

26th Annual
EMS Odyssey Conference



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

June 11 • 2026



Resource support and assistance provided by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System. Special thanks to the AEMS' Dues Paying Members and Volunteers for their generous contributions.



**Welcome to the
26th Annual EMS Odyssey Conference
June 11, 2026**

On behalf of Arizona Emergency Medical Systems, Inc. (AEMS), welcome to the EMS Odyssey Conference. We are pleased to have you join us for this opportunity to advance EMS education, collaboration, and innovation across Central Arizona and throughout the state.

Since its inception in 2001, the EMS Odyssey Conference has remained focused on providing timely information, practical education, and meaningful learning experiences that strengthen patient care and regional EMS coordination. Over the years, the conference has supported the professional growth and readiness of thousands of EMS clinicians, nurses, physicians, educators, public health professionals, and system leaders dedicated to serving their communities.

The EMS Odyssey Conference is more than an educational event. It is a collaborative forum that brings together EMS and healthcare professionals to examine current challenges and share best practices, which strengthen the systems supporting emergency care. The conference is coordinated by individuals actively involved in EMS who volunteer their time, experience, and dedication to support the profession. Its success is further enhanced by the many presenters who generously contribute their knowledge and expertise to advance learning and improve patient outcomes.

Most importantly, this conference reflects the shared understanding that high-quality patient care depends on all of us working together. Whether serving in the field, in hospitals, in communications, in education, or in leadership roles, each participant contributes to a larger interconnected system focused on improving outcomes for the patients and communities we serve.

We appreciate your participation and support. Your commitment to continued education, professional growth, and regional collaboration plays a key role in strengthening EMS and advancing patient care throughout our region.

We look forward to an engaging and productive conference and to continuing our collective efforts together to improve patient care, strengthen coordination, and support the future of EMS.

With sincere appreciation,

Ryan Southworth, DO
Chair, AEMS

Jon Holmes, EMCT-P
Planning & Outreach Chair, AEMS

Peggy Baker
Executive Director, AEMS



EMS Odyssey Conference ▪ Thursday ▪ June 11, 2026

AGENDA

8:15 - 8:45 am	Room Opens	
8:45 am	Opening Remarks	
9:00 - 10:00 am	Evolution of Stroke Care <i>Mohamed Teleb, MD</i>	
10:00 - 10:10 am	Break	
10:10 - 11:10 am	Injury Prevention in EMS <i>Kane Nixon, Ed.D., CPM, NASM-CPT</i>	
11:10 - 11:20 am	Break	
11:20 am - 12:20 pm	Recognizing and Managing Shock in the Prehospital Setting <i>Franco Castro-Marin, MD, FACEP, FAEMS</i>	
12:20 - 1:20 pm	Lunch	
1:20 - 2:20 pm	The Phoenix Inferno: Prehospital Heat Stroke <i>Charles Finch, DO, FACOEP</i>	Hyperactive Delirium: Ketamine Use in the Prehospital Setting <i>Charles Finch, DO, FACOEP</i>
2:20 - 2:30 pm	Break	
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Burns - Advanced Burn Life Support in an Hour <i>Lyndsay Deeter, MD, MS, FACS, FABA</i>	
3:30 - 3:35 pm	Break	
3:35 - 4:35 pm	Exploited & Overlooked: Understanding the Realities of Sex Trafficking <i>Stacey Sutherland</i>	
4:35 - 4:45 pm	Closing Remarks & Evaluations	



2026 EMS Odyssey Volunteers

Jon Holmes, EMCT-P - Host

Marcia Barry, RN - Nurse Planner

Suzanne Buchanan, RN

Marty Murphy

Sandy Nygaard, EMCT-P

Dawn Polkabila, RN

Barb Schaffer, RN

Glenn Trainor, EMCT-P

Special Thanks for the Support Of

AEMS Education Committee

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AEMS Board of Governors

**Arizona Department of Health Services,
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System**

Grant Preston, Webmaster

Peggy Baker, AEMS, Executive Director

Thank YOU

2026 Odyssey Presenters



Mohamed Teleb, MD



Kane Nixon, Ed.D



Franco Castro-Marin, MD



Chip Finch, DO,



Lyndsay Deeter, MD



Stacey Sutherland



2026 EMS ODYSSEY

PRESENTER DESCRIPTIONS, BIOS, AND CONTACT INFORMATION

In Order of Conference Appearance

Evolution of Stroke Care

This presentation will explore the evolution of acute stroke care in the setting of Large Vessel Occlusion (LVO) strokes, highlighting advances that are transforming early recognition, triage, and treatment. Topics will include current approaches to LVO screening in the prehospital and hospital environments, emerging technologies and devices used in stroke intervention, and the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in acute stroke care and advanced triage processes. Participants will review why rapid identification of LVOs is critical to improving patient outcomes and how evolving tools and systems are helping streamline access to definitive stroke care.

