



EMS Safety: A Critical Issue

(Source: EMS.gov)

The [Emergency Medical Services \(www.ems.gov\)](http://www.ems.gov) (EMS) have been identified as a high-risk industry. Safety in the performance of EMS duties “affects patients, EMS responders, and the public.” It includes factors such as vehicle operations, medical errors, infectious diseases, scene safety, responder health and fitness, etc.

A three-year cooperative agreement between the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, with support from the Health Resources and Services Administration and the American College of Emergency Physicians, has brought together representatives from national EMS and fire organizations to develop a national EMS “Culture of Safety” Strategy.

The strategy document is now available in [draft format](http://www.emscultureofsafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/EMS-Culture-of-Safety-DRAFT2_1-12-09-2011.pdf) (http://www.emscultureofsafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/EMS-Culture-of-Safety-DRAFT2_1-12-09-2011.pdf) (PDF, 523 Kb) to solicit stakeholder comments to assist with this or future strategy drafts. This draft is intended for public distribution per the aforementioned cooperative agreement. Public comment is encouraged and should be submitted prior to February 24, 2012. See [Submit a Comment](#) (<http://www.emscultureofsafety.org/>) to provide your thoughts or recommendations.



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