Handbook for EMS Medical Directors

Program Introduction
Colleagues:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Health Affairs (OHA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) are pleased to deliver this Handbook for EMS Medical Directors of local departments and agencies involved in emergency medical services (EMS) response.

Medical directors provide critical oversight and medical direction to ensure that effective emergency medical care is provided to millions of patients throughout the United States. In addition to providing medical oversight and direction, EMS medical directors support EMS personnel and first responders through training, protocol development, and resource deployment advice. This handbook provides a baseline overview of key roles and responsibilities to assist current and prospective medical directors in performing their important missions.

On behalf of the U.S. DHS, we thank you for your service to the Nation’s EMS.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander G. Garza, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and
Chief Medical Officer

Ernest Mitchell, Jr.
U.S. Fire Administrator
• This program will provide the new medical director with a fundamental orientation to the roles that define the position of the medical director while providing the experienced medical director with a useful reference tool.

• It will explore the numerous nuances found in the EMS industry and describe the critical elements associated with the position.
• Project funded by the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Health Affairs and developed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) with assistance from the United States Fire Administration

• The *EMS Medical Directors Handbook* is intended to supplement, not replace resources such as textbooks and other training courses
• Project Team consisted of members from the following associations and organizations
  – International Association of Fire Chiefs
  – International Association of Fire Fighters
  – National Association of EMS Physicians
  – National Association of State EMS Officials
  – USFA National Fire Data Center

• A wide spectrum of industry stakeholder groups provided technical review and feedback