Mohamed Teleb, MD - mohamed.teleb@bannerhealth.com

Dr. Mohamed Telebs' advanced training has made him an expert in treating and managing disorders and diseases of the blood vessels of the brain, neck, and spinal cord. He performs minimally invasive Neurointerventional procedures to diagnose and treat an array of diagnoses including ischemic strokes, aneurysms, carotid stenosis, carotid and vertebral artery dissections, brain, and spinal cord blood vessel abnormalities. Dr. Teleb is a proponent for evidenced based practice, actively researching the latest breakthroughs in Neurointerventional surgery and stroke. He has been involved with over 15 registries and clinical trials.

Injury Prevention in EMS

This session explores evidence-based corrective exercise strategies designed to help EMS and public safety professionals reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injury and improve long-term functional performance in the demanding prehospital environment. Drawing on protocols from the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM), the presentation focuses on the use of Self-Myofascial Release (SMR), dynamic stretching, and movement preparation techniques that support mobility, posture, and injury prevention.

Kane Nixon, Ed.D, CPM, NASM-CPT - kane@kanenixon.com

Dr. Kane Nixon is the Deputy Chief of Planning, Health, Safety, and Wellness for the Arizona Fire and Medical Authority (AFMA). Kane has been in the fire service since 2001 and with AFMA since 2006. Kane is also an Adjunct Faculty member at Northern Arizona University and the Director of Firefighter Fitness and Conditioning at Glendale Community College, holding several credentials, including Certified Personal Trainer, Fitness Nutrition Specialist, and Corrective Exercise Specialist from the National Academy of Sports Medicine.

Kane is a Certified Public Manager and holds three associate degrees, a bachelor's degree in emergency management and public Administration, a master's degree in educational psychology, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, all from Northern Arizona University.

Recognizing and Managing Shock in the Prehospital Setting

Shock is a time-critical, high-risk condition that EMS providers encounter across a wide range of medical and traumatic emergencies. This session focuses on early recognition of shock in the prehospital setting, emphasizing physiologic warning signs that often precede hypotension. Participants will review practical approaches to classification, initial management, and decision-making that can be applied in real time, with an emphasis on interventions that meaningfully influence patient outcomes before hospital arrival.

Franco Castro-Marin, MD, FACEP, FAEMS - fcmems@icloud.com

Dr. Franco Castro-Marin is an EMS and emergency medicine physician with nearly two decades of clinical and operational leadership experience. He has practiced emergency medicine for more than 17 years at HonorHealth, where he continues to balance clinical care with regional EMS medical direction.

He serves as EMS Medical Director for multiple fire and EMS agencies across two counties, working closely with EMS clinicians, firefighters, hospital systems, and municipal leaders to develop evidence-based treatment guidelines, quality management initiatives, and educational programs. At the state level, Dr. Castro-Marin serves on the State Trauma Advisory Board, the EMS Council, and the Medical Direction Commission, and chairs the Protocols, Medications, and Devices Committee.

Dr. Castro-Marin is also a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue physician with experience supporting complex technical rescue and disaster operations. His professional interests include patient safety, medical oversight, education, and strengthening EMS systems that support both patient outcomes and provider performance.

The Phoenix Inferno: Prehospital Heat Stroke

This presentation examines how the Phoenix Fire Department implemented an innovative prehospital approach for the rapid identification and management of heat stroke patients using ice and cold-water immersion therapy. Participants will explore the growing challenges associated with heat-related emergencies, including delayed recognition, operational barriers, limited resources, and the need for rapid cooling interventions in the field.

Hyperactive Delirium: Ketamine Use in the Prehospital Setting

This presentation examines the recognition and management of hyperactive delirium in the prehospital setting, with a focus on the use of ketamine for severely agitated patients. Participants will review the clinical features of hyperactive delirium, challenges associated with rapid identification and the lack of standardized diagnostic tools, and practical approaches to EMS field management. The session will also discuss ketamine indications, contraindications, pharmacologic considerations, and the potential future expansion of ketamine use within EMS systems.

Chip Finch, DO, FACOEP - charles.finch@phoenix.gov

Dr. Chip Finch embraces his roles in clinical care, medical education, and community service with compassion and a commitment to excellence. He is a board-certified emergency physician who completed his residency in emergency medicine at Maricopa Medical Center and currently serves as Medical Director for the Phoenix Fire Department.

