The EMS Safety Foundation – What it is, what it can do for you, and what you need to know to participate

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Welcome to your introduction to the EMS Safety Foundation

So what is a Webinar?
A Webinar is:
► Real time interactive web technology
► No other hardware is necessary aside from a computer connected to the internet and a microphone- if you choose to speak
► These interactive seminars can also be stored for later asynchronous use

Webinar Basics

Today’s Webinar is recorded!
The presentation and all comments typed in the text box will be available for viewing via the www.EMSSafetyFoundation.org web site within 24 hours

..use white board tools to mark your location.....
Today’s Webinar

- This is an introductory Webinar to share in what the EMS Safety Foundation can do and how you can be involved

Background:

- EMS Safety Foundation has been established to fill a gap in
  - technical knowledge transfer
  - practical interdisciplinary R & D
  - evaluation and implementation of system safety enhancements for EMS and Medical Transport
- It is a not-for-profit institute

Mission

- This is a team of like-minded innovators across EMS Medical Transport and a number of technical disciplines, who share the common mission of enhancing the safety of EMS delivery for all involved.

- To quote Steve “Sid” Caesar – Director IHS ES
  “We want everyone to get home safely each day”

And who are you all?

- EMS services
  - Large and small, volunteer and paid
- Technical Experts
  - Automotive safety expertise
  - Ergonomists
  - Public health researchers
- Industry
  - Insurers
  - Manufacturers
- Policy
  - Local, regional and national

Goals

- The primary goals of bringing this unique group of folks together are to:
  - Share pooled best practices
  - Integrate key technical expertise to address common challenges
  - Advance new multidisciplinary research projects
  - Translate safety technology from appropriate related technical areas to EMS
  - Knowledge transfer from research to practice
What’s in it for you??
As part of the Innovation Consortium..
► Data driven answers to the questions you need answers to now
► Rapid access to state of the art safety information
► Myth busting of the myriad of fixes out there
► Practical access to the experts in the fields beyond what we do
► AVOID REINVENTING THE WHEEL

What’s in it for you??
As part of the Technical Expert Panel..
► Collaborate in a unique knowledge transfer environment
► Direct access to the issues that warrant your expertise
► Unique opportunities for R & D

Real world answers to real world questions -
► What features will enhance safety of my new vehicle purchase?
► What color scheme do I want on my vehicle to make it safest?
► Do I need a helmet, and if so which ones?
► What policies offer the safest system?
► How do I get my team to address safety issues?

Benefit of Safety
► Any cost of addressing these issues is dwarfed in contrast to the huge burden of not doing so - in financial costs let alone the personal, societal, ethical and litigation costs

Plan to …
► Save lives, time and money

R & D ….
Ripoff and Duplicate
Big issues are
- Transport
  - Vehicle
  - Vehicle operations
  - Scene
- Patient handling
- Equipment
  - Protective and other

EMS Transport Safety
- ‘patient safety’
  AND also
- ‘provider’ and ‘public safety’

Problems
- Absent Standards
- Unique safety and hazard protection needs
- A number of less than appropriate ‘solutions’ out there

Project Areas
- Vehicle design and safety
- Vehicle operations safety
- Scene Safety
- Protective devices
- Patient handling
- Equipment
- Policy

Hot topics
- Vehicle design and safety
  - Crashworthiness and Occupant protection
  - Ergonomics
- Vehicle operations safety
  - Driver feedback
  - Hours of service
- Scene Safety
  - Visibility and conspicuity
- Protective devices
  - Head protection
- Patient handling
  - Stretchers and lifting devices
- Policy
  - EMS Z.15
A few basic ground rules

- The access to this innovation consortium is limited by the available technology and by what is a realistic and manageable group size.

Participation and membership

- Basically three dimensions
  - Innovation Consortium
  - Technical Expert panel
  - Affiliate membership

How it works

- Participation in and membership of the Innovation Consortium and the Technical Expert Panel is by invitation and EMS Safety Foundation Board approval only

- Open membership is available for a general Affiliate membership of the EMS Safety Foundation as of 2008

- Corporate sponsorship, involvement and participation is subject to Board approval

Passwords are NOT transferable

- Any participants utilizing or providing a transferred password without the authorization will be excluded both from the EMS Safety Foundation Innovation Consortium, Technical Expert Panel

- There are no exceptions to this rule.

IC What’s involved

- Register interest
- Complete service profile form
- Once approved - Get login for membership software
- Membership annual dues
- Get a passport to prepare for May field trip
- Give and take

Technical Expert Panel What’s involved

- Register interest
- Forward resume
- Once approved - Get login for membership software
- Dues only for corporate members
- Get a passport to prepare for May field trip
- Give and take
Corporate involvement

- Register interest
- Complete online profile of their company
- Demonstrate a corporate focus on safety issues
- Once approved - Sponsorship plan negotiated
- Get login for membership software

All participants will be required to share some basic information regarding their professional or operational environment so that their priorities can best be addressed.

Time line
Dec 2007-June 2008

- Gathering of membership information and profiles
- Review of project areas and timelines
- Follow up Webinar pre – TRB meeting and then at ~ 2 monthly intervals
- Jan 16th TRB meeting, DC
- Rettmobil site visit May 14-17th 2008
- Proceed down project timelines

Vehicle Occupant Safety design

2007 European design
Safety technology is a key focus

Ergonomic design

Major events for innovation sharing
– but regional and often language isolation
http://www.rettmobil.org/
Ergonomic layout and equipment

Interface

- Primarily via the Webinars, with email exchange
- TRB and related EMS meetings annually, face to face or virtual
- International best practice delegation

Intellectual Property

- What happens should we invent something clever?

Knowledge transfer and information sharing

Use proven safety tools

Learn from existing best practices
1. Emergency Vehicle Operations Policy
2. Vehicle operations training and evaluation
3. A program of graduated driver responsibility
4. Drivers only age 25 and over
5. Complete stop at an intersection
6. Restricted use of Red Lights and Sirens
7. Monitoring of emergency vehicle operations

WEMSA Leadership
WEMSA – October 2007

WEMSA covered some key and important policies and procedures.

- What about hours of service?
- What about visibility at the scene? For providers and the vehicles...
- What about protective equipment?
- What about ambulance design safety?
- What about reporting of adverse events?

September 11, 2007
U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety & Health Administration
www.osha.gov

Worker visibility Act:
Help is on the way!! November 24th 2008

There are grants to assist you.
Science not, next best guess

Policy and practice ignorant of existing technical safety data

Coming Soon!
Traffic Incident Management Systems (TIMS)
- USFA report to be released any day
- Research and writing by IFSTA
- Covers setting up safe roadway incident work areas and using unified command at these incidents
- Will be available in a downloadable format

American National Standard
ANSI/ASSE Z15.1-2006
Safe Practices for Fleet Motor Vehicle Operations

Valuable information from the transportation industry

ASSE Transactions, Fall 2007
**Summary**

- EMS Safety Foundation is a not-for-profit, multidisciplinary, virtual think tank and test bed for EMS safety innovation and knowledge transfer.
- It is a virtual network integrating the end users and the technical experts.
- A tool to enhance the safety of delivery of EMS services.

**Thank you! Any Questions??**

an electronic recording and a .pdf handout of this presentation awaits you online
www.EMSSafetyFoundation.org

Happy Holidays to all!!!