Emergency Medical Services 101

Kevin McElhiney, MPO, Paramedic
Rural EMS Program Manager
National Association of State EMS Officials

Ambulance Volante

Horizontal Taxicabs
Health, Medical Care and Transportation of the Injured (1965) - President's Committee on Traffic Safety

- Emergency Care and Transport of the Injured
  - "Note: Although this section concerns the transportation of the injured, recognition is given to the fact that the facilities and procedures under discussion are equally important to the care and handling of the ill person"

Health, Medical Care and Transportation of the Injured (1965)

- Systems approach
  - Vehicles components as injury factors
  - Emergency care
    - Ambulance training – minimum standards
    - Research
    - Properly equipped hospitals
    - Improved coordination
    - Ambulance criteria
    - Minimum ambulance standards
  - Underwriting costs of ambulance services...especially in rural areas
    - Vehicle operations
    - Minimum ambulance equipment list -- (ACS/COT)
    - Licensing of services
    - Central dispatch
    - General public first aid training

Accidental Death and Disability 1966

National Academy of Sciences/ National Research Council
Accidental Death and Disability - 1966

- Encouraged state ambulance legislation and standards
- EMS personnel standards
- Pilot programs in rural areas
- Communications system improvements
- Trauma registries
- Mass casualty care

We think that the extreme poorness... of emergency services nationwide is contributing to some 10 to 20 (percent) of the annual 56,000 or 57,000 deaths.”

“You would not have not have this in Vietnam where modern systems have been brought to bear and where the death rate from comparable injuries is very low.”

Dr. William Haddon, Jr.

1966

Highway Safety includes emergency medical care and transportation of the injured
The EMS Agenda for the Future

- A vision for future EMS system development
- EMS provider integration with the broad health care system

2006 IOM Reports
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<th>Federal EMS Milestones:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1966: Division of Emergency Treatment and Transfer of the Injured (NHSB)</td>
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<td>1971: EMT-Ambulance National Standard Curriculum (NSC) (NHTSA)</td>
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<td>1973: EMS Systems Act (DHEW)</td>
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<td>1977: EMT-Paramedic NSC (NHTSA) Star of Life (NHTSA)</td>
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<td>1984: Congress authorized EMS-C program (HHS)</td>
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<td>1990: Trauma Systems Planning and Development Act (HHS)</td>
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<td>1996: EMS Agenda for the Future (NHTSA / HRSA)</td>
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<td>2004: ENHANCE 9-1-1 Act (DOT / DOC)</td>
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<td>2005: National EMS Information System (NHTSA / HRSA / CDC)</td>
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<td>2006: FICEMS and IOM Report</td>
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<td>2007: NEMSAC</td>
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EMS is the Intersection

- Health Care
- Public Safety
- Public Health

EMS - National Curricula
- Scope of Practice
- Practice Levels
- Education Agenda
- Protocols/Guidelines
Five Major Recommendations

1. ACN
2. Wireless E9-1-1
3. Fleet location, signal priority, & real-time route guidance systems.
4. Advanced ACN
5. Voice & data communications networks—real time, cross agency

FirstNet will be a bigger, more reliable, resilient and secure wireless "pipe".

Public Safety-Grade
- Reliable
- Hardened
- Redundant
- Secure

Public Safety Applications
- 4G data for video & web
- Non-mission-critical voice
- Existing and new applications

Public Safety Effectiveness
- Dynamic Priority Access
- Force Multiplier
The further one moves from an emergency medical facility, the more one may need higher levels of local EMS capability, and the less likely that this EMS capability will be available.