



**JAN 16 & 17, 2026**  
**VIRTUAL EVENT**

**EMS CONFERENCE**  
**GRAND JUNCTION, CO**

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual EMS Conference**

**presented by Professional EMS Education**

**The leader in EMS education for Western Colorado**

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Conference  
It's A Virtual  
Event!!**

**Conference  
Dates**

**Friday,  
Jan 16th**

**&**

**Saturday,  
Jan 17th**

**Nationally  
Recognized  
Presenters!**

**Professional EMS  
Education  
629 Hudson Bay Dr  
Grand Junction, CO  
81504**

**[www.proemsedu.com](http://www.proemsedu.com)**

**(970) 254-8135 office  
(970) 242-8357 fax**

## **Registrations**

Please print legibly or type all information on the registration form. Submit only one form per attendee. Registrations cannot be shared. Registrations will **not** be accepted without accompanying payment information.

Register online! [www.proemsedu.com](http://www.proemsedu.com) under Upcoming Events! You can download your schedule at any time.

## **Cancellations**

A full refund can be obtained if a cancellation is received no later than Sunday January 11, 2026, if a cancellation is submitted after Monday, January 12, 2026. No refund is issued. There are **NO** refunds for attendee no shows.

## **CE's**

Professional EMS Education, LLC is an approved Colorado Training Group. You can earn approved CEU's for the classes attended at this conference. A total of 16 hours can be achieved if you attend all presentations over the two - day event.

## **Conference Format**

The 2026 EMS Conference will be conducted in a virtual format. The program will run on Zoom. All participants will receive an email invitation for each day of the conference they are registered for.

You do not need to download any programs or apps for the conference, just follow the link provided in the email; it will put you in a waiting room and we will admit you. (We have found that if you download the application the reception for the presentation tends to be a little better)

Attendance will be verified by signing into the chat box. This will be required for each attendee in order to receive CEU's for every class attended.

## **Cost**

One day attendance will be \$55 / person

Full two - day conference will be \$95 / person

**Thank You to our**  
**Conference Sponsors:**

**Professional EMS Education**

**Montrose Fire Department**

**Telluride Fire Protection District**

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**Vendors: Stryker / Braun Northwest**

## **Presenters**

### **John Dawson, NRP, Advanced Practice Paramedic**

J.D. Dawson is a firefighter and Advanced Practice Paramedic with 14 years of EMS experience. He holds endorsements in both Community Paramedicine and Critical Care and has more than 12 years of teaching experience, teaching a wide range of courses with Professional EMS Education and serving as adjunct faculty for Colorado Mesa University's paramedic program. JD brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his presentations.

### **Eric Van Dusen, AAS, NRP, Sioux Falls, S.D.**

Eric is a paramedic based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He has been active in EMS since 2001 at the local and state level. Eric was a simulation specialist in the mobile simulation unit for Sanford Health, as well as a flight paramedic for Sanford's Air Med program. He has served as the state president for the South Dakota EMS Association from 2012-2018.

### **Fidel O. Garcia, Paramedic,**

Nationally recognized presenter, AHA training center coordinator, Owner Professional EMS Education, Grand Junction, CO. Fidel began his career in 1979 in Leadville, Colorado. He began teaching EMS education classes in 1983. Fidel has worked as a medic in prehospital EMS, a flight medic and hospital based EMS agencies. He has been presenting at local, state, regional, national EMS conferences and events for the last 30 years. Fidel is a frequent reviewer of EMS textbooks and is published in textbook and magazine for EMS

### **Dave Gilmore, MD, Medical Director for Professional EMS Education,**

Dr. Gilmore is a former Academic Professor of Medicine in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. American Heart Association former ECC Science Publications Editor, AHA Programs Education Committee, Regional Faculty, Course Director & International Training Officer.

### **Conner Killeen, BS, NRP**

Conner Killeen holds a Bachelor's degree in Microbiology from Montana State University, graduating with Honors distinction. He has worked in the prehospital setting for more than seven years and has spent the past six teaching various subjects. His background in biomedical research includes co-authorship in *Nano Letters* for work conducted in the Kunze Lab at MSU. He earned his NREMT Paramedic certification in 2024 and currently serves with the Clifton Fire Department in Clifton, Colorado.

