
Start planning now for the week and month that honors emergency responders

EMS Week, May 20-26, 2007

Texas Trauma Awareness Month, May 2007

Have you started planning for EMS Week, May 20-26? What about Trauma Awareness Month in May? EMS Week honors all who work as part of the EMS and Texas Trauma Network. These two events are the perfect time to tell people in your community about the important role you play in the health of your community. And that's a message you can't emphasize too much as your workload increases and government budgets shrink. It's



EMS: Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service, which focuses on the commitment and dedication of the EMS providers who provide an essential community service everyday nationwide. ACEP's packet can be ordered online at www.acep.org. Packets also can be ordered directly from ACEP by calling (800) 798-1822, then pressing 3261 when prompted.

For more information, call us at (512) 834-6700.

also a perfect opportunity to bring the message of safety to your community. The American College of Emergency Physicians once again has produced complimentary planning packets to help communities promote EMS Week Activities. The theme this year is

Medical Eagles soar in Dallas

By Watson Kohankie, LP

Ever wonder what is around the corner for EMS? Those who attended the "EMS State of the Science: A Gathering of Eagles Conference" in Irving in February might know what's in store for EMS in the coming years.

The conference began in 1998 as a way for leading EMS physicians to exchange ideas about prehospital care, and that tradition has continued. This year over 300 EMS professionals attended, including more than 40 medical directors and industry leaders from around the state. This year's presentations covered staffing issues (shift schedules, education and skills requirements); mild, induced hypothermia for the resuscitated cardiac patient; new advanced protocols for the treatment of stroke patients; the use



of new IO devices; and many other topics.

What does this mean for you?

If you're a street medic or first responder, this is where medical directors can discuss the results of studies that ultimately change those protocols we are using in the streets. For example, ever wonder why the number of chest compressions changes in your protocol? Your medical director might have discussed it at the

conference.

EMS educators can look to the conference for an idea of things they might be teaching in a few years. When I attended my first Eagles conference a few years ago, capnography/ETCO₂ was considered something we'd never use on the street. Today, I wouldn't be without it.

The conference happens each February in Dallas. Go to www.gatheringofeagles.us for information on this year's conference and the information on next year's conference when it's available.

Watson Kohankie is a firefighter/paramedic with the City of Carrollton and has attended several EMS State of the Science conferences. He sometimes uses his camera to document EMS life and won first place in the 2006 Texas EMS Conference photo contest.