



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### HealthNet Aeromedical Services Receives 2021 National Safety in EMS Award

Clinton, Miss. – The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians ([NAEMT](#)) and American College of Emergency Physicians ([ACEP](#)) are pleased to announce HealthNet Aeromedical Services of Charleston, WV, as the recipient of the **2021 NAEMT-ACEP/Horton Emergency Vehicles Safety in EMS Award**. Sponsored by Horton Emergency Vehicles, the award was established to recognize an organization that has significantly contributed to advancing EMS practitioner and/or patient safety.



“We are pleased to recognize Healthnet Aeromedical Services for its commitment to safety,” said Mark Rosenberg, DO, MBA, FACEP, president of ACEP. “Safety is a foundational component of every EMS system, and ACEP applauds the leaders in the field, like Healthnet, for continuing to prioritize the best practices that limit risk and prevent patient harm while protecting EMS professionals on the job.”

HealthNet Aeromedical Services has implemented and successfully executed several strategies to support an EMS Culture of Safety. Those strategies include:

- Establishing an internal, full-time safety department focusing solely on the day-to-day development, implementation, and oversight of safety-related initiatives.
- In-house emergency vehicle operator training within six months of an employee’s hire date for those with previous EVOC training to reduce the risk of motor vehicle collisions.
- Fleet-wide use of video telematics in all ambulances to protect employees from potential liability in events that occurred through no fault of their actions.
- Daily pre-shift fatigue assessments, pre-transport risk assessments for long distance transports, pre-shift crew rest requirements, and maximum duty length limits.
- Having all EMS personnel complete the NAEMT EMS Safety Course within 6 months of hire and biennially afterwards.

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After implementing its revised driver training program, HealthNet experienced a 52% decrease in the rate of preventable vehicle damage incidents (defined as number of incidents per 100,000 miles driven) in 2020 compared to 2018 and 2019.

“Maintaining high safety standards for EMS practitioners is an important function of EMS agencies but one made challenging because of unforeseen or evolving conditions,” said Bruce Evans, President of NAEMT. “EMS agencies that create ongoing strategies to support the safety of our practitioners, patients and communities—especially following this two-year pandemic—are proudly recognized with this award.”

HealthNet Aeromedical Services was selected based on demonstrated achievement in advancing the [Strategy for a National EMS Culture of Safety](#), utilizing proactive leadership to inspire all EMS personnel to practice safe work habits, and actively advocating for EMS Safety. HealthNet will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and national recognition.

#### **About ACEP**

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) is the national medical society representing emergency medicine. Through continuing education, research, public education and advocacy, ACEP advances emergency care on behalf of its 40,000 emergency physician members, and the more than 150 million Americans they treat on an annual basis. For more information, visit [www.acep.org](http://www.acep.org) and [www.emergencyphysicians.org](http://www.emergencyphysicians.org).

#### **About NAEMT**

Formed in 1975 and more than 72,000 members strong, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians is the only national association representing the professional interests of all emergency and mobile healthcare practitioners, including emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical responders, paramedics, advanced practice paramedics, critical care paramedics, flight paramedics, community paramedics, and mobile integrated healthcare practitioners. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military. [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)

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