



## RESOLUTION 2007-02

### Emergency Medical Services at Wildland Fires

**W**hereas, the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) recognizes the need for high-quality emergency medical services (EMS) be provided at Medical Units to wildland firefighters and support staff through a standardized and legal system of emergency health care; and

**Whereas**, states have the legislated authority and responsibility to verify and assure that EMS meets or exceeds minimum standards when provided to people residing and working in their state; and

**Whereas**, local EMS resources, including personnel and ambulances services, are properly certified or licensed by the appropriate state or local agency, operate under local medical direction, and know the local protocols and capabilities of the area healthcare system, and it is desirable to have a comparable organized national approach for wildland fires; and

**Whereas**, failure to receive proper state level authorization as EMS personnel or ambulance services may be in violation of state statutes, making individuals and organizations both civilly and criminally liable; and

**Whereas**, NASEMSO recognizes that the agencies responsible for wildland fire incident command and resource deployment often do so under adverse circumstances and resort to deployment of EMS personnel and ambulances from other states; and

**Whereas**, the “National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Medical Unit Operating Standards for Integration with State EMS” has resulted in limited standardization and the detection of conditions in medical units of great concern or basis for action by state EMS offices, such as the utilization of EMS personnel who have no valid license in any state;

**Whereas**, efforts to establish comprehensive standards for medical unit operations, including equipment, staffing, scope of practice, medical transportation and others have not been fully developed under the EMS Group of the Safety and Health Working Team under the NWCG;

**Whereas**, it is desirable to have an organized national approach for granting legal recognition to out-of-state emergency medical personnel and transportation services that ensures that such personnel and resources are appropriately credentialed (granted the legal authorization to practice) and operate under appropriate medical direction; and

**Whereas**, it is not possible for states to develop a system for granting legal recognition to out-of-state EMS resources in the absence of comprehensive standards comparable to those that have been adopted for wildland firefighting operations;

**N**ow, **therefore be it resolved** that the National Association of State EMS Officials renews the call upon the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and all federal and state agencies responding to or deploying EMS resources for wildland fires to partner with NASEMSO to create contemporary and comprehensive standards to be followed when identifying and using resources from the incident state as well as other states; and

**N**ow, therefore be it resolved that the National Association of State EMS Officials pledges to work with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and the National Interagency Fire Center to identify and implement a workable resolution and provide appropriate and accountable out-of-hospital medical care and safety to the firefighters and others responding to incidents across the United States.

Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2007.



Fergus Laughridge  
NASEMSO 2006-08 President



Shawn Rogers  
NASEMSO 2007-08 Secretary

**Intended recipients:**

National Wildfire Coordinating Group  
Bureau of Land Management  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Park Service  
USDA Forest Service, Fire Systems Research  
USDA Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management  
Intertribal Timber Council

National Association of State Foresters  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Fire  
Administration  
Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS)  
National Emergency Management Association  
National Federation of State Medical Examiners

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**National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials**

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