### **Robin Marley, BS, CADS, NR-P, CP-C**

Robin Marley is a paramedic and educator. Graduating from Colorado Mesa University in 2016 with a Bachelor's degree in pre-medicine and chemistry and Arapahoe Community College in 2025 with a Bachelor's degree in Advanced Paramedic Practice, she has always had a passion for medicine, education, and research. As a lead chemistry researcher and student at CMU, she helped author two published research papers, presented her research at the American Chemical Society International Conference, and published her thesis review of Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome in an undergraduate student review journal. After finding her niche in prehospital emergency medicine and education in 2017, she has worked as a phlebotomist, clinical phlebotomy instructor, EMT-B, and is currently a lead instructor under Fidel O. Garcia with Professional EMS Education, an adjunct paramedic instructor at CMU, and an EMS-only Paramedic at Grand Junction Fire Department. Within her passion for medicine and medical education, she serves on the EMS steering, FTO, and strategic planning committees at GJFD and provided testimony to the Colorado State Legislature to pass Senate Bill 23-023 offering CPR education and certification to high school students statewide. She is committed to excellence in foundational medical knowledge and teaching others medicine in a way that instills motivation and passion in providers.

## **Presenters continued**

### **Jenn Oese, BA, NRP, EMS Training Captain, Red, White & Blue Fire and Summit Fire & EMS Summit Fire Authority / High Country Training Center**

Jenn Oese is a paramedic who began her career as a volunteer firefighter, while raft guiding. She worked as an EMT for a few years with a county-run ambulance service before attending paramedic school in 1997. She worked as a field paramedic, FTO, and operations supervisor before moving into the Quality Improvement and EMS Training realm, and now serves both Red White & Blue Fire and Summit Fire & EMS in Summit County, CO, as an EMS Training Captain overseeing CQI and EMS Training. When not working, she supports her husband (who is a fire battalion chief) and kids (18 and 14 years old), and enjoys time outside.

### **Jon Politis, MPA, NRP**

Jon is a proven and respected emergency services leader and educator. Becoming an EMT in 1971, he has served in many capacities...EMT, firefighter, ski patroller, paramedic, paramedic program director, state EMS official (VT and NY), EMS Chief and Fire Chief. He has a reputation of integrity and solid leadership in both career and volunteer organizations. He served on the Board of Directors of the National Registry of EMTs, Committee on Accreditation for the EMS Professions, been co-investigator of original research and authored numerous articles and texts. In 1989 he lead the Town of Colonie, NY to consolidate the Town's six Rescue Squads into a single municipal EMS department. He served as the Chief of the Town of Colonie EMS Department from 1989 to 2010 when he retired. During his tenure as Chief, Colonie EMS won two national awards, two regional awards and the New York State EMS service of the year award. In retirement he served as the interim director of a community ambulance service and led them through a consolidation effort with a neighboring agency. He has also served as the Chief of his community volunteer fire department. 2010 Recipient of the National Association of EMTs, Rocco V. Morando EMS lifetime achievement award. Life Member and Past Chief of the Verdoz Fire Department in Colonie, NY Life Member of the National Ski Patrol, Alpine Senior Patroller and National Appointment # 10966. He continues to practice as paramedic, firefighter and ski patroller. He is passionate about the outdoors and is an avid mountaineer and skier. During the summer months he works as a Ranger in Grand Teton National Park where he serves as a member of the Jenny Lake Rescue Team. As a consultant, he works with emergency services organizations providing training through his acclaimed Leadership Programs. He is an accomplished educator and presents on leadership, emergency and wilderness medicine topics at conferences across the United States.

### **Eric Thomas, BSN, RN, CFRN, CEN**

A seasoned critical care flight nurse with 8 years of experience dropping into some of the toughest trauma scenes across the country, and 15 years in big box medicine. His background spans emergency medicine, pediatric critical care, high-risk obstetrics, and ventilator management in austere environments. From river valleys to rooftop helipads, he's worked both rotor- and fixed-wing missions, blending sharp clinical skills with real-world transport grit. Eric teaches trauma and critical care to EMTs, paramedics, nurses, and physicians—always with a focus on practical tactics that work when seconds count. “Life's too short to be serious unless it affect perfusion”. Eric Thomas

## **Presenters continued**

### **G Wagner, BSN, RN, CFRN, CEN – Critical Care Flight Nurse.**

G began his career in emergency medicine in 2010 as an EMT in Southern Colorado. In 2015, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Colorado Mesa University and soon joined Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo, Colorado. During his five years at Parkview, G was a key member of the trauma, emergency, and critical care teams, and also served as an instructor for PALS, ACLS, and TNCC.

