

2026 Annual EMSAAC CONFERENCE

BACK TO THE FUTURE EMS REIMAGINED

2026
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Hilton

LA / Universal City

May 27 & 28, 2026



Pre-Conferences held concurrently on Tuesday, May 26

- CQI: THE NEXT ERA OF EMS QUALITY
- GREAT SCOTT! THERE'S THAT WORD AGAIN: 'DISASTER'

Presented by: EMS Administrators' Association of California
Monitor the EMSAAC website for current information: www.EMSAAC.org



BACK TO THE FUTURE: EMS REIMAGINED

The EMS Administrators' Association of California (EMSAAC) cordially invites California's EMS leaders and professionals to join us for the EMSAAC Annual Conference 2026 at a new location, the Hilton LA in Universal City. EMSAAC continues to lead the way in creating conferences that are meaningful and exciting to attend. This year's theme, Back to the Future, is a time-travel story where the meaning centers on taking control of your destiny, showing how past choices shape the future, and proving you can change your life for the better. We will use time travel as a narrative device to explore themes of mental wellness, CQI, research topics, risk management and many others. The theme lays down the foundation for a broad variety of subject matter to interest all levels of prehospital care personnel and managers including ambulance providers, fire department personnel, military and law enforcement partners, LEMSAs personnel, ED nurses, physicians, emergency preparedness coordinators and anyone who provides EMS to their community. The conference includes lectures, panel discussions, and opportunities to network with current leaders and innovators in EMS as well as preview new and upcoming equipment, products and services.

About EMSAAC

EMSAAC is composed of administrators from 34 Local EMS Agencies (LEMSAs). These county-designated agencies are responsible for planning, coordinating, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating a local, integrated system of emergency medical services. The LEMSAs work with the California EMS Authority to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations and guidelines statewide.

Continuing Education Credits

This conference has been designed to provide instructor-based continuing education for nurses and prehospital care professionals through the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency. This course is approved by the California Board of registered Nursing, BRN Provider #17168, for up to 10.5 contact hours. California EMS CE is provided by the Los Angeles County EMS Agency, CEP #19-0001. Up to 10.5 hours of instructor-based CE will be issued to EMTs, paramedics and MICNS upon completion.

The Orange County EMS Agency, a division of the Orange County Health Care Agency, is applying for physician CME approval.



EMSAAC

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EMSAAC

MAY 27 & MAY 28, 2026

PRE-CONFERENCE MAY 26

SEE PAGE 7 FOR ALL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Hilton®

Make your hotel reservations today!



Rates & Reservation Info

Please make your reservations and be sure to request the group code **EMS** reduced conference rate of \$259 per night plus taxes. This low rate includes:

-  Complimentary Basic Wi-Fi access
-  Complimentary use of fitness center and pool
-  Group rate 3 day pre-/post-conference
-  No resort fee
-  Reduce parking:
Day Self - \$16, Valet \$24
Overnight Self - \$35, Valet \$45
-  Free shuttle to Universal Studios



Hilton LA/Universal City

555 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City, California 91608
Group Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/buruchf-ems-07a56847-d177-4cdd-b0f3-d5de1eebc1f1/>
In-House Reservations: 818-623-1434
from 7am-7pm, Monday-Saturday.
Refer to group code EMS when booking.

The Resort – Moments from the Magic of Universal Studios

In the heart of Los Angeles' entertainment district and moments from the MAGIC of Universal Studios, the hotel is adjacent to Universal Studios Hollywood, with a free shuttle to get you there. Looking on to the Hollywood Hills, the hotel is a half mile from Universal CityWalk shopping and just as close to the local Metro station. Perks include access to our fitness center and outdoor pool. Located in Universal City, Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City is in the entertainment district, within a 15-minute walk of Universal Studios Hollywood and Universal CityWalk. This hotel is 2.8 mi (4.5 km) from Warner Brothers Studio and 2.8 mi (4.5 km) from Hollywood Bowl and just 6 miles from Burbank Airport (29 from LAX) with access to CityWalk and the Metro.



