Advancing Emergency Care in Rural Areas: States’ Roles and Rights

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NO TRAFFIC SIGNS
System development through rural states’ lead EMS agencies

- Allows for federally inspired implementation
- Fosters consistency while permitting states to address unique conditions and needs
- Proven model for transportation, law enforcement, etc.
Idaho & the West

Small communities sound alarm about declining number of EMTs

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CULDESAC — Culdesac Community Librarian Beverly Gilliam always listens — not just for overly noisy patrons but for a signal from her emergency response beeper.

As a volunteer emergency medical technician, she sometimes has to go the library to get a report from the Rescue Team in Orofino, says fewer people seem to be interested in any kind of volunteering. "Getting up in the middle of the night or leaving dinner is sometimes not that appetizing to people," Albers said. "But efforts need to be made as to what it's all about and why it is important."

In most large Western cities, "It was something designed to be a really good, accessible, solid training to be able to get to places," Nudell said.

But many smaller towns would have trouble trying to come up with the tax money to pay EMTs. Shari Kuther, president of the Nezperce Ambulance, said paying an ambulance staff flies in the face of why volunteer EMTs have served for 30 years in this area.

"It was something designed to be an EMT may also be contributing to the decline in volunteers. To become a first responder, national standards state a volunteer must take an in-depth first-aid class that takes between 60 to 70 hours. Basic EMT class is another 110 hours, and advanced EMT class takes an additional 20 to 30 hours, Nudell said."
The States’ Role in Advancing Emergency Care in Rural Systems

• Implementation responsibilities comparable to state transportation depts., state police
• Assurance of equal and due rural consideration (whatever rural might be there)
• Participation in data collection and submission
• Prompting of academia
• Collaboration in research
Academia births research

...but where and how many academic programs in EMS administration are there?
The states can MAKE change; a lead federal agency is but a catalyst
Questions/comments at the call of the moderator!