

A focus on personal, patient and community safety...



APRIL 1, 2025 13th EMS Financial Symposium | **APRIL 2-4, 2025** 17th Annual National EMS Safety Summit: A Safety Academy



17th Annual National EMS Safety Summit: A Safety Academy

A Focus on Personal, Patient, and Community Safety

***Convened by the Mile-High Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma
Advisory Council (Mile-High RETAC) since 2008
Embassy Suites by Hilton- Downtown Denver
1420 Stout Street, Denver, Colorado 80202***

***17th Annual National EMS Safety
Summit
Conference Speakers***

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Krista Haugen, MN, RN, CMTE

National Director of Patient Safety, Global Medical Response



Krista Haugen currently serves as the National Director of Patient Safety for Global Medical Response and has over 30 years of experience in the healthcare industry. She cared for patients during her twenty-five years of clinical nursing in emergency departments, critical care units, and as a flight nurse. She survived a helicopter crash while on duty in 2005 and subsequently co-founded the Survivors Network for the Air Medical Community, an innovative resource to help educate and support industry survivors, families, and team members.

Krista served as a voting member of the Rotorcraft Occupant Protection Working Group which studied rotorcraft crash-resistant fuel systems, seats, and structure to maximize survival and decrease injuries in crashes. Recommendations from this group were presented to the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee, positively influencing factors contributing to crash survivability in the helicopter air ambulance industry.

Krista is a nationally recognized public speaker and has been featured at local and regional safety events as well as national conferences such as the Air Medical Transport Conference (AMTC). She has written numerous industry publications and has been a guest on several podcasts. Krista's work in the air medical safety realm earned her the AAMS Jim Charlson Safety Award (2017).

Between her current position and serving as part of incident management teams for numerous industry crashes, both rotor and fixed wing, she has accumulated

significant experience in managing the complexities of high-impact events. She shares her perspectives on these events as a Regent and faculty for the AAMS Leadership Incident Fortification Training (LIFT) Institute. Her professional interests include High Reliability, system design, human performance, Crew Resource Management, Just Culture, and medical transport risk mitigation. She is also passionate about and committed to supporting well-being and resilience in healthcare professionals and emergency responders.

She holds a Master's Degree in Nursing from the University of Washington (Tacoma) with an emphasis on population-based nursing and is a Certified Medical Transport Executive (CMTE).

Austin Wingate, NRP, CCEMT-P

EMS Chief, Grand County EMS



Austin Wingate is an experienced paramedic with a career focused on quality, safety, and provider well-being. An EMS professional since 2006, his passion is creating systems that allow EMS providers to deliver excellent patient care in a supportive and sustainable environment. He has dedicated countless hours towards improving safety and risk mitigation in the Ground IFT environment, driving forward progress in this critical space across Colorado and beyond. Serving as the Chief of Grand County EMS in Colorado, Austin leads a third-service EMS department responsible for a territory the size of Rhode Island and is committed to building an environment where career EMS professionals can thrive.

Roger Patterson,

*Commander, Health and Safety Officer,
Austin - Travis County EMS*



Roger Patterson is currently the Safety Officer for Austin-Travis County EMS. He began his EMS career in Alaska as a member of the Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department. He completed his paramedic training at the University of Iowa and began his career at A/TCEMS in 2006. Over the next 16 years, he was assigned to the Department's Special Operations Section as a Field Paramedic, FTO, Captain, and Commander. He transitioned into the Safety Officer role in 2022 and is currently responsible for managing the Department's OHS Program, which covers over 650 uniformed and civilian employees. He has also been a member of Texas Task Force 1 for 17 years, serving most recently as a Swiftwater Boat Squad Leader.

Roger was born and raised in Alaska. He graduated from Princeton University and earned his graduate certificate in Public Health Preparedness from the Penn State Hershey College of Medicine. He enjoys the outdoors and lives north of Austin with his wife, Heather, and their two children.

