



EMSAC Members' Update

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

January 2024

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 or email emsac@emsac.org.

THIS MONTH'S USEFUL MUSING

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." – Thomas A. Edison

EMSAC NEWS

[Colorado legislature update](#) - January 2024. By John Seward, Advocacy Committee Correspondent; EMS Director, University of Denver

[American EMS—the national view](#). By Bruce Evans, MPA, CFO, SPO, NRP; Chief, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District and Past President of the National Association of EMTs

[Meet the Board of directors: EMSAC Secretary David Patterson](#)



[Register Now!](#)



Save the date February 20, 2024

EMS Day at the Capitol



Plan to join your EMS colleagues February 20, 2024 to inform and educate our senators and representatives about Emergency Medical Services—and what we need from them to effectively care for our patients.

Agenda

- 8:00 am Meet in the Colorado State Capitol basement dining area.
- 9:00 Visit Senate and House Chambers for recognition
- 10:00 - 12:00 Visit senators and representatives in their offices
- 1:30 pm Additional time for meetings
- 5:00 - 7:00 pm Reception with legislators and their staff members at the University Club, [1673 Sherman St.](#) (walking distance from Capitol).

Please register

By registering to attend, we can contact you with event updates as well as planning food and beverages for the evening reception.

[Register Here](#)



Lodging

For folks planning to stay the nights of February 19 and/or 20, we will be staying at the Warwick Denver Hotel. While there are no group rates estimated, room rates are very reasonable but individuals must join [Journeys \(on the Warwick website\)](#) for the best rates.



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Important EMS Information for You




Colorado EMS Educators Association



2024 EMS Educators Symposium
May 17-18, Estes Park

4th Annual!

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

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

Denver Health says uncompensated medical costs are impacting patient care



Denver Health is having to turn patients away; they're also closing beds and cutting salary increases because of an increase in uncompensated care costs. Read more [here](#).

2025 Funding Application Now Available

Colorado's EMTS funding program is currently accepting grant applications for the fiscal year 2025 funding cycle. Applications are accepted via the [ZoomGrants portal](#). Applicants must update their EMTS organizational profile and submit a pre-application via ZoomGrants before Feb. 8, 2024. For more information, visit the [EMTS Apply for Funding page](#).

OTHER NEWS

Ambulance Deserts: Geographic Disparities in the Provision of Ambulance Services



Access to timely ambulance service is an essential part of the emergency medical system. Yet ambulance access varies widely with significant gaps across the country. This chartbook analyzes 41 states in 2021-2022 and identifies places and people that are more than 25 minutes from an ambulance station, also called an ambulance desert. Read the research paper [here](#).

Colorado can be proud that EMSAC Region 2 Representative Nick Nudell, MS, MPhil, NRP, FACPE, PhD Candidate, was part of the Expert Work Group. Mr. Nudell's dedication to EMS is evident by his wide participation in EMS:

- Research Manager, UCHealth
- Paramedic Scientist, The Paramedic Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit charity
- President, American Paramedic Association
- Treasurer, National EMS Management Association
- Board Member, Colorado Chapter of NAEMSP

- Board Member, EMS Association of Colorado

Can the U.S. Put an End to Surprise Ambulance Bills?



Congress banned most surprise medical bills back in 2020, with one major exception: ambulance rides. Most people agree that patients should be shielded from these unexpected charges. But who should pick up the tab instead? As state and federal policymakers grapple with that question, we delve into why finding a fair solution is harder than you'd think. Catch the podcast [here](#).

Interested in pursuing a career as a flight nurse or paramedic?



Applications for the 2024 Critical Care Transport Academy (CCTA) are OPEN. It provides education and training, developed and presented by volunteer flight crew members from around the country.

This Academy (conducted mostly through various online activities) occurs over several months and provides a solid clinical foundation, didactic demonstrations, tools for flight crew orientation, interview practice sessions and more, to help Academy graduates find a flight program career that is the best fit for them. Read more and apply [here](#).

Medscape Medical News: 'Fake Xanax' Tied to Seizures, Coma; Naloxone Ineffective

Medscape Bromazolam, a street drug that has been detected with increasing frequency in the United States, has reportedly caused protracted seizures, myocardial injury, comas, and multiday intensive care stays in three individuals, new data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed. Details are [here](#).

'Broken system': Iowa's rural ambulance services strained

In some parts of Iowa, 911 callers can't be assured an ambulance will arrive. Read more [here](#).

Invisible Landscapes



Scientists' recent discovery of a "new" part of the human body, the interstitium, is an invitation to think differently about our relationship with the world at large. In 2018, scientists discovered a new organ (?) in the human body. You'd think after centuries of cutting ourselves open, we'd know the intimate details of the structures within us by now. Strangely, this body part wasn't missed because it was invisible; it was overlooked because of what our belief systems wouldn't let us perceive. Read about this new organ [here](#).

The Star of Life - The Profession's Symbol with a Misrepresented History



The Star of Life has a rich, yet often misrepresented history. The original Star of Life was designed by the American Medical Association (AMA) in the early 1960s as the "Universal Medical Identification Symbol" (also known as the "Universal Emergency Medical Identification Symbol"). The original intent was for this symbol to be freely available and printed on cards carried by persons with any medical conditions such as diabetes or epilepsy. This universal symbol would be easily recognized by the public and medical professionals during an emergency. Read the full story, by Donnie Woodyard, former Colorado EMTS director, [here](#).

AEMS: AI above the clouds



Dr István Lunczer, Medical Director for TrustAir Aviation, gives an account of the development of their groundbreaking air medical VR tool.

"...We have already begun brainstorming the next steps of the development: how can we create scenarios that are even more lifelike and how can we simulate more realistic emergencies so that the whole air ambulance community can put this latest, cutting-edge technology to good use during their training." The full article may be read [here](#).

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TRAINING

National EMS Safety Summit sponsored by the Mile-High RETAC Foundation

The Mile-High RETAC's 11th Financial Symposium will be held on April 2, 2024, at the Embassy Suites Downtown Denver followed by the 16th Annual National EMS Safety Summit on April 3-5, 2024, at the same location.

As always, the nationally recognized speakers will present up-to-date information for all attendees. For more information as the agendas get finalized, visit www.milehighretac.org

REMINDERS



Click for EMS license plates



Click for EMS Insignia



Click to report safety incidents



RESPONDERSAFETY

On The Highway We've Got Your Back

If you are involved in a roadway incident where you, a fellow responder, or any emergency equipment was struck or nearly struck by an oncoming vehicle, you can now easily report the incident to the national database, ReportStruckBy.com.

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](#).

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.

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 who 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 sustaining members.



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