A block of rooms will be held until April 25, 2026. After this date, reservations will be accepted on a space and rate available basis only. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

Your Stay

All of the 495 rooms have amazing views of the surroundings of the hotel, some including views inside Universal Studios. The amenities featured include air conditioning, outdoor pool, multiple on-site restaurants and bars, business and concierge services, room service and gift shop. In-room amenities include, but not limited to, mini-refrigerator, coffee maker, work desk, hair dryer and in-room safe.



Conference Program

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

**Pre-conferences – CQI and Disaster
Main conference registration
for early arrivals**

DAY 1 - Wednesday, May 27, 2026

7:00 am

“Great Scott” Meet the Exhibitors & Ongoing Registration

Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall

8:00 am - 8:10 am

“Far Out” Introduction

Shaun Vincent, EMSAAC President

8:10 am - 8:40 am

“Welcome Home Marty!” – Introduction to Los Angeles

LA County Sheriff’s Emergency Services Detail

8:40 am - 9:40 am

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

“Don’t Be Such a Square” – Don’t Lose Yourself

Cody Spaulding, The Salty Paramedic

This presentation focuses on the mental health of first responders by providing different tools to use in your personal lives and careers to maintain good mental health despite dealing with trauma on the job, family issues, personal issues, etc. It aims to offer new outlooks on many different aspects of the job that can be used in your own personal experiences and possibly take back to colleagues so that the workplace also can start new positive trends to maintain good mental health for all of the employees. The 8 key takeaways are “Identify, Find Your Why, Reset, Show Compassion, Invest in Yourself, Create an Outlet, Prioritize Your Life & Laugh.” The Salty Paramedic utilizes his own experiences as a firefighter/paramedic so others can relate. The goal is to help drive home the importance of good mental health.

9:40 am - 10:15 am

Time Travel with Exhibitors

10:15 am - 10:45 am

EMS Data Time Machine: Rewinding Decisions, Fast-Forwarding Care

Remle Crowe, Director of Research, ESO

Marty and Doc weren’t the only ones trying to change the future. EMS clinicians do it every shift. But here’s the twist: while EMS makes split-second decisions in the field, they often do not see the impact once the patient vanishes behind the ED doors. This session fires up the flux capacitor of integrated data - from dispatch to discharge - to travel beyond the present and see the ripple effects of prehospital care. We’ll explore how outcome-linked EMS data can be the DeLorean that takes us back to understand what happened and forward to re-imagine training, protocols, and even policy. By the end, you’ll see how data

isn’t just numbers, but a time machine for better patient care and a better future for our workforce.

10:45 am - 11:45 am

Starting From Scratch – What Would EMS Look Like If You Built It Today?

Doug Wolfberg, EMS Attorney

EMS has evolved into something of a Frankenstein, with much of our practice and deployment based more on our history than evidence or proven best practices. This session will be a great thought exercise on how we’d build an EMS system (operationally, financially and clinically) if we wiped out the current system on an etch-a-sketch and started over with a clean slate. From how we access emergency health care to how we respond, and how/where we deliver services, EMS would look a lot different if we weren’t constrained by past practices and “tradition.”

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

75 Jigowatts – Lunch with Exhibitors and Colleagues

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Research Panel – “Where We’re Going, We Don’t Need Roads” OR DO WE?

Moderators:

Karl Sporer, MD, Napa County EMS Agency

Nichole Bosson, MD, LA County EMS Agency

Organized by EMDAC each year, rave reviews are received for a panel of different researchers in the field of EMS. They present data, trials or published papers keeping the audience abreast of the newest innovations and thinking backed by evidence-based foundations.

