



**International Association of Fire Chiefs
EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call
June 10, 2021**

Attendees: McEvoy, Riley, Croom, Becker, Davis, Maxwell

Chief McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:05pm ET

Fire-Rescue Med 2021 Planning

Chief McEvoy updated the group on the Fire-Rescue Med 2021 conference which will occur the following day. There are more than 400 registrants for the online conference. The EMS Section Board agreed that the EMS Section may want to continue holding either virtual or hybrid versions of FRM in the future due to the positive reception that the online conference has received in 2020 and 2021. The EMS Section Board also discussed the possibility of merging FRM with the EMS track of classes at FRI.

Fire-Rescue International 2021 Planning

Members of the EMS Section Board discussed plans for the FRI conference including the EMS Section business meeting and identification of materials to include at the EMS Section booth during the trade show portion of the conference. Chief Croom also asked Mr. Davis to work with other IAFC staff to ensure approval of the EMS Section bylaws amendment is placed on the agenda for the IAFC Board as well as the EMS Section business meeting. Mr. Davis confirmed that he will work with Ms. Booth to complete this.

Legislative Update

Mr. Davis provided the group with an update on several pieces of legislation and regulations:

- NAEMSP Proposal: The IAFC has continued to collaborate with the IAFF and other national fire and EMS organizations to oppose the NAEMSP's proposed legislation. The IAFC and other groups shared a formal letter of opposition to the NAEMSP earlier this month and has not received comment from NAEMSP. The IAFC will continue to monitor for any signs that the bill may be introduced in Congress.
- Ground Extenders Update: The IAFC is continuing to support legislation that will reauthorize the Medicare ground ambulance extender payments. The current authorization will expire on December 31, 2022. The IAFC is supporting H.R. 2454 which will provide a five-year reauthorization.
- Immigration Initiative: The IAFC is aware of some proposals to identify EMS practitioners as an area for prioritized immigration of individuals with existing EMS certifications. The IAFC has no position on this issue at this time and will continue to monitor for any formal proposals.

Update on First on the Scene Course

Chief McEvoy updated the EMS Section Board members on the ongoing collaboration between the IAFC and the NAEMT regarding the FOTS course. The course materials are finalized and the NAEMT is beginning to promote the class. The NAEMT has asked the IAFC to heavily promote the course across the IAFC membership and not just to the EMS Section. The Board unanimously supported this and agreed that the larger IAFC membership likely would be interested in the course. Chief McEvoy also mentioned other discussions he has had with the NAEMT about the possibility of developing a mentorship program.

Meeting at EMS World

Chief McEvoy updated the group about his preparations to hold an EMS Section. Mr. Davis confirmed that Executive Director Rob Brown approved the group to travel to Atlanta to hold both a strategic planning meeting as well as a meeting with the NAEMT Board of Directors. Chief McEvoy will work on registering everyone for the conference.

Update from the National Registry

Chief McEvoy reported that he recently attended a meeting of the NREMT Board of Directors. Two items discussed at the NREMT meeting focused on practical skills testing. Skills testing will move into a portfolio completed throughout the course whereas final testing will involve a standardized total patient care scenario, probably involving simulation to assure standardization. The current extremely high pass rates in practical exams calls into question the validity of the testing. Additionally, continued competency will undergo changes in search of reliable ways to assess continued competency other than classroom education. Chief McEvoy also reported that the IAFC's new representative to the NREMT Board, Chief Jim Davis, was very warmly received and welcomed.

IAFC Board of Directors Update

Chief Croom updated the group on several topics from the IAFC Board of Directors. Several policies, including the one restricting attendance at competing conferences, are under review and may be changed. Chief Croom also confirmed that there will not be a presidential luncheon at FRI this year.

Update on Colorado Legislation

Chief Croom updated the group on the status of legislative proposals in Colorado to restrict the use of ketamine and other sedatives by EMS agencies. The bill was passed out of committee and has had some amendments to it which make it somewhat less concerning than earlier iterations. The EMS Section Board discussed concerns that this legislation could inspire other states to develop legislative restrictions on the use of sedatives and other medications by EMS agencies.

Chief McEvoy adjourned the call at 3:51pm ET