

# MESSENGER

April, 1987

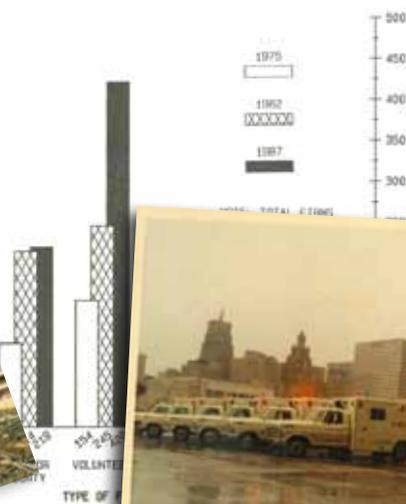
Volume VIII, Issue 2

Nearly Half of Texas'

EMS Providers are Volunteer

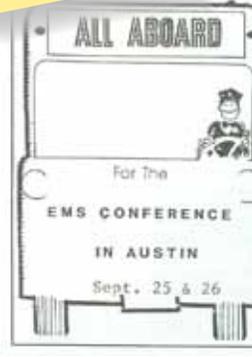


**TEXAS EMS  
MAGAZINE  
RETROSPECTIVE  
1975-2013**



Why Do EMT's Volunteer? page 4  
Statewide EMS Conference page 3  
Eye Injuries page 15

Increasingly being provided by volunteer commercial, and local government EMS providers who...



has successfully completed the  
**EMS Instructor Course**  
January 5-9, 1988 Dallas, Texas

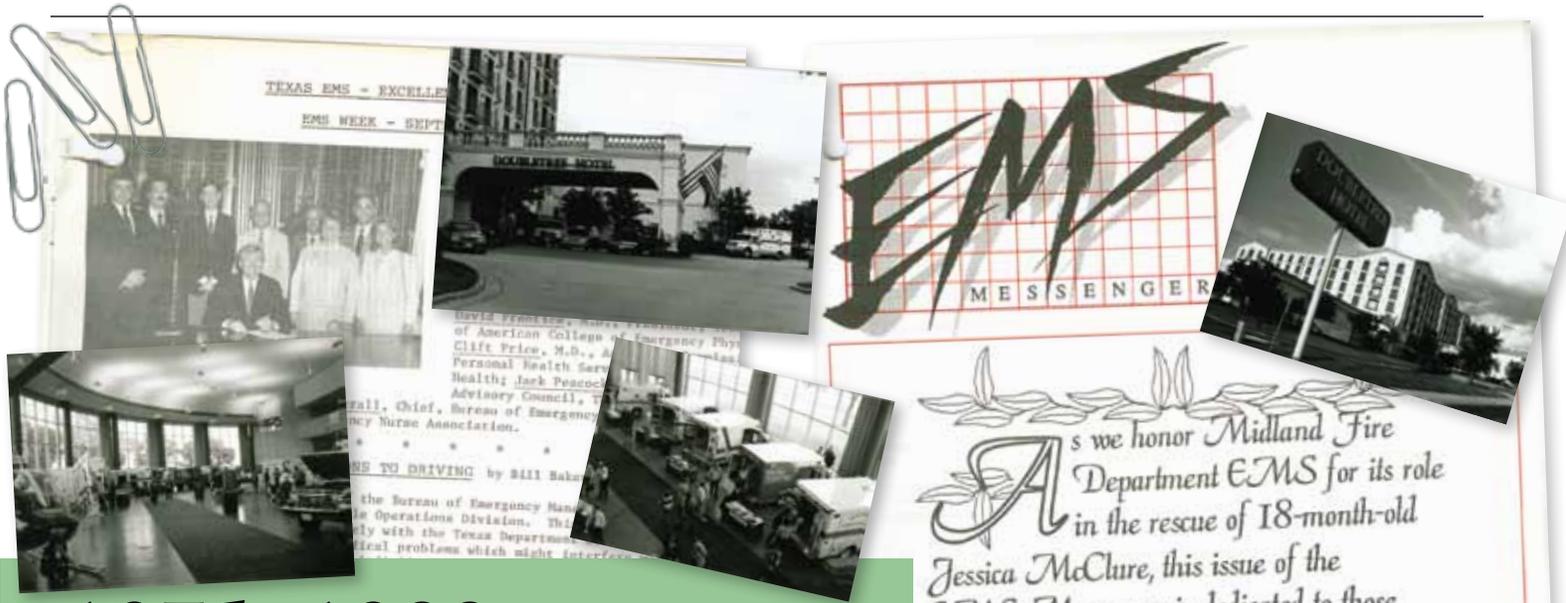
sponsor  
Texas Department of Health  
University of Texas Health

Debra Cason, RN, MS - UTHSC



### CERTIFICATION REVOCATIONS

| Name | Level             | Effective Date |
|------|-------------------|----------------|
|      | Revoked EMT-SS    | 02-01-88       |
|      | Revoked ECA       | 01-22-88       |
|      | Revoked Paramedic | 01-22-88       |
|      | Revoked Paramedic | 02-23-88       |
|      | Revoked EMT       | 01-27-88       |
|      | Revoked EMT       | 01-22-88       |



# 1975-1988

Texas EMS Messenger is launched as a newsletter in 1975, then takes a three-year break until it starts up again in 1978. However, no record of the Messenger exists in the files until 1986, when EMS Messenger covered ... EMS Week in September of **1986**, including the first Texas EMS Conference, which drew 194 attendees and 15 vendors ... EMS Messenger cost \$15 for a *four-year* subscription ... new "automatic" defibrillators were coming onto the scene, accompanied by a call for a new EMT-D (Defibrillation) certification ... EMS Messenger predicted the defibrillator was the first of many new technological developments to come ... Texas EMS Advisory Council, made up of 18 members, advised the Texas Board of Health on EMS matters ... a letter writer to the Messenger advocated a simple way to carry the "newest equipment"—gloves—in a clean snuff can for easy access ... there were 37,895 certified personnel in **1987**, and the numbers were still written by hand into a ledger ... a new Messenger logo debuted in June of that year ... in 1987, more than half of Texas EMS providers were volunteer, but the number of funeral homes running EMS had dropped to 37 from 364 in 1975 ... 447 people attended the second Texas EMS Conference ... in **1988**, Texas EMS Messenger covered the rescue of Jessica McClure from a well in Midland ... and ran the first disciplinary actions, listing six people ... Bureau Chief Gene Weatherall again squashed the rumor that TDH was getting rid of the ECA certification (never was true and still not true) ... the 1988 Texas EMS Conference in September was held in Austin and included an EMS talent show ... no record on how many participated in the talent show, but there were 609 attendees and 45 vendors ...

As we honor Midland Fire Department EMS for its role in the rescue of 18-month-old Jessica McClure, this issue of the EMS Messenger is dedicated to those ECA's, EMT's, and Paramedics in Texas who perform heroic acts to alleviate suffering and save lives. We salute you.





**Killeen, Texas**  
**October 16, 1991**  
 12:40 pm - First call for assistance at Luby's Cafeteria  
 12:42 pm - First EMS dispatch call to Killeen Fire Department EMS, dispatcher reports 20 dead  
 1:10 pm - Last of 25 injured patients transported to hospitals

In those 25 or 30 minutes between the time the first of Killeen Fire Department's ambulance crews was dispatched and the last of the injured patients was transported to hospital care, every EMS organization in the area responded to what has since become known as the largest mass shooting in this country. Twenty-three died and 25 were injured.



Photo courtesy of Killeen Daily Herald

the speed and efficiency with which medical care of the victims "did it had to happen," he said. "I'm glad I was able to be there."

Units other than Killeen Fire Department EMS and Barker Stage EMS responded to the shooting included Cooper County EMS, Killeen Fire Department EMS, Temple Fire Department EMS, Lampasas County EMS, First State MAST unit, Central Texas Community Hospital ambulance service, and Texas State Troop 1000.

S... said that most of Killeen Fire Department's units were back in service by 3:30 pm, but that medical units were still busy.



**Certification**

The final adopted certification rules on page 10-18 finally completed the long and often frustrating approval process, and become effective February 27, 1991. Many of you provided valuable input and assistance throughout the development stages, for which we are very grateful.

