



EMSAC Members' Update

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

February 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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EMSAC NEWS



The EMSAC Blog

- **Region News**

Read our new monthly Region News column on the EMSAC Blog [here](#).

- **Advocacy**

Read our Advocacy Committee and 2023 EMS Day at the Capitol news on the EMSAC Blog [here](#).



Advocacy Committee member John Seward testifying in support of SB23-023, "CPR in high schools."



Call for presenters for 2023

Do you have a topic and presentation that you think would be a great fit for the **50th Anniversary 2023 Colorado State EMS Conference**? We want to hear from you!

- **PCAD Workshop:** These sessions take place on Thursday, November 5th, and run for a half day (4 hours) or a full day (8 hours), they are typically interactive and hands-on, covering a wide array of topics.
- **General Session:** This session is the opening session to the conference and is an hour and a half long, the committee is looking for someone to capture the audience with inspiration and education. Please include links to videos of you presenting or to your website if you have any, so that we may fully review you for this opening session!
- **Breakout Session:** Breakout sessions range from one hour to an hour and a half and happen concurrently with other sessions happening at the same time. If your session is very specific to a certain audience at the EMSAC conference, this would be a great spot for you to spotlight your session.

Deadline for proposals: April 9, 2023

Decision Notification Date: May 24, 2023

Full details are [here](#). For answers to questions please email emsac@emsac.org.

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.

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.



EMSAC at Work

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Educate

New Vendor
New Vendor
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COLORADO EMS NEWS

Leadville hospital receives \$480,000 for critical support

by Emma Gadeski Herald Reporter Dec 28, 2022 0

St. Vincent Health (SVH) will receive up to \$480,000 from the Lake County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to go toward payroll costs after accepting amended conditions for the funds. Ambulance Services Director Jeremiah Grantham said the process of reevaluating the ambulance services at SVH will take around six to 12 months all together, and no official decisions have been made yet. In response to this news, hospital employees shared [concerns about transferring ambulance services](#) out of the hospital during the public comment period at the Dec. 22 meeting. Nursing supervisor Amber Bunch said the hospital-based EMS system was the best possible option since it's convenient to have EMS staff on-site with medicine from the hospital available for them to use. "Historically EMS has been the most stable department," said Bunch. "To lose them would be a great detriment to our hospital." Assistant Chief Nursing Officer Deborah Cunningham added that if EMS leaves SVH, the hospital would lose its respiratory therapist, which is an invaluable position. "If EMS goes away, we need a respiratory therapist to help manage intubated patients."

State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council vacancies

The State of Colorado is seeking individuals interested in serving on the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council (SEMTAC). Open positions on the council are:

- **A fire chief of a service that provides prehospital care in a rural area**
- A board-certified emergency physician
- **An officer or employee of a public provider of prehospital care**
- **An officer or employee of a private provider of prehospital care**
- A county commissioner from a rural county
- A county commissioner, or council member of a city and county, from an urban county, or city and county
- A board-certified surgeon providing trauma care at a level I trauma center
- A trauma nurse coordinator
- **A representative of the general public from an urban area**

To apply, go to the [Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions](#) website to complete an online application and attach all other pertinent documents. You will receive an email confirming the submission of your application. Applications are due by April 14, 2023. For questions contact [Niketa Patel](#).

More Colorado kids going to ER for mental health care



COLORADO, USA — The number of kids in emergency rooms with a mental health or self-harm primary diagnosis has more than doubled from 2,002 in 2016 to 5,168 in 2021, according to a review of data compiled by the [Center for Improving Value in Health Care](#). Read the story [here](#).

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

EMS operations crises nationwide



Colorado agencies are not the only services facing crises in maintaining operations due to staffing, vehicles or finances. Read these [reports from](#) across the nation on the EMSAC Blog.

States Strive to Reverse Shortage of Paramedics, EMTs

Low wages, a lack of work-life balance and burnout are among the factors driving emergency medical services personnel around the country to quit ambulance duty.

Last year, the turnover rate for full-time emergency medical technicians, known as EMTs, was 36% and for full-time paramedics, it was 27%, according to an American Ambulance Association survey. The turnover rate includes both resignations and

firings, but nearly all of the EMTs and paramedics who left did so voluntarily. More than one-third of new hires don't last through their first year, the survey found. Read more [here](#).

EMS on the Hill Day 2023 (DC)



Register for National EMS On The Hill Day, March 29-30, 2023. Held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA. The group rate is \$249 + tax per room per night. The special room rate is available until March 6, 2023, or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first. Register [here](#).

Backing the First Responders: Recent Bills Empower EMS Systems

As EMS systems across the country continue to face challenges in workforce, funding and administration, providing timely and quality emergency medical services to all residents is a common priority. Several factors have long strained EMS systems, which were further stretched by the COVID-19 public health emergency. At least 39 states and territories enacted 113 bills in 2022 alone to address various aspects of EMS systems, including administration, funding, rules and regulations, systems of care and workforce. Read more [here](#).

US Ambulances for Ukraine

As we start the new year, US Ambulances for Ukraine continues to actively seek donated used ambulances from across the United States to send to Ukraine. Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia on February 24, 2022, US Ambulances for Ukraine, in collaboration with the Ukrainian Consulate in Chicago has successfully delivered 18 American ambulances to Ukraine, many coming from members of the American Ambulance Association. In addition, another 10 ambulances and one fire engine are sailing across the Atlantic Ocean and will soon be delivered to Ukraine. Read more [here](#).

