

Changes coming for Texas EMS Magazine and Texas EMS Conference

Texas EMS Magazine

The final publication of Texas EMS Magazine in its current format will be the July/August 2013 edition. Beginning September 1, 2013, the magazine will be published quarterly in an electronic newsletter format.

Individuals who have current subscriptions to Texas EMS Magazine may request a prorated refund from the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems. To request a refund, send the name on the subscription, current address and phone number to MagazineRefunds@dshs.state.tx.us. A check will be mailed to the address provided.

Texas EMS Conference

DSHS has presented the Texas EMS Conference, an annual conference for EMS and trauma professionals, for the past 27 years. From the beginning, some aspects of the conference have been managed by outside entities, while planning and coordination has been primarily handled by DSHS staff. The 2013 conference, which will be held November 23–27, will be the final year that department staff are involved in the planning and coordination of conference activities. Effective December 1, 2013, all conference activities, including planning and

coordination, will be performed by an outside entity.

DSHS will remain a sponsor of this annual conference and will continue to participate as it has in years past. There will be minimal impact to stakeholders, conference faculty, conference attendees, and exhibitors that participate in the conference.

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) will continue to hold its November quarterly meeting in conjunction with the EMS Conference.

New legislation brings changes to EMS provider applications

During the 83rd Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, House Bill 3556 and Senate Bill 8 were enacted, which require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to implement provisions that establish new requirements for licensing emergency medical services (EMS) providers. These new requirements become effective September 1, 2013, and include a moratorium on the issuance of most new EMS provider licenses between September 1, 2013, and August 31,

2014. (DSHS is allowed to continue to issue new EMS provider licenses to the following: municipality, county, emergency services district, hospital, emergency medical services volunteer provider organization or EMS provider who provides 9-1-1 response in a rural area.)

Because of the processing time needed for: 1) reviewing the completeness/correctness of the numerous documents required of an initial application, and 2) the completing

of an onsite provider survey and inspection of ambulance(s), DSHS cannot guarantee that any initial applications submitted after July 1, 2013, will be able to be processed by August 31, 2013.

Please direct any comments to your local Regional Advisory Council (RAC), to the Governor's EMS Trauma Advisory Council members, or to DSHS directly by contacting Joseph Schmider, State EMS Director, via e-mail at joseph.schmider@dshs.state.tx.us or by phone at (512) 834-6737.

EMS Obituaries

Robert Bebee, 41, of Houston, died May 31, 2013. Bebee, an EMT, died as a result of injuries sustained while responding to a hotel fire in Houston.

Michael Burns, 42, of Dallas, died May 2, 2013, following treatment for cancer. An EMT-I, Burns served Cockrell Hill Fire Department and was a flight medic with Children's Medical Center of Dallas.

Robert Garner, 29, of Houston, died May 31, 2013, as a result of injuries sustained while responding to a hotel fire in Houston. After serving two tours in Iraq with the U.S. Air Force,

Garner, an EMT, graduated from the Houston Fire Academy and joined Station 68.

Mark A. Mirelez, 41, of Corpus Christi, died following a sudden illness. On February 26, 2013, during his shift with City of Robstown EMS, Mirelez fell ill and was transported to Spohn Shoreline Hospital. He died as a result of the illness on March 5, 2013. Mirelez had joined City of Robstown EMS in 1997 and was promoted to EMS Director in 2011.

Matthew Renaud, 35, of Houston, died May 31, 2013. A career firefighter and EMT, Captain Renaud died as a result of injuries sustained while responding to a

hotel fire in Houston.

Anne Sullivan, 24, of Houston, died May 31, 2013, as a result of injuries sustained while responding to a hotel fire in Houston. Sullivan, an EMT-I, graduated in April 2013 from the Houston Fire Academy and joined Station 68. She had previously served with Community and Stafford Volunteer Fire Departments.

Stanley Wilson, 51, of Dallas, died May 20, 2013, as a result of injuries sustained while responding to a condominium fire in Dallas. Wilson, an EMT-P, joined Dallas Fire-Rescue in 1985 and served for 28 years.