



BISHOP accepts new position with TDEM

State EMS Director Maxie Bishop Jr. is leaving DSHS in March to take the position of EMS Coordinator with the Texas Division of Emergency Management. Bishop has been state EMS director since August of 2006. In his new position, he'll be in charge of developing an EMS training program for DPS offices.

"This is a completely new position, so I am excited for the opportunity to create a program that's never been done," Bishop said.

Bishop came to DSHS from Dallas Fire-Rescue, where he was hired in 1986. He jumped at the chance to train as an EMT, then continued his training to certify

as a paramedic in 1989. He spent eight years on the ambulance before taking a position as training coordinator for Dallas Fire-Rescue, a position he held until he came to work for DSHS. He also served on GETAC from 2000 to 2006. That diverse background helped him weather the myriad challenges of the state director's job.

And the challenges came fast from the beginning. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had barreled through the state nearly a year before Bishop began, but dozens of EMS providers had not been paid by FEMA. Bishop's first act was to work with FEMA to get those providers paid. That led the way for the development of memorandums of agreement with EMS providers so disaster payments could be streamlined in future deployments. And there were other deployments soon to come: Hurricane Dean, the raid on Zion in West Texas and Hurricane Ike.

There were also plenty of other events to manage during the past six years: the computerized testing roll-out; the flooded DSHS main office building that left staff without a work space or computer network for three weeks; the sudden deaths of an EMS state director and a beloved staff person; town hall meetings; accreditation for paramedic programs; and legislation analyses for four sessions of the Texas Legislature.

Bishop also left his mark at the national level by representing Texas on boards and committees, and serving on the selection committee for the new National Registry Director.

"I hope I was able to make a difference in the continued development of Texas EMS, represent this position as well as my predecessors, and enhance our EMS system to better serve the citizens of our great state."

Local and Regional News

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Texas EMS Magazine

Kelly Harrell, Editor MC 1876

PO Box 149347 Austin, TX 78714-9347

Kelly.harrell@dshs.state.tx.us

Phone: (512) 834-6743 Fax: (512) 834-6736