Long dedicated to educating tomorrow's clinicians, Dr. Finch is a Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine and Chair of the Department of Integrative Medicine at Midwestern University's Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he has developed curriculum in grief and bereavement as well as ultrasound. He also teaches at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix and A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona and is a frequent presenter at local and national medical conferences.

Burns - Advanced Burn Life Support in an Hour

Limited experience caring for thermally injured patients in the acute phase can be challenging if not done routinely. Expansion upon baseline knowledge and standards of care from the burn community can improve initial care and therefore long-term outcomes for thermally injured patients. This session will address the initial management of burn treatment for those providing care in the acute phase, including assessment and treatment of inhalation injury and stabilization priorities that support improved patient outcomes.

Lyndsay Deeter, MD, MS, FACS, FABA - lyndsay_deeter@dmgaz.org

Dr. Lyndsay Deeter completed her general surgery residency at Maricopa Integrated Health Systems, now known as Valleywise Health, before pursuing a fellowship in burn and surgical critical care at the University of Washington/Harborview Medical Center. After practicing in Colorado for eight years, she returned to Arizona and currently serves at the Valleywise Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center, where she has been part of the team for the past two years.

Exploited and Overlooked: Understanding the Realities of Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking of children, youth, and adults is a growing issue in Arizona and nationwide. Because trafficking is often hidden, EMTs and paramedics may encounter victims during routine calls without recognizing the signs. This presentation provides EMS professionals with practical guidance on identifying common indicators and risk factors associated with sex trafficking while emphasizing trauma-informed approaches to patient interaction and care. Participants will examine vulnerabilities that increase the risk of trafficking, explore the impact of trauma bonding and coercive control, and review challenges EMS providers face in recognizing and responding appropriately to trafficking victims during emergency encounters.

Stacey Sutherland - stacey@aatn.org

Stacey Sutherland is the director of TRUST, an Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network program that provides training, resources, and collaborative engagement to agencies and organizations fighting against human trafficking. Ms. Sutherland has dedicated a decade of her life to battling modern-day slavery by training locally and nationally thousands of first responders, victim-facing agency staff members, and medical personnel to recognize, respond and help victims. She uses her diverse background as a former first responder (EMS), victim advocate, and parent to impact the hearts and minds of those she trains and works with.



2026 Board of Governors

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Michelle Angle

*Arizona State Ambulance Association
Representative Recommended by a State Ambulance
Association, Representing Private-Sector of EMCTs*

Peggy Baker

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Bruce Barnhart, MSN, RN

Citizen of the AEMS Region

Marcia Barry, RN

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*Mesa Fire and Medical Department
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Suzanne Buchanan, RN

*Emergency Nurses Association, AZ Chapter
Nurse, Active in EMS, Recommended by a Professional
Association of Emergency Nurses*

Franco Castro-Marin, MD, FACEP, FAEMS

*HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center
Physician Active in the Practice of Emergency Medicine
and/or Prehospital Administrative Direction, Practicing at
a Trauma Center Hospital*

Fernando Cortes, MD

*Florence Fire Department
Representative from a Rural EMS Provider Agency
(Non-Tribal)*

Doug Costal

*Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
Representative Recommended by a
Statewide Fire District Association*

Nicola Crim

*Native Air / Air Methods
Arizona Ambulance Association Representative of a
Helicopter Ambulance Employer of EMCTs,
Recommended by a Statewide Ambulance Association,
Representing a Private-Sector Employer*

Garth Gemar, MD

**Past Chair*

Annie Giagni, RN

*Banner Casa Grande Medical Center
Representative of the Administration, Non-Trauma
Center Hospital*

Cori Hayes

*Mesa Fire and Medical Department
Representative from a Public Employer of
Emergency Medical Care Technicians (EMCTs, from
Distinct Political Subdivision of Between 50,000 and
500,000*

Jon Holmes

**Chair, Planning & Outreach Functional Group
HonorHealth Estrella Medical Center
Representative Acting as a Prehospital Care Manager,
Non-Trauma Center Hospital*

Gaby Iskander, MD, MS, FACS

*American Trauma Association
Physician, Active in the Practice of Trauma Surgery,
Recommended by a Professional Association of Trauma
Surgeons*

Steven Maher, MD

*Physician active in the Practice of Emergency Medicine
and/or Pre-hospital Administrative Medical Direction,
Employed, or Contracted, as an Administrative Medical
Director for a Pre-hospital EMS agency.*

Tracy Moroney, RN

*HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center
Representative Acting as a Prehospital Care Manager,
Trauma Center Hospital*

