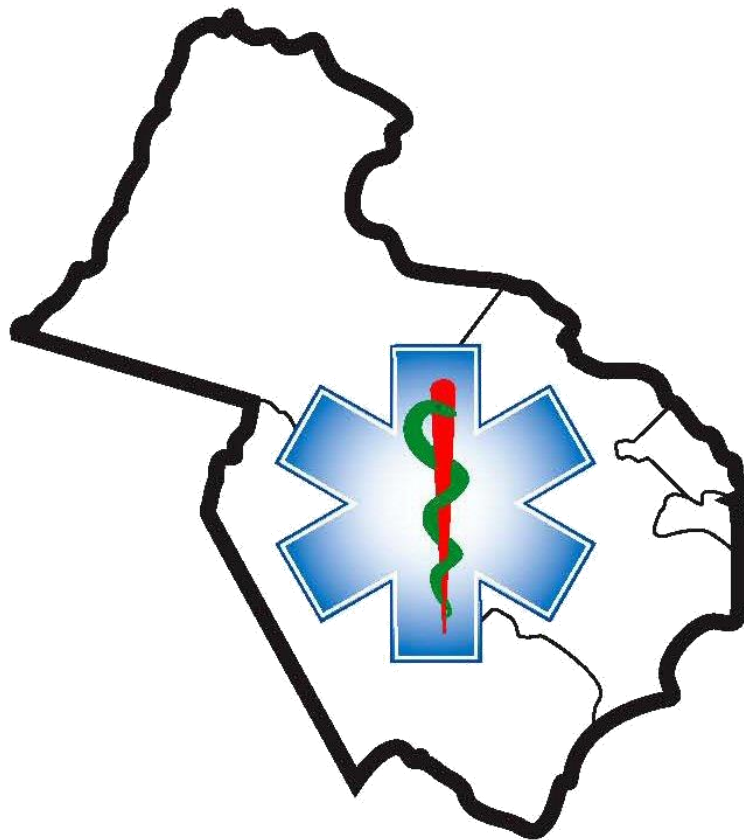


Northern Virginia EMS Council

Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Approved by Board OF DIRECTORS
February 17, 2022



*Northern Virginia EMS Council
7250 Heritage Village Plaza,
Suite 102
Gainesville, VA 20155
877-261-3550
www.northern.vaems.org*

Table of Contents

Introduction..... 3

Council’s Vision..... 3

Council’s Mission..... 4

Key Strategies and Initiatives..... 5

Core Strategy 1 Develop and Strengthen Partnerships 5

Core Strategy 2 Utilize Tools and Resources 6

**Core Strategy 3 Coordinate Regionalized EMS Emergency Management
Planning 7**

Core Strategy 4 EMS Education, Training, and Medical Direction 7

Core Strategy 5 Ensure Quality and Evaluation 8

Core Strategy 6 Develop Infrastructure 8

Core Strategy 7 Provider Health and Wellness 9

Introduction

This plan was developed as part of the effort to standardize long-range planning across the eleven EMS regions in Virginia, along with the long-range statewide EMS plan developed by the Virginia Office of EMS. This plan is comprehensive in scope. It is not intended to address ongoing and day-to-day work and initiatives. Instead, they help guide the Council in a regional involvement of our emergency medical services system and identify areas that need improvement or require new regional involvement over a multi-year period. Each year, a separate work program will address the items in this plan. The plan is meant to be the big picture. Details typically associated with plans, such as demographics and geography, are minimized so that this document focuses on strategies of most value to our regional EMS system.

Council's Vision

EMS system coordination is central to developing and implementing an efficient and effective regional emergency medical services delivery system. The Northern Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council will continue to work with system stakeholders to organize, implement, maintain, evaluate and improve the EMS system within the Northern Virginia region and coordinate with EMS stakeholders in the National Capital Region. We will strive to keep our EMS agencies, healthcare facilities, EMS providers, and other interested parties informed regarding new information, activities, and training within our region. The EMS system in the Northern Virginia region will continue to:

