



EMSAC Members' Update

A monthly update for members of the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado.

April 2023—Our 50th year!

EMSAC group (agency) members, please forward this to your staff. If you have news for the EMSAC monthly update, send it to communications@emsac.org.

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This is your association, and we want to hear from you. You can find your region representative and the officers [here](#). If you do not know who to call or have a general question, contact the staff at [303-317-6511](tel:303-317-6511) or emsac@emsac.org.

APRIL'S USEFUL MUSING

"Public policy is best developed thoughtfully over time, not announced in a sound bite one day and proclaimed by bumper sticker the next." — Howard Paul

EMSAC NEWS

EMSAC advocacy works to protect tax funding of EMS agencies

The
EMSAC
Blog

As the Colorado General Assembly's 2023 session winds down with two weeks remaining, EMSAC continues to advocate sensible funding of EMS services that depend upon a mill levy. EMSAC President Scott Sholes addressed the leadership of the legislature regarding potential last minutes bills intended to deal with property taxes and their impact on EMS, in a

[letter](#) to the leaders of the Colorado Senate and House of Representatives.



EMSAC Members and

the Colorado Rockies'
2023 First Responder Night!
Save the date

September 15 against the SF Giants





Legislative resources for EMSAC members

- **Keep up with our weekly State Status Report [here](#).**
- Text and status of [Congressional](#) bills, committees and members in both chambers.
- Home page of the [Colorado General Assembly](#) for bills, committees, hearing calendar, and fiscal notes.
- Information on Colorado General Assembly [Committees](#), including meeting schedules.



EMSAC at Work
Advocate
Communicate
Educate

Make a Difference in Colorado EMS

You can now easily volunteer with an EMSAC Committee, [online](#). EMSAC committees are the workhorse of all we do. Get involved and make your mark on EMS in Colorado.

COLORADO EMS NEWS

Foundation 1023

Foundation 1023 is a non-profit organization founded in 2016. In 2015 Colorado experienced a significant number of First Responder deaths due to suicide, accident, and illness. One of those deaths was Kristin McLain, her badge number was 1023. These deaths, which were so close together, affected the first responder community a great deal. Read the full article about Foundation 1023 founder Melody Mesmer [here](#).

OTHER NEWS

Colorado Friends of First Responders 5/10K Race and Volleyball Tournament, Saturday May 13.



The Colorado Friends of First Responders annual [5/10K Memorial Race and Volleyball Tournament](#) takes place every year at Hudson Gardens & Event Center in Littleton, Colorado.

Donations raised from this event go directly to support first responders and continue our mission of providing EMS and Air Medical education.

We will be there—stop by and say hello!

Federal Funding

NY Rep. Molinaro Responds to Concerns from Rural EMS Departments By Introducing Bipartisan Bill to Save Underfunded & Understaffed Agencies

Rep. Molinaro’s bipartisan bill creates a grant program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that delivers \$50 million in federal funding to support EMS agencies. Rep. Molinaro introduced this bill alongside U.S. Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ-03). Details [here](#).

U.S. Rep. Glenn Thompson co-sponsoring rural EMS bill in House

Thompson (R-PA) is one of five co-sponsors of a bill that makes changes to the Social Security Act to lock in funding increases for rural ambulance services. [H.R. 1666](#) is called the “Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Services Act.” Read the news article [here](#).

Characteristics & Challenges of Rural Ambulance Agencies—Rural Policy Research Institute at The University of Iowa

Every year, nearly 10 million rural Americans receive EMS care. There are 23,272 ambulance agencies in the U.S. and 73 percent of those agencies report serving rural areas. Read the report [here](#).

Health Worker Burnout

Our health depends on the well-being of our health workforce. Let’s take care of those who are always there to care for us. Get The U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on Building a Thriving Health Workforce [here](#).

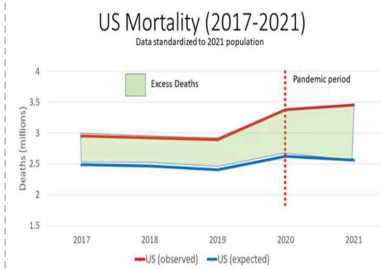
PSOB information for COVID-related line-of-duty deaths

The Safeguarding America’s Fire Responders Act (SOSA), along with a subsequent law extending this legislation enacted on November 18, 2021, temporarily expands Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) to cover public safety officers (including firefighters) who die or are permanently disabled as a result of COVID contracted in the line of duty. Read more [here](#).

Kansas-based air ambulance company LifeSave has announced that it will now carry blood on all flights

The move will make LifeSave the first air ambulance in the state to carry blood on its aircraft and is expected to significantly improve survival chances for patients being transferred to the hospital. Read more [here](#).

'Excess' Deaths Surging, but Why? By F. Perry Wilson, MD, MSCE



As a sort of standard candle of the performance of a state or a region or a country in terms of healthcare, it has a lot of utility — if for nothing more than Monday-morning quarterbacking. But this week, I want to dig in on the concept a bit because, according to a new study, the excess death gap between the United States and Western Europe has never been higher. Read more [here](#).

Child Abuse Declined During COVID

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and our staff reviewed the literature on child abuse during COVID. Contrary to the assumption that child abuse increased during the pandemic, the data suggest the opposite.

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Pediatrics reviewed data and literature and shared the findings and reasons as to why in this [article](#).

EMS system failures

Yakima County's sole 911 ambulance provider — American Medical Response — is ceasing operations in Grant County, citing rising costs and low reimbursements from insurers like Medicaid. Read more [here](#).

COVID-19 NEWS

Three Years In, What Scientists Know About Long COVID

CNET's medical/wellness staff writer looks at the latest research on long COVID— what it is, who is prone to get it, and the treatment and preventative methods to decrease the risk of getting long COVID. As the research continues, more specifics may be uncovered and discussed for years to come. [Read the Article](#).

