
Passing rates, legislators and GETAC preparation-- it must be January

It's January, and that means it's time for us to report on the NREMT passing rates for educational programs. This is one of our most popular features – I was fielding questions about when it was going to appear in the magazine while we were at Texas EMS Conference. Turn to page 28 for a snapshot of Texas passing rates for 2008.

The 81st Texas Legislature arrives in Austin this month. Lawmakers could start filing bills in November and they got off to a fast start with hundreds of bills already in the queue to be heard. Last session, more than 5,000 bills were filed during the session and plenty were passed. After the session ends in late May, we'll analyze the bills passed pertaining to EMS and trauma and give you a rundown of those in the July/August issue. You can always keep track of what's happening by going to www.capitol.state.tx.us, which lists all the bills filed and where they are in the process. There's also some nice information on the site about how our lawmaking process works.

Thanks to all of you who came to Texas EMS Conference 2008. Fort Worth welcomed us, and we think it was a good fit for our conference. Our thanks go out again to the more than 120 volunteers who help us with pre-conference classes and monitor the 150 or so workshops. Also, our sincere thanks to the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum and the Texas Nurses Association for providing wonderful speakers for the nursing tracks, to the EMS Educators Association of Texas for putting together the educator track, and to Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) for coordinating the administrator and the disaster tracks. Also thanks to Scott and Lynn Lail of CareFlite for coordinating the helicopter class and helicopter landing logistics. We also got tremendous support from North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council (NCTTRAC) and MedStar in setting up transportation and extra-curricular activities such as ride-outs. We will be back in Fort Worth in 2009. There'll be a new Omni open across the street from the convention center, plus we'll still have room blocks available at the Sheraton, Hilton, Worthington, Embassy Suites and Marriott Courtyard. Watch our website for more information.

The GETAC meetings for the year start February 25-27 in Austin. We've moved to a new location — Omni Southpark at the southeast corner of Ben White (Hwy. 71) and I-35. Turn to page 31 for information on the hotel and how to make reservations. And, as usual, there are a limited number of rooms the hotel will sell us at the \$85 rate, so if you're going to GETAC, make your reservations early. We'll be at the Omni Southpark for the February, May and August meetings.

See you at GETAC!



FROM THIS SIDE



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