Scott Bourn, PhD, RN, FACHE

VP Clinical Quality & Impact, Securisyn Medical, Co-Founder and Faculty, NAEMSP Quality and Safety Course



Scott Bourn PhD, RN, FACHE has a rich and diverse background in EMS, emergency & critical care nursing, and education. His career roles include: field paramedic, emergency department and critical care nurse, EMS system coordinator, director of a university EMS degree program, researcher, and senior clinical executive for two national healthcare organizations. He has also served as the president of the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE), Board Liaison for the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP), and President of Advocates for EMS. He is widely published and has lectured throughout North America. His work has focused on defining, measuring, and improving patient outcomes and experience.

Dr. Bourn is the Chair of the Research Leadership Group at ESO, a Mentor in the Leadership Mentoring Network of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Co-Founder and Faculty for the NAEMSP Quality & Safety Course, Secretary and Board Member for the GMR Foundation for Research and Education, Advisory Board Member for the Prehospital Care Research Forum, and on the Editorial Advisory Board of the International Journal of Paramedicine. He also serves as a regular volunteer in the food pantry at the Douglas/Elbert Counties Help & Hope Center, addressing food and other necessities for homeless, low income and the working poor, as well as Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, building and maintaining trails in Colorado's mountains.

David Bryson, EMT

UC DOT NHTSA, EMS Specialist



With NHTSA OEMS since 1995. Fairfax VFD Life Member and Immediate Past President Chief since 1989

Frederic Hass, JR., MS,NRP, DICO-C

Geisinger EMS, Safety Manager



Fred Haas, NRP, MS is a Paramedic Shift Commander responsible for Health and Safety at Sussex County EMS Serving the beaches of southern Delaware. He holds a BS degree in Healthcare Administration and a Master's in Occupational Safety and Health and is certified Designated Infection Control Officer (DICO-C). He is also a Graduate Safety Professional (GSP). After graduating from Williamsport Hospital Paramedic Training Institute in 1985, he worked for many EMS services in central Pennsylvania including hospital, fire,

private, and air-medical EMS. In addition, to his work as Shift Commander with SCEMS, he is also a hazmat technician, and toxmedic. He authored an article in April 2014 Fire Engineering on the stat's toxmedic program. At SCEMS he received awards as Paramedic of the Year in 2002, Field Training Officer of the Year in 2003 and 2007, and Supervisor of the Year in 2010 and 2012. In 2018, Fred was the recipient of Robert W. Jones EMS Instructor/Educator Award given by the Delaware State EMS Association to their instructor of the year. Fred frequently speaks at professional conferences in the EMS and Hazardous Materials Response fields. As he approaches "retirement", he has recently taken on the position of EMS Manager for Knoebel's Amusement Park in central Pennsylvania.

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Matthew R. Streger, Esq., MPA, NRP

Attorney at Law, Keavney & Streger, LLC



Matthew R. Streger is a paramedic and attorney with more than thirty-five years of EMS experience. Matthew is a Partner at the law firm of Keavney & Streger in New Jersey where he focuses his practice on the needs of EMS agencies and healthcare providers. He is the recipient of the 2018 New Jersey State Bar Association Health Law Distinguished Service Award, the 2012 Service to the Bar Award, and led his agency to the 2014 New Jersey EMS System of the Year Award. He is admitted to practice in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He is also a Principal at the consulting and education firm of EMSaegis, LLC.

Matthew has practiced law since 2006. He is a past Chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association Health Law Section and a past leader in the Young Lawyers Division. Matthew previously worked in EMS systems in New Jersey,

New York, South Carolina and Ohio. He served as the Executive Director of Mobile Health Services (EMS) at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Jersey and the Deputy Commissioner of EMS in Cleveland. He was a member of the Panel of Commissioners for the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) from 2015 to 2020 and is a principal member of the CAAS 4.0 Standards Committee.

Matthew completed his Paramedic Training at the UMDNJ School of Health-Related Professions in Newark, New Jersey. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from the City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a Master of Public Administration Degree from Clemson University, and a Juris Doctor from Seton Hall University School of Law.

Matthew actively serves as a Per-Diem EMT for the Cherry Hill Fire Department EMS in New Jersey.

