



# 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...

Summer 2019 Vol.6 No. 3

- 1 Texas EMS Personnel Referral Program
- 2 Maternal Designation
- 3 National EMS Education Standards
- 4 Hurricane Preparedness
- 5 EMS Licensing and Certification Application News

## Texas EMS Personnel Referral Program



We are pleased to introduce the Texas EMS Personnel Referral Program! Starting September 1st, Texas EMS personnel will be able to call 833-EMS-PEER to get connected with a nearby substance use recovery program and begin the pathway to restore your health. The program is in coordination with the Texas EMS Alliance, the Texas Targeted Opioid Response Project and has the support of the Governor's Advisory EMS and Trauma Council and the 22 Regional Advisory Councils.

This process is fully confidential and DSHS will have no knowledge of a person participating in a recovery program unless a referral is made by DSHS. Information about an individual's care WILL NOT be shared with anyone without express written consent.

We understand the stress we all work in and there are times when everyone needs help. See this as an opportunity to take care of yourself, your family and friends and possible your career. You do not have to do this alone; we really are in this together!

You can get additional program information from your [Regional Advisory Council](#), Texas EMS Alliance or the [State EMS Trauma System office](#). You can also contact Joe Schmider at 512-834-6737 or [joseph.schmider@dshs.teaxs.gov](mailto:joseph.schmider@dshs.teaxs.gov).



The Code Green Campaign

[Additional Links](#)

### NEWS FROM THE WEB

### DSHS RESOURCES

[GETAC](#)

[Rules](#)

[Disciplinary actions](#)

[Staff Contacts](#)

[Preparedness](#)



# Maternal Levels of Care Designation Begins

---

## The DSHS Commissioner awarded the first Level IV Comprehensive Care Maternal designations to three facilities in Texas

- Texas Children's Hospital, Houston
- University Hospital, San Antonio
- University Medical Center of El Paso, El Paso

### **Level IV facilities provide care to the most complex maternal patients and their fetuses who present with a high risk of maternal morbidity or mortality.**

The maternal designation rules became effective March 1, 2018. Onsite surveys were begun in July 2018 and have been conducted in multiple facilities. A facility must meet the standards established in Texas to become designated. During the legislative session SB 749 was passed which moved the deadline to attain maternal designation from August 31, 2020 to August 31, 2021. Facilities providing maternal care are encouraged to survey and/or apply for designation before 2021.

### **The four Hospital Level of Care Designations for Maternal Care are:**

- A Level I (Basic Care) facility provides care for generally healthy pregnant and postpartum patients.
- A Level II (Specialty Care) facility provides care for pregnant and postpartum patients with low to moderate risk conditions.
- A Level III (Subspecialty Care) facility provides care for pregnant and postpartum patients with low risk to significant complex conditions by a full range of specialist and subspecialist physicians, and performs major surgery on-site.
- A Level IV (Comprehensive Care) facility provides care for pregnant and postpartum patients, and their fetuses with low risk to the most complex conditions by a comprehensive range of specialist and subspecialists physicians on-site, performs major surgery on-site, and an on-site critical care team to manage highly complex, critically ill patients.

To learn more on Maternal Level of Care Visit: [www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/maternal.aspx](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/maternal.aspx).



## FROM NHTSA: EMS EDUCATION STANDARDS – A NEW EDITION IS ON THE HORIZON

*An ongoing initiative to revise the National EMS Education Standards will align them with the recently completed revision of the National EMS Scope of Practice Model*

The [National EMS Education Standards](#) have helped educators, certifying bodies and regulators ensure that EMS providers receive an education that prepares them to perform their roles to the very best of their abilities.

Now a full decade old since their release in 2009, the current education standards require an update to ensure that the education of new EMS clinicians is in line with current medical practice and science as well as the recently released [2019 National EMS Scope of Practice Model](#).

See full article at:

[www.ems.gov/newsletter/may2019/EMS-education-standards.html](http://www.ems.gov/newsletter/may2019/EMS-education-standards.html)

You can follow the project's progress at:

[www.ems.gov/projects/ems-education-standards.html](http://www.ems.gov/projects/ems-education-standards.html)



**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

# BE PREPARED - Hurricane season is here



We know that disasters can happen suddenly and that planning is key to knowing where your family is and how to communicate with them. **This is doubly important for first responders.** First responders who have a family emergency plan in place and are well prepared and will be better able to focus on the job at hand, knowing that their family is taken care of. It is important for departments to discuss personal and family disaster preparedness with their staff and to make an agency preparedness plan. The Texas Department of State Health Services and Ready.gov provide resources to help you prepare for emergencies.