Novel Resuscitation for Patients With Nonshockable Rhythms in Cardiac Arrest

CPR has been life-saving for 60 years the way we've performed it, but probably only in a very small percentage of cases. That's one of the problems. We have almost a thousand people a day who have a sudden cardiac arrest out in the community alone and more in the hospital.

We know that early defibrillation and early CPR can contribute, but it's still a small percentage of those. Read more [here](#).

TRAINING

Shine & Lead: Women Supporting Women webinar Tuesday, February 28th - 11 AM MT



Want to learn how to stop living in comparison, improve your leadership skills, and build valuable relationships in your workplace? Join us on February 28th for a webinar hosted by award-winning author Sharon Hughes. Details and registration are [here](#).

Webinar: Putting Out Fires – Verbal De-escalation Tips for the Fire Service, February 23, 2023



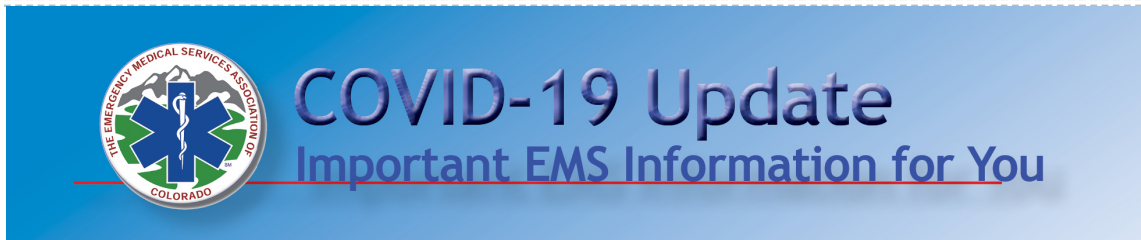
When encountering an upset or angry person in your fire or EMS department, it can be difficult to know what to do. Most de-escalation trainings encourage you to apply logical solutions to emotional situations, which does not work. In this highly interactive [webinar](#) presented by Kerry Mensior, you'll learn effective communication and de-escalation skills that are easy to understand, easy to remember, and even easier to implement in your department.



9th EMS Financial Symposium April 4, 2023

15th Annual National EMS Safety Summit April 5-7, 2023 Embassy Suites, Downtown Denver, For details go to [Mile-High RETAC](#)

COVID NEWS



Long-term effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against infections, hospitalisations, and mortality in adults: findings

Analyses indicate that vaccine effectiveness generally decreases over time against SARS-CoV-2 infections, hospitalisations, and mortality. The baseline vaccine effectiveness levels for the omicron variant were notably lower than for other variants. Read the full report [here](#).

Do masks slow virus spread? Researchers want more evidence

BECKER'S

HOSPITAL REVIEW

Three years into the pandemic and hundreds of studies later, evidence is still lacking as to what extent masks may slow the spread of respiratory viruses such as flu or COVID-19, according to a research review published on Jan. 30 in the Cochrane Library. Researchers said the findings underscore the need for more studies to definitively understand masking's benefits and are not intended to be a case against the practice. Read more [here](#).

OTHER NEWS



Should the use of EMS lights and sirens be curtailed? Some organizations believe so. [Read details and look at the research in](#) our review, under "News" and "EMS Operations"

NACRHHS | Access to EMS in Rural Communities Policy Brief



An overview of issues related to the provision of emergency medical services (EMS) in rural areas. Discusses rural EMS access, financing, and workforce challenges, as well as promising telehealth innovations. Outlines federal programs and resources that support EMS programs. Offers policy recommendations related to access to EMS, workforce, and reimbursement. The link is [here](#).

Company plans to develop a drone-based medical delivery service

Zipline has conducted a successful test flight of its medical logistics drones in Kisumu County, Kenya. The network would carry a range of medical products, including blood products and Covid-19 vaccines, centered on Zipline's hub in Muhoroni, eastern Kisumu. The [service](#) is expected to offer radically improved access to medical supplies for remote communities.

FDA advisers recommend approval of over-the-counter naloxone to fight opioid overdose

STAT A government advisory committee voted unanimously on February 15 to recommend that naloxone nasal spray, a medication used to reverse opioid overdoses, be sold and distributed without a prescription. Read [more](#).

A Freak Impalement by a Model Rocket Has This Doctor Scrambling

Here's what happened 2 minutes before I got there: A 5-foot-long rocket, two and a half inches in diameter, had reached the top of its several-thousand-foot trajectory and was ready to come back to Earth. But its parachute didn't deploy. It turned itself point-down and literally shot back to earth like a rocket. Read [more](#).

REMINDERS

Colorado State EMS Awards

You can now make nominations throughout the year for any of our Colorado EMS Awards. It's so much easier to do it when you think about it—now!—and do not wait to the last minute!

Awards are presented annually at EMSAC's Colorado State EMS Conference in the autumn.

www.emsac.org/awards



Children's Hospital Colorado



Important EMS Information for You

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](#).

EMSAC's EMS Job Board

Find the position you want, no matter your career stage. Find your perfect job and track positions you're pursuing using our Career Center. Recruiters can browse resumes in the system to see if there is a good match within the database.

Employers, our Job Board is a national job board, linked to other states. Find the perfect candidates for your vacancies.

www.emsac.org/job-board



Important EMS Information for You



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.



Banner and button advertising are available here to reach key EMS professionals. Contact communications at [emsac dot org](http://emsac.org)



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