



AGENDA
Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee Meeting
Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
9:00 AM- 10:30 AM

DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton Austin
6505 N Interstate 35
Austin, Texas 78752

This meeting will be conducted live and virtually through Zoom. Virtual meeting links are posted to the GETAC webpage at www.dshs.texas.gov/dshs-ems-trauma-systems/governors-ems-trauma-advisory-council.

Meeting Notice: The use of artificial intelligence (AI) bots is prohibited in this meeting. In accordance with HHS policy, the use of Artificial Intelligence also known as "AI" Notetakers is expressly prohibited. Producers will not admit a 'bot' or other autonomous agent into the meeting. If a 'bot' should inadvertently gain entrance, it will be removed from the meeting by one of our producers.

Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee Chair: Eric Epley, CEM, NREMT-P
Council Liaisons: Mike Clements, EMT-P; Brian Eastridge, MD; Sharon Malone, MD; Aundrea Young
DSHS: Jorie Klein, EMS/Trauma Systems Director; Joe Schmider, Texas State EMS Director

1. Call to order – Eric Epley, CEM, NREMT-P, Chair
2. Roll call – DSHS Staff
3. Reading of the GETAC vision and mission statements – Eric Epley, Chair

GETAC Vision: A unified, comprehensive, and effective Emergency Healthcare System.

GETAC Mission: To promote, develop, and advance an accountable, patient-centered Trauma and Emergency Healthcare System.

4. Reading of the GETAC Disaster Preparedness Committee statement of purpose – Eric Epley, Chair

The GETAC Disaster Preparedness Committee is dedicated to enhancing Texas's emergency medical response and trauma system resilience in the face of disasters, mass casualty incidents (MCI), and public health emergencies.

Through collaborative planning, innovative solutions, and strategic coordination with emergency medical services (EMS), trauma systems, hospitals, and government agencies, the committee seeks to improve the state's capacity to respond effectively to emergencies and protect public health and safety.

5. Review and approval: November 22, 2025, meeting minutes – Eric Epley, Chair
6. GETAC chair announcements – Alan Tyroch, MD, GETAC Chair
7. Update: EMS/Trauma Systems – Jorie Klein, MSN, MHA, BSN, RN, EMS/Trauma Systems Director; Joe Schmider, Texas State EMS Director

Discussion and possible action on the following items:

8. Update: Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) – Sara Jensen
9. Update: Statewide EMS/EMTF wristband project and Pulsara – Eric Epley, Chair
10. Update: Prehospital Whole Blood Task Force – Eric Epley, Chair
11. Update: National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) 2.0 Pilot Project – Eric Epley, Chair
12. Update: Regional Medical Operations Coordinating Centers (RMOCC) Colorado Project and 'RMOCC In a Box' Department – Eric Epley, Chair
13. Discuss: Initiatives, programs, and potential research that might improve disaster preparedness and response in Texas – Eric Epley, Chair
14. Update: 2026 committee priorities – Eric Epley, Chair
15. General public comment – *Comment time may be limited at the Chair's discretion.*
16. Summary: Action items to present at RAC meeting – Eric Epley, Chair
17. Summary: Action items to present at GETAC meeting – Eric Epley, Chair
18. Review: Agenda items for the next meeting – Eric Epley, Chair
19. Next meeting date – Eric Epley, Chair
20. Adjournment – Eric Epley, Chair

Public Comment: The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) welcomes public comments pertaining to topics related to Emergency Health Care. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in this process by providing written public comments to DSHS by emailing deidra.lee@dshs.texas.gov no later than 5:00 PM, March 6, 2026. Please include your name and either the organization you are representing or that you are speaking as a private citizen. Written comments are limited to three minutes and will be read during the meeting for consideration by the Council. The request must contain your name, your direct phone number, and the name of the organization you represent or indicate that you are speaking as a private citizen.

Public comment is limited to three minutes. Speakers must state their name, affiliation, and on whose behalf they are speaking. Public members who are using handouts are asked to provide an electronic copy in accessible PDF format that will be distributed by DSHS staff to Council members, state staff, and the public. Handouts are limited to two pages of documentation (paper size: 8.5" by 11", one side only). Handouts must be emailed to DSHS by 5:00 PM, March 6, 2026, and include the name of the person commenting. Contact: Questions regarding agenda items, content, or meeting arrangements should be directed to Jorie Klein, DSHS, at 512-535-8538 or Jorie.Klein@dshs.texas.gov.

People with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting and require auxiliary aids or services should contact Jorie Klein at 512-535-8538 or Jorie.Klein@dshs.texas.gov at least 72 hours before the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.