

# Walk it off – it's conference time!

Every year, Texas EMS Conference tries to offer something new to its attendees. But one of 2006's special treats was a bit unintentional – lots and lots and LOTS of walking. The Dallas Convention Center, which hosted the conference, is simply huge (about half-a-mile long from end to end) and our hotels were scattered across downtown Dallas. This made for excellent exercise – and a little griping, of course. But by and large our 2,800 attendees took all the



walking in stride (pardon the pun) and focused on the good stuff: top-notch

education, state-of-the-art exhibits and plenty of old and new acquaintances.

One of the intended special treats – the first-ever offering of two-hour, hands-on workshops – was a big hit, and we're planning to bring those back next year. In case you missed it, the two-hour workshops are taught in small groups so attendees can get personal instruction and closer contact with the subject matter, whether it's intubation training

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Above and right: How do you get a patient off a cliff? Ropes and a Stokes basket. Participants in the high-angle rescue preconference class learned the basics of high-angle rescue at the Dallas Fire-Rescue training tower. Left: The SLAM preconference class provided plenty of practice on intubation using mannequins and pig tracheas.

*photos: B. Kinney*



using pig tracheas or learning about capnography. Of course, we still had about 130 regular workshops covering all the CE categories, along with the usual preconference rescue, helicopter and cadaver courses. The 2007 lineup will start taking shape soon – the call for presentations goes out this month.

The Awards Luncheon at Texas EMS Conference 2006 was particularly emotional. The solemn Hall of Honor induction for two medics killed in the line of duty was preceded by a rousing talk from an Austin-area high school football player whose heart was restarted on the sidelines by an AED. The awards ceremony featured the reunion of two boys and a girl they rescued from the bottom of a pool, and our EMS Person of the Year was moved to tears by both the honor and the surprise appearance of family members.

Texas EMS Conference 2007 will be in downtown Houston – like Dallas, a first for us – at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The host hotel, Hilton Americas, is connected to the George R. Brown by a walkway; that, along with the convention center's more compact layout, should make for fewer sore feet. See you there! – *John LeBas*



*photos: B. Kinney*

Above left: Natalie Kolff hugs a teddy bear given to her during the Awards Luncheon. Natalie attended the luncheon to show support for the winners of the EMS Citizen Award, Kyler Whatley and Conor Gibson. Kyler and Conor pulled Natalie from the bottom of a pool. Above: A “patient” is quizzed in Spanish about her medical condition by a participant in the Spanish for EMS class, a Sunday preconference workshop. Above right: participants practice airway techniques in Better Intubation through Yoga, a two-hour hands-on workshop. Right: in another two-hour workshop, participants learn how to do patient assessment with tactile sensory deprivation.

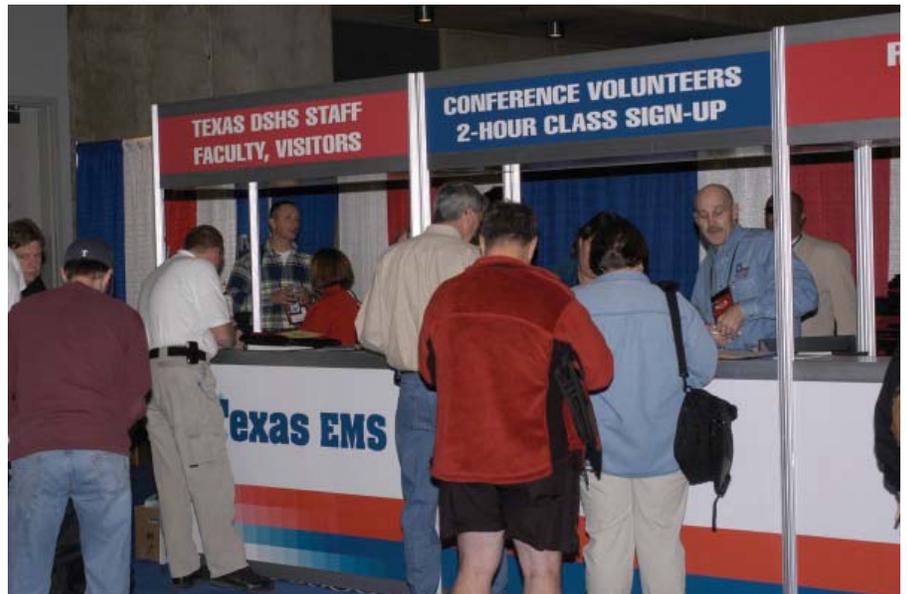


# Exhibit Hall expands as displays grow

It's no small feat to fill a space equal to more than 2 1/2 football fields with ambulances, helicopters and the latest in EMS technology and goodies. But the two days of move-in for the Texas EMS Conference 2006 Exhibit Hall went off without a hitch, resulting in one of the best exhibit halls yet.

Attendees browsed 150,000 square feet of exhibit space in the massive Dallas Convention Center. Among the displays were seven helicopters and 42 ambulances – a delight to both the young and the young at heart. And, of course, there was a seemingly endless selection of

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Above: Lines formed early at registration to sign up for the two-hour workshops, which had limited space. Below: The Exhibit Hall drew thousands of visitors over the three days it was open.





clothing, life-saving and rescue equipment, training devices, and much, much more.

We want to thank Medtronic for being our Platinum Sponsor and CareFlite for helping with the helicopter load-in. Thanks also to all of our vendors, who help underwrite the conference every year and keep costs low for our attendees.

The 2007 conference will be in Houston at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Even though the exhibit hall floorplan won't be ready until next month, we already have several exhibitors lined up for booth space. Hope to see you there, too. – *John LeBas*



*photos: B. Kinney*



Top: A little practice never hurts as participants try out new products in the Exhibit Hall. Above: The crew of CareFlite was instrumental in scheduling all the helicopters and sponsoring the helicopter operations preconference class. Left: Air Evac Lifeteam got a prime location next to the food at the welcome reception, which was sponsored by Medtronic.