1) Intramuscular Epinephrine

Scott Youngquist, MD

University of Utah School of Medicine

2) Prehospital Ultrasound

Brian Strain, DO

Medical Director, GMR Central CA

Jonathon Warren, MD

UCLA Health/Harbor UCLA

3) Trauma Triage

Craig Newgard, MD, MPH

UC San Francisco

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

The Future of California’s EMS

Elizabeth Basnett, Director

California EMS Authority

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm

“Give Me A Tab”: Break with Exhibitors

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Traumatic Brain Injury: “Gray Matters”

Jake Toy, MD

Gerard Waworundeng, MSN, RN, MICN

LA County EMS Agency

Prompt recognition and treatment of patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI) by EMS clinicians is critical toward improving trauma patient outcomes. After identifying gaps in

prehospital TBI care in our region, we launched a large-scale quality improvement initiative in partnership with prehospital and hospital-based stakeholders to enhance the delivery of evidence-based care. Using the Model for Improvement and multiple Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles, we drove systemwide change.

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Return for the “Daddy-O” President’s Reception – Dress for Back to the Future

Exhibit Hall (light hors d’oeuvres)

DAY 2 - Thursday May 28, 2026

7:30 am

Reality with the Dreamboat Exhibitors

Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall

8:30 am - 8:45 am

Destiny – Passing of the Gavel from President Shaun Vincent to President-Elect Richard Tadeo

8:45 am - 9:00 am

EMSAAC Leadership Award & Jim Pointer California Innovation Award

Richard Tadeo, EMSAAC President-Elect
EMDAC Representative

9:00 am - 10:30 am

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Risk Management – Don’t Be a Slacker!

Gordon Graham, Lexipol

Gordon Graham is a risk management expert and a practicing attorney who has presented a common sense risk management approach to hundreds of thousands of public safety professionals around the world. The 5-step risk management process is a continuous cycle: Identify risks, Analyze risks, Evaluate/Prioritize risks, Treat risks, and Monitor & Review them, ensuring threats are proactively managed from discovery to ongoing control for business resilience.

10:30 am – 11:15 am

Alternate Timeline with Exhibitors

11:15 pm – 12:15 pm

Flux: Fad, Trend or Standard of Care?

Doug Wolfberg, EMS Attorney

When do new clinical procedures, interventions and practices become a legal standard of care? When does a new procedure go from a “really cool idea” to a legal liability if you’re not doing it? (Whole blood is a great recent example.) And, conversely, when is it time to ditch long-standing clinical practices that are no longer supported by evidence and data.

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm 60 Jigowatts – Lunch & Final Visit with Exhibitors

1:15 pm – 2:00 pm

“Far Out” Hospital-Generated Solutions to APOT

Jenny Van Slyke, MICN

Sara Hildago-Lopez, MICN

Huntington Hospital

Ambulance wait times have long been a problem in California – no matter if you are in the north or south. Despite best practices, toolkits and legislation, the overcrowding problems and delays continue. This is how a southern California hospital redesigned APOT processes and will share their best approaches.

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

“Get in Sync” EMS Enhancing Law Enforcement and EMS Collaboration

Law enforcement and EMS collaboration often work together in EMS patient encounters. Establishing a forum for the local exchange of ideas to support a collaborative approach between EMS and Law Enforcement is presented as a best practice. Los Angeles County created the EMS Law Enforcement Co-Response Committee (ELCoR) to improve the development of EMS policy, practice, and training through establishing a pathway for law enforcement input. In this presentation, Los Angeles County EMS Agency describes establishing ELCoR and the successful outcomes of specific projects. Napa County EMS Agency will describe a similar process under development.

- Hawthorne Police Department
 - Joe Nakagawa, MD
- Los Angeles County EMS Agency
 - Nichole Bosson, MD
 - Denise Whitfield, MD
 - Shira Schlesinger, MD
 - Michael Kim, MD
- Napa County EMS
 - Shaun Vincent

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

Rollin’ Through – Stretch Break & Snack

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

“Capacitor of the Future”: Dispatch Redirection of EMS Calls

Redirection involves triaging and rerouting 911 callers with low-acuity complaints to urgent care facilities, community clinics, telehealth, and mental health crisis teams, amongst other services. The aim is to get patients to the definitive care they need when they need it, while also reducing unnecessary emergency responses and lowering the cost of care. This discussion will be facilitated by the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency, exploring the real solutions that have been implemented by CONFIRE in San Bernardino County and by Global Medical Response in 22 of the states they serve.