Take three steps and be ready:

### **Make a plan.**

Consider individual requirements, especially for those with accessibility or functional needs like older adults, children, and pets.

### **Build a kit.**

View the checklists and toolkits provided on the DSHS and Ready.gov site. Pack your supplies in a portable container. If you have a large family, divide them into two or three containers. Be sure to label medical equipment/supplies with names and contact information.

### **Get informed.**

Learn about the types of emergencies that you may be called upon to respond to, and teach your family about what they should do when a disaster strikes.

Visit the DSHS Texas Ready website at: [www.txready.org/](http://www.txready.org/)

Visit the Ready Responder website at: [www.ready.gov/responder](http://www.ready.gov/responder)

## Attention EMS Personnel and Educators- Going Paperless

To streamline and process applications more efficiently, beginning September 1, 2019, EMS Licensing and Certification will no longer accept paper applications.

If you are applying for an initial license, you will need to go to our [Online Licensing System](#) to register as a new user.

If you are an existing licensee and need to change your email or cannot remember your user name please contact our office at 512-834-6734. Updated information on the [DSHS EMS-Trauma Systems](#) website will be forthcoming.



**Summer**

# Safe Traveling

**Before You Go:**

**Get Your Car Serviced:** Keep up with regular maintenance to ensure your car is in good shape for long trips, including oil changes, battery checks, tire rotations, and the health of your tires, belts, and hoses.

**Check for Recalls and Check Your Vehicle Safety:** Use NHTSA's VIN look-up tool to check if a vehicle has been repaired as part of a safety recall in the last 15 years. Also check your air conditioning, coolant and fluid levels, wiper blades, floor mats, and lights.

**Pack an Emergency Roadside Kit:** Prepare for the unexpected! Include a cell phone charger, first aid kit, flashlight, flares, basic repair tools, jumper cables, nonperishable food, water, medications, duct tape, extra clothes, emergency blankets, towels, etc.

**While traveling:**

**Stay Alert:** Plan for plenty of breaks and rest on the trip. Be aware of other vehicles and pedestrians. Follow posted speed limits and signs, adjust driving based on weather and/or traffic conditions, and avoid driving while distracted.

**Buckle Up – Every Trip, Every Time:** Set the example by wearing your seat belt and that everyone in the vehicle wears one as well. Make sure car seats and booster seats are properly installed and any children riding are in the appropriate car or booster seat. Check NHTSA's child passenger safety recommendations to help you select the right seat for your child's age and size.

**For more information, please visit:**  
[www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/13631-summer\\_driving\\_tips\\_2018\\_050818\\_v2\\_tag.pdf](http://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/13631-summer_driving_tips_2018_050818_v2_tag.pdf)



## EMS Providers: Application Processing Timeline

**All EMS providers who are renewing their license must submit an online application, upload the required supplemental documentation, and pay the fee prior to the expiration date.**

### Did you know...

- Applications are opened for **renewal 6 months** prior to the expiration date.
- There is a monetary incentive to renewing early:
  - Submitting a complete application 90 or more days prior to expiration is \$100 off the application fee (\$400 plus \$180/vehicle).
  - Submitting a complete application 60 or more days prior to expiration is \$50 off the application fee (\$450 plus \$180/vehicle).

**The processing time for EMS provider renewals may take up to 60 days and may take longer if there are deficiencies.**

### Did you know...

- EMS Licensing and Certification processes applications in the order from which they are received, by date of receipt, and not by expiration dates.
- Submitting an incomplete application prior to the expiration date may compromise your eligibility for Medicaid reimbursement.

You can avoid these issues by submitting a complete application and fee 90 days or more prior to the expiration date and correcting any deficiencies prior to the expiration date. If you have questions or concerns regarding the EMS provider renewal application or need assistance with uploading documents to the application, you may contact us at 512-834-6734 or email us at [EMSProviderFRO@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:EMSProviderFRO@dshs.texas.gov) and we will be happy to assist.



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

Help! Too Many Children Are Dying in Hot Cars - Tips for Keeping Kids Safe  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - [www.nhtsa.gov/child-safety/help-too-many-children-are-dying-hot-cars](http://www.nhtsa.gov/child-safety/help-too-many-children-are-dying-hot-cars)

GetWaiveredTX - Statewide DSHS-funded training initiative from UT Health San Antonio focused on increasing the number of health care providers in Texas delivering evidence-based buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD). [www.getwaiveredtx.com/](http://www.getwaiveredtx.com/)

### 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).