

Conclusions: These results have important implications for prehospital disaster preparedness, specifically, for paramedic education and training.

Keywords: emergency medical services; fear; paramedic; response; risk perception

Prehosp Disast Med 2009;24(2):s44–s45

A New Platform to Enhance the Transportation Safety Aspects of Emergency Medical Services

Nadine Levick,¹ Arthur Cooper,² Eileen Frazer³

1. Emergency Medical Services Safety Foundation, New York, New York USA
2. Harlem Hospital/Columbia University, New York, New York USA
3. Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Services, Anderson, South Carolina USA

Introduction: Historically, emergency medical services has focused on and been driven by acute and emergency health care, and its expertise and oversight are based in these areas. The issues of transportation systems safety engineering have had minimal focus. Identification of a transportation platform to address the research and technology aspects of EMS transportation in the United States is described.

Methods: The need for an independent, national transportation and automotive platform with interdisciplinary involvement, an interest in EMS, the scope for development of a research agenda and funding opportunities, and the need to address the goal of improving patient, provider, and public safety transportation systems engineering, was identified, and a pathway to address this need was implemented.

Results: The Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies is a comprehensive, independent, multidisciplinary infrastructure that is highly skilled and equipped to provide a platform to bring together necessary expertise to address transportation safety systems issues relates to EMS. The TRB annual meeting included submissions and presentations of key issues impacting EMS transportation safety. This facilitated recognition of EMS transportation safety needs. The EMS Transport Safety Subcommittee was established in 2007, and commenced determining EMS focus areas. In 2008, it held an inaugural interdisciplinary Ambulance Transportation Safety Summit, attracting 49 on-site attendees and <100 electronic participants. Development of an EMS transportation Safety research agenda currently is underway.

Conclusions: The establishment of a nationally focused Subcommittee addressing EMS transportation safety within the National Academies Transportation Research Board has been achieved, and demonstrated that such a platform has a role in enhancing EMS transportation safety development.

Keywords: ambulance; emergency medical services; issues; safety; transportation

Prehosp Disast Med 2009;24(2):s45

First Aid and Harm Minimization for Victims of Road Trauma

Paul Arbon

Flinders University, Willunga, South Australia Australia

Introduction: This project investigated the use of first aid by bystanders at road traffic crashes (RTCs). The project was performed in recognition of the significant impact of early first aid intervention on the mortality and morbidity of RTCs.

Objective: The aims of this project were to investigate the: (1) prevalence of first aid training; (2) incidence of being a bystander and providing first aid; (3) range of first aid skill being used; (4) motivation to intervene; and (5) perceived impact of first aid training.

Methods: An Internet-based survey was distributed to a population of 12,500 road users and 773 responded. Statistical and thematic analyses of data were completed.

Results: A total of 77% of participants had first aid training at some stage, 28% held a current first aid qualification, 11% had provided first aid at a RTC, and 75.3% who had provided first aid were traveling in a vehicle. First aid training and age increased the likelihood of intervention, as did owning a first aid kit or pocket mask. The most commonly used first aid skills were changing posture, opening an airway and providing comfort and reassurance. Key concerns for first aiders included feeling a lack of follow-up, or opportunity to debrief.

Conclusions: First aid training is an enabler for providing care at RTCs. Strategies to increase training, improve support, and increase confidence of first responders are discussed.

Keywords: bystander; emergency care; first aid; road traffic crash; skills

Prehosp Disast Med 2009;24(2):s45

The Changing Nature of Emergency Medical Services Delivery: Potential Models for the Future!

Frank Archer

Monash University, Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice, Frankston, Victoria Australia

Introduction: Internationally, emergency medical services (EMS) are under pressure from increasing demand. Australian demand for EMS is increasing 8–16% per year, with similar trends occurring internationally. Increasingly, policy makers are exploring alternative models to the long-standing service delivery philosophy traditionally based on, “if we get called we go, if we go we transport, if we transport we transport to the nearest public hospital facility”. The aim of this presentation is to stimulate discussion on a range of potential models to contextualize contemporary thinking on future EMS delivery.

Methods: A literature review identifying new and emerging models for EMS delivery was conducted.

Results: The following models have been identified: (1) current EMS model; (2) public sector model; (3) private sector model; (4) mixed public/private sector model; (5) chain of survival model; (6) public safety model; (7) public health model; (8) social support/welfare model; (9) primary care model; (10) continuity of care model; shared care model;