Marty Murphy

*Abraz Health
Representative of the Administration, Non-Trauma Center
Hospital*

Kristin Niehoff, RN

*Phoenix Children's Hospital
Representative of the Administration, Trauma Center
Hospital*

Raymond Ochoa

*Phoenix Fire Department
Representative from a Public Employer of Emergency
Medical Care Technicians (EMCTs), from Political
Subdivision of Population Greater than 500,000*

Beth Ranney, MD, FACEP

*Banner Ironwood & Gateway Medical Centers
Physician Active in the Practice of Emergency Medicine
and/or Prehospital Administrative Direction, Practicing at
a Non-Trauma Center Hospital*

Chris Riddle

*Gila River EMS
Representative from Public Employer of Emergency Care
Technicians (EMCTs), from a Political Subdivision of
Population Less than 50,000*

Roy Ryals

**Treasurer,
AEMS Board of Governors*

Barb Schaffer, RN

*Gila River Healthcare
Representative Acting as a Prehospital
Care Manager, Non-Trauma Center
Hospital*

Julie Smith

*Salt River Fire Department
Representative from a Rural EMS Provider
Agency.(Tribal)*

Casey Solem, MD

*Arizona College of Emergency Physicians
Physician Active in the Practice of
Emergency Medicine and/or Prehospital
Administrative Direction, Practicing at a
Trauma Center Hospital*

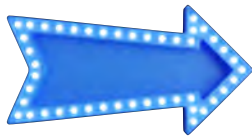
Alyson Welch

*Maricopa Fire/Medical Department
Representative of Public Employer of
Emergency Care Technicians (EMCTs),
from Political Subdivision of Population
Between 50,000 and 500,000*

**Executive Committee*

Odyssey Trivia Challenge

Scan to Join



Or Visit:

crowd.live/ADN2J

You can play the Trivia Challenge using your mobile device (such as a phone or iPad).

You may also use a desktop computer. Just open a new browser window; there's no need to exit Zoom to participate.

However, if you do exit Zoom to play, be sure to return immediately after the game to hear the prize winners. You must be present to claim your prize.



For all the details on how to play - including helpful screenshots - visit:

<https://odyssey.aems.org/trivia-challenge>

RAFFLE CONTRIBUTORS



***Anonymous**

Peggy Baker

Bruce Barnhart, RN

Marcia Barry, RN

Garth Gemar, MD

Ron Hilburn

Jon Holmes, EMCT-P

Sandy Nygaard, EMCT-P

Beth Ranney, MD

Roy Ryals, MD

Casey Solem, MD

***Someone who appreciates your dedication and commitment to continuing education and our patients**

Thank You Central Arizona

EMS and Trauma Care Provider Agencies and Hospitals

Arizona Emergency Medical Systems, Inc. (AEMS) expresses our appreciation for the care, dedication, and commitment of all the staff and volunteers affiliated with Central EMS and Trauma provider agencies and hospitals. Thank YOU for supporting and enhancing emergency medical and trauma care for all of Central Arizona.

Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital
Abrazo Arrowhead Campus
Abrazo Buckeye Emergency Center
Abrazo Cave Creek Hospital
Abrazo Central Campus
Abrazo Peoria Emergency Center
Abrazo Scottsdale Campus
Abrazo Surprise Hospital
Abrazo West Campus
Aguila Fire Department
Air Evac Services / Phi
Air Methods - Native Air / Life Net
Ak-Chin Fire Department
American Medical Response (AMR)
Angel Medflight
Arizona Ambulance Association
Arizona American College of Emergency Physicians
Arizona City Fire District
Arizona Emergency Medicine Research Center
Arizona Emergency Nurses Association
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority
- Buckeye Valley Fire District
- North / Sun City West
- South / Sun Lakes
Arizona Hospital & Healthcare Association
Avondale Fire-Rescue
Banner Air
Banner Baywood Medical Center
Banner Boswell Medical Center
Banner Casa Grande Medical Center
Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center
Banner Desert Medical Center
Banner Estrella Medical Center
Banner Gateway Medical Center
Banner Goldfield Medical Center
Banner Ironwood Medical Center
Banner Ocotillo Medical Center
Banner Payson Medical Center
Banner Thunderbird Medical Center
Banner University Medical Center - Phoenix
Buckeye Fire Medical-Rescue
Canyon Fire District
Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center
Casa Grande Fire Department

