

Comment from National EMS Management Association

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Oct 31, 2022

The National EMS Management association represents leaders of ambulance and paramedic services across the United States. We appreciate the recent inclusion of post-crash care in the National Roadway Safety and Strategy believe the inclusion of post-crash care in Highway Safety Grant Programs will lead to substantial improvements in both highway safety and the relationships between transportation, and emergency medical service professionals. Particular areas we recommend focus on include as grant programs are developed include:

- Continue to improve the accessibility and quality of training available to emergency responders regarding traffic incident management. Avoid a focus on overly lengthy and complex programs such as those developed for child passenger safety certification and traffic incident management persons and instead focus on essential skills and concepts for responders that can be digested by a large number of responders that may have limited time and opportunity to train in this specific area.
- Recognize that response to rural highways is frequently done by volunteer and other types of small EMS organizations with limited staffing. Ensure grant programs are available to provide EMS responders with highway safety equipment, personal protective equipment and training for rural EMS organizations.
- Continue to fund centers of excellence regarding emergency responder highway safety such as the respondersafety.com website maintained by the Emergency Responder Safety Institute.
- Support development of novel approaches to traffic incident management training, such as virtual reality simulation
- Develop and widely distribute guidelines for the appropriate use of Highway Emergency Response Units that specialize in blocking and/or managing approaching traffic at crash scenes.
- Encourage collaboration between state highway departments, state EMS offices, 9-1-1 centers and responders (EMS, law enforcement, fire and towing services) to develop relationships, build common response procedures and share best practices regarding highway incident management.
- Fund the development and/or standardization of smartphone and/or in vehicle notification technologies to make drivers aware that they are approaching a crash scene with responders present.
- Recognize that a key element of post-crash care, especially in rural areas, is the inter-facility ambulance transportation (IFT) of injured patients. Include IFT providers in collaborative planning efforts to manage and recover from highway incidents.
- Support the standardization and interoperability of vehicle-based crash notification systems with 9-1-1 centers. Support technology that warns motorists of approaching emergency vehicles.

- Encourage standardization of emergency and responder safety features in electric vehicles and support training on response to electric vehicle crashes.

- Support local, regional and national data collection efforts related to post-crash care of injured patients at all hospitals, not just trauma centers