

# EMS Professionals – Time to Re-connect!

Dear EMS Colleagues,

## **Important 2021 Annual Conference Update**

After considerable evaluation of the current COVID environment and with the planned hotel venue, EMSAAC has decided to transition its Annual Conference to a virtual platform this year.

EMS has certainly been affected by the COVID pandemic, facing many challenges, yet also achieving amazing successes. Brighter times are ahead and we know that our colleagues are looking forward to the rebound and getting back to in-person gatherings which are near and dear to all of us! Our contracted audiovisual team is a group of resourceful and highly skilled problem solvers that brings a high level of expertise and perspective to ensure an engaging virtual platform. Our education is focused on supporting you as you face new challenges.

As we looked ahead to planning our June event, we had many factors to consider. We needed to evaluate if our in-person Conference would be in the best interest of our members and attendees at this time. We also had to consider the various tiers existing Statewide and project where we might collectively be by June. Nevertheless, EMSAAC leadership's commitment to stay true to our conference goals and to prepare and deliver a successful event has kept us moving forward despite the uncertainty. Our objective has been and remains to keep our colleagues connected and to deliver content, education and peer networking in the best way that we can.

With this mission in mind, EMSAAC polled conference committee members to explore their ability to attend the in-person Annual Conference in June. The results demonstrated widespread limitations on member budgets and travel which would significantly hamper EMSAAC's ability to deliver education and networking benefits to a wide audience. Further, in discussion with the selected hotel, Loews Coronado Resort, they also felt the path forward to June remained unclear and were willing to reschedule their facility for another year. After considering the full picture of where we are, it was clear to the leadership that to best serve our partners, a virtual Annual Conference will simply reach more people. This perspective, coupled with positioning your safety at the forefront in the ongoing pandemic, led us to this decision.

And so, going virtual in June 2021 is a decision we have embraced! It's time to get energized knowing that we will all gather over two days Wednesday / Thursday, June 2 & 3 for two half-day sessions. Virtually or in-person, our attendees will be "together." We also are assuring a strong presence for our sponsors and exhibitors in the online event.

Education will focus on new and changing topics including but certainly not limited to learnings and best practices for COVID-era events. Stay tuned for more information. But in the meantime, please click over to your calendars and block off June 2 & 3. This is your time to learn and enjoy connecting with your EMS peers!

We also look forward to meeting again in-person in our host city of San Diego in May 2022.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with EMSAAC.

Travis Kusman  
Director, San Mateo County EMS Agency  
EMSAAC President