



IPEMS UNITS

Emergency Medical Services Injury Surveillance & Prevention



Trauma-Emergency Medical Services System in Alaska

Background:

Alaska's Trauma-EMS System is a work in progress. A great deal has been accomplished since 1992 when the state received the first year of a three-year federal grant specifically targeted toward trauma care system development. Since federal funding has been re-instituted, there has been further momentum in enhancing our system.

We currently have a committee the Alaska Trauma System Review Committee that assists the State in the development, enhancement, and evaluation of our Trauma-EMS System.

In 1993 Alaska passed enabling legislation for trauma care system development and accompanying regulations, ([AS 18.08.010-015](#), and [7 AAC 26.710-745](#)) were adopted in 1996.

Trauma Center Designation:

An important component of Alaska's trauma care system is certified trauma centers. Trauma centers provide an organized and timely response to traumatic injury. What this means in Alaska is:

- The hospital has demonstrated commitment to providing the best trauma care possible by allowing experts to review staffing and qualifications, procedures, protocols and resources;
- The hospital meets state and national standards for providing timely and optimal care for the trauma patient, and;
- The hospital is prepared to treat and transport trauma patients according to Alaska's system-wide plan.

There are four levels of trauma center designation/certification. Alaska has adopted the criteria set forth by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACSCOT). Prior to applying for state certification, Level I, II, and III

American College of Surgeons recommendations for a trauma system:

- [ACS Recommendations Presentation](#)

Trauma Training:

Continuing education training in trauma care for healthcare providers is an important component of a Trauma-EMS System.

Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Courses are offered periodically throughout the year in Anchorage at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) and occasionally in other areas of the state. For more information on the ATLS courses at ANMC, contact [Mary Leemhuis, RN](#) at (907) 729-2729; or [Casie Williams, RN](#) at (907) 729-2936. In addition, Providence Alaska Medical Center is providing ATLS courses. Contact [Jeanne Molitor, RN](#) for information.

Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) Courses are offered periodically through the EMS Regional offices. [Contact the nearest office](#) for more information.

Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) and Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course (ENPC) are other courses available around the state. For more information contact [Jeanne Molitor, RN](#). For TNCC only contact [Mary Leemhuis, RN](#) or [Margaret \(Rocky\) Carloni, RN](#).

Trauma care continuing medical education training is often available at the State and Regional EMS Symposia. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Alaska Trauma Registry:

Alaska is very fortunate to have a great

trauma centers must complete an application to ACSCOT and have a verification visit by a team from ACSCOT. Using ACSCOT criteria, Level IV trauma centers are verified by a state team, appointed by the Alaska Division of Public Health.

• **Level I – Regional Resource Center** – Level I Trauma Centers generally serve large cities or population-dense areas. A Level I Trauma Center is responsible for providing leadership in research, professional and community education. There are no Level I Trauma Centers in Alaska because, there are no trauma research and teaching facilities in Alaska.

• **Level II – Regional Trauma Centers** – A Level II Trauma Center provides comprehensive trauma care and serves as a lead trauma facility for a geographical area. A Level II Trauma Center provides educational outreach and prevention programs and assumes responsibility for trauma system leadership. There are emergency physicians and nurses in-house to initiate resuscitation and stabilization, with surgical teams on call and promptly available.

• **Level III – Area Trauma Center** – The Level III Trauma Center provides assessment, resuscitation, emergency surgery, and stabilization and, for the most critically injured patients, arranges for transfer to a Level I or Level II trauma center that can provide further definitive care. A general surgeon must be promptly available and the facility must be involved with prevention and have an active outreach program for its referring communities.

• **Level IV – Local Trauma Stabilization Center** – Level IV Trauma Centers are small rural facilities that provide initial evaluation and assessment of injured patients prior to transfer to a larger referral facility.

For more information, you can download a brochure about [Trauma Center Certification in Alaska](#).

Below are documents/links to assist hospitals interested in seeking Trauma Center Designation.

For the American College of Surgeons, Committee on Trauma (ACSCOT) Level I, II, III verification program visit:
<http://www.facs.org/trauma/verificationhosp.html>

For the pre-review questionnaire for Level I, II, and III verification visit:
<http://www.facs.org/trauma/prq.doc>

To request for a verification visit from ACSCOT visit:
<http://www.facs.org/trauma/sitevisitapplication1006.doc>

source of data through our [Alaska Trauma Registry](#).

Links:

[American College of Surgeons](#) is a scientific and educational association of surgeons founded to improve the quality of care for the surgical patient by setting high standards for surgical education and practice. The Committee on Trauma works to improve the care of injured and critically ill patients – before, en route to, and during hospitalization. Their web site has information on trauma center designation and Advanced Trauma Life Support courses.

[American Trauma Society](#) is dedicated to the prevention of trauma and improvement of trauma care. The society is a strong advocate for injury care and prevention and have numerous programs.

[American College of Emergency Physicians](#) promotes the highest standards of patient care through its advocacy and leadership efforts. Their web site has numerous resources on a variety of topics.

[TRAUMA.ORG](#) provides global education, information and communication resources for professionals in trauma and critical care.

Alaska Trauma/EMS List Server

Alaska Trauma/EMS program is pleased to announce the list server that we have developed to disseminate information from the federal and state Trauma/EMS programs. This forum can also be used to improve communication between the facilities and open opportunities for sharing. Please be advised that if you send a message via the list serve it will go to everyone that is a member.

To join this free list, send an e-mail message to:

list.manager@list.state.ak.us

The body of the message should be:

Subscribe ak-trauma

- [Level IV Trauma center information](#)
 - o Pre-review Questionnaire (Level IV Trauma Center Checklist) [coming soon]
 - o [Level IV, Desirable and Expected Resources/Services](#)
 - o [Level IV Request for a verification visit](#)
 - o [Performance Improvement for Small Rural Hospitals in Alaska](#)
 - o [Performance Improvements Sample meeting minutes](#)

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