**rules adopted February 27**

17 and 18. EMS personnel would not have the opportunity to finish administrative requirements for recertification in the 90-day period following expiration of a certificate. However, after applying late would not have been able to use the CE credits they had accrued over the just past period toward certification. Clearly, this was not the intent of any emergency rule revision 107-45.

**5. Recertification.**

No change in the application and the recertification process. The expiration date of the certificate shall continue for a period of 90 days from the expiration date of the certificate. The applicant shall qualify for recertification if the applicant meets the requirements for recertification as set forth in 107-45 of the title.

On April 27, 1991, the Board of Health proposed rule 107-45 as an emergency rule and as an effective immediately. As a proposed rule it is subject to public comment for 30 days before it is again presented to the Board of Health for adoption.



# 1989-1991



Texas EMS Messenger covered ... in **1989**, there were nearly 40,000 EMS personnel in the EMS Registry, including 9891 ECAs, 20,643 EMTs, 1743 EMT-Special Skills (now EMT-I), and 5442 EMT-Paramedics ... the first EMS database for collecting EMS data, called TEXEMS, is in development ... a Messenger subscription cost increases to \$15 for *two* years ... TDH asks for help in designing an EMS memorial to be installed in Austin at TDH's main building ... how one volunteer EMS in West Texas covered its costs by running (legal) bingo games three nights a week ... the Texas Trauma System is created by the Legislature, and Kathy Perkins (now Assistant Commissioner for Regulatory Programs) is hired to develop it from scratch ... 13 members are appointed to the Texas Trauma Advisory Committee to help develop the trauma system ... in **1990**, Texas EMS Hall of Fame is established ... paramedic accreditation is mentioned as an opportunity to advance EMS professionalism ... TDH asked applicants to use black ink on their applications because it was more readable when *microfilmed* for archiving ... Ready Teddy debuts in the coloring book and in the form of a suit ... in **1991**, Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm, and the Messenger asked EMS providers to attach a yellow ribbon to their units ... Regional Critical Incident Debriefing teams are formed ... Ready Teddy meets Governor Ann Richards when she signs a proclamation for EMS Week ... paramedic accreditation is recommended and there are plans to have it in place by 1996 for programs in counties with populations over 20,000 ... EMS responds to a mass shooting at the Luby's in Killeen, bringing the nation's attention to emergency response ... Texas EMS Conference moves to the larger Palmer Auditorium on the week before Thanksgiving ...



**Ready Teddy meets the Governor**

Remember these things in an emergency, kids,  
**Stay calm, act fast, get help!**



forward by identifying the issues of accreditation and quality control programs and referring these to various committees. The comments of Dr. Prentice and others from our advisory council can be found on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.



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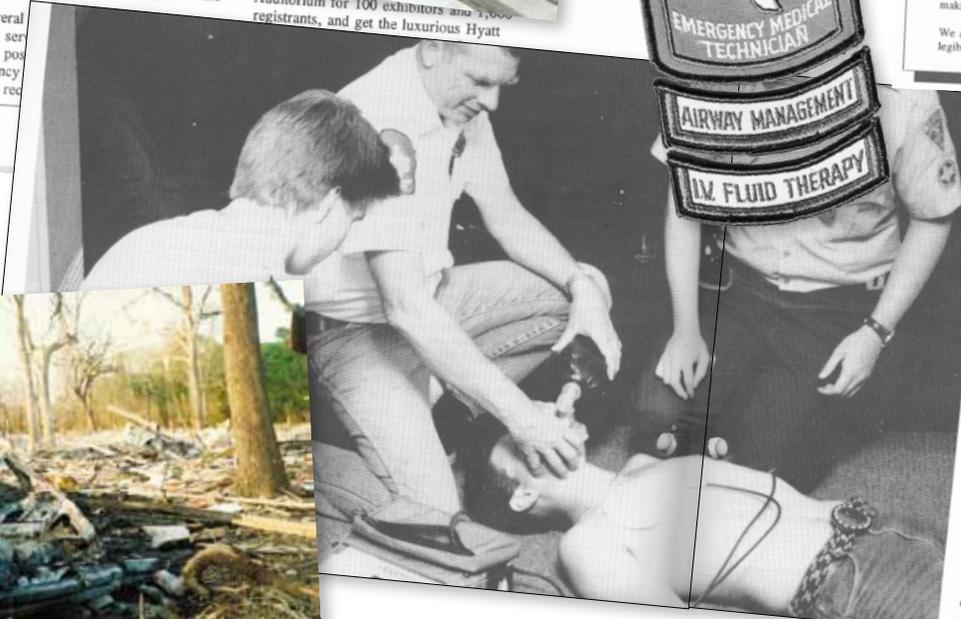
**Hmmm.....**

- Q. Why does the state ask EMS certification applicants to use black ink on their applications?
- A. All applications and correspondence are microfilmed because storage space is not available for the 14,000 applications the EMS Registry receives every year. The microfilm records are more legible when there is high contrast between the paper and the writing on the paper.
- This is also one of the reasons we prefer that you obtain applications from the regional office, instead of making copies. Copied applications have a tendency to become muddy or gray, thus making the application more difficult to microfilm.
- We appreciate it when the printing on your applications is legible and dark.

our agency. I was proud to be part of the group.

Several medical services for post-emergency council records.

Auditorium for 100 exhibitors and 1,000 registrants, and get the luxurious Hyatt



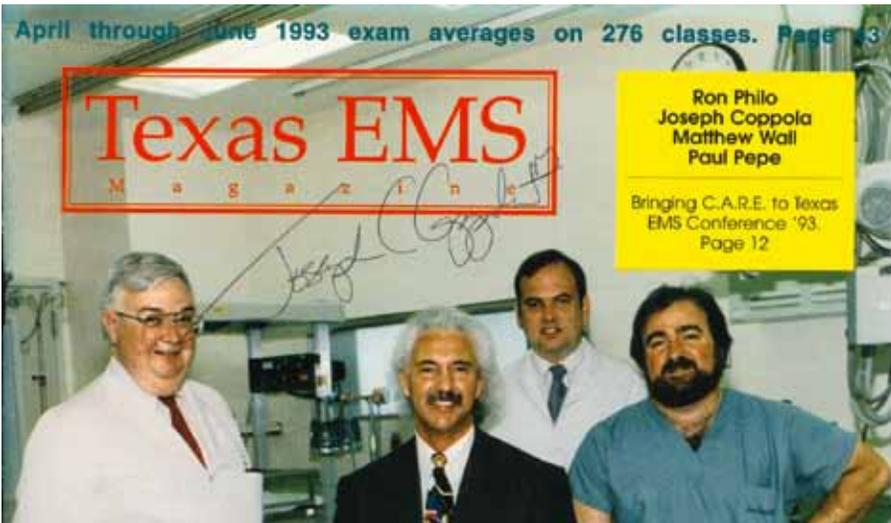
*This story is intended to illustrate current philosophy and accurately reflect current AHA protocol with respect to First Responder use of AEDs.*

**Better Living Through Electricity**

by Donald J. Gordon, MD, PhD

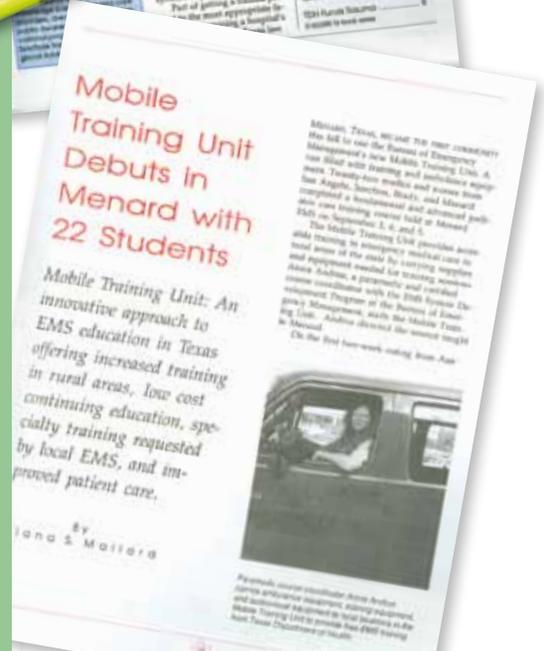
It was seven o'clock on the evening of January 24, 1991 as 43-year-old Ted Sellers, a moderately overweight trial lawyer, had just finished a big meal of steak and potatoes. It had been an exhausting and stressful day. As he was crushing out his after dinner cigarette, he began to feel a little nauseated, and then for a few seconds experienced a sickening and unusual feeling. It





