



# 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 2020 Vol.7 No. 2

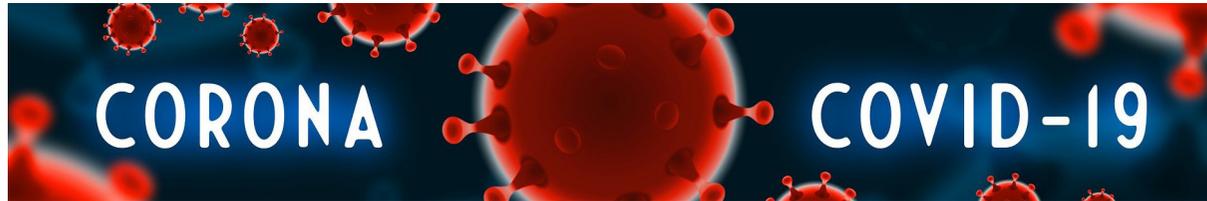
1 Coronavirus Updates

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## COVID-19 Response: An EMS Provider Cooperative Effort

By Chuck Rowe, AAS, EMS Program Specialist - East Group

As COVID-19 spreads throughout our state, one thing comes to light. The ability of our EMS partners to put together a cooperative effort to ensure all agencies are prepared with the information and resources to minimize the impact. With guidance and cooperation through the local RACs (Regional Advisory Councils), a best practice is being developed to combat and minimize the impact of the virus. A lack of preparation is generally what causes an apprehensive and uneasy feeling throughout the communities. However, the feeling can be reduced with information, planning and resources.

All of the meetings, table top exercise, and resource preparations allows for quick, smooth and efficient response when needed. The more Provider participation, the greater the response when there is an actual emergency on the scale of COVID-19. This is an encouragement for all EMS Providers in the state to get involved and stay informed. We stand stronger when we stand together. So please contact your local RACs, local health departments, or your local government entities and ask what you can do to help and then do it. Once the plan for preparation and resourcing is established and practiced, it can be flexed to accommodate whatever the threat. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

**The resources below are available to help you protect yourself, your family and those we serve, and to keep the virus from spreading.**

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has updated information on the [DSHS COVID-19 website](#). They are working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor updates. Hospitals, healthcare professionals, local public health, community leaders, and others can find resources throughout this website to help them in their response to COVID-19.



The Code Green Campaign

Additional Links

NEWS FROM THE

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DSHS RESOURCES

GETAC

Rules

Disciplinary actions

Staff Contacts

Preparedness



## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/COVID-19 Resources

The Office of EMS/Trauma System has an updated list of Regional Advisory Council (RAC) contact information for additional personal protective equipment (PPE)/COVID-19) resources. Please visit the EMS/Trauma Systems [website](#) to view the list.

## New Rosters Available

New rosters have been added to the [open records reports](#) available on our website. We now have a roster of EMS courses as well as an updated EMS provider supplemental roster with expanded information which includes:

- Medical Director
- Administrator
- Response Type
- Vehicles
- Station Count
- Level of Care
- Subscriptions
- Variance status and email addresses

These reports are provided for your convenience and will be updated monthly. For the most current license status information please visit our [public license search](#).



## A complete list of the 2019 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 2019 Texas EMS program pass rates and compare overall test 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 managers for your region are available to discuss different avenues of improvement for Texas EMS education programs.

State EMS Director, Joseph Schmider, 512/834-6737  
[joseph.schmider@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:joseph.schmider@dshs.texas.gov)

