

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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State Traffic Safety Grant Supports EMS Traffic Safety Data Collection

SACRAMENTO – A grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety will continue to support the collection and dissemination of traffic collision incident data that is critical to the development and implementation of the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The \$308,000 grant to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority, titled “California EMS Information System - CEMSIS” became effective October 1, 2016.

The grant funds will be used for staffing needs to support the transition to the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Version 3.4 data standard. This new data standard will address data disparities that currently limit comprehensive statewide quality assurances and assessment of California's traffic safety needs. The funds will also improve the timeliness and quality of the data used to populate traffic-related projects such as SHSP and various EMS Authority traffic-related reports.

The statewide traffic-related, post-crash survivability EMS data that the EMS Authority collects in the California EMS Information System (CEMSIS) helps to provide insight into traffic-related issues in California and contributes to the development of the SHSP. The transition to NEMSIS Version 3.4 is being conducted in collaboration with the University of Utah and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Additionally, the transition will serve to enhance and organize post-crash and EMS data in a more usable standard that is likely to be adopted nationally for data consistency and comparison activities. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has mandated that this data standard transition occur no later than January 1, 2017.

The EMS Authority is charged with providing leadership in developing and implementing emergency medical services systems throughout California and setting standards for the training and scope of practice of various levels of EMS personnel. EMSA also has responsibility for promoting disaster medical preparedness throughout the state, and coordinating and supporting the state's medical response to major disasters.

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