REMINDERS

Colorado EMS Educators Association



2023 EMS Educators Symposium Registration May 19-21, Glenwood Springs

The Colorado EMS Educators Association is a chartered subsidiary special interest group of EMSAC.



Registration is open for the 2023 Colorado EMS Educators Symposium in Glenwood Springs. 1-3/4 days of programs for teachers, preceded by an optional hybrid EMS I/C course and the Colorado EMS Educator's Reception at The Hotel, Colorado Friday evening. Topics include:

- What is up with the NREMT?
- Measuring Competence in a Portfolio Program
- Serious Gaming for Your Whole Brain
- Brief, Targeted Pediatric Simulation
- Building an Engaging Scenario
- Becoming an Effective Instructor
- Teaching Critical Thinking to Future Leaders
- Evaluating the Affective Domain
- Teaching How to Avoid Clinical Errors
- Teaching Students to Deliver Bad News
- Raising the Bar in EMS Education

See the full schedule [here](#).



At the Hotel Colorado

There is a group discount available for hotel rooms — all you need to do is [click](#) and reserve. Alternatively, you may call 1-800-544-3998 and ask for the Emergency Medical Services Association or CEES. Group Code: 230519EMSA

National EMS Memorial Bike Ride: Colorado Route - Sept. 10-15.



Registration is open. Single or multi-day and e-bike riders are welcome to register as well as support volunteers. You do not have to be an EMS provider to participate. The cycling event will begin in Snowmass and conclude in Morrison to honor EMS personnel who were killed in the line of duty, who become sick or injured during EMS service, or who died and left a lasting impact on the EMS community.

For registration or more information click [here](#). For questions contact [Steve Berry](#).

Federal Funding Opportunity for Rural EMS Training

Applications are due May 1. The purpose of this program is to recruit and train EMS. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Public Safety Officers' Benefit - PSOB



Every emergency service agency should be familiar with the Public Safety Officers' Benefit from the U.S. Department of Justice. The PSOB offers survivor benefits and educational benefits to families of emergency service professionals killed in the line of duty. The PSOB also offers disability benefits to those disabled in their E.S. work. Read more [here](#).



EMS Professionals' Emergency Relief Fund

A special program and fund to assist EMS professionals affected by a disaster.

The 2021 Marshall Fire prompted us to create a special program and fund to assist EMS professionals. **If at any time you need emergency financial assistance** due to circumstances out of your control (e.g., fire, illness, crash, etc.), apply for aid from your EMSAC colleagues [here](#).



EMS Memorials Remembering Colleagues We've Lost

Has an EMS colleague passed away recently?

Help us remember our peers with recognition at the annual Colorado State EMS Conference. Register their name and information, [here](#). Their names and photographs are in a visual loop presented in the large ballroom during lunch hours on Friday and Saturday of the Conference. Read about our departed colleagues from 2022, [here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

[Path4EMS](#): Colorado's EMS Peer Assistance Program

Any currently certified Colorado EMS provider now has a new avenue of access and support for issues related to stress management, mental health and wellness. These services are confidential, free of charge, and available statewide. Information about

the program can be found **here**. **For immediate assistance, please call 1-800-873-7138. Make the Call to Make Things Better.**

Firefighters and EMS personnel face many unique challenges that can have a significant impact on their behavioral health. To ensure these individuals and their families have access to the help they need, the NVFC teamed up with American Addiction Centers (AAC) to create a free, confidential helpline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Fire/EMS Helpline: 1-888-731-FIRE (3473)
The Code Green Campaign
[Code Green](#) is a first responder-oriented mental health advocacy and education organization. It is not a crisis helpline; its mission is to bring awareness to the high rates of mental health problems in first responders and reduce them, eliminate the stigma that prevents people from admitting problems are present and asking for help and educate first responders on self and peer care and to advocate systemic change in how mental health problems are addressed by first responder agencies.

Building Warriors

[Building Warriors](#) is a specialty group of private practice professional counselors and peer consultants supporting emergency responders and their families. Even the strongest among us can feel lost, unsure, ambivalent, or unhappy at times. We specialize in working with Emergency Responders and their families. We can help manage whatever life may bring, we will attack issues and focus on finding a healthy balance within your mind, body, and heart. For more information or to schedule a class for your agency, call (720) 504-6207.

Foundation 1023

[Foundation 1023](#) is committed to supporting the emotional and mental wellness of first responders and their support network who are experiencing illness, loss or stressful life events by providing confidential funding for emotional and mental wellness services, as well as access to peer-supported outdoor activities and events designed for personal wellness and connection. Foundation 1023 offers referral services and financial support to pre-approved Professional Counselors that are experienced in the first response industry.

Safe Call Now - (206) 459-3020

[Safe Call Now](#) is an emergency services-based emergency CONFIDENTIAL, comprehensive, 24-hour crisis referral service for all emergency services personnel and their family members nationwide. Speak confidentially with officers, public safety professionals and/or mental health care providers who are familiar with your line of work. MAKE A SAFE CALL NOW: (206) 459-3020. Download a brochure for your colleagues and staff.

Colorado Crisis and Support Line 1-844-493-TALK (8255)

Get connected 24/7/365 with experienced professionals, counselors and peer specialists. **[Colorado Crisis Services](#)** has **12 walk-in crisis service centers**: Fort Collins, Greeley, Grand Junction, Pueblo, and Colorado Springs; and in metro Denver: Westminster, Lakewood, Littleton, Aurora (2), Boulder and Denver. **[Download](#)** an information card. For your agency offices and quarters download a rack card.



Thank you to our generous sponsors



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