In 2019, G transitioned into the role of Critical Care Flight Nurse, further advancing his experience in high-acuity patient care. For the past two years, he has served as the Clinical Manager of an Emergency Department in Southern Colorado, where he leads with a focus on quality, teamwork, and evidence-based practice.

G currently serves as the Vice Chair of the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council and holds board certifications in both Flight and Emergency Nursing. He remains deeply passionate about critical care and emergency medicine, with a strong commitment to education and advancing the delivery of evidence-based care.



**CC01 Jon Politis, MPA, NRP: Sexy Airway Secrets.....Achieving High Performance Oxygenation**

Basic airway management isn't so basic... or easy! Do you know the secrets of basic airway management? Like using nasopharyngeal airways, PEEP valves, Nasal Cannulas at high flows, high performance BVM and giving a high performance CPAP treatment? This presentation will get you to rethink what you thought you knew about basic airway management and non-invasive ventilation! This presentation is a "back to basics" presentation on the "ABCs" of ventilation and oxygenation **based**

**CC02 Jon Politis, MPA, NRP: Shock Talk**

It's the body's early warning system to signal serious trouble. But, it's one of the most poorly understood compensatory mechanisms that EMTs see. Understanding this physiologic mechanism will allow a field provider to recognize the subtle signs early and take appropriate action. In this presentation the physiology of shock will be covered in depth and related to the accompanying signs and symptoms.

**CC03 Eric Van Dussen, BSN, RN, CFRN, CEN: Provider To Patient**

In 2014, Eric was involved in a motorcycle accident in the middle of EMS week in which he experienced the other side of what we see on a daily basis. This tells the story of going from a provider to becoming a patient and the pitfalls of that reversal of roles. There are things we can learn as providers by being patients, and things we need to allow happening.

**CC04 Eric Van Dussen, BSN, RN, CFRN, CEN: Capnography: Application For EMS**

This lecture starts the initial Capnography basics and adds other components of why Capnography is another great tool in our bag. This explains why it should be the "Go to Tool" in our arsenal of weapons to better identify disease processes and provide better outcomes for our patients

**CC05 Eric Van Dussen, BSN, RN, CFRN, CEN: Farm Trauma**

This topic will address some of the hazards and injuries EMS providers might encounter when called to rural agricultural areas. There is a discussion on trauma, medical, and toxicological threats every day during operation of agricultural business.

**CC06 Jon Politis, MPA, NRP: A walk in the park...Case Studies in Wilderness Medicine and Backcountry Rescue**

Off road or backcountry EMS is a different "ball game" and requires an EMT to think differently about response, rationing of care, the method, speed and relative risks of transportation. Trying to respond to a back country emergency with a standard EMS response can cause major problems for the patient and rescuers. This presentation provides an overview of the response, assessment, patient care and transportation considerations for backcountry rescue. Essential for any EMS provider thinking about going beyond the road.

**CC07 Jenn Oese, , BA, Paramedic, EMS Training Captain, Red, White & Blue Fire and Summit Fire & EMS Summit Fire Authority / High Country Training Center:**

**Summit County EMS Success With High Performance CPR**

Summit County improved it's cardiac arrest survival rate from 8.8% to 50% in one year by implementing High Performance CPR. The presentation will review many of the steps taken to achieve this outstanding outcome. In 2018, Summit County's cardiac arrest survival rate was 8.8%. In the spring of 2019, we rolled out High Performance CPR, including a pit-crew style approach. The presentation will include the story of how we made the decision to commit to the project, as well as the many steps leading to success over the years. Much of the content comes from the Resuscitation Academy and will include how we have implemented it. I will reiterate that it is a lengthy process with opportunities for small improvements over many years to show that any agency or crew can start now to make a difference for our cardiac arrest patients.

**CC08 Jenn Oese, , BA, Paramedic, EMS Training Captain, Red, White & Blue Fire and Summit Fire & EMS Summit Fire Authority / High Country Training Center:**

**OB Emergencies You May Encounter In The Field**

OB assessment/care and providing care to a newborn while also learning about OB emergencies that you might encounter in the field.

In 2011 I was diagnosed with a rare (1 in 3000) pregnancy condition called vasa previa. Rarely is this condition diagnosed pre-delivery and usually ends up with a poor outcome. I will review my case and a prehospital case with the same diagnosis from the UK that had a good outcome due to the diligence of the prehospital providers in giving excellent newborn care. The session will also include a systematic review of the OB basics for the ALS provider to meet recertification requirements (used to be the Nat Reg requirements, no longer specifically required).

