



# News affecting you

EMTs Paramedics EMS Providers / EMS Medical Directors  
Regional Advisory Councils (RAC)  
First Responders Trauma Hospitals GETAC Grants / Funding  
public, government & community leaders Designation Programs NAEMSO NREMT etc...

Spring 2019 Vol.6 No. 2

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## Point to ponder: Lasting impressions of EMS response

By Fernando Posada, BA, LP, EMS Program Manager - East Group



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"People's lives often depend on the quick reaction and comprehensive care of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. Incidents as varied as automobile accidents, heart attacks, drowning, childbirth, and gunshot wounds all require immediate medical attention. EMTs and paramedics provide this vital intervention as they care for and transport the sick or injured to an appropriate medical facility." <sup>1</sup>

Suffice it to say, this would be all in a day's work given the nature of the job except for the fact that in reality, the EMS responder's initial encounter with patients and family members lends itself to first and lasting impressions.

Perhaps during this stressful time of crisis intervention the EMS responder has the opportunity to exercise the following modified mnemonic – **E**mpathy, **M**indfulness, **S**ynergy thus affording the patient and family members a positive experience and supportive outlook.

There is an abundance of medical research articles that illustrate how a holistic approach during an EMS intervention lends itself to increased patient trust, calming anxiety, and improved patient and family members' satisfaction. <sup>2</sup>



The Code Green  
Campaign

Additional Links

NEWS FROM THE WEB

DSHS RESOURCES

GETAC

Rules

Disciplinary actions

Staff Contacts

Preparedness



As the EMS profession continues to measure patient care outcomes, performance measures, and customer satisfaction surveys, consideration should be given in reviewing not only the physiological approach by the EMS responder but having a better understanding of the psychology of the EMS responder. Through ongoing education of human behavior, the EMS responder will be better equipped to deal with the realities of human nature.

The citizens of Texas can be proud of the remarkable care provided by EMS. Let us continue to strive to do and be our best.

Thank you "EMS".

<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from [www.emergenthealth.org/images/content/pdf/about-the-ems-profession.pdf](http://www.emergenthealth.org/images/content/pdf/about-the-ems-profession.pdf) (Excerpt retrieved on January 7, 2019)

<sup>2</sup> [www.ems1.com/ems-advocacy/articles/1592332-Simple-ways-an-EMT-can-provide-compassionate-patient-care/](http://www.ems1.com/ems-advocacy/articles/1592332-Simple-ways-an-EMT-can-provide-compassionate-patient-care/); [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5708197/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5708197/)  
Retrieved on January 7, 2019)

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## GETAC STRATEGIC PLAN



The "Texas Emergency Healthcare Strategic Plan," is the ongoing work of the Governor's Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC). The current members with the input of over one-hundred GETAC committee members and other stakeholders endorse this plan as guidance for improving the provision of emergency care in Texas. Our emergency healthcare system is complex and a detailed comprehensive plan would be unusable. This is a high-level plan and it is our intent that every section applies to, and is inclusive of, all age groups and patient populations.

We hope you find this useful, informative and actionable as a roadmap for the future of our emergency healthcare system as we endeavor further reductions in death and disability from sudden illness and injury in our Great State. You will find the plan at the following location; <https://dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/stratplanbetween.shtm> under current documents.

Robert D. Greenberg, MD, FACEP, Chair  
Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council



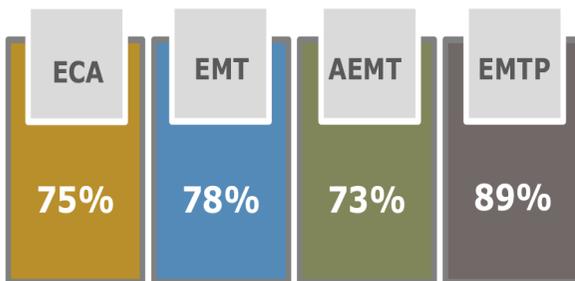
# Texas EMS Statistics

## CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

**GRAND TOTAL OF ACTIVE LICENSES: 66,783**

### By The Numbers

ECA	2,245
EMT	34,139
Advanced EMT	3,386
EMTP	19,475
LP	7,538



**2018 NREMT  
TEXAS OVERALL  
PASS RATES**

### A complete list of the 2018 Texas pass rates by program is available: at:

[www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/nationalregistry.shtm](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/nationalregistry.shtm)

The statistics include the 2018 Texas EMS program pass rates and compare overall Texas scores to the national average. A pass rate with a low number of students may not be indicative of a program's capabilities.

The state EMS director and DSHS EMS compliance managers for your region are available to discuss different avenues of improvement for Texas EMS education programs.

