
Flooding leaves, but effects linger

FROM THIS SIDE

It's an "interesting" experience to be booted out of the home office for three weeks and to witness how it continues to affect services – even two months down the road. EMS/Trauma Systems staff are still recovering from disruption in services caused by a water main break at the Exchange Building in Austin on June 13. While we received the green light to return on July 2, not everyone in the building was so lucky. Flooding caused sufficient damage on the first floor that those offices may not be ready for occupancy for another nine months. We've been working overtime since then to catch up, especially those staff in EMS certification. Thanks to their perseverance, certifications are back to the normal time frames for turnaround. One note, however: some of the applications that were done online around middle of June may not have been successfully transmitted to DSHS. If you renewed your certification or license around that time and have not received your renewal, please give us a call at 512-834-6700. We can pull up the record as long as we have a trace number. This affects magazine subscriptions sent in with applications as well. We're greatly appreciative to our colleagues in the field offices across the state who stepped in for us in here in the central office while we had no access to our computer files or our offices.

The Comprehensive Clinical Management Program, or CCMP as it's most commonly known, continues to move forward. The DSHS Council approved the rule on August 6, and it now goes to the Health and Human Services Commission for review and approval. The rule will get one more public comment period and another review by HHSC before it is posted in the *Texas Register*. If all goes according to schedule, the rule could be effective as early as December 31. As you recall, GETAC endorsed the rule at its meeting earlier this year in May.

As we go to press with this issue of the magazine, we just stood down our 24/7 Hurricane Dean emergency operations center at the Exchange Building. We learned a lot from this "live" exercise, and we'll be compiling an after-action report in the coming weeks so the process will go even smoother next time. Because of the hurricane threat, the GETAC Retreat scheduled for the weekend in Kerrville and the August GETAC meetings were cancelled. The next GETAC meeting will be in November.

We certainly hope you can join all your colleagues in Houston for the 2007 EMS conference. Hotel space is going fast, so please make your reservations now (hotel information is on page 14). Also, you might take a quick look at some of our pre-conference classes--the deadline for registration ends soon. And finally, if you haven't nominated anyone for outstanding person or an organization for an award, please take the opportunity do so soon. There are so many folks doing good work out there in this great state, and virtually none of them get recognized often enough. These awards are a great way to salute the best among us. Check out the nomination form on our website by clicking on the conference link on the left side near the bottom of the page. GETAC committee meetings and task forces will take place at the Hilton on November 17 and 18, and GETAC itself will meet Monday evening, November 19, at the Hilton.

See you in Houston soon—believe it or not, Conference 2007 is just around the corner...



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