

# National Registry rolls out new exams

## Texas certification levels remain the same

by Kelly Harrell

**I**f you remember nothing else from this article, remember this: If you are certified in Texas EMS and you are not nationally registered or don't care about maintaining your National Registry certification, you don't have to do anything except follow the Texas recertification process to be certified in Texas.

Why are we telling you this? The National Registry for EMTs, which conducts initial and assessment testing for Texas and many other states, is implementing the EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach, which proposes new levels of certification:

- EMR (Emergency Medical Responder)
- EMT
- AEMT (Advanced EMT)
- Paramedic

**Texas levels of certification will remain the same: ECA, EMT, EMT-I, EMT-P and licensed paramedic. These are defined in statute, Health and Safety Code 773.003, and can only be changed by the Texas Legislature, which won't meet again in regular session until 2013.**

### Does this affect my Texas certification?

No, this does not affect your Texas certification. Read the last sentence again and repeat.

### Then why are you telling me this?

This will affect only those people who wish to remain nationally registered through NREMT after passing the initial exam.

### What happens if I want to remain nationally registered?

You'll need to take a transition course by the deadline (see box) to remain a nationally registered EMR, EMT or paramedic, then follow NR recertification requirements. Texas EMT-Is who wish to remain nationally registered must take the transition course **and** a test because there is such a disparity between EMT-I and AEMT curricula. Again, as long as you fulfill Texas recertification requirements, you can remain a Texas-certified ECA, EMT, EMT-I, EMT-P or licensed paramedic.

### Is DSHS going to approve the transition courses?

Yes, we are still working out the process and should begin approving courses soon.

### Is DSHS still approving courses under the old curricula?

Yes, but eventually all new course approvals will be for the new curricula. For instance, programs can offer the EMT-I/85 course until DSHS requires AEMT courses, probably sometime in 2012.

### Will Texas get new patch designs?

No, Texas certifications are defined in statute,

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### Transition course completion deadlines for those who wish to remain nationally registered

#### First Responder to Emergency Medical Responder

| Current Certification Expires | Complete Transition By |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| September 30, 2011            | September 30, 2015     |
| September 30, 2012            | September 30, 2016     |

#### EMT-Basic to EMT, EMT-I/85/99 to AEMT and EMT-P to paramedic

| Current Certification Expires | Complete Transition By |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| March 31, 2011                | March 31, 2015         |
| March 31, 2012                | March 31, 2016         |

### NREMT exam transition dates

#### New NREMT exams begin:

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Advanced EMT                 | June 1, 2011    |
| Emergency Medical Responder  | January 1, 2012 |
| Emergency Medical Technician | January 1, 2012 |
| Paramedic                    | January 1, 2013 |

#### NREMT exams based on old levels will extend through:

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| First Responder     | December 31, 2011  |
| EMT-Basic           | December 31, 2011  |
| EMT-Intermediate/85 | March 31, 2013     |
| EMT-Intermediate/99 | December 31, 2013* |
| EMT-Paramedic       | December 31, 2012  |

\*NREMT will offer access to exam to states for purposes of state licensure after 12/31/13.