Profile: EMS Compliance – North Group

The business of regulating EMS is statewide, and each area of the state has an EMS compliance office responsible for EMS education program and course approval, inspections of ambulances, provider licensing and complaint investigation. There are four compliance service areas: north, south, east and central. The North Group employs 11 staff and has six offices located across 123 counties, four public health regions and eight trauma service areas. EMS Compliance is part of the Patient Care Quality Unit in the Health Care Quality Section. The Section is in the Division of Regulatory Services. Kathy Perkins is assistant commissioner for the Division; Renee Clack is director of the Section; and Derek Jakovich is director of the Unit.

In addition to their regulatory responsibilities, EMS Compliance staff are also actively involved in the EMS/trauma regional advisory councils and in providing technical assistance to EMS providers, certificants and the public. From the Panhandle to the D/FW Metroplex to the deep East Texas woods, the EMS Compliance North Group has a wide-ranging area of responsibility.

Kevin Veal – Arlington
Manager, North EMS Compliance Group
Past/current EMS certifications
Previous Certifications — EMT, EMT-I, EMT-P, Advanced Coordinator; Current — LP (Inactive)
How long in EMS? 17 years
How long with the state? 11 years
Phone number/email address 817-264-4720 kevin.veal@dshs.state.tx.us

Sharon Tillman – Canyon
Manager, North EMS Compliance Group
Past/current EMS certifications
Previous Certifications — EMT, EMT-I, EMT-P, Advanced Coordinator; Current — LP (Inactive)
How long in EMS? 11 years
How long with the state? 17 years
Phone number/email address 806-655-7151 ext. 251 sharon.tillman@dshs.state.tx.us

Denny Martin – Lubbock
Manager, North EMS Compliance Group
Past/current EMS certifications
Previous Certifications — EMT, EMT-I, EMT-P, Advanced Coordinator; Current — LP (Inactive)
How long in EMS? 25 years
How long with the state? 25 years
Phone number/email address 806-742-5200 denny.martin@dshs.state.tx.us

but six of these operate under one medical director. Carl Paetzold, MD, has served as medical director for Panhandle Emergency Medical Service System (PEMSS) since 1997. Dr. Paetzold began his EMS career as a paramedic in Amarillo. I appreciate the dedication of our EMS personnel in serving our citizens and all those traveling through the Texas Panhandle.

Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)
EMT
How long with the state? In March 2007, I began my 25th year of state service.
Phone number/email address 806-655-7151 ext. 251 sharon.tillman@dshs.state.tx.us

Denny Martin – Lubbock
The South Plains EMS organization (SPEMS) is a 501(c)(3) corporation and is a consortium of approximately 40 EMS ambulance services and first responder organizations. SPEMS offers medical direction for all organizations under its purview. Providers under the SPEMS direction also are required to participate in its quality improvement program, which consists of a doctor-led, peer-driven case review model. The organization has a set of treatment protocols that are constantly monitored by a committee of providers.

Protocols are communicated and provided to all providers in the group. All the provider members are encouraged to participate in the operations of the organization. Also, all member providers are required to sign a mutual-aid agreement with SPEMS that ensures mutual aid to the area. Mutual aid is coordinated through the Lubbock EMS regional dispatching center.

Also, there is a large first-responder organization, the Rapid Response and Medical Support team (RRAMS), that provides medical support for large-scale events in and around the Lubbock area. They are affiliated with SPEMS but are operated as a committee of SPEMS. This is a volunteer organization; it handles standby events that are large for Lubbock. The volunteers stand by at Texas Tech University football and basketball games and coordinate medical care for their transporting agency, Lubbock EMS. Also, they stand by at the largest free fireworks display in the state every fourth of July. The administrator of RRAMS is a practicing field medic and a consultant to the RAC-B and SPEMS Inc.

Lubbock, is in the southern portion of the Texas Panhandle in an area commonly referred to as the South Plains. There are approximately 400,000 people in the RAC-B, 210,000 of them live in Lubbock. The area also is known as the Llano Estacado, or the staked plains – in other words, everything is flat. Toward the east side of the South Plains, you start seeing what is referred to as “ranch country,” which is made up of wild grassland and is home to several of the larger ranches in Texas, including the 6666 and Pitchfork, among many others.

Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)
Licensed paramedic
How long in EMS? 25 years
How long with the state? 25 years
Phone number/email address 806-742-5200 denny.martin@dshs.state.tx.us
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29 years

Phone number/email address
806-767-0488
denver.martin@dshs.state.tx.us

Jerry Bradshaw – Wichita Falls

The Wichita Falls Field Office, located on the campus of the North Texas State Hospital for the past two years, covers 13 rural counties in North Central Texas. The TSA-C consists of 18 providers, 11 registered FROs and two air medical services. All services are 911 providers located within their counties, and each service is small and uniquely willing to share information and provide aid, when needed.