# 1992-1994

In spring 1992, Texas EMS Messenger becomes Texas EMS Magazine, which covered ... the EMS Local Projects Grants were given out by the Bureau of Emergency Management (now Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination), a total of 14 grants for about \$250,000 ... as of January 1, there were 41,190 certified EMS personnel ... Texas Board of Health adopts first set of trauma rules ... a natural gas explosion rocks Washington County ... federal rules designed to protect employees from blood-borne pathogens go into effect ... the rumor that TDH is eliminating the ECA certification resurfaces again as part of its two-year rumor cycle (still hasn't happened) ... Texas EMS Advisory Council (TEMSAC) mulls paramedic accreditation again ... the EMS monument is delivered and set at the TDH main building ... Texas EMS Magazine produces its first full-color cover ... in 1993, TDH's EMS Mobile Training Unit, a large truck that brought continuing education to EMS personnel around the state, is launched ... the Disciplinary Actions page in the magazine has grown to a shocking two pages in length (in 12-point type) ... Legislators increase the Local Projects funding to \$1.5 million for two years ... Parkland trauma nurse Jorie Klein is appointed to the Trauma Technical Advisory Committee for a six-year term ... Texas EMS Conference takes place in Fort Worth for the first time ... in 1994, Texas Board of Health, acting on legislation, eliminates mandatory retesting for EMS recertification in favor of a continuing education "evaluation," with grades sent to the individual, the medical director and the system manager ... TDH's EMS Management Academy offers word processing classes as a way to make report and letter-writing easier and less time consuming ...



CE article: Shock by any other name... Earn 1.5 hours of CE. Page

# Texas EMS

M a g a z i n e



## 1995–1997

Texas EMS Magazine reports ... in 1995, there are ten designated trauma facilities as the new year begins ... the Texas EMS electronic “bulletin board” is going strong and is available for anyone with a computer and a modem ... Disciplinary Actions is up to three pages and lists 87 personnel out of the 46,500 certified ... all areas of the state now have a Trauma Regional Advisory Council, although some are more active than others ... first responders flock to Oklahoma City in April to do search and rescue on the bombed Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building ... the Local Projects grant application is a one-page form, filled out by hand, and published in Texas EMS Magazine ... the Legislature gives \$3 million for the biennium for Local Projects Grants ... a new technology for locating a scene called GPS is gaining popularity ... the Emergency Health Care Advisory Committee (EHCAC) is created ... Texas EMS Conference uses 80,000 square feet of exhibit space at the Fort Worth Convention Center ... in 1996, the first meeting of EHCAC takes place in February ... an EMS license plate is first mentioned as a possibility (but it will be several years before it exists) ... a few EMS providers and hospitals send in data to the Trauma Registry via special software and a modem ... the TDH ambulance provides medical support to the Olympic Torch entourage as it makes its way across Texas ... EMS rules are changed to allow applicants to submit certification documents prior to taking the exam to speed up the process ... in 1997, Texas EMS Magazine begins listing all the EMS personnel who have not completed continuing education reports, which are due every two years ... for the first time, the Texas Legislature provides funding for EMS and trauma from a statewide source—surplus funds from the “9-1-1” commission ... a new level of EMS personnel, licensed paramedic, is created in statute ... and an EF-5 tornado in Jarrell obliterates an entire subdivision, bringing first responders from several counties to the scene.

### From Texas to the Olympics

Tx-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team volunteers at Olympic Games



### New EMS rules affect providers, coordinators, those certifying

Several changes to the EMS rules...

### Project Alpha

TDH is considering rewriting the EMS rules. What does that mean for you? Your input will determine what the new rules will be.

### Texas EMS

Emergency medical services...



Profile: Amarillo Medical Services



Number of Services: 10  
 Paramedic Staff: 10  
 EMT Staff: 10



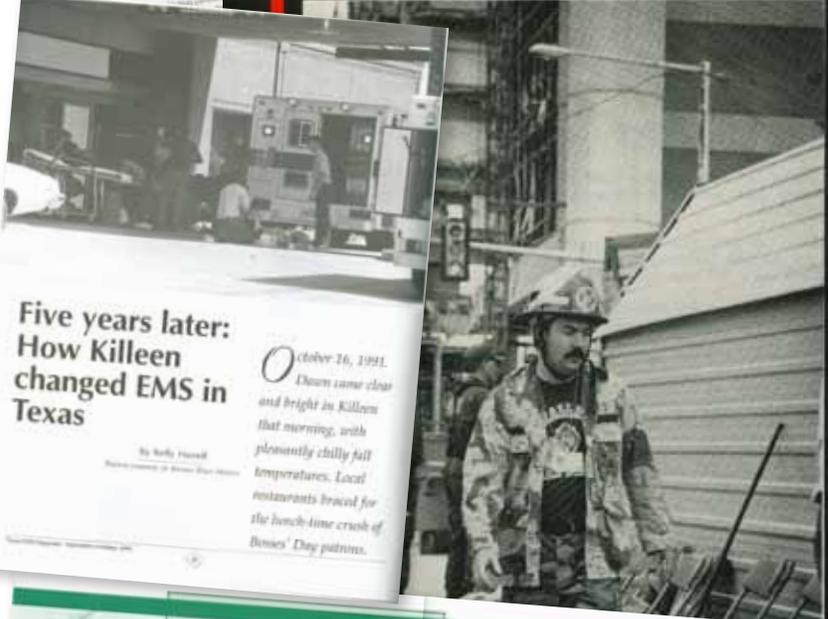
Texas Board of Health names Emergency Health Care Advisory Committee



A new Texas Department of Health (DHS) advisory committee will help guide future emergency medical services in developing regional EMS and health care systems and to monitor the status of professional emergency services.

# Texas EMS

M A G A Z I N E



**Five years later: How Killeen changed EMS in Texas**

October 26, 1991. Dawn came clear and bright in Killeen that morning, with pleasantly chilly fall temperatures. Local restaurants braced for the lunch-time crush of Bonnies' Day patrons.

By Kelly Howard

For the citizens of Oklahoma City, April 19, 1995, began just like any other day... before the day was over nearly 1,000 rescue workers would see a disaster they would never forget.

Board adopts DNR rule

Sample

Sample form for DNR rule

Local and Regional EMS News



Local and Regional EMS News section with photo of ambulance.

Williamson County responds

Killer Storm

The tornado that left a path of destruction about 2.5 miles in length tore through Williamson County, leaving emergency responders from across major devastation.

The storm that tore through Williamson County... The storm that tore through Williamson County...



EMSRAC: NATIONAL BOARDING STANDARDS BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

| LEVEL                        | EDUCATION                  | TRAINING              |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESCUE     | High School Diploma or GED | 120 hours of training |
| EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANT  | High School Diploma or GED | 120 hours of training |
| EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN | High School Diploma or GED | 120 hours of training |
| EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESCUE     | High School Diploma or GED | 120 hours of training |

EMS rule requires disaster plan for Texas license

By Steve Wilson

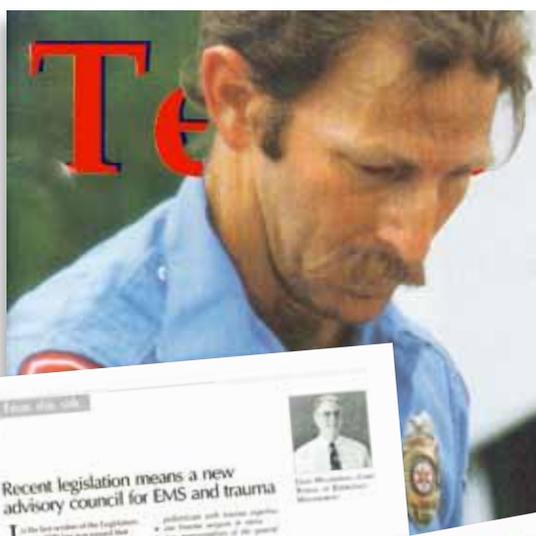
On June 28, 2013, EMSRAC voted to require EMS agencies to develop a disaster plan... EMS rule requires disaster plan for Texas license

Local projects grant program funds 29 ambulances

During the past year, the grant program... Local projects grant program funds 29 ambulances



# Te EMS



## Recent legislation means a new advisory council for EMS and trauma

In the last session of the Legislature, the Legislature passed a bill that will create a new advisory council to advise the Governor on EMS and trauma issues. The bill, HB 100, was signed by the Governor on September 15, 2000.



