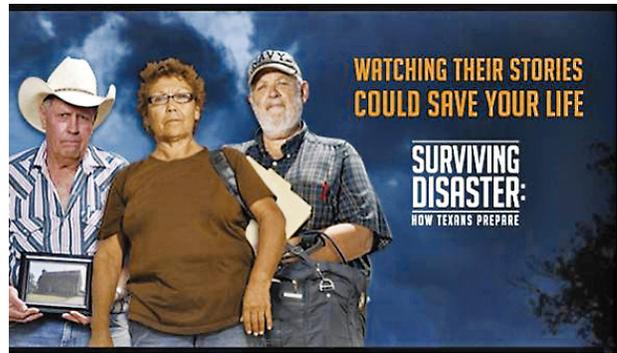


DSHS unveils survival stories

Surviving Disaster: How Texans Prepare, a documentary series about Texas disasters and emergency preparation, is now available to view online at TexasPrepares.org. DSHS produced the series, which features Texans telling stories of survival and sharing lessons they learned.

“The series puts a human face on disasters and reinforces how to prepare,” said Dr. David Lakey, DSHS commissioner. “We are putting the documentaries into the hands of people across Texas so they can hold a screening locally, share them with others and create or improve their disaster plans.”



The six eight-minute stories, produced in English and Spanish, show the impact a disaster can have on a community and the people who live there. They are called:

- Surviving Hurricanes: Grab It and Go – Galveston and Bolivar Peninsula
- A Community Rebuilds: Recovering From Wildfires – Montague County
- Back to Business: Planning for Disasters – Beaumont
- Ready for Anything: Preparing for the Next Flood – Del Rio
- Winds of Destruction: A County’s Lessons – Maverick County
- Facing Disasters: A Plan for Work and Home – Rio Grande Valley

The videos can be used as a tool for preparedness workers and community organizations to promote disaster preparedness in their areas. The contents of the DVD “extras” folder and documents at TexasPrepares.org can help people create their own disaster plans.

“Each year brings the threat of disasters and emergencies to Texas – from hurricanes and floods to tornadoes and wildfires,” said W. Nim Kidd, Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management. “Being prepared for emergencies can help save lives and protect property. These videos are an excellent tool to help build public awareness about the need for everyone to have emergency plans in place.”

The series was produced as part of the state’s Ready or Not campaign. Originally launched in 2007, Ready or Not is an ongoing multilingual public education campaign from DSHS encouraging Texans to prepare for emergencies. Through the campaign, the state provides resources that can be used locally to help Texans prepare, respond and recover if disaster strikes.

House Bill 1831 of the 81st Legislative Session directed DSHS to establish a program to educate Texans on disaster preparedness and appropriated funds for the effort, which includes the documentary series.

Staff changes

Three long-time employees left DSHS EMS in June. Pat Elmes, an EMS specialist in the Arlington office, retired after 24 years of service. Pat has been in EMS for 32 years, 24 as an EMS specialist with DSHS. Elmes says he’ll miss being a part of developing and maintaining a high standard of prehospital emergency medicine in Texas and being part of the grass roots of EMS.

“We are a unique state and, having traveled all over the country, I have found that we shine in many areas in the provision of patient care and serve as a fine example for the rest of the country,” Elmes



Pat Elmes working at the site of an accident, circa 1982.

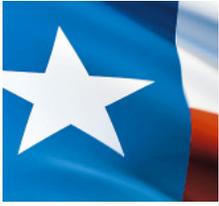


Pat Elmes in the middle with Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders.

says. “I was once told that Texas EMS Conference was in line with Australia as the “largest” or “best” in the world.” Elmes has accepted a position at the National Headquarters of the American College of Emergency Physicians as the EMS and disaster preparedness manager, where he hopes to influence EMS on a national scale.

Aaron Patterson, EMS manager of the Houston DSHS EMS office, took a job with Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council. Brian Singleton, an EMS specialist in the Houston office, went to work for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, where he’ll be inspecting everything from barber shops to tow truck firms.

Star of Texas Awards



The Star of Texas Awards honor peace officers, firefighters and emergency medical first responders who have been seriously injured or killed in the line of duty on or after September 1, 2003.

In 2007, HB 1164 amended the Star of Texas Awards statute to include awards for federal law enforcement officers or special agents seriously injured or killed while performing duties in Texas while assisting a state or local law enforcement agency.

Three advisory committees (one for each category of first responder) review award nominations each year to ensure that they meet statutory criteria. Nominations for this year's awards may be submitted no later than July 31, 2011. The awards ceremony will be held in September 2011. To nominate an individual for a Star of Texas Award, go to http://governor.state.tx.us/cjd/star_awards.

