



EMSAC Members' Update

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

May 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 email emsac@emsac.org.

MAY'S USEFUL MUSING

"An optimist is a man who gets treed by a lion but enjoys the scenery."— Walter Winchell.

EMSAC NEWS



The EMSAC Blog

Region news

Read our new monthly Region News column, featuring **Region 4**, on the EMSAC Blog [here](#).

2023 state advocacy success

EMSAC had a very good year at the Colorado Capitol this year. [Read](#) about your association's successes, by EMSAC lobbyist Chris Howes and Advocacy Committee member John Seward.

50th Anniversary Colorado State EMS Conference
1973-2023

November 2-5, 2023



Keystone Resort Conference Center

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

H.O.P.E. Certification Program Colorado-Workplace Wellbeing Summit

Join Women in Emergency Services on June 27th for the [Workplace Well-being Summit](#) at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, Colorado from 8:30-3:30. This event is designed to help workplaces design comprehensive well-being programs that empower people to survive and thrive through tough times, by covering proactive prevention and culture change, early identification of mental health challenges, and preparation for mental health emergencies. The summit is not just about suicide prevention; we all agree we need to get upstream from mental health crises by being proactive and promoting well-being. However, we are not afraid to tackle the tough stuff like major mental health issues, addiction, overdose, and suicidal thoughts. While this event is targeting safety-critical industries such as construction, mining, oil & gas, **first responders**, and healthcare, **everyone is welcome**.

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OTHER NEWS

The Helping Our Heroes Act

May 5, 2023 Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY) and Ann Kuster (D-NH) introduced [H.R. 3104](#), the Helping Our Heroes Act. This bill would establish an “above the line” tax deduction for the time volunteer emergency responders donate to their communities. The Act allows volunteer emergency responders, including firefighters, ambulance services, civil air patrol and search and rescue services, to treat each hour of service or training as a \$20 charitable contribution for the purpose of a tax deduction. This deduction would be available for up to 300 hours per year. Additionally, this deduction would be an above-the-line deduction, meaning that even those who don’t normally itemize their tax returns would still be eligible for this deduction.

ReportStruckBy.com: A national database for roadway responders to report struck-by incidents

ReportStruckBy.com has been operational for over a year, and ERSI is receiving submissions to the database on a regular basis. All roadway responders should report struck-by incidents to [ReportStruckBy.com](#), whether that incident resulted in death, injury, or property damage. Reporting is anonymous with an option to provide contact information for follow-up by ReponderSafety.com. The reporting form takes approximately 3-4 minutes to complete.

Paramedic educational program attrition accounts for significant loss of potential EMS workforce

Recent concerns for the strength and stability of the emergency medical services (EMS) workforce have fueled interest in enhancing the entry of EMS clinicians into

the workforce. However, the educational challenges associated with workforce entry remain unclear. Our objective was to evaluate the educational pathway of entry into the EMS workforce and to identify factors that lead to the loss of potential EMS clinicians. Read more [here](#).

California hospital wait-time advocacy

Firefighter/paramedics from throughout the state tell the story of dangerously long delays at hospital ERs waiting for the hospital to accept patients. Ambulances are getting stuck -- often for hours at a time, often in hospital corridors waiting "on the wall." These delays are a threat to patient care at the hospital and mean longer response times for critical patients needing an ambulance. AB 40 would force hospitals to meet a standard for offload times, ensuring that ambulances and paramedics can be back in the field responding to emergencies. Watch the advocacy video [here](#).

TRAINING

What EMS needs to know about cybersecurity readiness and response webinar



June 14, 2023 / 12–1:30 pm CT. There are many reasons for hackers to attack EMS networks. According to a report from Critical Insights, cybersecurity breaches in healthcare hit an all-time high in 2021, exposing a record number of patients' protected health information (PHI). Learn from cybersecurity experts and healthcare leaders who have experienced a cyberattack about the potential types of attacks and how to better secure your electronic data. Register [here](#).

REMINDERS



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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](#).

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](#).



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Important EMS Information for You



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.

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