Bill 100, signed by the Governor on September 15, 2000.

## Cooling off: Heat-related illnesses

By Bill Rubin, PhD, EMT-P  
Reprinted with permission from EMS World

On a hot day, a healthy person can get overheated. If you are a "normal person," it might not be a big deal. But if you are a professional, it could be a big deal. Heat-related illnesses are a leading cause of death in the workplace. The most common heat-related illness is heat stroke. Heat stroke is a life-threatening condition that occurs when the body's temperature rises above 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Symptoms include confusion, loss of consciousness, and seizures. Heat stroke can be fatal if not treated immediately. The best way to prevent heat stroke is to stay hydrated and take breaks in a cool area. If you suspect someone has heat stroke, call 911 and get them to a hospital as soon as possible.



## Introduction

Heat-related illnesses are a leading cause of death in the workplace. The most common heat-related illness is heat stroke. Heat stroke is a life-threatening condition that occurs when the body's temperature rises above 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Symptoms include confusion, loss of consciousness, and seizures. Heat stroke can be fatal if not treated immediately. The best way to prevent heat stroke is to stay hydrated and take breaks in a cool area. If you suspect someone has heat stroke, call 911 and get them to a hospital as soon as possible.

## Warning Signs

- Excessive sweating
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Muscle cramps
- Rapid heartbeat
- Confusion
- Loss of consciousness

## HITTING THE TRAIL

Gene Weatherall to retire after 14 years as EMS bureau chief

It has been a long and successful career for Gene Weatherall. For 14 years, he has served as the chief of the EMS Bureau. He has led the bureau through many challenges, including the implementation of the new EMS standards. He has also been instrumental in the development of the EMS profession. He is retiring after 14 years of service. He will be missed, but his legacy will live on.



Gene Weatherall, Chief of the EMS Bureau.

## Licensed paramedic rules to be finalized

By Bill Rubin, PhD, EMT-P

The Texas Board of EMS has announced that it has finalized the rules for the Licensed Paramedic exam. The rules will be effective on January 1, 2001. The rules include requirements for education, training, and experience. The rules also include requirements for the exam itself. The exam will be a written exam that will test the candidate's knowledge of paramedic practice. The rules are designed to ensure that all paramedics in Texas are held to the same high standards. This will help to ensure the safety of the public and the quality of care provided by paramedics.



Member of the Texas Board of EMS.

## The first annual Texas EMS Salary Survey

By Bill Rubin, PhD, EMT-P

The first annual Texas EMS Salary Survey has been completed. The survey was conducted by EMS World and the Texas EMS Association. The survey included 1,000 EMS professionals from across the state. The results show that the average annual salary for an EMT is \$20,000 and for a paramedic is \$25,000. The survey also found that the majority of EMS professionals are employed by fire departments. The survey is an important tool for EMS professionals and the public alike. It helps to identify trends in the EMS profession and to ensure that EMS professionals are being paid fairly.

## Have you seen your EMS Week survey?

The EMS Week survey is a valuable tool for EMS professionals. It provides information on the current state of the EMS profession and on the needs of EMS professionals. The survey is conducted annually and is a key component of the EMS Week celebration. The results of the survey are used to inform policy decisions and to improve the EMS profession. If you have not seen your survey, please contact your local EMS association for more information.

## Governor appoints new EMS and trauma council

By Bill Rubin, PhD, EMT-P

The Governor has appointed a new EMS and trauma council. The council will advise the Governor on EMS and trauma issues. The council will be composed of representatives from the EMS profession, the medical community, and the public. The council will meet regularly and will report to the Governor on its findings and recommendations. The council is an important part of the Governor's commitment to improving the EMS profession and to ensuring the safety of the public.



Newly appointed council member.



The number of volunteer firms has dropped 33 percent in the last 10 years. What are the future holds? The Texas EMS Association is concerned about the decline in volunteer participation. The association is working to identify the reasons for the decline and to develop strategies to increase participation. The association is also working to improve the recruitment and retention of volunteers. The association believes that a strong volunteer base is essential for the success of the EMS profession. The association is committed to supporting its volunteers and to ensuring that they are being paid fairly.

## Governor's EMS Council appoints committee chairs

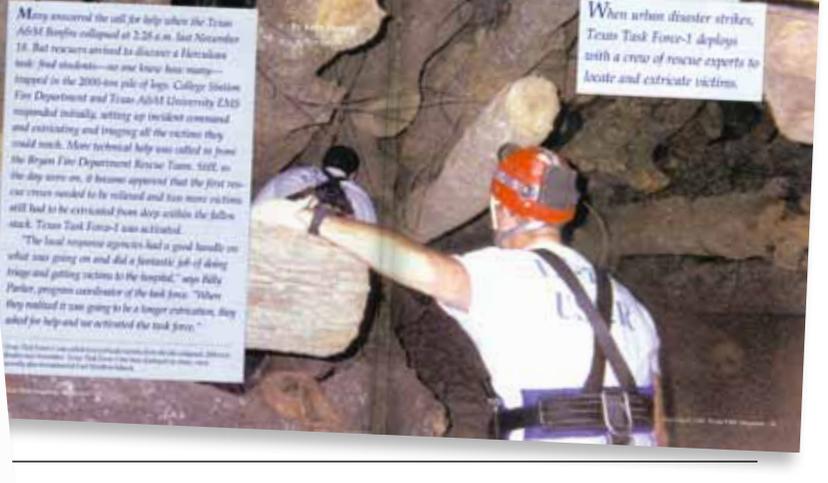
By Bill Rubin, PhD, EMT-P

The Governor's EMS Council has appointed the chairs of the committees that will advise the council on EMS issues. The committees will be responsible for conducting research, developing recommendations, and reporting to the council. The committees are an important part of the council's work. They will help the council to make informed decisions on EMS issues. The council is committed to improving the EMS profession and to ensuring the safety of the public.



Committee chair.

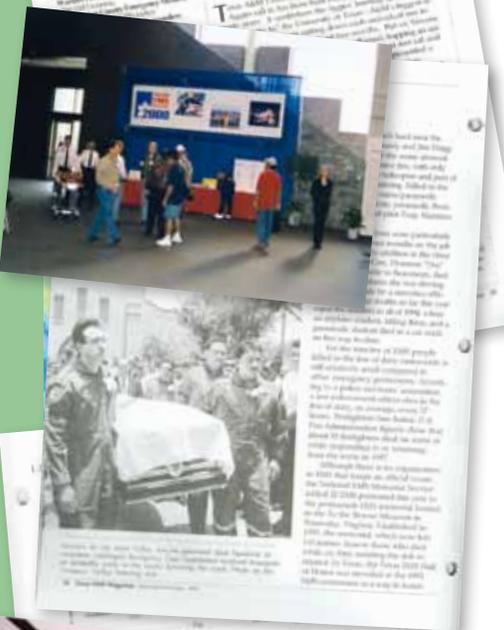
## TO THE RESCUE



Many answered the call for help when the Texas A&M Building collapsed at 2:28 a.m. last November 16. But rescuers arrived to discover a hazardous task: find victims—no one knew how many. Trapped in the 2000-ton pile of logs, College Station Fire Department and Texas A&M University EMS responded quickly, setting up incident command and continuing to bring off the victims they could reach. More technical help was called in from the Bryan Fire Department Rescue Team. Still, on the day were on, it became apparent that the first rescue needed to be related and then more victims still had to be extracted from deep within the rubble wall. Texas Task Force-1 was activated.