**CC09 G Wagner, BSN, RN, CFRN, CEN – Critical Care Flight Nurse:****Making Things Better: Elevating Outcomes Through Intentional Actions**

Effective management of patients with intracranial hemorrhage (ICH) begins long before definitive diagnosis and neurosurgical intervention. This presentation focuses on recognizing early signs of possible ICH and implementing evidence-based strategies to optimize patient outcomes. Emphasis will be placed on the critical importance of maintaining adequate blood pressure and oxygenation, while minimizing secondary brain injury through prevention of increased intracranial pressure. Participants will review key interventions—including hemodynamic control, airway management, and targeted therapies—that can make the difference between recovery and deterioration.

**CC10 G Wagner, BSN, RN, CFRN, CEN – Critical Care Flight Nurse: Pediatric Pearls**

Caring for critically ill or injured children presents unique challenges that demand specialized knowledge and swift, confident action. This presentation will review key anatomical and physiological differences that make pediatric patients distinct from adults and influence assessment and treatment. Participants will learn to recognize the subtle early signs of pediatric shock and understand why timely intervention is crucial. The session will also cover essential skills in pediatric airway management, vascular access, and resuscitation—highlighting practical, evidence-based approaches that improve outcomes when seconds count.

**CC11 Eric Thomas, BSN, RN, CFRN, CEN****“Beyond the Tunnel: Seeing the Big Picture in Multi-System Trauma”**

High-energy scenes, flashing lights, adrenaline pumping—multi-system trauma loves to pull us, even seasoned EMTs’ and Paramedics’ into tunnel vision. Survival often hinges on stepping back and seeing the *whole picture*. This fast-paced, one-hour session challenges EMTs and paramedics to break out of narrow focus, sharpen their trauma priorities, and anticipate the next three moves before they happen. Through real transport cases, evolving scenarios, and current trauma guidelines, we’ll tackle the messy reality of blunt and penetrating trauma, shock physiology, and split-second triage in the field. It’s about thinking bigger, moving smarter, and owning the first hour.

**CC12 John Dawson, NRP, APP, Captain with When Every Word Counts**

Delivering a death notification is arguably one of the most difficult tasks EMS providers face—and often the one we are least prepared for. Nearly half of providers are expected to communicate this life-changing news without any formal training, relying instead on peers, improvisation, or trial and error. Yet the words we choose carry immense weight and may echo in the minds of survivors for a lifetime. It is therefore vital that we deliver this devastating news with as much clarity, compassion, and professionalism as possible.

**CC13 Conner Killeen, BS, NRP: Review and Management of Cardiogenic Shock**

Cardiogenic shock is a common problem in the US and can be quite challenging to manage in the prehospital setting. This class will cover a cardiology Review. It will go in depth to allow the participant to have a better understanding Cardiogenic shock. We will discuss current guidelines to develop a treatment plan to manage the patient in cardiogenic shock in the prehospital setting. We will discuss what Pulse Pressure is and identify how Pulse pressure can be used as a guide for treating the patient in cardiogenic shock.

**CC14 Robin Marley, BS, CADS, NR-P, CP-C: Silent Battles: Neurobiology of PTSD**

What happens when the rescuers need rescuing? As First Responders and healthcare personnel we can easily recognize signs and symptoms of trauma responses and burnout in coworkers and patients we treat. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to recognize and accept when we ourselves experience burnout and trauma. In this presentation we will do a deep dive into the pathophysiology and neurobiology of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders. Additionally, we will discuss what factors affect a person's resilience in the face of stress and ways healthcare professionals can mitigate trauma responses and stress.

**CC15 Dave Gilmore, MD: "A Review of the Current Opioid Epidemic"**

How it gets to your patients: Manufacturing, processing, shipping and distribution of illegal opioids.  
Unexpected consequences: Contaminants are a major contributor to morbidity and mortality.  
Broaden your skill set: Clinical information for major contaminants, in addition to opioid products.

