



## International Association of Fire Chiefs

### EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call

October 14, 2021

*Attendees:* McEvoy, Riley, Deardorff, Becker, Maxwell, Shimer, Croom, LaSala

Chief McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. ET

#### **Meeting at EMS World**

Chief McEvoy discussed the EMS World conference. The EMS Section was unable to meet with the board of the National Association of EMTs (NAEMT). However, they did attend the Joint National EMS Leadership Forum (JNEMSLF). The major discussion of the meeting concerned challenges in hiring and retaining EMS personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic. The EMS Section Board discussed proposals to address this problem, including recruiting military personnel to join the EMS workforce.

The JNEMSLF also discussed how the shortage in semiconductors is affecting the delivery of apparatus. The chip shortage is becoming a major reason for the delay of the delivery of ambulances. It has been brought to the attention of Congress in recent hearing testimony by IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chief John Butler. The JNEMSLF also discussed challenges with implementing the 9-8-8 suicide hotline.

#### **Fire Service Representative to the NEMSAC**

Chief Shimer report that Chief Lillian Bonsignore, the chief of EMS operation for FDNY, had been selected to be the Fire-Based EMS representative on the U.S. National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC). The EMS Section Board discussed developments with the NEMSAC and U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of EMS.

#### **IAFC Board of Directors Update**

Chief Croom had nothing to report.

#### **U.S. Senate Examination of 2020 PPE Shortage**

Mr. LaSala reported that the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is examining the causes behind the PPE shortage during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. He asked the EMS Section Board members to send descriptions of the challenges in obtaining PPE to him for submission to the committee.

#### **Federal Update**

Mr. LaSala updated the EMS Section Board about federal legislative and regulatory issues. The Democrats in the House and Senate still are working out a compromise to pass both infrastructure and reconciliation bills to implement President Biden's domestic agenda. The IAFC submitted to joint letters

with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding cost reporting for Medicare providers and concerns that new “surprise billing” regulations would apply to interfacility transport. The IAFC also joined the American Ambulance Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, IAFF, and NAEMT in requesting that Congress prevent the proposed 4% to 6% cut in Medicare reimbursements for EMS providers and suppliers due to sequestration.

### **Roundtable**

Chief Maxwell reported that the National EMS Information System is working on performance metrics. He also reported that the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Association of State EMS Officials are updating their preparedness guide. He also reported that he attended the National Wildfire Coordinating Group – Emergency Medical Committee meeting. The EMS Section Board discussed Fire-Rescue Med in 2022 and whether it should have virtual and in-person components. Chief Croom announced that nation Crash Responder Safety Week is November 8 -14, 2021.

Chief McEvoy adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.