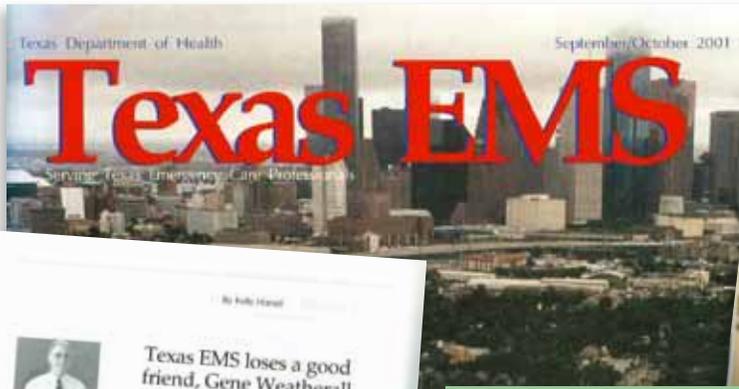
"The local response agencies had a good handle on what was going on and did a fantastic job of doing things and getting victims to the hospital," says Billy Parker, program coordinator of the task force. "When they realized it was going to be a longer extraction, they asked for help and we activated the task force."

When urban disaster strikes, Texas Task Force-1 deploys with a crew of rescue experts to locate and extricate victims.



# 1998–2000

Texas EMS Magazine reports ... in **1998**, the magazine runs its first-ever salary survey for EMS professionals—of the 116 who completed the survey, approximately 70 percent made less than 30K per year, and another ten percent were unpaid volunteers ... Project Alpha, a proposal to completely rewrite and restructure EMS rules, is unveiled to heated resistance and is eventually dropped ... on the growing field of distance learning by using technology ... State EMS Director Pam West leaves to take a job in California ... licensed paramedic rules are finalized with a gradual phasing-in of the education requirements over several years ... in **1999**, Jim Arnold steps in as the new state EMS director ... Texas Legislature creates a new advisory group, the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council, and specifies its membership in statute ... Texas' settlement with tobacco companies allows lawmakers to create a \$100 million endowment for EMS and trauma, which will benefit from the interest on that money ... Rescuers respond to the bonfire collapse at Texas A&M in November, which killed 12 and injured 27 ... Long-time bureau chief Gene Weatherall retires to his home state of Arkansas after 14 years at TDH and a total of 27 years in EMS ... in **2000**, Local Projects grants award \$1.92 million for 219 projects ... GETAC meets for the first time in January and Ed Racht, MD, is named chair ... there are 2,243 licensed paramedics as of February, out of a total 42,748 EMS personnel ... in March, GETAC establishes six committees: EMS, Education, Injury Prevention and Education, Medical Directors, Pediatric and Trauma ... Kathy Perkins takes over as bureau chief ... and GETAC begins working on five options for recertification that include testing, continuing education, National Registry certification, completion of a refresher course or an in-house recertification program for EMS providers who meet certain criteria.



# 2001–2003

Texas EMS Magazine reported ... in 2001, Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate forms, bracelets and necklaces no longer need a red logo to be valid ... GETAC votes to recommend the Board of Health adopt the new certification rule with five options for EMS recertification ... Disciplinary Actions takes up five pages in the magazine, still represents only about one percent of the total number of EMS personnel ... lawmakers direct TDH to set aside funding for grants to provide free ECA classes ... TDH publishes a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new contractor to develop and administer exams following a series of problems with the exams coupled with state budget cuts—the National Registry for EMTs is the only proposal received ... the legislature directs GETAC to develop a strategic plan for EMS and trauma ... Tropical Storm Allison floods Houston and Texas Medical Center—SETRAC helps coordinate a regional response ... 62 members of Texas Task Force 1 respond to the devastating attack on the World Trade Center, providing search and rescue in the weeks after September 11 ... in October, TX-1 DMAT travels to New York to provide medical support to responders working at Ground Zero ... in 2002, NREMT begins providing EMT exams for Texas, with paramedic exams to follow a few months later ... Texas EMS Conference exhibit space grows to 132,000 square feet ... the number of EMS personnel in Texas rose from 32,324 in 1984 to 48,863 in March of 2002, including 5032 licensed paramedics ... Gene Weatherall passed away at his home in Arkansas at age 58 from cancer complications ... TDH budget cuts force the magazine to stop sending free issues to EMS providers ... the Gene Weatherall Memorial EMS Reunion and Chili Cook-off (aka EMStock) debuts in a pasture in Midlothian ... in 2003, HB3588 and SB1131 bring money to EMS and trauma systems through fees added to traffic violations ... HB2292 reorganizes 12 state agencies into four agencies under the Health and Human Services Commission, leading to a major reshuffling of EMS and trauma programs ... State EMS Director Jim Arnold retires ... and Hurricane Claudette hits Calhoun County and rips through Victoria.

# Texas EMS

Serving Texas Emergency Care Professionals



EMS Conference 2001 will honor September 11 incident

Changes to bills about... EMS Conference 2001 will honor September 11 incident... The Texas EMS Conference is a biennial event that brings together emergency care professionals from across the state for a variety of educational and networking opportunities. This year's conference, held in San Antonio, Texas, will be a special one as it will honor the September 11 attacks. The conference organizers have announced that they will be dedicating the event to the victims of the attacks and will be featuring a variety of educational sessions and activities that will help emergency care professionals better understand the challenges of providing care in the aftermath of a disaster. The Texas EMS Conference is a biennial event that brings together emergency care professionals from across the state for a variety of educational and networking opportunities. This year's conference, held in San Antonio, Texas, will be a special one as it will honor the September 11 attacks. The conference organizers have announced that they will be dedicating the event to the victims of the attacks and will be featuring a variety of educational sessions and activities that will help emergency care professionals better understand the challenges of providing care in the aftermath of a disaster.

On September 11, 2001, the world watched in horror as terrorists attacked America's megametropolis: New York City and Washington, D.C. Thousands of unsuspecting victims were



## The Texas Connection

Texas Task Force 1 responds

By Nathan Maxwell

Medical Incident in Dallas, information source for Texas Emergency Information Service

## Texas ODMAT work Ground Zero

By Bill Tim 1347

By Nancy Baskin, LP

## Hurricane Claudette visits Calhoun County

Hurricane Claudette hit the Texas coast on September 13, 2001. The storm caused significant damage to Calhoun County, Texas. The county is located in the Gulf Coast region of the state and is known for its beautiful beaches and scenic views. The hurricane caused significant damage to the county, including the destruction of many homes and businesses. The county is currently in the process of rebuilding and recovering from the damage caused by the hurricane. The county is also providing assistance to the victims of the hurricane and is working to help them get back on their feet. The county is also providing assistance to the victims of the hurricane and is working to help them get back on their feet.



## Texas EMS Conference

The Exhibit Hall filled 132,000 square feet!

From exhibitors to vendors, and from vendors to exhibitors, the Texas EMS Conference is a biennial event that brings together emergency care professionals from across the state for a variety of educational and networking opportunities. This year's conference, held in San Antonio, Texas, was a special one as it was dedicated to the victims of the September 11 attacks. The conference organizers have announced that they will be dedicating the event to the victims of the attacks and will be featuring a variety of educational sessions and activities that will help emergency care professionals better understand the challenges of providing care in the aftermath of a disaster.

The year's exhibit space was added to the exhibit hall. The exhibit hall was filled with a variety of educational and networking opportunities. The exhibit hall was filled with a variety of educational and networking opportunities. The exhibit hall was filled with a variety of educational and networking opportunities. The exhibit hall was filled with a variety of educational and networking opportunities.



## Texas EMS Conference 2003

November 23-26, 2003  
San Antonio, Texas

We're looking south to the shores of the Alamo this year as Texas EMS Conference, we know that your main reason for attending an EMS conference is to learn the world-class presenters who are among the best in the industry. Our San Antonio is a beautiful city with a rich history and plenty of history, shopping and more to San Antonio.



## National Registry one year later

On September 11, 2001, the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) celebrated its 25th anniversary. The National Registry is a non-profit organization that provides certification and recertification for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. The National Registry is a non-profit organization that provides certification and recertification for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics.



## Trauma diversion

The when and why for designated trauma facilities

So many people get a trauma diversion... Trauma diversion is a critical component of emergency medical services. It involves the transport of patients with life-threatening injuries to designated trauma facilities. Trauma diversion is a critical component of emergency medical services. It involves the transport of patients with life-threatening injuries to designated trauma facilities.



