

EMS transfers data to new computer system

In the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) organizational structure, EMS and Trauma Systems resides within the Regulatory Division, which is led by Assistant Commissioner Kathy Perkins. In 2006, the entire Regulatory Division of DSHS began its migration to a new database system that would integrate licenses and certifications from all of the different units within the Regulatory Division. In February, the EMS database system, which includes all certifications, licenses and complaints, came on-line. As with any new system, there were operational challenges—many anticipated, a few unforeseen. Our information technology staff have worked non-stop to fix the most urgent issues. By the time you're reading this, we anticipate everything being back to normal. If not, know that we have been continuing to work with programmers to fix all the bugs in the system. Many thanks for your patience during this electronic journey. Our ability to serve the public will be improved over the long-haul.

Hurricane season officially begins June 1, and we continue to seek out providers that are willing to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to respond during disasters for state facility evacuations or state missions, or both. Both MOAs guarantee that DSHS will reimburse providers. For more information, go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/RevisedMOA_GroundAmbulances.shtm and click on FAQs about MOAs.

State EMS Director Maxie Bishop continues to monitor the passing rates of the National Registry's computerized testing and will update the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) and its appropriate committees in May.

The Texas Legislature winds up its 80th session on May 28. The governor then has 20 days to sign or veto bills, or simply let them become law without his signature. We are following many bills that affect EMS and trauma systems as they wind their way through the tortuous process to get to the governor's desk. The content can change dramatically as a bill passes through committee and then onto the floor – if it even makes it through committee. We will run a recap of all the bills that affect EMS and trauma systems in the July/August issue. In the meantime, you can search for a particular bill, or any bill that contains certain keywords, by going to www.capitol.state.tx.us.

Looks like a lot of people really, really like the Bayou City. Our Call for Presentations brought in a record number of workshops submissions for Texas EMS Conference 2007 to be held in Houston in November. We have decided on the pre-conference classes for this year (see page 16), but we're still deciding on the two-hour and one-hour classes. We think you will appreciate the layout of the George R. Brown Convention Center. All of the classes, the exhibit hall and the Monday lunch are on one level of the center. For the Tuesday lunch, we'll be at the Hilton Americas, which is attached by a skyway to the George R. Brown Convention Center. By the way, we could only get a limited number of rooms at the conference rate at the Hilton, so please call early if that's your hotel preference. You'll find a list of all hotels on page 14.

GETAC meets in Austin on May 25 at the Hilton Austin Airport, and committees will hold their meetings on the preceding two days. Turn to page 6 for a complete schedule or go to our website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems. Be sure and download the documents for the meetings you would like to attend. Newly appointed and re-appointed committee members will be seated at the May meetings. Please go to page 27 for a listing of new committee members, or go to the GETAC section of our website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/governor.shtm for a complete list of members. We hope to see all of you in May...

FROM THIS SIDE



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