

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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## **State Traffic Safety Grant Supports EMS Data Collection**

SACRAMENTO – A grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety will continue to support data collection and reporting for California’s emergency medical services. The \$1,200,000 grant to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority, titled “California EMS Information System – Mobile Devices” became effective October 1, 2016.

The grant funds will be used to improve prehospital data collection efforts by funding the purchase of hardware and software specifically designed for the collection of electronic patient care data. Funds will be prioritized for the 29% of EMS providers in California that still employ physical hardcopy methods or use desktop applications to collect patient care data. Assisting California’s EMS providers with the initial costs associated with the purchase of patient care data reporting hardware and software will further enhance the effectiveness of the EMS Authority’s traffic incident data collection efforts that are designed to continuously evaluate EMS systems in order to improve statewide patient care and satisfaction.

In addition, the ongoing analysis of statewide EMS traffic incident data will guide the development and implementation of the state trauma plan and EMS quality improvement initiatives. The dedication to advance the use of electronic EMS system traffic incident data is a top priority of the EMS Authority, the California Office of Traffic Safety, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Use of electronic EMS data will improve the quality of patient data, support improved traffic incident tracking, and give policy makers the ability to better respond to high priority traffic incident data questions. Funding for this grant is provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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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