EMSAAC

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

(Via email and US mail)

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Ventura

13 January, 2009

Mr. Robert Sumwalt, Chairman
Hearing on EMS Helicopter Safety
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Chairman Sumwalt,

The Emergency Medical Services Administrators' Association of California (EMSAAC) concurs with the concerns of NTSB regarding safety in the operation of EMS Aircraft, particularly helicopters. EMSAAC represents the Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies (LEMSAs) which are responsible for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of emergency medical services systems throughout California.

EMSAAC is aware of the recent number of aviation incidents, fatal and non-fatal, involving EMS Aircraft. We feel strongly that a systems approach which places a premium on integration is fundamental to any statutory, regulatory or guideline schema which is intended to address safety. EMSAAC also believes that EMS Aircraft providers must remain accountable to local EMS system oversight to ensure the safe integration of EMS aircraft services.

In California, the requirement for integration of these valuable resources with the local EMS system results in provider accountability, coordination with other system resources and maintains an appropriate level of medical quality control which is essential to any medical service.

EMSAAC supports finding ways to ensure the safe and efficient operation of EMS aircraft and is willing to make itself available to you and your committee as you may see fit.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Michael Frenn, President
EMSAAC