State EMS Director, Joseph Schmider, 512/834-6700  
[joseph.schmider@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:joseph.schmider@dshs.texas.gov)

EMS Manager East, Fernando Posada, 713/767-3331  
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EMS Manager North, Valerie Tumlinson, 817/264-4721  
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EMS Manager South, Jaime Vallejo, 210/949-2052  
[jaime.vallejo@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:jaime.vallejo@dshs.texas.gov)

## Educator's Corner

### The Role of Simple Thoracostomy during Trauma Resuscitation and the MCHD experience

By: Lee Gillum MPH, LP, EMS-CC and Kevin Crocker AAS, LP

Chest injuries account for more than 20% of all traumatic deaths (independent of mechanism) annually in the United States.<sup>2</sup> Many EMS systems that perform needle thoracostomy (NT) commonly use a 14-16 ga. needle with lengths ranging from 3.2-4.4 cm with an associated failure rate ranging from 50% to 65%.<sup>5,6</sup> Much of the under-penetration is due to muscle, subcutaneous and adipose tissue thickness. Unfortunately, increasing the length of the needles used to perform chest decompression can result in iatrogenic injury to the lung, subclavian vessels, heart and great vessels.<sup>8</sup> In addition to these known failure rates there is no consistent means to confirm proper placement in the prehospital environment. If no rush of air is present when the procedure is completed, then there is no confirmation that a tension pneumothorax is present in that patient.

The Montgomery County Hospital District (MCHD) Simple Thoracostomy (ST) clinical guideline is based upon London's Air Ambulance protocol and research by London's Helicopter Emergency Medical Service. Because of the novelty of this procedure by ground EMS units, we chose to utilize the technique solely in patients suffering from traumatic cardiac arrest with clear suspected chest or abdominal trauma. Initial deployment of ST was restricted to our highest credentialed Paramedic Providers (Supervisors, FTO's, and PIII's). These providers received didactic and psychomotor training prior to the full deployment of this new procedure.

The complete article can be found on the Montgomery County Hospital District site at: [www.mchd-tx.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/TDSHS-ST-paper-V3-2019.pdf](http://www.mchd-tx.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/TDSHS-ST-paper-V3-2019.pdf)



**CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS AND CATEGORIES**

**2019  
TEXAS  
EMS  
AWARDS**

We're looking for the best in Texas, so let us know what makes your nominee really stand out.

Winners will be announced at the Texas EMS Conference Awards Luncheon

**SUBMIT NOMINATIONS BY  
SEPTEMBER 28**

SPONSORED BY  **TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services | Texas Department of State  
Health Services

### NATIONAL EMS SCOPE OF PRACTICE MODEL

The 2019 revised National EMS Scope of Practice Model is now available at [www.ems.gov/pdf/National\\_EMS\\_Scope\\_of\\_Practice\\_Model\\_2019.pdf](http://www.ems.gov/pdf/National_EMS_Scope_of_Practice_Model_2019.pdf)



## Designation Station

The overall designation numbers remain steady as hospitals continue to apply for trauma and stroke designations. Neonatal designations are completed, surveys for maternal levels of care are currently underway. However, as hospitals across the state go through acquisitions and change of ownerships, these changes can impact a facility's designation and possibly eligibility for trauma funding. If you become aware that your facility may have new ownership, please contact our office in advance, for assistance.

**Contacts for:**

- [Trauma designation](#)
- [Stroke designation](#)
- [Neonatal designation](#)

A hospital that experiences a change in ownership or a change in physical location (CHOW), the designation(s) is no longer valid. The facility will return all designation certificates to the OEMS/Trauma Systems once the CHOW has occurred. If the hospital has a name change only, the designation certificate remains valid with the old name, until a new designation is awarded. Our office works closely with the HHSC Healthcare Facilities Licensing Unit, who determine if a CHOW or strictly a name change is occurring.

**Current designations:**

	Trauma	Stroke	Neonatal*
<b>Level I</b>	18	31	82
<b>Level II</b>	25	120	74
<b>Level III</b>	55	13	58
<b>Level IV</b>	194	-	20
<b>Total designated facilities</b>	292	164	234

\* Please note that Level IV is the highest level of care for neonatal facilities.



# May is Mental Health Awareness Month

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**NAEMT states it best,** “EMS practitioners face challenging and traumatic events that can impact their mental well-being each and every day. The mounting effect of patient needs, family, long workdays, nutrition, physical health, and sleep deprivation all contribute to an individual’s sense of wellness.” Every 7 seconds in the state of Texas, an ambulance is dispatched to a plea for help, these responses can be another brick in the wall we each build around ourselves, effecting our work partnership, families and friends.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and this year’s EMS Week theme is “**EMS Strong, Beyond the Call**”. How appropriate since the hardest part of the job is the aftermath of the response. Please review the information below and if you need help, get help. Remember to take care of yourself so that you can take care of your patient, partner and the people who take care of you. We are in this together!

