

# The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Office of EMS

## The Role of EMS

Emergency Medical Services, more commonly known as EMS, is a system that responds to emergencies in need of highly skilled clinicians in a prehospital, interfacility or hospital setting. EMS professionals are often the first to identify a healthcare or public health crisis in a community. They also act as a critical component of emergency management and, increasingly, a practitioner of community healthcare. EMS exists at the nexus of public safety, public health, emergency management and public safety.



## The OEMS Mission

NHTSA's Office of EMS strengthens America's emergency medical services by providing national leadership and coordination of people-centered, comprehensive, data-driven, and evidence-based EMS and 911 systems.

## How the OEMS Advances EMS

### COLLECT & USE EMS DATA TO IMPROVE CARE –

Standardized EMS data to support improvements

**ADVANCE EMS SYSTEMS** – Supporting the development of EMS as a coordinated system of care

**PROMOTE EDUCATION** – A nationwide systems approach to EMS training and education

**ENHANCE THE EMS WORKFORCE** – Supporting efforts to strengthen and prepare the EMS workforce nationwide

**ENABLE PREPAREDNESS** – Fostering collaboration to enhance readiness for catastrophic incidents and EMS inclusion

**SUPPORT 911 SYSTEMS** – Leadership and coordination to support and promote optimal 911 services

**EVALUATE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE** – Building better systems through providing guidelines used to benchmark effectiveness

**IMPROVE POST-CRASH CARE** – Sharing EMS data insight to collaborate with transportation officials on motor vehicle crash outcomes

## EMS Snapshot

**1,000,000+** licensed EMS clinicians

Over **12,000** EMS agencies submitting data

**50 million** incident records

References:  
EMS Annual Update (2022)  
National Emergency Medical Services Assessment (2020)

## A Brief History of the Office of EMS

### 2024 – Present

Continues encouraging relationships between EMS, 911 and highway safety officials to facilitate jointly funded projects to improve responses to crashes and other emergencies.

### 2020

EMS/911 prehospital team is established by OEMS as part of the Federal COVID-19 response.

### 2014

The National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines is released.

### 2005

The FICEMS is established.

### 2001

The national EMS database, NEMSIS, framework development begins, powered by NHTSA's OEMS.

### 1995

NHTSA supports the development of a first-ever "National EMS Agenda for the Future."

### 1977

The first national training course published, Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic.

### 1971

The first national curriculum published, Emergency Medical Technician – Ambulance.

### 2022

All 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia share EMS data through the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS).

### 2019

EMS Agenda 2050 is released.

### 2007

The NEMSAC is established.

### 2004

The National 911 Program is created, housed in NHTSA's OEMS.

### 2000

EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach is released.

### 1988

Statewide Technical Assessment program initiated by NHTSA.

### 1973

The EMS Systems Act, funding development and research, is enacted by Congress.

### 1966

"Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society" is published by the National Academy of Sciences, calling for improvement to prehospital trauma care.



The Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) is a collaborative body focused on defining the direction of Federal research and initiatives to support the EMS community, supported administratively by the OEMS.



The National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) is comprised of EMS representatives and consumers to provide advice and recommendations to the DOT and FICEMS, supported administratively by the OEMS.