

CONNECTICUT EMS ADVISORY BOARD

EMS PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE



State of Connecticut Legislature
Hartford, Connecticut

10 March 2015

Dear Legislator,

This is a letter of support for the Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (CEMSAB).

My name is William (Bill) Ackley. I am the committee chairperson of the CEMSAB EMS Preparedness Committee (EPC). I am a Connecticut Department of Public Health Licensed Paramedic and EMS Instructor with nearly 34 years in the Connecticut EMS System. During my tenure, I have worked in volunteer, commercial, third service and fire-based EMS systems in Connecticut and New York. Currently, I am an EMS Operations Captain for a non-profit third service in Connecticut where I have worked since 1999. My specialized expertise is in EMS Safety, EMS Special Operations, including Mass Casualty/Multi-patient Incidents, mass gathering events, EMS preparedness/management, active assailant and all-hazards response for Emergency Medical Services.

I have been the EPC chair for approximately 16 months. My time with this body has been enlightening to say the least. It is remarkable to me that a state of over 3 million residents the entire EMS System is overseen by a hand-full of state employees and supported by the work of the all volunteer CEMSAB to meet the needs of the services, the providers and the people.

The EMS Preparedness Committee is illustrative of EMS across Connecticut, comprised of approximately 15 volunteers that represent all five EMS Regions. These members work for commercial, non-profit third service, volunteer, municipal and fire-based EMS agencies that are responsible for urban, suburban & rural communities. The diversity of the communities and the multiple service models present some lofty challenges when addressing concerns and trying to develop guidelines that will work across the broad-spectrum that is the Connecticut EMS System. It is the dedication of these members and commitment to progress that has driven the EPC.

An example of this collaborative thinking is the ***Emergency Response During Hazardous Conditions Guidelines*** that were recently presented and unanimously accepted by the CEMSAB. This document provides guidance and expertise to community and services leaders who may need to alter emergency responses during extreme conditions in order to reduce risk to first responders and the public. This document is relevant to all size communities and service models.

The ***Emergency Response During Hazardous Conditions*** also represents the first step towards the committee's greater goal, to build a single resource for all communities to use in updating their EMS plan. The intent is to provide "*best practices*" guidance to services and communities as they address their EMS special operations needs. For 2015 the EPC has undertaken a very ambitious task, the building of ***All-Hazards EMS Response Guidelines*** document. This document will address the challenges EMS providers face beyond the day-to-day mission of "*doing the most good for each patient*".

EMS is unique in its responsibility, part healthcare provider and part public safety entity. The men & women who respond must be ready for the unusual, infrequent and unimaginable to do the "*most good for the greatest number of patients*". Examples include weather emergencies such as Super storm Sandy or Blizzard Nemo to an explosion at a power plant, or an active assailant at a mall. An epidemic spreading through a community to a pandemic spreading across the globe EMS will be part of the solution. It won't matter if it's an act of terrorism, a bleacher collapse at a high school graduation or any other event or condition that injures or places people in jeopardy, it will require an equipped, organized, educated EMS response. The intent of the ***All-Hazards EMS Response Guidelines*** will be continue to move EMS into a statewide response team with standard practices.

The ***Emergency Response During Hazardous Conditions Guidelines***, as well as, the building of the ***All Hazards EMS Response Guidelines*** are examples of what this group of committed volunteers is willing to develop beyond their other fulltime responsibilities. The EPC is not unique, but reflective of what the Connecticut EMS Advisory Board accomplishes without compensation. Each participating member is dedicated to EMS as a vocation and focused on the needs of the providers and patients.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this for your consideration. I look forward to any inquiries you may have.

Respectfully submitted,



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