



November 4, 2010

This letter is in regards to a situation affecting the prehospital care of tribes throughout the United States. It involves the National Native American Emergency Medical Services Association (NNAEMSA) and Mountain Plains Health Consortium (MPHC). Both organizations provided training and support to Tribal EMS programs across the nation.

I would like to inform you about the financial situation of the NNAEMS Association, and all of Indian country Emergency Medical Services. IHS has chosen not to renew our NNAEMSA grant that has been primarily used to support the annual educational conference. This year's conference is being funded from the small amount of IHS funds left from 2009, and from this years and past year's donations, memberships, fund raisers, and registration fees. This being said we are not sure if we will have sufficient funds for a 2011 conference or to keep the association viable. Without our annual EMS Conference many of our Tribal EMS personal will struggle to get the required continued education units that they need to maintain their licensure.

EMS training has not been available at MPHC to the Tribal Programs for the last year and half (18 months). MPHC provided an average of 150 EMS training classes per year to Tribal Programs. IHS contracted with Kauffman & Associates to provide EMS training in September of 2009 and have only provided eight (8) classes to date. The NNAEMSA was not included in any discussions concerning this company and have had no communications from them concerning training. IHS is paying more money for contract training and the Tribal EMS Programs are receiving less training and assistance. MPHC provided a huge amount of training on a very small budget each year. We need this type of resource available and a strong association to speak for EMS. It is our understanding that a proposal to establish an IHS EMS Training Program at the Rapid City Service Unit that would be a program similar to the program that we lost at MPHC. Why is IHS not responding to this proposal?

We as Indian Country EMS Programs need to take a stand and need your assistance in funding to re-establish an EMS Training facility and to support the National Native American EMS Association. Any discussion we can have regarding this important issue affecting the care of our people would be greatly appreciated.

Attached is a copy of the very costly equipment MPHC used to provide for educational and training purposes for Tribal EMS programs. This equipment was bought by IHS to provide EMS Training to Tribal Programs at the MPHC program. This equipment is now in possession of the HEDS (some has been sold) and we are told that it no longer belongs to IHS and cannot be used by IHS or Tribal Programs. If IHS funds purchased this equipment, why is it now not available to use at our Tribal conferences or to train Tribal programs?

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
NNAEMSA Board of Directors