

Response Ready

Have you signed a new MOA for responding to large-scale events?

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Hurricane season is coming ... is your deployment MOA up to date? **You may not realize that your old deployment MOA has expired!** The Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) wants you and your organization to help provide large-scale responses in and around Texas. There is a new Texas EMTF Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), crafted with stakeholder input from personnel and organizations across all of

Texas. Previously DSHS executed the MOAs, which were split into EMS personnel and equipment. These MOAs played a huge role in the success of EMS deployments over the last few years and were the basis of the new MOA, a single document that consolidates personnel and equipment. In November 2012, each provider with an MOA with DSHS for EMS assets received a letter letting them know the original DSHS MOAs would expire on December 31, 2012. Agencies without the new EMTF MOAs on file will not be eligible to deploy **even if** they had the old-style MOA with DSHS.

Currently the eight lead RACs have executed 242 of the new Texas EMTF MOAs between EMS providers and hospitals to provide ambulances, AMBUS units, mobile medical units with personnel and registered nurses. The new MOA is executed between a lead RAC

and the provider and is designed to strengthen the relationships between the local responders and the EMTF.

It is not too late to become a part of the Texas EMTF. The Emergency Medical Task Force continues to move forward developing capabilities across Texas that can be used locally, regionally or during a state deployment. The goal of EMTF is to provide a well-coordinated response, offering rapid professional medical assistance to emergency operation systems during large-scale incidents. The EMTF is organized into eight regions of Texas with boundaries that are very similar to the Public Health Regions.

You can find more information about the Texas EMTF by going to the website at www.TDMS.org or email directly to Victor.Wells@strac.org.