Chandler Fire Department
Central Arizona Mountain Rescue
Christopher Kohls Fire Department
Circle City - Morristown Fire District
Cobre Valley - Kearney EMS
Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center
Coolidge Fire Department
Daisy Mountain Fire and Medical
Dignity Health - Arizona General
- Ahwatukee ER
- Chandler Germann ER
- Chandler McQueen ER
- Gilbert ER
- Glendale Olive ER
- Glendale Camelback ER
- Goodyear ER
- Mesa Baseline ER
- Mesa Power Road ER
- San Tan Valley ER
- Surprise ER
- Tempe Rural ER
Dignity Health - Arizona General Hospital – Laveen
Dignity Health - Arizona General Hospital - Mesa
Dignity Health - Chandler Regional Medical Center
Dignity Health - Mercy Gilbert Medical Center
Dignity Health - St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center
Dignity Health - St. Joseph's Westgate Medical Center
East Valley ER and Hospital
El Mirage Fire Department
El Mirage Emergency Room and Medical Center
Eloy Fire District
Exceptional Community Hospital Eloy
Exceptional Community Hospital Maricopa
Florence Fire Department
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Fire Department
Fountain Hills 24/7 ER and Medical Center
Fountain Hills Fire Department
Gila Bend Fire Department
Gila River EMS
Gila River Health Care - Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
Gila River Fire Department
Gilbert Fire and Rescue
Gisela Valley Fire District
Glendale Fire Department

Thank You Central Arizona

EMS and Trauma Care Provider Agencies and Hospitals

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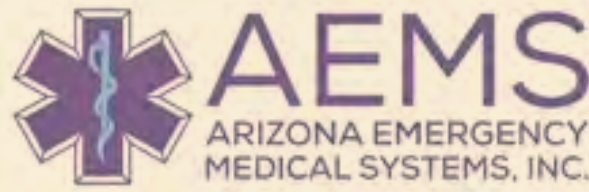
Globe Fire Department
Goodyear Fire Department
Guadalupe Fire Department Harquahala Valley Fire District
Hellsgate Fire Department
HonorHealth Complete Care - Lake Pleasant
HonorHealth Complete Care - Paradise Valley
HonorHealth Complete Care - Surprise
HonorHealth Deer Valley Medical Center
HonorHealth Florence Medical Center
HonorHealth Four Peaks Medical Center
HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center
HonorHealth Mesa Emergency Center
HonorHealth Mountain Vista Medical Center
HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center
HonorHealth Scottsdale Shea Medical Center
HonorHealth Scottsdale Thompson Peak Medical Center
HonorHealth Sonoran Crossing Medical Center
HonorHealth Tempe Medical Center
Houston Mesa Fire District
Maricopa Ambulance
Maricopa Fire/Medical Department
Mayo Clinic Hospital
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Medical Rescue Posse
Mesa Fire and Medical Department
Mind 24/7
Payson Fire Department
Pinal County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Posse
Peoria Fire-Medical Department
Phoenix Children's Emergency Department - Avondale
Phoenix Children's Hospital - Arrowhead Campus
Phoenix Children's Hospital - Phoenix
Phoenix Fire Department
Pinal Rural Fire and Medical District
Pleasant Valley Fire District
PMT Ambulance
Queen Creek Fire & Medical
Queen Valley Fire District
Regional Fire and Rescue Department
Rio Verde Fire District

Salt River Fire Department
San Carlos Apache EMS and Fire Department
San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation
Scottsdale Fire Department
Stanfield Fire District
Sun City Fire & Medical Department
Superior Fire Department
Superstition Fire & Medical District
Surprise Fire-Medical Department
Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department
Thunderbird Fire District
Tolleson Fire Department
Tonto Basin Fire District
Tri-City Fire District
Valleywise Emergency - Maryvale
Valleywise Health Medical Center
Waterwheel Fire & Medical District
Wickenburg Community Hospital
Wickenburg Fire Department
Wilderness Medics

This list is intended to be inclusive of all Central Region EMS and Trauma Care Agencies and Hospitals. If an agency/hospital was omitted from this list, we sincerely regret the oversight. Please notify us so that we may update. Thank you.

Updated May 2026

**7th
Annual**



EMS CE FALL FORUM

December 10, 2026

<https://aems.org/ems-fall-forum>



*Special \$25 rate for Odyssey Participants
Expires 8/31/26*

Mexican Drug Cartels: Current Trends & Emerging Threats

OB Emergencies: What EMS Needs to Know

Climate Impacts on Public Health

And More...

**6 CEs
for
EMCTs
and
Nurses
(pending
approval)**



**27TH
ANNUAL**

EMS ODYSSEY CONFERENCE

COMING JUNE 10, 2027

Location To Be Announced

**For more info on the EMS Odyssey visit:
<https://aems.org/odyssey>**

Coordinated By