**CC16 Fidel O. Garcia, Paramedic: "Hyperkalemia: "Pathophysiology, identification and intervention for the patient with hyperkalemia"**

Hyperkalemia can be a life threatening situation in the prehospital setting if it is not quickly identified and treated. Using a case presentation we will identify how to recognize hyperkalemia through patient history and ECG findings that help us identify patients who are at high risk of deteriorating into a cardiac arrest. We will do an in depth discussion on the pathophysiology of what is occurring during the different stages of hyperkalemia and discuss why specific interventions to include, Calcium, Sodium Bicarbonate, and Albuterol will play a vital role in a positive outcome for the patient

# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS



## **REGISTRATION FORM**

Complete this form and mail with payment and or a copy of the purchase order to:

Professional EMS Education - 629 Hudson Bay Drive - Grand Junction, CO 81504

Fax with credit card number or copy of purchase order to (970) 242-8357

Questions: Email [lisa@proemsedu.com](mailto:lisa@proemsedu.com) or call (970) 254-8135

|                                  |                          |
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| <b>Email:</b>                    |                          |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b>          | <b>City, State, Zip:</b> |
| <b>Contact Phone:</b>            | <b>Work Phone:</b>       |
| <b>Organization/Affiliation:</b> |                          |

### **Registration Fees**

| CONFERENCE                                  | CONFERENCE FEES       | Fees         |           |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Friday Conference Fee                       | Friday <b>ONLY</b>    | \$55         | \$        |
| Saturday Conference Fee                     | Saturday <b>ONLY</b>  | \$55         | \$        |
| <b>Friday &amp; Saturday Conference Fee</b> |                       | <b>\$95</b>  |           |
|                                             | <b>Conference Fee</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$</b> |

### **Payment Information**

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## Personal Class Schedule

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Last Name: | First Name: |
|------------|-------------|

(Please print or type your name and return with your registration form)

## CONFERENCE Friday, January 16 & Saturday, January 17, 2026

| TIMES                    |        | FRIDAY PRESENTATIONS                                                                               | PRESENTERS        |
|--------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0830-0930                | CC01 ○ | Sexy Airway Secrets (1 hr. A-R-V)                                                                  | Jon Politis       |
| 0940-1040                | CC02 ○ | Shock Talk (1 hr. Bleeding Control & Management)                                                   | John Politis      |
| 1050-1150                | CC03 ○ | Provider To Patient (0.5 Hrs – CNS / 0.5 Hrs Ventilation)                                          | Eric Van Dussen   |
| 1200-1300                | CC04 ○ | Capnography: Application For EMS (1 hr A-R-V)                                                      | Eric Van Dussen   |
| <b>LUNCH 1300 – 1340</b> |        |                                                                                                    |                   |
| 1340-1440                | CC05 ○ | Farm Trauma (1 hr. Shock – Hemorrhage Control)                                                     | Eric Van Dussen   |
| 1450-1550                | CC06 ○ | A Walk In The Park (1 hr. At Risk Population)                                                      | John Politis      |
| 1600-1700                | CC07 ○ | SCEMS Success With High Performance CPR (1 hr. Cardiac Arrest)                                     | Jenn Oese         |
| 1710-1810                | CC08 ○ | OB Emergencies You May Encounter In The Field (1 hr. OB Emergencies)                               | Jenn Oese         |
|                          |        | <b>SATURDAY PRESENTATIONS</b>                                                                      | <b>PRESENTERS</b> |
| 0830-0930                | CC09 ○ | Management of CHI (1 hr. CNS Injury)                                                               | G Wagner          |
| 0940-1040                | CC10 ○ | Pediatric PEARLS (1 hr At Risk Population)                                                         | G Wagner          |
| 1050-1150                | CC11 ○ | "Beyond the Tunnel: Seeing the Big Picture in Multi-System Trauma" (1 hr. At Risk Population )     | Eric Thomas       |
| 1200-1300                | CC12 ○ | When Every Word Matters (1 hr. Research)                                                           | John Dawson       |
| <b>LUNCH 1300 – 1340</b> |        |                                                                                                    |                   |
| 1340-1440                | CC13 ○ | Review and Management of Cardiogenic Shock (1 hr. CHF)                                             | Conner Killeen    |
| 1450-1550                | CC14 ○ | Silent Battles: Neurobiology of PTSD (1 hr Culture of Safety)                                      | Robin Marley      |
| 1600-1700                | CC15 ○ | A Review of the Current Opioid Epidemic (1 hr. Toxicology)                                         | Dr. Gilmore       |
| 1710-1810                | CC16 ○ | Hyperkalemia : The What – The Why – The How To Manage The Patient (0.5 Med Admin / 0.5 At Risk Pt) | Fidel O Garcia    |