Second annual 'EMStock' set for May... The Texas EMS Conference is a biennial event that brings together emergency care professionals from across the state for a variety of educational and networking opportunities. This year's conference, held in San Antonio, Texas, will be a special one as it will honor the September 11 attacks. The conference organizers have announced that they will be dedicating the event to the victims of the attacks and will be featuring a variety of educational sessions and activities that will help emergency care professionals better understand the challenges of providing care in the aftermath of a disaster.

# Texas EMS

Serving Texas Emergency Care Professionals

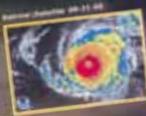
# Hurricane

Call it trial by water—lots of water

When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita slammed into the coasts of Louisiana and Texas—the resourcefulness of Texas emergency response was tested.



When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita slammed into the coasts of Louisiana and Texas—the resourcefulness of Texas emergency response was tested.



## EMS Profile: Sherman Fire Department



## NREMT votes to pursue computerized testing



## EMS Profile: Maxie Bishop

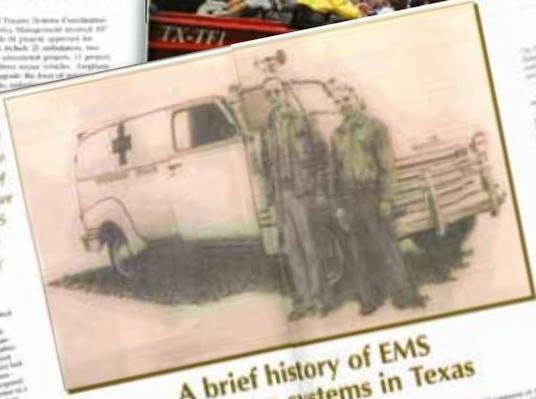


## Local Project grants used to upgrade levels of service



This year the Office of EMS and Trauma System Coordination... Local Project grants used to upgrade levels of service

As the Texas Department of Health transitions into the Texas Department of State Health Services, we reflect on how for EMS/trauma systems have...



## A brief history of EMS and trauma systems in Texas

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## Bavousett back as state EMS director



## Steve Janda takes helm of the Office of EMS/Trauma Coordination



## Local & Regional EMS News

### Katy schools pilot EMT program



### Kermit (frog) visits Kermit (Texas)

## Hurricane Reimbursement Update



Hurricane Reimbursement Update

On Fire Safety Partners:

|         |
|---------|
| T01 - A |
| T01 - B |
| T01 - C |
| T01 - D |
| T01 - E |
| T01 - F |
| T01 - G |
| T01 - H |
| T01 - I |
| T01 - J |
| T01 - K |
| T01 - L |
| T01 - M |
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| T01 - O |
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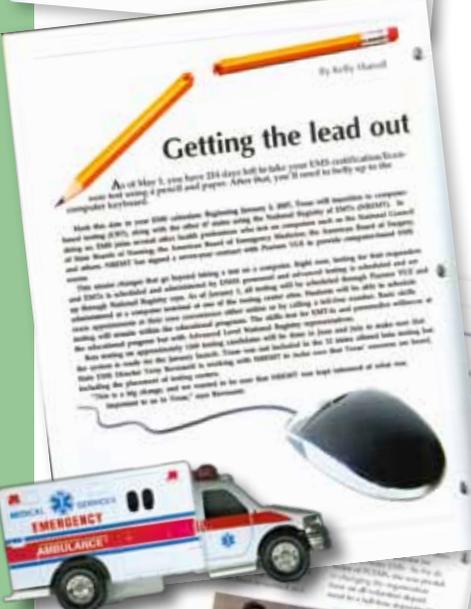
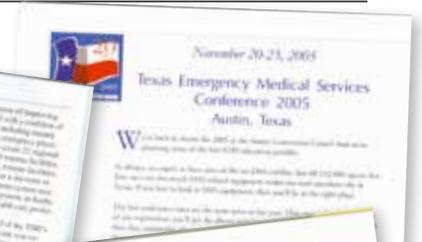


## System works for November flood rescues

System works for November flood rescues

Agencies responding to the 2005 floods included:

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| San Antonio (12) | Waco (12) |
| San Antonio (13) | Waco (13) |
| San Antonio (14) | Waco (14) |
| San Antonio (15) | Waco (15) |
| San Antonio (16) | Waco (16) |
| San Antonio (17) | Waco (17) |
| San Antonio (18) | Waco (18) |
| San Antonio (19) | Waco (19) |
| San Antonio (20) | Waco (20) |



# 2004–2006

Texas EMS Magazine reported ... in **2004**, TDH begins online renewals for EMS certifications and statute requires the agency to charge a fee to every applicant to cover the costs of developing and running the online applications ... NREMT, which administers tests for Texas, votes to pursue computerized testing beginning in 2007 ... specialty license plates for EMS personnel debut ... as of August, there are 51,697 EMS personnel, including 5622 licensed paramedics ... in September, the Texas Department of Health becomes Department of State Health Services with the massive reorganization of health and human services agencies ... the functions of the Bureau of Emergency Management are split into four separate units with one office to coordinate it—the Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination (OEMS/TS) ... Terry Bavousett becomes state EMS director ... DSHS begins criminal background checks on every new applicant ... Steve Janda takes over as director of OEMS/TS when Kathy Perkins is promoted to Health Care Quality section director ... OEMS/TS makes the first disbursement out of the Designated Trauma Facilities and EMS Account (HB 3588 funds) ... new patches with DSHS instead of TDH debut ... in **2005**, legislators pass a law directing GETAC to appoint a stroke committee ... with that, GETAC has eight committees: Air Medical, Education, EMS, Injury Prevention, Medical Directors, Pediatric, Trauma and Stroke ... Hurricane Katrina slams into the Louisiana coast in August, followed by Hurricane Rita three weeks later ... Texas emergency responders and RACs respond to the aftermath of both storms and the experience provides valuable lessons for future responses ... in **2006**, DSHS works with FEMA to get EMS providers reimbursed, even though there were no agreements in place at the time of the hurricanes ... it's the final year to take an EMS exam using pencil and paper ... NREMT signs a contract with Pearson VUE to administer EMS exams on computers ... DSHS encourages EMS providers to sign an MOA for hurricane response to speed up response and payments ... Terry Bavousett leaves his position as state EMS director and Maxie Bishop steps in ... DSHS begins publishing NR passing rates of education programs ... EMS pioneer Babe Aycok dies in November at age 91 ... and Kathy Perkins is named assistant commissioner for Regulatory Services, where she oversees regulatory programs as diverse as alligator meat, tattoos and EMS.



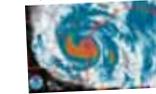
# Texas EMS

Serving Texas Emergency Care Professionals

Eagle Pass tornado response page 30

## So long, Dolly — hello, Edouard Tropics don't give anyone a break this summer

In late July and early August tropical weather took over the Texas Coast and didn't let up. The last hurrah was the paperwork from Dolly when we got the first call that another storm was headed for the Texas Coast. It was a relief to see that the storm was headed for the Gulf of Mexico. It was a relief to see that the storm was headed for the Gulf of Mexico. It was a relief to see that the storm was headed for the Gulf of Mexico.



Hurricane Dolly

### What's in a (hurricane) name?

Ever wonder how we end up with hurricane names? Well, it's not as simple as you might think. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) has a list of names that they use to identify tropical storms and hurricanes. The names are chosen from a list of names that are submitted by member countries. The names are then rotated every six years.

### The following hurricanes that affected Texas and names retired

- 1961 Allison
- 1962 Beulah
- 1963 Carla
- 1964 Carlotta
- 1965 Carla
- 1966 Allison
- 1967 Beulah
- 1968 Carla
- 1969 Allison
- 1970 Carla
- 1971 Beulah
- 1972 Carla
- 1973 Allison
- 1974 Beulah
- 1975 Carla
- 1976 Allison
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- 2017 Carla
- 2018 Allison
- 2019 Beulah
- 2020 Carla
- 2021 Allison
- 2022 Beulah
- 2023 Carla
- 2024 Allison
- 2025 Beulah
- 2026 Carla
- 2027 Allison
- 2028 Beulah
- 2029 Carla
- 2030 Allison

### At least more than 50 patients were evacuated from a hospital

At least more than 50 patients were evacuated from a hospital in Eagle Pass, Texas, during the Eagle Pass tornado. The hospital was evacuated because of the danger to the patients. The hospital was evacuated because of the danger to the patients. The hospital was evacuated because of the danger to the patients.