I was instrumental in developing the current Providers Association, which has grown over the years to the point that there is a mutual-aid agreement, regional communications, regional protocols and a regional reporting system. The providers are strongly involved in the RAC and have played a significant role within the regional advisory council.

Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)
How long in EMS?
27 years
How long with the state?
12 years
Phone number/email address
940-689-5928
jerry.bradshaw@dshs.state.tx.us

Andrew Cargile – Abilene

The Abilene office of the North EMS Compliance Group supervises 32 EMS providers and 21 first-responder organizations. There are four major educational programs handled by the Abilene office. The Big Country Regional Advisory Council assists most of the Abilene area providers and first responders. Prior to the BCRAC, EMS managers and hospital personnel formed the Abilene Area Pre-hospital Committee. Since 1990, the Big Country EMS Providers Organization has operated its own EMS organization with the goal of developing a network to assist each other. For many years, this area has worked towards excellence in pre-hospital care.

Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)
Currently a licensed paramedic; originally certified as an EMT in 1976
How long in EMS?
31 years
How long with the state?
29 years
Phone number/email address
325-795-5859
andrew.cargile@dshs.state.tx.us

Donn Barnes, David Post, Pat Elmes and Tami Littleton – Arlington

The staff in the Arlington EMS compliance office covers 19 counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, including more than 130 providers, more than 85 FROs, 23 education programs and several CE training programs. Our staff works closely with various law enforcement and other regulatory agencies. The Arlington staff serves as ad-hoc members to RAC-E committees, area medical control groups, education advisory councils and local governmental groups. All the Arlington EMS staff serves in some capacity with state disaster groups, e.g., EOC, DDC, RSS, etc.

Donn Barnes
Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)
ARC Advanced 1st Aid card (1971); Texas EMT (1990); Texas paramedic (1993); National Registry paramedic (1993) Texas instructor (1994); Texas examiner (1994); Texas licensed paramedic (2000); former ACLS instructor; former BTLIS instructor; former EMS (Remote Environment Medical Support) instructor; former AHA CPR instructor trainer.
How long in EMS?
36 years
How long with the state?
2 years
Phone number/email address
817-264-4723
donn.barnes@dshs.state.tx.us

David Post
Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)
How long in EMS?
I started in emergency medicine in 1965 (served in the Air Force in the Vietnam War, 1968). After working in EMS in California until 1979, I came to Texas and have been working here in EMS since.
How long with the state?
10 years
Phone number/email address
817-264-4724
david.post@dshs.state.tx.us

Pat Elmes
Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)
How long in EMS?
I started in emergency medicine in 1965 (served in the Air Force in the Vietnam War, 1968). After working in EMS in California until 1979, I came to Texas and have been working here in EMS since.
How long with the state?
10 years
Phone number/email address
817-264-4724
david.post@dshs.state.tx.us

Pat Elmes
Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)
How long in EMS?
I started in emergency medicine in 1965 (served in the Air Force in the Vietnam War, 1968). After working in EMS in California until 1979, I came to Texas and have been working here in EMS since.
How long with the state?
10 years
Phone number/email address
817-264-4724
david.post@dshs.state.tx.us
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related, such as LE and FF)
Paramedic, U.S. Navy-1st Class Petty Officer-Marine (FMF) Corpsman and Operating Room Technician.

How long in EMS?
29 Years in EMS

How long with the state?
20 years

Phone number/email address
817-264-4722
pat.elmes@dshs.state.tx.us

Tami Littleton
How long with the state?
6 years with DSHS

Phone number/email address
817-264-4720
tami.littleton@dshs.state.tx.us

Pat Dilday and Valerie Tumlinson
– Tyler

Our office is in the Cotton Belt Building, just around the corner from the famous Tyler Rose Garden. Tyler is in the Piney Woods of East Texas and is host to the beautiful Azalea Trail. Our coverage area consists of 33 counties, bordering Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas and the Gulf of Mexico. Providers in Hardin, Jefferson and Orange counties are currently in our coverage area. Our service area includes the largest first-responder network in the state -- approximately 150 registered first-responder organizations. Their role is an integral part of the EMS system. Our area also includes three very active Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Our education programs, EMS providers, first responders and RACs are each unique, but all share the same goal of providing quality patient care.

Pat Dilday
Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)
EMT

How long in EMS?
13 years

How long with the state?
14 years

Phone number/email address
903-533-5377
pat.dilday@dshs.state.tx.us

Valerie Tumlinson
Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)
EMT-I

How long in EMS?
12 years

How long with the state?
13 years

Phone number/email address
903-533-5282
valerie.tumlinson@dshs.state.tx.us

All postings will remain on the website and in the Texas EMS Magazine listing:

• Until the suspension or probation expires; or,
• For one year after final action is taken (for decertifications, denials, revocations and administrative penalties).

GETAC
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