[Chris Hilliard, MC, GSP, DICO-P, NR-P](#)
Health and Safety Coordinator, Sussex County EMS



Chris Hilliard is a dedicated Paramedic and Health and Safety Coordinator at Sussex County EMS, where he has served for the past 10 years. He earned his Associate's and Bachelor's degrees in Applied Health Studies with a concentration in EMS from Pennsylvania College of Technology, where he also completed his Paramedic certification. Chris further advanced his expertise by obtaining a Master's degree in Occupational Safety and Health from Columbia Southern University. He holds the Graduate Safety Practitioner (GSP) designation from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals and is a Certified Designated Infection Control Officer through the International Board for Specialty Certifications. Additionally, Chris has completed OSHA 30 outreach training through the Department of Labor. His extensive education and certifications reflect his commitment to both emergency medical services and occupational safety.

Douglas Kupas, MD, NRP, FAEMS, FACEP

Professor of Emergency Medicine, Medical Director, Geisinger Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Program, Director, Resuscitation Programs



Douglas F. Kupas, MD, NRP, FAEMS

Dr. Kupas is an EMS physician and emergency physician who has researched and advocated for EMS safety for over 30 years. He began his career as an EMT/Paramedic, and later as a physician became board certified in both emergency medicine and EMS medicine. Dr. Kupas is the editor of the NAEMT Safety textbook, and his academic interests include both patient safety and practitioner safety in EMS. He currently serves as the President of the National Association of EMS Physicians.

David McCardle, MD

President Tac Med MD PLLC



Dr. McArdle is a Board-Certified Emergency Physician. He is also a Colorado POST certified Peace Officer. He is a decorated reserve officer with the Denver Police Department. His 30 years of service was primarily in patrol. He currently is assigned to the DPD Academy as well as being a Tactical Medical Instructor for Red Rocks Community College Police Academy. He has taught Basic Officer Rescue Practices for a variety of state & local police in both SWAT & Patrol domestically as well as internationally. He provides medical oversight for contractors engaged in field medical care related to Diplomatic Security for the United States Department of State. He was the Chair for the Physician Section of the IACP for 10 years. He is an Advanced Trauma Life Support Instructor. He has over 50 years of service as a volunteer firefighter in Greensburg, Pa. He is also a plank holder with Mutual Aid Ambulance Service. In his youth he was a special deputy in a Bloodhound tracking unit. He teaches both armed and open-handed self-defense to civilians and field expedient medical care. His most recent publication was on the Consensus Paper on Acute Behavioral Emergencies with the NAEMSP/IAFC and IACP.

Rick Binder, EMT (R)

CEO, PHASE INT'L



Rick Binder is the BOP of PHASE, Patient Handling and Safety Experts, and has held 13 certifications from NAEMT, FEMA, and NFPA. He began his career as an EMT-I and a few years later joined his father in bringing the Binder Lift to the market in 2013. In the years since Rick has authored a Prehospital Patient Handling Risk Assessment, produced an accredited Prehospital Saft Patient Handling Course, and developed new products that help emergency care providers have long and health careers.

Robert Weisbaum, BS, NRP, MPO, FP-C

EMS & Fire Chief, Crested Butte Fire



Chief Weisbaum is a seasoned and dedicated leader in the field of firefighting and emergency services. He has consistently demonstrated a commitment to public safety and the community through 24 years of dedicated service. Chief Weisbaum is no stranger to challenges. Being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in 2022, he has transformed his life physically, mentally and spiritually. Part of his new purpose includes inspiring and motivating first responders to understand and address stress's impact on mind, body, and spirit as it is crucial for all overall well-being.

Friday, April 4, 2025

Andrew T. Caruso, AS, EMT, CEM

Monmouth County Sherriff's Office, Deputy Coordinator, New Jersey EMS Task Force, Safety Module Manager



Andrew T. Caruso is the Deputy EMS Coordinator for Monmouth County Sheriff's Office and the President of 503 Safety Consultants. Additionally, he serves as the Safety Module Manager for the New Jersey EMS Task Force. He was previously Director of Operations for MONOC EMS; New Jersey's largest mobile healthcare service, overseeing ALS, BLS, SCT, and Air Medical Services. He has over 30 years of EMS experience and has spent the majority of his career dedicated to finding and implementing new ways to increase safety and the quality of service provided to his community. He is a Certified Emergency Manager, Ambulance Service Manager, Mental Health Resilience Officer, Anger Resolution Therapist and is trained in Field Force Operations, and Critical Incident Stress Management. He is also a regular contributor to EMS publications and has spoken around the country at various EMS conferences.