- Amber Anya, ICEMA, Moderator
- Brian Henrickson, GMR
- Leslie Parham, ECNS
- Nathan Cooke, CONFIRE

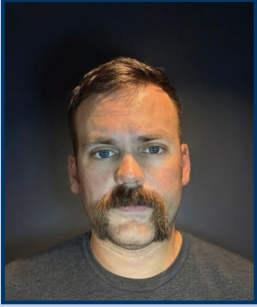
4:00 pm

Conclusion: “Make Like a Tree and Get Out of Here!”

Final Raffles & Wrap Up



Keynote Speakers



Cody Spaulding, “The Salty Paramedic” – The Salty Paramedic is a seasoned EMS/Fire professional and mental-health advocate dedicated to supporting first responders through honest conversations, relatable storytelling, and educational content. Blending experience from the field with a genuine passion for helping others, Cody creates a welcoming space where first responders can learn, laugh, and feel understood. Through social media, podcasting, public speaking, and his book *Don’t Lose Yourself*, The Salty Paramedic empowers all first responders to prioritize their well-being, strengthen their resilience, and stay connected to the heart of why they serve.



Gordon Graham, Risk Management Expert – Gordon Graham is a 33-year veteran (now retired) of California law enforcement. In this capacity, he served as a street cop, supervisor, manager, and executive. Mr. Graham was awarded a B.A. in Business from San Francisco State College, a teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach, a master’s degree in Safety and Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and a juris doctorate from Western State University. He has taken his background as a cop, risk manager and attorney and is the co-founder of Lexipol, a company designed to standardize public safety practices across America. He has presented to public safety personnel from around the world and is an educator at the University of Virginia.



Faculty

Amber Anaya

Assistant EMS Administrator
ICEMA
San Bernardino, California

Elizabeth Basnett

Director
EMS Authority
Assistant Secretary, CA HHS
Sacramento, California

Nichole Bosson, MD, MPH, FAEMS

Medical Director
Los Angeles County EMS Agency
Director, EMS Fellowship
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Santa Fe Springs, California

Nathan Cooke

Interim Executive Director
CONFIRE
San Bernardino, California

Remle Crowe

Senior Director of Research & Data Enablement
ESO
Adjunct Assistant Professor, UT Health
San Antonio, Texas

Brian Henricksen

Director – EMS Transformation
Global Medical Response
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sara Hidalgo-Lopez, RN, MSN, MICN

Emergency Department Charge Nurse
Huntington Hospital
Pasadena, California

Michael Kim, MD

Associate Medical Director
Paramedic Training Institute
Los Angeles County EMS Agency
Santa Fe Springs, California

Craig Newgard, MD, MPH

Professor Emergency Medicine
Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
San Francisco, California

Leslie Parham

Consultant
ECNS
San Bernardino, California

Shira Schlesinger, MD, MPH, FAEMS

Director of Education and Innovation
Los Angeles County EMS Agency
Santa Fe Springs, California

Jennifer Shepard, Paramedic

Deputy
Emergency Services Detail
LA County Sheriff’s Department
Los Angeles, California

Karl Sporer, MD

Medical Director
Napa County EMS Agency
Napa, California

Brian Strain, DO

Medical Director, GMR Central CA
EMS Medical Director, Adventist
Health Central Valley
Hanford, California

Richard Tadeo

EMS Director
Los Angeles County EMS Agency
Santa Fe Springs, California

Jake Toy, DO, MS

EMS Physician
Los Angeles County EMS Agency
Santa Fe Springs, California

Shaun Vincent

EMS Administrator
Napa County EMS Agency
Napa, California

Jenny Van Slyke, MBA, BSN, MICN

Prehospital Program Manager
Huntington Hospital
Pasadena, California

Jonathan Warren, MD

US/EMS Fellow
UCLA Health/LA County EMS Agency
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Torrance, California

