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# EMS Week, May 18-24, 2008 - EMS: Your Life is Our Mission

## Trauma Awareness Month, May 2007

Have you started planning for EMS week, May 18 – 24? What about Trauma Awareness Month in May? These two events provide a great way to honor emergency responders and promote safety and prevention. With tight budgets and growing workloads, it's always important to emphasize the life-saving role EMS plays in your community.

EMS Week's theme is "EMS: Your Life is Our Mission." As it has since 1974, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) offers an EMS Week Planning guide to give you ideas and help you plan a fun EMS Week. For more information or to obtain an EMS Week kit, please call 800-798-1822, touch 6, or visit ACEP's EMS Week Web site at [www.acep.org/emswalk](http://www.acep.org/emswalk) (email: [emswalk@acep.org](mailto:emswalk@acep.org)).

The American Trauma Society has set the 2008 slogan as "Plan A-head: Prevention and Detection of Mild TBI in Children." For an informational packet call the national office at 800-556-7890 or go to [www.amtrauma.org](http://www.amtrauma.org).



### Don't forget Ready Teddy

The beloved EMS safety mascot Ready Teddy is ready for service. You can order Ready Teddy coloring books, stickers and other EMS materials from DSHS using the order form on page 2 of this magazine. The Ready Teddy mascot suit is available for loan on a first-come basis. To reserve a mascot suit for your organization call the DSHS EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination office at (512) 834-6700.

### Here are some other ideas for EMS Week:

**Second Chance Reunion** - Invite survivors of cardiac arrest to reunite with EMS personnel, firefighters and others who helped give them a second chance at life.

**Station Appreciation Day** — Stations can conduct various station-based events throughout the day to honor their members and provide outreach to the communities they serve.

**Host an Open House** — Provide equipment demonstrations and tours of facilities and ambulances to the community.

**Host a Blood Drive** — Have EMS/Fire personnel donate and ask community to join in.

**Host Blood Pressure Checks/ CPR Classes** — A great way to connect with local schools, groups and senior centers.

**Sponsor a Vial of Life Program for seniors in your area** — Information on the program and free kits are available online at <http://www.vialoflife.com>.



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## Don't get returned to sender!

Important news for anyone sending anything to DSHS! Health and Human Services, our umbrella agency, has privatized our mail collection. That means DSHS address will change, effective immediately.

For anything that has money in it (e.g., EMS certifications with fees attached), send to:

Cash Receipts Branch, MC 2003  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
PO Box 149347  
Austin, TX 78714-9347

For general correspondence (anything that doesn't have money), use the following format:  
Recipient's name  
Program name and mail code (see below)  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
PO Box 149347  
Austin, TX 78714-9347

Mail codes for non-money mail:  
Office of EMS/Trauma Systems – 1876  
EMS Compliance – 1979  
EMS Certification – 2835  
Enforcement – 7927

Sample address for non-money mail:  
Texas EMS Magazine  
OEMS/TS MC 1876  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
PO Box 149347  
Austin, TX 78714-9347