### At least 15 EMS providers responded to the hurricane

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## Health Care

### New DSHS commissioner named

The Department of State Health Services welcomed a new commissioner on January 2, David Lahey, MD, who replaced Edouard Sanchez, MD, who resigned in October. Dr. Lahey earned his medical degree in 1990 from the Indiana University School of Medicine. He went on to complete residency in internal and pediatric medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN.

### Renee Clack named director of section

Renee Clack was named director of DSHS Health Care Quality Section in December. She replaces Kathy Perkins, who took the job of assistant commissioner for the Regulatory Services Division. Clack came to DSHS in September of 2004 to manage the Regulatory Licensing and Certification and Licensure Group, which includes EMS certification and licensure.

### Guerrero takes helm of EMS/Trauma office

Phil Lockwood, a long-time manager of EMS Standards Office of EMS/Trauma Services, retired in 2005. He is being replaced by Jane Guerrero, who began his career at the Texas Department of Health (now DSHS) in 1976 and came to his current position in 1998. Over the next 25 years, he worked in EMS, providing technical assistance, teaching EMS classes, and inspecting ambulances.

### Lockwood's OEMS/TS

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# 2007-2009

Texas EMS Magazine reports ... in 2007, NREMT begins computerized testing for all EMS exams in Texas on January 1 ... David Lahey, MD, is named DSHS commissioner and Renee Clack takes over as Health Care Quality Section director ... DSHS begins data migration for a new computer system that will merge all regulatory licenses into one system ... by June, 161 EMS providers have signed MOAs for state disaster response ... 98 projects are approved for Local Projects, including the purchase of 28 ambulances ... GETAC and DSHS staff continue to work on Comprehensive Clinical Management Program, the fifth option for recertification ... legislators appropriate about \$50 million per year from HB 3588 funds ... an exploding water main under the DSHS Regulatory Division shuts down the entire building for three weeks, including phones and servers with certification data ... EMS and other regulatory programs set up temporary offices at the DSHS main campus and at the regional offices ... the building is not fully restored for nine months ... Hurricanes Dean and Humberto give Texas a realistic dress rehearsal for a more devastating hurricane, but Dean does cause cancellation of the August GETAC meetings ... in 2008, Steve Janda leaves the OEMS/TS and Jane Guerrero takes the helm as unit director ... Ed Racht resigns as GETAC chair when he takes a job in Georgia ... state response to the Yearning for Zion raid in El Dorado triggers activation of disaster MOAs for ambulances to be part of a bus convoy that takes children to foster homes ... Hurricane Dolly and Tropical Storm Edouard threaten, but powerful Hurricane Ike makes a direct hit on Galveston Island, wiping out some EMS providers' facilities ... former state EMS director Jim Arnold passes away in December ... the state is home to 54,592 EMS personnel, including 5624 licensed paramedics ... in 2009, GETAC meetings were cancelled in May due to H1N1 flu pandemic response ... EMS/Trauma Registry staff begins holding meetings with stakeholders to figure out how to fix the system ... and DSHS begins stroke designation for hospitals in October ...

**Transitions at DSHS**

**New DSHS commissioner named**

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# TEXAS EMS

## Serving Texas Emergency Care Professionals



Tropical storm drenches Louisiana

### Drug shortages on the ambulance: What can EMS do?

by Jeff Beeson, DO

You've probably heard there is a national shortage for many of the commonly used medications. From an EMS perspective, these are medications that cost less than a dollar a dose, such as epinephrine, or acetaminophen, or a bronchodilator — medications essential to a broad range of the most common life-threatening conditions. At this writing, the most recent report from a national vendor reveals shortages in morphine, fentanyl, midazolam and magnesium with uncertain future delivery dates. There is no easy fix for this problem and the shortages will certainly continue.

- Develop a regional approach by communicating with hospital pharmacists, vendors, EMS agencies, medical directors and others to better understand the issue and its impact on patient care. Use that information to develop local practices and guidelines. The Southeast Texas RAC and STRAC has designed a great web-based system of tracking medicines on hand and stock they have and stock they are willing to share with others.
- Assign someone to make sure that your team to expire medications\* are placed so they are used first.
- Consider extending expiration dates, if the medical director or another authority falls to the medical director on authority for policy, but manufacturers set expiration dates.
- You may be able to find a local compounding pharmacy that can create some of the medications that are in short supply. Visit www.prag.org to find an accredited compounding pharmacy in your area.
- Think outside the box! Look for alternatives that aren't normally utilized by our supply chain. Do you have a cache of Valium subinjections that could be utilized?

The Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Medical Board have several related statements on use of medications past expiration. These statements assure EMS providers that such use will take that into drug shortage crisis and will take that into consideration if an agency is found seeking or using expired medications. These statements do not support their use, but they do let us know that the regulatory agencies understand the problem and are doing what they can to help providers and agencies.

EMTs/paramedics are the backbone of the Texas EMS system. They are the first responders to emergency situations and provide critical care to patients in need. Their dedication and hard work ensure that every patient receives the best possible care.

September saw firefighters and emergency personnel responding to wildfires across the state as Texas withered under a hot sun and scarce rain. One of the worst fires was in Bastrop, just east of Austin, where blazes consumed more than 1,500 homes and 34,000 acres of prime pine forest. The response to the fire drew emergency personnel from across the state, including the fire suppression from State Fire and the military.

Last night, top and middle, the Bastrop fire skipped some structures while reducing others to rubble. Bottom, emergency responders and volunteers gathered supplies such as water to hand out to families who had been evacuated. Many went home to find nothing where their houses had once stood.

Right page, top, the Bastrop fire was so large that emergency personnel responded from several areas, including Montgomery County Hospital District, Austin, and a command center and staging area was set up in Bastrop. Bottom, a volunteer fire department in Bastrop, Texas, Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) brought in a disaster relief team to help with the cleanup. Unfortunately, there were only two deaths and few injuries.

Photos by Mazie Bishop

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### Texas EMS/Trauma System marks 20-year anniversary

1992 was quite a year.

Hurricane Andrew, a Category 5 storm, struck Florida and caused \$13 billion in damage. It was the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history, with 30 people killed and 130,000 people displaced. In Texas, it caused \$1.5 billion in damage and 10 deaths.

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### Funding an EMS/Trauma System

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### 2012 Texas EMS Conference

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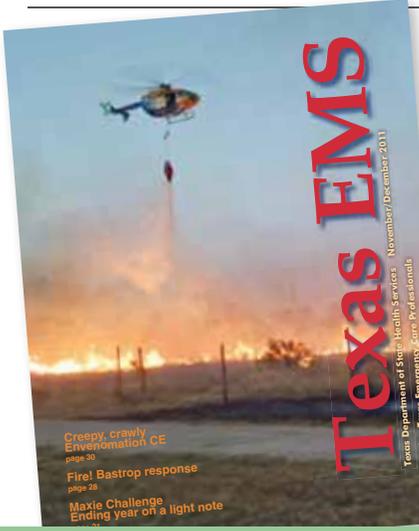
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### Fingerprinting now required for initial applicants

As of January 1, 2010, all initial EMS applicants are required to submit fingerprints for an FBI criminal history check. This is a big change, and judging by the calls and emails, there are a lot of questions. We try to answer the most common ones below. If you've got another question, please drop us a line at [EMSDing@dsb.state.tx.us](mailto:EMSDing@dsb.state.tx.us).

**Q:** I heard fingerprints are now required for EMS. Should I do the fingerprints or the DSHS EMS application first?

**A:** Please submit the DSHS EMS application first. Having your application on file with DSHS before doing the fingerprints will assist in matching up the background check results and will shorten your EMS application processing time.

**Q:** What is the procedure for submitting fingerprints?

**A:** Initial applicants (those not holding a Texas EMS certification) are required to submit fingerprints for a criminal background check. Applicants are first required to complete the "FAST" (Fingerprint and Security) form and then follow the steps on that form to schedule a fingerprinting session through the contracted service, I.I. Identity Solutions. The DSHS EMS FAST form must be used when submitting fingerprints for EMS certification. Go to [www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstransystems/FASTFASTSI209.pdf](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstransystems/FASTFASTSI209.pdf) to view or print the FAST form.

