The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC) and the Emergency Medical Services for Children Innovation and Improvement Center are pleased to provide you with information on the National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week and related topics. EMS week will be observed May 20 - 26, 2018; annually, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) in partnership with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) recognize EMS providers for their important work.

May 23, 2018 is designated as Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Day. The purpose of the annual EMSC Day is to highlight the distinct aspects of caring for children and to raise awareness of the need to improve and expand specialized emergency care for children in the prehospital and acute care settings. See the AAP Emergency Medical Services for Children Web page for sample activities. Resources for parents can be found on the AAP Healthychildren.org Web site:

- **10 Things for Parents to Know Before Heading to the ER**
- **When Your Child Needs Emergency Medical Services**
- **What to Expect When You Call 911** (Podcast with Elizabeth Murray, MD, FAAP)

**EMS Strong: Stronger Together**

The 2018 National EMS Week theme is “EMS STRONG: Stronger Together”. The EMS Strong campaign aims to celebrate, unify, and inspire EMS professionals across the nation. As you plan for EMS Week, it’s helpful to reflect on how other organizations throughout the country honor and inspire the fire fighters and EMS professionals who put their lives on the line every day. This year’s National EMS Week theme days are:

- Monday - **Education**
- Tuesday - **Safety**
- Wednesday - **EMS for Children**
- Thursday - **Save-A-Life/CPR/Stop the Bleed**
- Friday - **EMS Recognition**

**National Pediatric Readiness Project and QI Collaborative**

The National Pediatric Readiness Project is a quality improvement initiative to ensure that all hospital emergency departments in the US have the essential materials, training, and resources in place to provide effective emergency care to children. A national assessment of emergency department’s readiness to care for children was completed in 2013. See information regarding the assessment, state-specific response rates, and national results at [https://emscimprovement.center/projects/pediatricreadiness/](https://emscimprovement.center/projects/pediatricreadiness/). A follow-up project coordinated by the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIIC) is the Pediatric Readiness Quality Improvement (QI) Collaborative.

**Disaster Preparedness Advocacy Action Guide for AAP Chapters**

The recently released Disaster Preparedness Advocacy Action Guide for AAP Chapters provides ideas for how pediatricians, child advocates, and AAP chapters can get more involved in pediatric disaster preparedness.
Pediatric Involvement in EMSC Efforts

The AAP staff asked AAP members involved in EMSC projects for ideas on how pediatricians could work with their EMSC state contacts on collaborative initiatives. Ideas include:

- Offer to serve on the state EMSC advisory council (EMSC projects are encouraged to include a pediatrician on these councils).
- Work together to improve pediatric outcomes by identifying resources and opportunities within your area.
- Get involved in regional drills or tabletop exercises; work with EMSC stakeholders to plan a pediatric-focused exercise or add a pediatric component to a community exercise.
- Conduct trainings or educational outreach (including education of medical students, residents, or trainees on disaster topics). See education and training ideas.
- Assist with school preparedness.
- Initiate or serve on Pediatric Advisory Councils or Children’s Preparedness Coalitions.
- Support the development of State Action Plans or implementation of specific activities.
- Join a Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Medical Reserve Corps, or healthcare coalition.
- Become a Stop the Bleed instructor or educator.

PREP®: EM - An Intensive Review Course and Update on Pediatric Emergency Medicine

Date: July 28-August 1, 2018  Location: Philadelphia, PA

Sponsored by the AAP, the AAP Section on Emergency Medicine, and the ACEP, this continuing medical education (CME) activity prepares participants to practice state-of-the-art pediatric emergency medicine, assess new developments in pediatric emergency medicine, and integrate new management strategies for acute pediatric illness and injury into practice. For detailed course information or to register, visit shop.aap.org/prepem2018. Register by June 29, 2018, for reduced rates.

Save the Dates: Children’s Hospital and Preparedness Webinars!

Title: Planning for Hospital Pediatric Surge: Solutions Within Reach
Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2018, at 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT
Registration Link: https://cc.readytalk.com/r/oth2iu8pro33&eom

Title: Family Reunification: Debut of a New AAP Toolkit
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2018, at 2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT
Registration Link: https://cc.readytalk.com/r/9769ookhip60&eom

New Resources: Caring for Children in Disasters

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Children’s Preparedness Unit recently updated its Caring for Children in a Disaster Web page. The new Web site features the following new content:

- Helping Children Cope with Emergencies
- Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs in Emergencies
- Emergency Kit Checklists (for kids and families, and for families with CSHCN)
- Your Child May Be At Risk for Mental Health Problems After a Disaster – English
- Your Child May Be At Risk for Mental Health Problems After a Disaster – Español

For more information about the EMSC IIC, contact Terry Fisher at Terry.Fisher@bcm.edu.

For more information on AAP disaster preparedness and response initiatives, e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.