



NEWS RELEASE

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Okaloosa County EMS earns national achievement award for its Comprehensive Quality Assurance and Training Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Okaloosa County EMS has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACO). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

NACO recognized the Okaloosa County EMS Comprehensive Quality Assurance and Training Program in the category of Health. The program fosters participation between local fire departments, hospitals, and EMS in the development and implementation of new quality standards, pre-hospital medical performance measures, resource and data sharing procedures, and comprehensive training that provides realistic classroom and skills lab training modules based on local treatment protocols rather than commercially available web-based programs. The results have shown objective and measurable improvement in all categories of clinical competency and a higher quality of care system wide.

“This is the second time in recent years that Okaloosa County EMS has earned this recognition, also doing so in 2013,” said Chairman Nathan Boyles, Okaloosa County Commission. “They continually meet and exceed expectations in service to our citizens and for that, our county is safer.”

NACO President Riki Hokama, council member, Maui County, Hawaii, said, “The National Association of Counties applauds county governments that are embracing innovative and more effective ways to serve their constituents. The Achievement Awards recognize counties’ outstanding efforts to strengthen services and deliver results for residents across the country.”

Nationally, awards are given in 21 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

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The awards will be presented at NACo's 2015 Annual Conference and Exposition July 10–13 in Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative county government programs. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. Learn more at www.naco.org