- Provide the appropriate staffing level and level of training for hospital and pre-hospital personnel
- Provide communication access for injury and sudden illness victims via an enhanced 911 dispatch system.
- Provide dispatcher-provided telephone assistance (pre-arrival instructions) to callers with life-threatening emergencies.
- Provide timely response of EMS personnel and transport vehicles to emergency medical incidents.
- Provide state-of-the-art, high-quality pre-hospital treatment of patients due to standardized basic life support educational programs, accredited advanced life support educational programs, standardized testing programs, frequent and timely continuing education courses, and quality improvement programs.
- Provide adequate ground, air, and water transport vehicles that meet appropriate location, design, performance, equipment, personnel, and safety standards.
- Provide an interoperable communication system for EMS personnel to

communicate with other EMS personnel throughout the region, the regional dispatchers, hospital emergency departments, and other public safety personnel.

- Provide a communications system for all regional emergency departments to communicate with each other on a daily, year-round basis.
- Provide a system of identifying the most appropriate facility to manage a patient's clinical needs.
- Provide for an inclusive trauma care system in which every health care provider or facility with resources to care for the injured patient is incorporated.
- Ensure the medical community's involvement in providing medical oversight and accountability to all phases of the EMS system.
- Provide a region-wide performance improvement process.
- Provide public education programs and information to establish an awareness of the EMS system, how to access the system, and how to use the system properly.
- Provide appropriate system response to incidents beyond the day-to-day resource capabilities of individual EMS provider organizations.
- Ensure EMS system excellence through the effective use of local, state, private, and federal funding sources, research, medical direction, and collaboration with persons and agencies involved in providing emergency medical services.

Council's Mission

The mission of the Northern Virginia EMS Council is to facilitate regional cooperation, planning, and implementation of an integrated emergency medical services delivery system.

Key Strategies and Initiatives

Core Strategies are equally essential and not numbered in order of priority.

Core Strategy 1 Develop and Strengthen Partnerships

- I. Maintain stakeholder forums to facilitate the development and coordination of an effective and efficient regional EMS system
 - a. Maintain governing Board of Directors and committee structures
 - b. Promote and act as an advocate for issues that are important and beneficial to the regional EMS system
 - c. Maintain regional EMS plans such as Trauma Triage Plan, Stroke Plan, STEMI Plan, MCI Plan

- II. Encourage relationships with local, regional, state, and federal partners
 - a. Local – continue to provide a regional forum for ideas
 - i. Support non-emergent transportation providers in their integration with the EMS system
 - ii. Strengthen the relationship between local health departments and EMS agencies
 - b. Regional – maintain liaison with the planning entities in the National Capital Region (NCR) and the Washington Metro Area Council of Governments (COG) and other regional EMS councils
 - i. COG EMS Sub Committee
 - ii. COG Fire Chiefs Committee
 1. Senior Operations Sub Committee
 2. EMS Sub Committee
 - iii. NOVA Fire Chiefs Committee
 1. Senior Operations
 2. EMS Operations
 - iv. EMS Performance Improvement Committee
 - v. EMS/Pharmacy Committee
 - vi. Regional Directors Group
 - vii. Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS)
 - viii. Regional Cardiac/Vascular Committee
 - ix. Regional Stroke Committee
 - x. Regional Trauma Performance Committee
 - xi. NOVA ReTSCo (Regional Time-Sensitive Coalition) Committee
 - c. State – support Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) and provide contract deliverables on a timely basis
 - i. Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators (VAGEMSA)
 - ii. Virginia EMS Symposium Committee
 - d. Federal – continue to expand contacts, collaboration, and planning with federal partners.

- III. Collaborate with hospitals and Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS)
 - a. Improve communication with hospitals, emergency department personnel, and pre-hospital providers
 - b. Provide a regional approach to standards for supplies and pharmaceuticals
 - i. Medical Supply and Pharmaceutical Working Group
 - c. Maintain liaison with Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance (NVHA) personnel and RHCC issues
- IV. Strengthen ongoing relationships with VA Department of Health and other regional and state agencies
 - a. Promote more EMS involvement in injury and prevention strategies
 - b. Maintain involvement with Virginia Governor's Advisory Committee and its subcommittees
 - c. Maintain link with State Health and Medical Committees
 - d. Work with Board of Pharmacy on regional issues
- V. Foster regional legislative involvement for EMS initiatives
 - a. Maintain an updated listing of proposed EMS legislation
 - b. Act as liaison on information
- VI. Provide evaluation and guidance on Virginia's Regulations Governing EMS