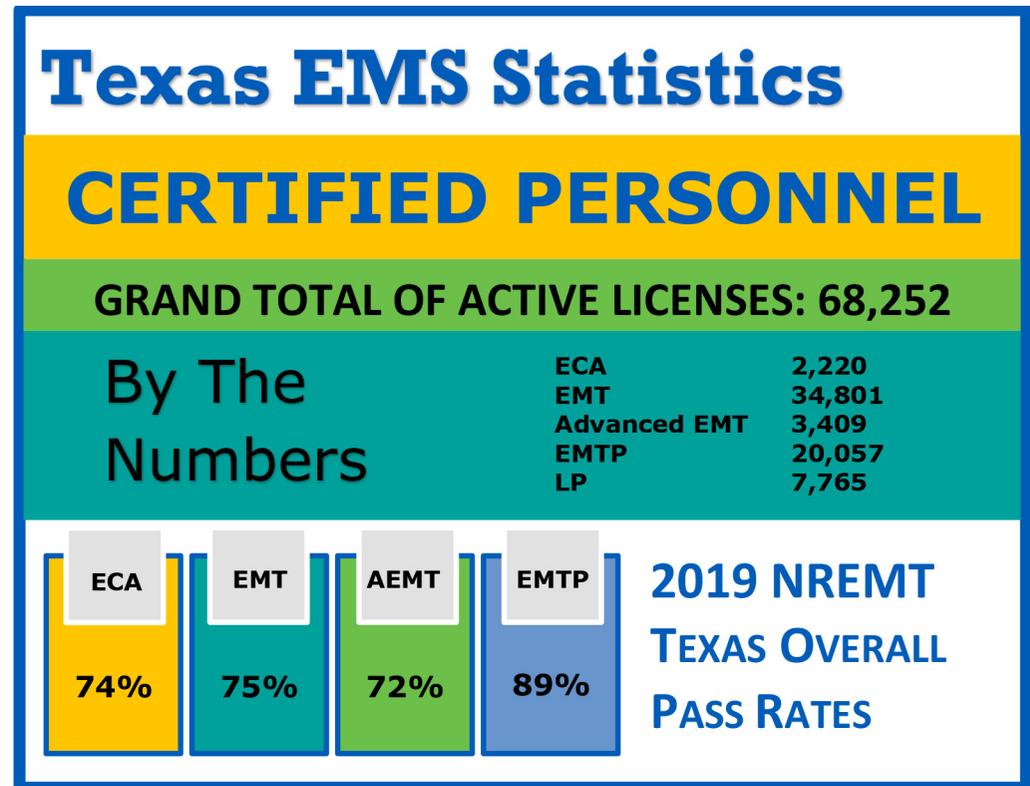
EMS Manager East, Joey Ancelet, 713/767-3331  
[joey.ancelet@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:joey.ancelet@dshs.texas.gov)

EMS Manager North, Valerie Tumlinson, 817/264-4721  
[valerie.tumlinson@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:valerie.tumlinson@dshs.texas.gov)

EMS Manager South, Jaime Vallejo, 210/949-2052  
[jaime.vallejo@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:jaime.vallejo@dshs.texas.gov)

Contact information for National Registry: (614) 888-4484 or website [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org).

Contact information for [National Registry Representatives](#).



## Jane Guerrero Retires as EMS /Trauma Systems Director



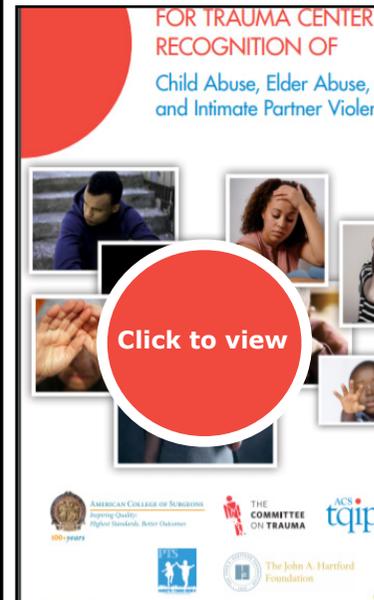
Jane Guerrero

After 12 years as the Director of the Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination, Jane Guerrero retired March 31. Prior to accepting the director position she worked as a health care surveyor for hospitals, End Stage Renal Disease facilities, organ transplant programs and as the manager for facility licensing.

Originally from Alabama, Jane first experienced patient trauma care at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, TX. Her dedication and leadership has benefited Texans across the State and made an impact on the EMS/Trauma Systems, she will be missed. We wish her the very best.

## GETAC Supports American College of Surgeons Guideline Document

At the February GETAC Council Meeting, the Council agreed to support and share the ACS TQIP Best Practice Guidelines for Child Abuse, Elder Abuse, and Intimate Partner Violence.



