

EMS SAFETY FOUNDATION REPORTS ON RETTMOBILE 2013 EUROPEAN EMS TRADE SHOW

Dr. Nadine Levick, an internationally recognized expert and passionate advocate on ambulance safety, and several members of the EMS Safety Foundation traveled to Fulda, Germany in May to attend one of the world's largest annual EMS shows with 440 exhibitors and over 20,000 attendees. From the Foundation booth at the show, Dr. Levick corralled two leading EMS Journal Editors, AJ Heightman of JEMS and Scott Cravens, of EMS World to share their views and highlights of Rettmobil 2013. Other EMS Safety Foundation delegates also participated. For a recap go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJw9_PyIIR0

Contrary to the USA trend of bigger ambulances on medium duty and even custom chassis, other parts of the world operate mainly with smaller ambulance vehicles. One attendee commented that the Sprinter was too large even though it comes out somewhere between a Type II van and a Type III module. The new Nissan commercial van chassis was evident as well as station wagon/SUV conversions reminiscent of the high top Cadillac ambulances of the 1950-1960s. Manufacturers such as BMW, VW, Landrover, Opel, Renault, Fiat and Audi had EMS conversion vehicles on display. Forward and rear facing seats are preferred placing EMS personnel closer to the patient, equipment is secured to the walls and supplies are readily at hand without getting up or stretching over the patient.

One ambulance was equipped with a portable CAT scanner. Like the US, many rural areas of Europe can be over two hours from specialized definitive medical care. Medivacs are used for trauma victims but not always for medical patients. Being able to confirm a stroke and initiate treatment in the field gives these patients a chance for full recovery with documented on-scene to drug time of under 35 minutes.

For more information about the EMS Safety Foundation go to www.emssafetyfoundation.org

