

Comment from Kermit Kubitz

One issue that the National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council needs to address is the lack of large numbers of hospital beds for burn victims in the event of wildfire mass medical emergency situations. We have already had wildfires that covered thousands of acres, and destroyed hundreds of homes, but we have not yet seen the worst possible situations involving burn victims in the hundreds or thousands. There is a limited number of hospital beds which are best suited for burn victims, and with the onset of global warming, more extreme weather, earlier and larger wildfires, the possibility of wildfire mass medical emergency situations comes closer and closer. The NEMSAC should address the adequacy of hospital beds and resources for large wildfire situations and victims, and alternative strategies for increasing capacity or responsive ability of health systems to such potential large casualty burn situations.