Following are the basic steps for scheduling a fingerprinting session with I.I. Identity Solutions:

1. Log in to [www.IIIdentity.com](http://www.IIIdentity.com) and select "Texas"
2. Select "Online Scheduling"
3. Select "All Others"
4. Select Option A
5. Select "You Have a FAST Fingerprint Pass"
6. Enter TX2010192, when prompted for Agency Number ID
7. Follow the prompts to enter your personal information and select a fingerprint service location, date and time.
8. Bring your completed DSHS EMS FAST form with you to your appointment along with government-issued identification.

**Q:** Is there an additional cost to DSHS applicants?

**A:** The DSHS application fees have not increased. There is a separate charge of \$44.20 for the fingerprinting and background check. This charge is paid when the fingerprints are taken. (Fee breakdown: \$9.95 for fingerprinting and \$34.25 for the DPS and FBI background check.) If you pay by credit card, there is an extra charge—the total cost would be \$44.45.

**Q:** Where can I find the forms that must be completed?

**A:** The fingerprint/background check form is attached to the paper certification application. The online application for certification will direct the applicant to a link to the FAST form. The EMS paper certification application can be found at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstransystems/InitialApplication.pdf](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstransystems/InitialApplication.pdf). The address for the online application is [www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstransystems/InitialApplication.pdf](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstransystems/InitialApplication.pdf).

### NREMT outlines recertification changes

The National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) is planning changes in its recertification processes, including online recertification and a new recertification program for anyone who has been recertified by NREMT. All three changes will be in place by 2016 and will apply to those who choose to recertify with NREMT.

**Online NREMT recertification**  
The NREMT launched online recertification as an option for NREMTs two years ago. In 2012 more than 50 percent of all NREMTs recertified online. But by 2015 all NREMTs will be required to recertify online. Anyone needing assistance with online recertification (or other certification issues) can receive assistance from NREMT by calling (614) 888-4484 and speaking with the call center staff.

**Recertification hours reduced for 2016**  
The hours of continuing education required to recertify at NR will be reduced (in most cases) from the old 72 hours every two years. Each level of EMS provider will have a different number of continuing education requirements:  
• Fire Responder – 16 hours  
• EMT – 24 hours  
• Paramedic – 60 hours every two years; 30 are national and 15 are local and 15 are individual

**Mark King Initiative for recertification**  
NREMT is rolling out a system that allows EMTs to regain their state meets certain criteria laid out by NREMT. Called the Mark King Initiative, the system is already being tested in Alabama, Vermont and South Carolina.

### GETAC's May meeting

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council met Friday, May 11, 2013, in Austin. Following are the motions put forward after the chair, staff, standing committees and other groups reported on their most recent activities. The complete minutes will be posted on the website ([www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstransystems/govcouncil.htm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstransystems/govcouncil.htm)) before the next GETAC meeting.

**Action items**  
A motion was made by Robert D. Greenberg, MD, and seconded by Mike Chick, RN, to endorse the Statewide EMTF Governance and Operations Structure, as presented by the Disaster Emergency Preparedness Committee. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Luis G. Fernandez, MD, and seconded by Stanley Scholz, RN, to endorse the Medical Director Committee's position paper stating that hospitals should share quality assurance data, including patient outcomes, for the purpose of quality improvement with EMS firms.

A motion was made by Luis G. Fernandez, MD, and seconded by Mike Chick, RN, for the Council to assist the Trauma Committee in identifying other state agencies that have a mission to prevent DWIs and to support relationship building between the Committee and those agencies. The motion passed.

**EMIS Obituaries**

**Michael Lee O'Brien**, 41, of Abilene, TX, died June 7, 2012. From injuries suffered in an ATV crash. A paramedic, O'Brien worked for several agencies in Montana and in Texas, including Abilene EMS, Round Top, Lampasas County EMS and Calhoun County EMS.

**John Lee Cook, Jr.**, 62, of Georgetown, died May 5, 2012. Cook made his career as a firefighter and volunteer serving as a fire chief for Conroe and Houston, deputy chief for Waller, interim chief for Freeport, a writer and columnist, and as faculty at various community colleges and the National Fire Academy.

**Rubert Fuhrman**, 69, of San Antonio, died December 5, 2011, following a long illness. Always a devoted, active of annual banding, Fuhrman was a member of the National Fire Academy and a member of Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corp.

**Vernon L. Wade**, 69, of Market, died May 19, 2012. Wade, a licensed paramedic, was a longtime Texas County councilor, a charter member of Market EMT, a program chair and instructor for EMS with Texas State Technical College, and he worked for Hendrick Medical Center.

### Texas Trauma System set to get report card

In the last legislative session, lawmakers directed DSHS to conduct a study of the state's trauma facilities to assess the need for additional trauma facilities to expand the state's Level I and Level II trauma facilities. GETAC Level II and DSHS to expand the state's trauma system and an overall assessment of the trauma system as a percentage of the number of trauma facilities in each RAC is appropriate. At the request of DSHS, the American College of Surgeons conducted a comprehensive survey of the Texas Trauma System in May. After perusing over approximately 6500 pages of documents in advance of the state, surveys asked questions of stakeholders over two days to a total of 140 stakeholders. The survey responses were open to all stakeholders. We were encouraged by comments. In particular, we were encouraged by comments from these questions:

### Town hall meetings bring DSHS to you

Wondering how recent legislation will affect you? Have a question about the National Registry? The Office of EMS/Trauma Systems is holding a series of town hall meetings to answer your questions you have. The dates and cities have been set. Please email your questions to be added, including one during Texas EMS Week.

**Presented by the Texas Department of State Health Services**

**EMT providers and coordinators are encouraged to join us at locations throughout the state for a chance to get the latest updates on EMS and meet with your local DSHS regional staff members.**

**2012 EMS Town Hall Meetings**

**One Anniversary Area**  
March 15, 1:00 pm  
Maplewood Community Center  
Houston, TX

**El Paso Area**  
March 22, 1:00 pm  
El Paso Community College  
El Paso, TX

**Corpus Christi Area**  
March 27, 1:00 pm  
Duke University Health System  
Corpus Christi, TX

**Lubbock Area**  
April 5, 1:00 pm  
Lubbock Medical Center  
Lubbock, TX

**Houston Area**  
April 10, 1:00 pm  
Houston Medical Center  
Houston, TX

**Austin Area**  
April 27, 1:00 pm  
University of Texas Health Services  
Austin, TX

**Other Area**  
May 1, 1:00 pm  
Lamar University Health Services  
Port Arthur, TX

**El Paso Area**  
May 2, 1:00 pm  
Lamar University Health Services  
Port Arthur, TX

**Maps and directions available at:**  
[www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstransystems](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstransystems)

# 2010-2013

Texas EMS Magazine reports ... in **2010**, the deadline for getting paramedic programs accredited is three years away, giving programs plenty of notice to work on accreditation ... Vance Riley is appointed chair of GETAC, and Pete Wolf steps down as interim chair ... DSHS begins requiring fingerprints from all initial applicants ... the American College of Surgeons sends a team to survey the Texas EMS/Trauma System ... the ACS team meets for a week, spending the last three days with stakeholders at GETAC meetings ... in **2011**, the Registry Solution Work Group continues to seek and implement suggestions for improving the EMS/Trauma Registry ... DSHS enters a contract in February with a software vendor to begin implementing a brand new Registry ... Wildfires tear through Texas during a brutal summer with no rain, but Bastrop get the worst of it—34,000 acres and 1500 homes are lost, and responders descend upon the area from across Texas and the nation ... in **2012**, State EMS Director Maxie Bishop holds a series of Town Hall meetings around the state ... Texas marks the twentieth anniversary of the Texas EMS/Trauma System—the first trauma system rules were approved in 1992 ... a national drug shortage hits Texas EMS providers and Texas EMS Magazine lists ideas for coping with the problem ... paramedic education accreditation rule becomes effective in August ... as of October, there are 61,477 EMS personnel in Texas, including 6196 licensed paramedics ... After a national search, NREMT names Texan Severo "Tre" Rodriguez as executive director ... in **2013**, accreditation for paramedic education becomes a reality in Texas ... in March, Maxie Bishop leaves his position as state EMS director for a position at Texas Division of Emergency Management ... and Joe Schmider, former state EMS director in Pennsylvania, steps in as the new state EMS director.