*From the introduction:*

“Each of the sections—child abuse, elder abuse, and intimate partner violence—separately address definition, epidemiology, assessment and screening, management, and reporting. Documentation for all forms of abuse follows the family violence sections. Quality and process improvement measures are addressed in a separate section at the end, with specific recommendations for each type of abuse.”



# TEXAS SHINES

## **RAC-B Trauma Conference**

*Story and photo by Joseph Schmider, State EMS Director*

The TSA-B Regional Advisory Council (BRAC) brought together trauma patients and their pre-hospital and hospital care teams to recognize the Texas trauma system at their January conference. It was truly and honor to witness this gathering and to help celebrate what we can do when our teams work together for our patients' benefit. The work we do impacts people every day and reunions like this help providers see that positive impact and reinforces the fact that trauma systems save lives

Thank you for honoring our EMS and Trauma Teams!



RAC-B reunites pre and post hospital providers with patients.

# Texas EMS Peer Referral Program Begins April 1

**Rescuing our Rescuers**

Substance use recovery programs helping EMS personnel

**TREATMENT**  
Substance use can have serious negative health effects but help is available. One of the healthiest ways to recover from substance use disorder is through a combination of counseling and medication, known as "medication-assisted treatment." This approach has life-enhancing outcomes and can help sustain recovery.

**TEXAS EMS PEER REFERRAL PROGRAM**  
EMS personnel can get connected to substance use recovery programs by contacting the Texas EMS Peer Referral Program Hotline. Information about care will not be shared without express written consent.  
Treatment offers a path to restore your health and career.

For help, call:  
**833-EMSINTX (833-367-4689)**

Partially funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

TEXAS Health and Human Services Substance Use Recovery

**Beginning April 1** Texas EMS personnel will have access to the EMS Peer Referral Program. The program offers a toll-free hotline number to connect to substance use recovery programs offering counseling and medication, known as "medication-assisted treatment." Substance abuse can have a negative effect on lives and health and this approach has life-enhancing outcomes and can help sustain recovery.

The program is completely anonymous, and information about care will not be shared without express written consent. The department will not be informed about who calls to receive help or treatment. The program is funded by the Texas Target Opioid Response (TTOR) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Printable versions of the program cards pictured are available on our [website](#) or request cards through your local [Regional Advisory Council](#).

**Al Rescate de nuestros Rescatistas**

Programas de recuperación por abuso de sustancias para rescatistas EMS

**TRATAMIENTO**  
El abuso de sustancias puede tener graves consecuencias para la salud, pero hay ayuda para atenderlo. Una de las maneras más sanas de recuperarse del trastorno por abuso de sustancias es con una combinación de terapias y medicamentos, conocida como "tratamiento asistido por medicamentos". Este método ayuda a mejorar la calidad de vida y lograr una recuperación sostenible.

**PROGRAMA DE REMISIÓN A SERVICIOS PARA COMPAÑEROS EMS DE TEXAS**  
Se ofrecen remisiones a servicios para los rescatistas EMS que necesitan recuperarse del abuso de sustancias. No se divulgará ninguna información sobre la atención que reciba sin contar con su expresa autorización por escrito.  
El tratamiento ofrece la posibilidad de recuperar la salud y tener una vida profesional plena.

Llame al **833-367-4689**

Financiado parcialmente por la Administración de Servicios de Salud Mental y Abuso de Sustancias.

TEXAS Health and Human Services Substance Use Recovery



# Celebrate

**Thank you to all our healthcare professionals who are at the frontline of COVID-19 response!**

In May we celebrate the contributions of the individuals who dedicate themselves to the health, safety and well-being of citizens across the nation. This year is no exception with the demonstration of their vital commitment and response to their communities during this unprecedented challenge. 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: Distracted to Death. Pay Attention or Pay the Price

National Nurses Month: You Make A Difference

National EMS Week May 17-23: Ready Today. Preparing for Tomorrow

Click on the event logos to stay up to date on changing guidelines that may affect this year's celebrations.





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

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).