promote mental and physical health strategies. My goal is to empower those seeking improvement and highlight the urgent need for support in demanding professions.

Learning Objectives:

- Foster Understanding and Empathy
- Inspire Resilience and a Growth Mindset
- Encourage Proactive Health and Wellness

Friday, April 4, 2025

9:05 – 10:00 ***EMS Safety in Shelters***

Andrew Caruso, AS, EMT, CEM

New Jersey EMS Task Force, Safety Module Manager

Course Description:

In this session, we will discuss the unique challenges presented in the environment that requires not only EMS Providers, but all caregivers to think outside the normal parameters. In other aspects of our prehospital careers, we have never encountered the uncharted waters that we may have seen the first time that our patients, and we as life savers, are faced with when disasters strike. Things like domestic violence, medication abuse and theft, pet conflicts, food safety, insects and other drama are all seen when the Oscar's and Felix's of your community need to involuntarily cohabitate!

Learning Objectives:

- Identify and discuss the causes of those from any walk of life to need to be integrated, and the best, safe ways to accomplish this.
- Discuss how far we can go to accommodate shelterees during what may be the

most difficult time of their lives, while keeping in mind that the shelter staff is also possibly facing similar challenges.

-Discuss security of not only shelterees, but shelter staff, including personal belongings, medications, and safety from assault.

-Discuss the resources needed to ensure the safety and security of the shelterees and shelter staff.

-Discuss the often overlooked mental health component of a disaster shelter.

10:00 – 11:00

LAWS: Cultivating Leadership Thru Vulnerability & Curiosity

Nick Metz, MS, LPCC (Retired Police Chief)

Code-4 Counseling, LLC

President, It's A Calling Foundation

Executive Board Member, Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation

Course Description:

Learning Objectives:

Risk Management

11:15 – 11:45

Enterprise Risk Management for EMS

Peter Dworsky, MPH, EMT-P, CEM, FACPE

Markel insurance, Senior Risk Solutions Specialist

Course Description:

It is impossible to eliminate risk for an EMS agency. However, new technology and new information can help both minimize and maximize your risk; help keep your team and organization safer. This program covers some of the methodologies, equipment and processes utilized in holistic risk management that can be easily implemented within an EMS system that will aid in reducing exposure and liability.

Learning Objectives:

-Describe the elements of Enterprise Risk Management

-Identify three methods to reduce risk

-Describe the function / role of an EMS Risk Manager

Driving & Roadside Safety

11:45 – 12:30

Why Do Ambulances Crash? Examining the Use of Telematics in EMS Safety Research

Garrett Hedeem, MHA, LP

Occupational Health & Safety Specialist Sr.

Austin Travis County EMS

Course Description:

Transportation incidents have been the largest killer in the profession over the decades, leading cause for lawsuits in EMS, and with ambulance supply issues even a minor crash can wreak havoc on operations. Telematics are being used by insurance agencies with simple devices linked to your phone and many EMS agencies are using similar technologies to monitor driving behavior. With high turnovers and high costs how do you predict your next crash? More importantly, how can you prevent it? This session will explore the main causes of EMS crashes looking at literature and new primary research by the speaker and begin to explore remedies.

Learning Objectives:

- The EMS professional will learn how to assess their current crash data to determine how they measure up within the industry standards.
- The EMS professional will learn about the different types of vehicle telematics currently on the market.
- The EMS professional will begin to recognize correlations between ambulance driving behaviors and characteristics and ambulance crash rates.
- The EMS leader will learn how to integrate driving improvement techniques into their operations to decrease ambulance collisions.

Infection Control

1:00 – 2:00

If It's Red, Sticky, and Not Yours, Don't Touch it: The Ins & Outs of Setting UP an Infection Control Policy

Chris Hilliard

Course Description:

The basics that someone needs to know about how to set up a basic infection control policy for their agency. It is designed and focused on smaller agencies who may not have someone designated to be the infection control officer, rather take on the responsibility on top of their other roles. I go into the basics of infectious diseases, protocols for post exposure, and how to lay the groundwork for an effective policy based on OSHA guidelines.

Learning Objectives:

- Provide a better understanding of infectious diseases
- Do a walkthrough of post exposure protocols based on current guidelines
- Provide resources for managers to create their own plan/policy

Safety Culture & Safety Miscellaneous

2:15 – 2:45

Implementing the Revised Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria

David Bryson

Course Description:

Implementing the revised MMUCC will help States and NHTSA collect critical data on first responder vehicle crashes and personnel injured or killed in transportation-related incidents. This data can help the States, NHTSA, and first responder community to work on programs and projects to help prevent these events in the future.

Learning Objectives:

- What is the MMUCC?
- What changed in the revised MMUCC?
- How can the revised MMUCC data elements be implemented and collected by the States?

Scene Safety

2:45 – 3:45

Safety in Atypical Environments

Andrew Caruso

Course Description:

EMS is and has always been a very dynamic world for a “type – a” workforce, and we have learned to adapt on the fly. Certain environments and assignments can still make us find ourselves far beyond anything we’ve imagined. While a disaster shelter discussed in an earlier session is a good example, what about tactical environments, austere locations, or those where an entire nation could be watching?

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the different types of atypical environments that can be encountered by ANY EMS provider, not just those attached to SWAT teams, military commands, or specialized units.
- Discuss how to adapt to challenges we may face when the unexpected occurs and how to remain focused on the basic tenets of safety and self-protection.
- Discuss how outside forces such as being watched by a crowd, superiors, or family members of a patient can alter the provider’s thinking and change priorities.
- Identify different resources that may be available in atypical environments to ensure the safety of everyone operating towards similar goals.