Gerard Waworundeng, MSN, RN, MICN

EMS Systems Quality Manager
Los Angeles County EMS Agency
Santa Fe Springs, California

Denise Whitfield, MD, MBA, FAEMS

Assistant Medical Director
Los Angeles County EMS Agency
Santa Fe Springs, California

Doug Wolfberg

Founding Partner
Page, Wolfberg & Wirth
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

Scott Youngquist, MD

Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine
University of Utah School of Medicine
CMO, Salt Lake City Fire Department
Salt Lake City, Utah

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

May 27 & 28, 2026

Universal City, Los Angeles

All registrations are taken ONLINE only at [emsaac.org](https://www.emsaac.org)

Payments can be made by credit card, PayPal or through a PO or check. Confirmation and W-9 available on the website. Registration fees include all conference materials and food & beverage for breakfasts, breaks, lunches and President's reception.

CQI Pre-Conference (separate registration) – The Next Era of EMS Quality May 26, 11am – 4:00pm Limited seating	\$160
Disaster Pre-Conference (separate registration) – Great Scott!! There's That Word Again: Disaster May 26, 11am – 4:00pm Limited seating	\$160
EARLY Conference Registration – if payment received May 6 before 5:00 p.m. NOTE: The first 50 paid registrations will be entered into a raffle for a special door prize.	\$475
Late or onsite Registration – received May 6 after 5:00 p.m.	\$550
Virtual Option Unavailable	NA

Simultaneous pre-conferences ** select only one** requires separate registration (see above)

Pre-conferences are deep dives led by experts in the specific fields.

Pre-Conference

CQI: The Next Era of EMS Quality

May 26, 2026

11:00 am – 4:30 pm (lunch included)

Tired of chasing “gotcha” charts, drowning in reviews, or feeling like your quality program isn't moving the needle? This hands-on workshop will help your organization shift from compliance-focused chart review to a culture of learning and system improvement. It's time to move beyond the outdated QA model of hunting “bad apples” and punishing documentation errors. In the next era of EMS quality, we build systems that empower clinicians, not intimidate them. We design and use measures that actually reflect clinical care, not just checkbox completion. We create psychological safety so EMS clinicians feel motivated to report concerns, ask questions, and problem-solve. Join us and step into a future where quality management feels like collaboration—not correction—and where your data becomes a roadmap to better care, stronger teams, and sustainable improvement. This will be a hands-on workshop whether you are new to CQI or a long-time coordinator, these are the up-and-coming approaches.

Faculty:

Remle Crowe
Senior Director of Research & Data Enablement,
ESO and Adjunct Assistant Professor,
UT Health, San Antonio

EMSAAC CQI Committee

Pre-Conference

Great Scott! There's That Word Again: Disaster

May 26, 2026

11:00 am – 4:30 pm (lunch included)

Led by disaster response and crisis management expert Michael Marsh, this course leverages more than 28 years of experience supporting state, county, and federal agencies in strengthening operational efficiency and preparedness for emergency incidents, natural disasters, and high-visibility events. Participants will engage in hands-on, practical learning focused on developing, implementing, and evaluating processes to effectively respond to, mitigate, and recover from rapidly evolving incidents.

Course objectives include:

- Medical Surge & Continuum of Care
- Coordination, Leadership and Communications
- Crisis Standards of Care & Ethical Decision-Making
- Medical Logistics & Resource Management

Faculty:

Michael Marsh
Principal Consultant
Marsh EMS Consulting
Midlothian, Texas

EMSAAC Disaster Committee



Sponsors & Exhibitors

Many generous sponsors and exhibitors make the EMSAAC Conference possible. The conference is an outstanding opportunity to see the latest and greatest new EMS tools and applications as well as to meet the representatives and directly discuss material needs. The following is a list of sponsors and exhibitors to date; others will be joining this distinguished group:



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