Fake antibiotics under investigation



Medics need to be alert for several over-the-counter products being falsely marketed as antibiotics. The products are sold as dietary supplements under names such as Amoxilina, Pentrexilina, Ampitrexyl, Citricillin, Amoximiel and Pentreximil. Product labeling falsely suggests to consumers that they are prescription antibiotics. DSHS officials are concerned that people taking the products believe they will provide the beneficial health effects of an antibiotic drug. The products do not appear to have any active drug ingredients and are not approved to treat medical conditions. The product names and packaging may closely resemble well-known prescription antibiotic drugs, such as Amoxicillin. The products may be available in capsule, syrup, ointment and drinkable forms.

The products appear to have been distributed statewide and are targeted toward Hispanic consumers. They may be sold at various retailers, including small independent stores that cater to the Hispanic community. Usage instructions are in Spanish and English.

DSHS is working with other agencies, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, to investigate product origin, distribution, labeling and advertising. Retailers are urged to remove the products from store shelves and contact their distributors for instructions.

State health officials became aware of the situation following reports that an Austin hospital treated several patients whose parents mistakenly believed they had been treating their children with an antibiotic.

Grants recently awarded

Could you use ECA training in your rural area? Has your area suffered a devastating event? DSHS has grants available for ECA training in rural areas (ECAT) and for areas that have suffered a degradation of service due to an unforeseeable event (Extraordinary Emergency Funding, called EEF)

For more information on either funding, go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/efunding.shtm.

Recently awarded:

ECAT

Orange County ESD #1

EEF

Willacy County EMS

\$72,400

Replace ambulance chassis

Acadian acquires Central Texas EMS

Acadian Ambulance Service has acquired Central Texas EMS, a 9-1-1 and transport provider with stations in Bell, Falls and Williamson counties. CTEMS also provides transports to several other locations in the region.

Acadian provides emergency and non-emergency service in Travis, Williamson and Hays counties, and is a 9-1-1 provider in Bexar County. Once the two providers combine resources, Acadian will have 15 stations, 350 employees and 70 ambulances in Central Texas. Acadian was established in Louisiana in 1971 and has 3600 employees. Acadian has operated in Texas since 2006.



On Duty



John Creech, M.Ed., LP

John Creech named to NAEMSE board

John Creech, M.Ed., LP, director of Brazosport College's EMS program, was recently named to the National Association of EMS Educators' Board of Directors. He will serve a two-year term. Creech also has served on GETAC's Education Committee since 2009. Creech began his career in emergency response more than 40 years ago, starting out as a first responder with Bishop Volunteer Fire Department and working his way up to licensed paramedic in 1997. He is a DSHS advanced course coordinator and an instructor for several national courses, such as ACLS and PALS. He received a bachelor's degree in science from the University of Houston and a master's in education from American Intercontinental University. He has served in his current position at Brazosport College since 2001.

On Duty

Canyon office welcomes new specialist



Sharon Kay King, NREMT-P, LP

The Canyon DSHS EMS office has a new EMS specialist. Sharon Kay King began in EMS in 1995 as a paramedic with Littlefield EMS. She has a bachelor of science degree and is a licensed paramedic and NREMT-P. She will be responsible for doing provider inspections and conducting investigations.

Stewart named chair of surgery department

Ronald Stewart, MD, has been named chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio School of Medicine. Stewart has served as chair of GETAC's trauma committee and has been a member of GETAC since its inception in 2000. He also serves as chair of his RAC, the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council. Stewart, a professor of surgery and anesthesia, graduated from UTHSCSA's medical school in 1985. He completed his residency in surgery in San Antonio, followed by fellowships in trauma and surgical critical care at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. Dr. Stewart was recruited back to San Antonio, where he has served as the Fellowship Program Director for Surgical Critical Care, the Trauma Medical Director for University Health System and the Trauma Division Chief for the Department of Surgery. He currently holds the Jocelyn and Joe Straus Endowed Chair in Trauma Research.

During medical school, Dr. Stewart received the Paul Cutler Award for Clinical Excellence and was chosen as the class Alpha Omega Alpha Chapter President. In addition to his board certification, Dr. Stewart has added qualification in surgical critical care. He was the University Health System Physician of the Year in 2007 and the University Hospital Shining Star in 2006. In 2007, Dr. Stewart was also given the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award. He was the 2005 Distinguished Alumnus of the School of Medicine. He has been listed in Best Doctors in America from 2007 to 2010. The 2010 Graduating Chief Residents awarded Dr. Stewart the Outstanding Surgery Faculty Mentor Prize.

GETAC appointment

The Governor's Office notified the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems in May of an appointment to the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council.

James M. "Mike" DeLoach, LP, of Littlefield, is a new appointment representing county EMS providers. His term expires January 1, 2014. He serves as the county judge for Lamb County. Mr. DeLoach replaces Marti Van Ravenswaay, who resigned from the Council earlier this year.



Mike DeLoach, LP