NAEMT EMS SAFETY COURSE

NAEMT Goal: “to help reduce the number and intensity of injuries incurred by EMS practitioners in carrying out their work through a focused education program.”

Purpose of the Course: “…to increase students’ awareness and understanding of EMS safety standards and practices, and develop their ability to effectively implement these practices when on duty.”

NAEMT Position Statements on EMS Safety

• EMS Practitioner Safety
• EMS Patient Safety
• Ambulance Safety
• Safety Restraint Use in EMS

“NAEMT supports the development of a culture of safety in all EMS systems in our nation. NAEMT is committed to advocating for the safest practices and regulations that protect and promote EMS patient and practitioner wellness.”

September, 2009

Course Design

• One-day program
• Interactive lecture, discussion, group activities
• Case studies using real incidents
• 8 hours continuing education credit (CECBEMS)
• Presented in 8 modules

Course Modules

• Module 1: Introduction
  — Discusses the need for developing a Culture of Safety in EMS through a series of real-life case studies
• Module 2: Crew Resource Management
  — Adapts an airline industry program created to prevent aircraft accidents to the EMS environment
  — Stresses crew communications, avoidance of ambiguity, distraction and complacency, and maintaining situational awareness

Course Modules

• Module 3: Emergency Vehicle Safety:
  — Reviews principles of defensive driving
  — Discusses dangers inherent in the design of today’s ambulances
  — Issues discussed include use of warning lights and sirens and avoidance of common distractions
• Module 4: Operational Scene Safety
  — Focus on safety while operating on the highway
Course Modules

• Module 5: Safe Patient Handling
  – Discusses frequency and severity of back injuries in EMS
  – Discusses techniques and devices for lifting, carrying and securing patients
• Module 6: Patient Practitioner & Bystander Safety
  – Provides information on dealing with violent scenes and patients

Course Modules

• Module 7: Personal Health
  – Discusses ways to maintain personal health in an EMS environment
  – Presents information on the effects of sleep deprivation and how it can influence the practitioner’s performance
• Module 8: Conclusion
  – Challenges the student to become a part of the change to a Culture of Safety in EMS

Student Resource Guide

• Supplemental information to program modules
• Articles, papers on EMS Safety
• Information and web-sites for EMS Safety organizations
• Links to larger documents through NAEMT web-site
• Sample safety policies and protocols

NAEMT EMS Safety Course Rollout

EMS Today Conference
Baltimore, MD
March 1, 2011

For more information about the course, send email to GlennL15@aol.com
To sign up for the class in Baltimore, go to www.emstoday.com