

EMS Week, May 17-23, 2009 and Trauma Awareness Month, May 2009

Have you started planning for EMS week, May 17-23? What about Trauma Awareness Month in May? These two events provide a great way to honor emergency responders and promote safety and prevention. With tight budgets and growing workloads, it's always important to emphasize the life-saving role EMS plays in every community.

EMS Week's theme is "EMS: A Proud Partner in Your Community." As it has since 1974, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) offers an EMS Week planning guide to give you ideas and help you plan a fun EMS Week. For more information or to obtain an EMS Week kit, please call 800-798-1822 then touch 6, or visit ACEP's EMS Week website at www.acep.org/emsweek (email: emsweek@acep.org).

The American Trauma Society has chosen the 2008 slogan "Kids Know Alcohol: Prevention through Education." For an informational packet call the national office at 800-556-7890 or go to www.amtrauma.org.

Don't forget Ready Teddy

The beloved EMS safety mascot Ready Teddy is



Photo by Carla Sims

prepared for service. You can order Ready Teddy coloring books, stickers and other EMS materials from DSHS using the order form on page 2 of this magazine. The Ready Teddy mascot suit is available for loan on a first-come basis. To reserve a mascot suit for your organization call the DSHS EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination office at (512) 834-6700.

Here are some other ideas for EMS Week:

Second Chance Reunion

Invite survivors of cardiac arrest to reunite with EMS members, firefighters and others who helped give them a second chance at life.

Station Appreciation Day

Stations can conduct

various station-based events throughout the day to honor their members and provide outreach to the communities they serve.

Host an Open House

Provide equipment demonstrations and facility and ambulance tours to the community.

Host a Blood Drive Have EMS/Fire personnel lead the donations and ask the community to join in.

Host Blood Pressure Checks/CPR Classes These are great ways to connect with local schools, groups and senior centers.

Sponsor a Vial of Life Program Information on the program for seniors and free kits are available online at <http://www.vialoflife.com>.