## **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

24/7, free, confidential support for people in distress

**1-800-273-8255 (TALK)**

## **Fire EMS Helpline**

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and American Addiction Centers (AAC) have created a free, confidential helpline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 1-888-731-FIRE (3473) [www.nvfc.org/fireems-helpline/](http://www.nvfc.org/fireems-helpline/)

## **Safe Call Now**

Safe Call Now is a confidential, 24-hour crisis referral service for all public safety employees, all emergency services personnel and their family members nationwide [www.safecallnow.org/](http://www.safecallnow.org/) or call 1-206-459-3020.

## **NAEMT Mental Health Resources**

Find more information at [www.naemt.org/initiatives/ems-mental-health](http://www.naemt.org/initiatives/ems-mental-health)

## **HHSC Behavioral Health Services as Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU)**

If you or someone you know are faced with a mental health crisis, you can call your local mental health or behavioral health authority crisis hotline. Contact information is available at: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/mental-health-crisis-services>

## **Mental Health First Aid**

Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour course that teaches you how to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. The training helps you identify, understand and respond to signs of addictions and mental illnesses. To find classes available in your area visit [www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/](http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/).

## **Additional resources available on the Code Green Campaign website**

<http://codegreencampaign.org/resources>



# Celebrate

the contributions of the individuals who dedicate themselves to the health, safety and well-being of citizens across the nation. Join us in thanking our Texas EMS and nursing personnel and spread the word on trauma prevention throughout your community.

## Here are the themes for this year:

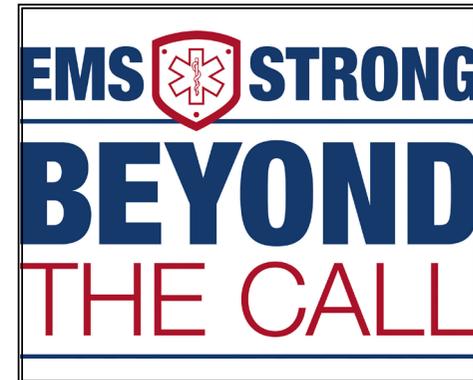
National Trauma Awareness Month- Firearm Injury Prevention: Everyday, Everyone, Everywhere

National Nurses Week- May 6-12- 4 Million Reasons to Celebrate

National EMS Week- May 19-25- EMS STRONG: BEYOND the CALL



Click on the event logos below to begin planning your celebrations. These sites offer free toolkits and materials to help you get started.





External links to other sites are intended to be informational and do not have the endorsement of the Texas Department of State Health Services.  
These sites may also not be accessible to persons with disabilities.

## NEWS FROM THE WEB

### FEATURED ARTICLES

Drivers Are More Likely to be Distracted Around Emergency Vehicles, According to Survey from National Safety Council and Emergency Responder Safety Institute. The full survey and methodology are available at:  
National Safety Council [nsc.org/firrespondersurvey](http://nsc.org/firrespondersurvey)

For our state hospitals, we need to go all the way- by Dr. Octavio N. Martinez Jr. and Andrea Richardson  
TribTalk - [www.tribtalk.org/2019/04/29/for-our-state-hospitals-we-need-to-go-all-the-way/](http://www.tribtalk.org/2019/04/29/for-our-state-hospitals-we-need-to-go-all-the-way/)

### ADDITIONAL READING

NHTSA's EMS Update: <https://www.ems.gov/ems-update.html>

Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program: [www.tsahc.org/homeownership/loans-down-payment-assistance](http://www.tsahc.org/homeownership/loans-down-payment-assistance) The program, spearheaded by the Texas legislature, provides a 30-year fixed rate home loan to Texas EMS personnel, firefighters, peace officers and others. In addition, this program offers down payment and closing cost assistance of up to 5% of the mortgage loan amount, in the form of a grant.

Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons: <http://bulletin.facs.org/>  
*The Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons is published monthly by the American College of Surgeons.*

Washington Update: <http://www.nasemso.org/WashingtonUpdate/>  
The Washington Update is produced bi-monthly by the National Association of State EMS Officials in cooperation with NHTSA OEMS, with funds also provided by HHS EMSC.

NACo County News: <http://www.naco.org/news> The voice of American counties.

The Pony Express: <https://www.bcm.edu/departments/pediatrics/texasemsc/?pmid=15790>  
Official Newsletter of the EMSC State Partnership, Texas.

Integrated Healthcare Delivery: <https://www.emsworld.com/article/11294452/integrated-future>  
Integrated Healthcare Delivery focuses on improving the patient experience of care through inter-professional collaborations.

Questions, comments or suggestions about *Texas EMS Trauma News*? Contact us at  
[EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us).