Core Strategy 2 Utilize Tools and Resources

- I. Act as a resource to local EMS agencies, hospitals, emergency managers, health departments, and the public on any EMS issue
 - a. Keep Council staff up to date on information that may be pertinent to EMS partners
 - b. Maintain Directory of EMS agencies, hospitals, and regional/NCR resources and assets
 - c. Maintain liaison with the OEMS NOVA EMS Representative
 - d. Maintain a regional AHA Community Training Center
- II. Utilize the Council's website, social media, and list-serve to distribute information
 - a. Maintain a list of reports and plans, minutes, updated news, test site information
 - b. Utilize secure access to sites to coordinate and share resources
 - c. Provide a link that hospitals and EMS agencies can enter into the agency portals for ePCR reporting.

- III. Provide educational resources, technical assistance, and coordination to help EMS agencies with grant writing
 - a. Provide a review of grants for the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund
- IV. Develop educational tools for EMS students
 - a. Assist with electronic training aids for special regional classes
- V. Provide guidance documents to promote regional coordination

Core Strategy 3 Coordinate Regionalized EMS Emergency Management Planning

- I. Provide ongoing monitoring, review, updates, and support of the Regional EMS Multi-
 - a. Casualty Incident Manual
 - b. Provide support for the committee
- II. Continue to be a link for agencies within the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) Assist local and regional agencies with disaster response exercises
 - a. EMS agencies, airports, hospitals, and other response agencies
- III. Assist jurisdictions with Emergency Medical Response System planning
 - a. Provide regional EMS link with NOVA Emergency Response System (NVERS)
 - b. Provide regional EMS link for COG Health and Safety Working Group
- IV. Help jurisdictions with pandemic planning
 - a. Coordinate with local agencies to maintain a regional approach to planning efforts
- V. Maintain Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
 - a. Assist in the development of COOP for local EMS agencies
- VI. Assist with regional patient tracking system development and deployment
 - a. Coordinate with NVERS on a regional patient tracking system

Core Strategy 4 EMS Education, Training, and Medical Direction

- I. Coordinate with OEMS on a regional effort to promote education, evaluation, and medical direction.
- II. Promote leadership and management training

- a. Provide regional EMS training courses
- III. Coordinate with regional school systems, colleges, and universities to promote and support career technology and education for EMS.
- IV. Provide operational medical direction support.
- V. Promote health and safety initiatives for EMS providers
- VI. Develop and maintain regional protocol guidelines
 - a. Coordinate a regional narcotics plan and pouch (controlled substance kit)
 - b. Provide up-to-date information on drug shortages.
- VII. Promote community training and education to improve patient outcomes that are critical time-sensitive, such as STEMI, trauma, and Stroke.

Core Strategy 5 Ensure Quality and Evaluation

- I. Promote continuous quality improvement in EMS service and trauma care
 - a. Maintain regional plans to review EMS and trauma response
 - b. Provide insight for agency quality assurance plan
 - c. Provide regional data analysis for quality improvement and quality assurance
 - d. Provide a forum for sharing ideas and concerns regarding patient care
 - e. Assist with the evaluation of products designed for pre-hospital health care
- II. Assist agencies with data collection and research
 - a. Assist Operating Medical Directors with information for possible protocol changes
- III. Focus recruitment and retention efforts
 - a. Promote and conduct regional EMS awards program
 - b. Support and promote recruitment and retention campaigns within the region

Core Strategy 6 Develop Infrastructure

- I. Guide agencies in upgrading technology and communication systems.
- II. Plan and implement information sharing and electronic communication enhancements to benefit NOVA and other regions.

- III. Enhance regional and local efficiencies
 - a. Providing regional data analysis to improve patient outcome care
 - i. Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) for the region.
 - b. Developing regional blood programs and protocols.

Core Strategy 7 Provider Health and Wellness

- I. Promote programs for safety, health, and wellness for providers.
- II. Promote mental health awareness and assessment for providers.
- III. Promote programs to prevent line of duty injury, exposures, and death.
- IV. Promote programs for cancer prevention and awareness.