



Providers must have medical direction

Just a reminder that all EMS providers must have a medical director under contract at all times. DSHS has recently discovered that several firms let their medical direction lapse. This is a clear violation of Texas Administrative Code 157.11. If DSHS finds a firm does not or has not had a medical director at any time, DSHS will move to emergency suspend the EMS provider and move towards revocation of the provider's license. Take the medical director requirement seriously - DSHS does.

New Houston manager named

Marilyn Talley has been selected as the new EMS Compliance Manager for the East Group, based in Houston. A paramedic since 1991, Talley has been with the department since March 2005, working as an EMS Compliance Specialist in the Houston office. Her previous work experience has included being a medical assistant, a Unit Coordinator/Supervisor for a HMO Specialty health facility and a paramedic for a 9-1-1 service. Talley is also an Advanced Certified Investigator/Inspector through the national organization known as the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR).



Marilyn Talley

On Duty

Legislation tightens criminal history



In 2009, legislation was passed that directed DSHS to revoke EMS certifications and licenses for any person who is convicted of certain crimes, including murder, capital murder, indecency with a child, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault, aggravated robbery, and certain substance abuse offenses (TAC 157.37). In the 2011 Legislative session, HB 1476 amended HSC 773 to say change the "is" to "has been." DSHS has been mulling how to best follow this law, given that other parts of the Health and Safety Code forbid DSHS from asking for criminal information that has already been reported during the course of initial or renewal application. DSHS will now investigate initials and renewals who get flagged on the Department of Public Safety background check. In addition, DSHS will investigate any complaints made about individuals having convictions for those offenses. For questions, please contact Heather Godinez at heather.godinez@dshs.state.tx.us.

Trauma funds distributed

Uncompensated Trauma Care Fund distributions were made in September.

- \$872,359 from the Designated Trauma Facility and Emergency Medical Services (DTF/EMS) Account (3588 Monies) was distributed to 268 eligible hospitals. The grand total distributed to eligible hospitals since the inception of this funding is approximately \$382,665,152.
- \$848,862 from the Emergency Medical services, Trauma Facilities, and Trauma Care Systems Account (1131 Monies) and \$539,766 from the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Systems Account (911 Monies) was distributed to 256 eligible hospitals.



Background Info:

Texas Health and Safety Code §780.004 directs DSHS to use 96 percent of funds in the DTF/EMS Account (3588 monies) to fund a portion of uncompensated trauma care provided at hospitals designated as state trauma facilities or a hospital meeting "in active pursuit" requirements.

Texas Health and Safety Code §780.004 directs DSHS to use 27 percent of funds in the Emergency Medical services, Trauma Facilities, and Trauma Care Systems Account (1131 Monies) and 27 percent of funds in the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Systems Account (911 Monies) to fund a portion of uncompensated trauma care provided at hospitals designated as state trauma facilities. For more information, go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/FY-2011UncompensatedTraumaCareFundDistSept.shtm.

Data requested from health care providers

The Legislature passed Senate Bill 29 in 2007, mandating the collection of a Minimum Data Set from health care providers and requiring specified licensing boards, including EMS, to provide data to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. The statute explains certain information is requested because:



- Legislators, health science centers, state agencies and other stakeholders need to have accurate, timely and sufficient information about the state's health professions workforce.
- To accurately study supply and distribution, a practice address is needed (not just the mailing address), as many providers practice in a different county from the one in which they live.
- Practice characteristics vary according to age, gender and race/ethnicity; data is needed on age, gender and race/ethnicity to study the current and projected supply of the workforce.
- Data on birthplace and high school are needed to study rural/urban trends and make recommendations for encouraging providers to practice in a rural area.

The data will be collected through a survey that should take less than five minutes to complete. Information entered while completing the survey does not update the licensing database or fulfill your obligation to keep your licensing program informed of your current name and mailing address. If your information has changed, please contact EMS Certification. If you have questions about the survey (not licensing questions), you may contact the Health Professions Resource Center at 512.458.7261 or e-mail brian.king@dshs.state.tx.us. Go to the OEMS/TS main web page or to <https://txprofdata.questionpro.com>.

New GETAC appointment

The Governor's Office notified the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems of an appointment to the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. Robert "Bobby" Greenberg, MD, of Temple, is a new appointment, representing emergency physicians. His term expires January 1, 2014. He provides direct patient care, administrative support and education at the Department of Emergency Medicine at Scott & White and Texas A&M Health Sciences Center. Dr. Greenberg replaces Randy Loflin, MD, who resigned in August.



Robert Greenberg, MD

Wildfire relief donations sought

In 2011, Texas has seen the worst outbreak of wildfires in many years. Drenching rains came first, bringing out lush vegetation, followed by a hard winter and the driest year on record in fifty years. At last count, 9,782 wildfires have scorched across Texas. By comparison, we saw 167 wildfires in all of 2010. Nearly three million acres have burned. Fighting these fires has fallen in many cases to volunteer fire departments, which represent 77 percent of the 1400 fire departments in Texas.

The Texas State Fireman's and Fire Marshal's Association is spearheading an effort to raise money for these volunteer fire departments. The Texas Wildfire Relief Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) committed to generating awareness and garnering support for Texas volunteer firefighters. They are asking for your support in order to provide Texas firefighters with the equipment, water, food and fuel necessary to continue battling wildfires. The fund has set up a website for donations at www.txwildfirerelief.org.

EEF 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 EEF:
Panhandle EMS
\$9,309 for ambulance engine replacement



On Duty