Nick Metz, MS, LPCC (Retired Police Chief)

Code-4 Counseling, LLC, President, It's a Calling Foundation, Executive Board Member, Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation



Nick Metz has 36 years of experience with two major-city police departments. Nick recently retired as Chief of Police of the Aurora (CO) Police Department. Prior to Aurora, Nick served for 31 years with the Seattle Police Department where he rose to the number-2 rank position as Deputy Chief and commanded the day-to-day operations of Patrol, Special Operations, Investigations, and the 911-Center. Nick has long had a passion for taking care of responders and their families through such things as creating full-time staffed wellness units at both Seattle PD and Aurora PD. He was a member of Behind the Badge Foundation of Washington's Line of Duty Response Team and founding member of the Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation's Line of Duty Death Response Team. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, The FBI Academy's National Executive

Institute (NEI). Professional affiliations include IACP, NOBLE, PERF, Major Cities Chiefs, IAWP, and more. Recent awards include the Colorado Fallen Heroes Award, 2019 Emmy Award winner for a public safety related PSA, 2015 Seattle Police Medal of Valor, and several multi agency wellness related awards. Nick is now the Chief Operations Officer for Code-4Counseling, LLC, and helps oversee counseling services, critical incident response, wellness training, peer support training, leadership training, career coaching, and consulting to both public safety and medical organizations. He is also the founding member of the newly formed It's A Calling Foundation, that is dedicated to providing reduced and free mental health services to emergency responders, military veterans, frontline medical, and their families. He is a recent graduate of Colorado State University-Global's, Master of Science in Military and Emergency Responder Psychology program. Following his graduation he became a Licensed Professional Counselor Candidate and provides counseling services and other support for emergency responders, frontline medical, military personnel, and their families.

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Peter Dworsky, MPH, EMT-P, CEM., FACPE

Markel Insurance, Senior Risk Solutions, Specialist



Peter is the Senior Risk Solutions Specialist for The Markel Group. He has been in EMS, emergency management and safety for over 30 years, having worked as a paramedic in NYC, as the Paramedic Director at Jersey City Medical Center and the Director of EMS and Disaster Preparedness for Saint Barnabas Health Care System and the Corporate Director for MONOC Mobile Health. Peter was the Safety Officer for the NJ State EMS Task Force.

He remains a member of the Executive Board of the International Association of EMS Chiefs after completing his term as the President and is a member of the member of the Mentor Committee for the International Association of Emergency Managers. Peter has published numerous textbook chapters and articles related to EMS and Emergency Management and routinely speaks at state and national conferences. Twice he has received the JEMS magazines' EMS 10 Innovators Award.

His credentials include a master's degree in public health, a bachelor's degree in EMS Management, a Certified Emergency Manager by the International Association of Emergency Managers most recently, a Fellow of the American College of Paramedic Executives. He has been trained as an OSHA Certified Safety Professional, a Certified Business Continuity Resilience Planner, and a health risk manager. Peter is also a Master SCUBA instructor and for fun - a certified Kansas City BBQ judge.

Garrett Hedeem, MHA, LP

Occupational Health and Safety Specialist Sr., Austin Travis County EMS



Garrett Hedeem is currently an EMS Safety Specialist at Austin Travis County EMS. He previously served as Manager of EMS for Indiana University Health Bloomington EMS and as an EMS Safety Officer for Indianapolis EMS, as well as a field training officer and adjunct educator. As an Indiana certified primary instructor, Garrett has taught many different EMS disciplines, both clinical and operational.

He has been an EMS advocate in many forms and was awarded the 2017 NAEMT EMS Advocate of the Year Award. He served as EMS Union President

for an IAFF local and has served on the Board of NAEMT and the Indiana EMS Association in numerous positions over the years.

Garrett's passion is EMS safety. He is a NAEMT EMS Safety Course instructor, serves as Chairman of the NAEMT EMS Workforce committee, and is the NAEMT representative on the National Safety Council, and NFPA Emergency Responder Occupational Health Technical Committee. Garrett is enrolled at Indiana State University in the Master of Science Occupational Health and Safety program. He is also an Eagle Scout.