

Texas EMS Trauma News

Spring 2016 Vol. 3 No. 2

BLUE CAMPAIGN

The Blue Campaign is the unified voice for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) efforts to combat human trafficking. Working in collaboration with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice.

Through the Blue Campaign, DHS raises public awareness about human trafficking, leveraging partnerships to educate the public to recognize human trafficking and report suspected instances. The Blue Campaign also offers training to emergency services and others to increase detection and investigation of human trafficking, and to protect victims and bring suspected traffickers to justice.

DHS is responsible for investigating human trafficking, arresting traffickers, and protecting victims. DHS utilizes a victim-centered approach to combat human trafficking, which places equal value on identifying and stabilizing victims and on investigating and prosecuting traffickers. Victims are crucial to investigations and prosecutions; each case and every conviction changes lives. DHS is committed to helping victims feel stable, safe, and secure. Learn more about DHS's victim-centered approach to combating human trafficking. <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/about-blue-campaign>.

To report suspected human trafficking: **866-347-2423**.

To get help from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center: **888-373-7888**.

The Code Green Campaign

The growing awareness of mental health issues, substance abuse and suicide among first responders has been a focused topic within the last couple of years. The Code Green Campaign has been at the forefront of highlighting this subject and getting the word out that help and support are available. The goals of the campaign are to raise awareness and to provide education for responders on how to provide care for themselves and recognize issues in their peers.

The campaign distributes mental health resource cards, provides educational resources through social media and public events and has created a database of crisis and long-term mental health resources predominantly specializing in public safety providers. They have also collected anonymous stories from responders sharing their experiences to help those who are struggling to understand that they are not alone and those who do not have firsthand experience with mental health issues to see that anyone can be affected. For more information go to www.codegreencampaign.org.

Mental Health Resources:

Safe Call Now: 1-206-459-3020

Share the Load: 1-888-731-3473

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

Celebrate!

In May we celebrate the contributions of the individuals who dedicate themselves to the health, safety and well-being of citizens across the nation. 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- Safe Steps for Seniors; <http://www.amtrauma.org/page/NTAM2016>

National Nurses Week- May 6-12- Culture of safety. It starts with YOU; <http://nursingworld.org/NationalNursesWeek>

National EMS Week- May 15-21- EMS STRONG: Called to Care; <http://www.acep.org/emsweek/>

These sites offer free toolkits and materials to help you get started.

Proposed Rules

With the passing of Senate Bill 1899, Senate Bill 219, and Senate Bill 1574 during the 84th regular legislative session, the Department of State Health Services developed rule revisions for adoption on sixteen sections of chapter 157 of the Texas Administrative Code related to emergency medical services; fifteen were amended and one was repealed and rewritten. These revisions also comply with the department's routine rule review process and were developed with input from trauma system stakeholders including Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers and personnel; designated trauma and stroke facilities; Regional Advisory Councils (RACs); professional organizations and individuals.

During 2015, the EMS Committee of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC), along with department staff coordinated and conducted 15 joint meetings around the state gaining support and input from approximately 1500 stakeholders as the rules were being developed. The revisions were routinely presented to GETAC to ensure revisions appropriately addressed legislative mandates, reflected current standards of professional EMS practice and provided necessary clarification to current rules. Following a special meeting on January 27, 2016, GETAC voted to recommend the rule packet move forward to the DSHS Council and the formal approval process has now begun. To view the proposed rules go to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/drafrules.spx>.

Where do I find it?

Zika virus information

The Texas Department of State Health Services has created a website with all of the latest information on the Zika virus. Visit www.texaszika.org for updates and resources.

Emergency Care Attendant Training (ECAT) Funds are available now through August 31, 2016.

Funds have been allocated to DSHS for the purpose of providing training grants to emergency medical services (EMS) training programs, coordinators and/or instructors to conduct ECA classes in or near communities that lack local EMS training resources. Eligible organizations include department licensed EMS providers and registered first responder organizations located in a rural or underserved areas. You must have at least three people who are interested in taking the training and are willing to commit a year of service to your organization after achieving ECA certification.

If you are interested in training, contact Susana Gutierrez at 512/834-6700, ext. 2377 or go to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/trainingfunding.shtm> to download an application.

Governor's Extraordinary Emergency Fund (EEF) are available now through August 31, 2016

Funding is set aside each fiscal year to support the emergent, unexpected needs of EMS providers or DSHS-approved organizations. Eligible organizations include department licensed EMS providers, department registered first responder organizations and licensed hospitals.

For more information click on the following web site: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/eeffunding.shtm>.

THE TEXAS EMS & TRAUMA REGISTRIES DATA SET LEGACY FORMAT ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016

The uploading of flat file or .txt file format data to the Texas EMS & Trauma Registries is ending and will no longer be accepted after December 31, 2016. Stakeholders that do file upload will need to use the XML format to submit after this date.

If stakeholders or vendors need assistance with this change, please contact the

DSHS Registries Operation Support (ROS) Team at injury.web@dshs.state.tx.us.

“Patient Parking” Violates EMTALA

The practice of “patient parking” in the emergency department (preventing EMS from transferring patients from an ambulance stretcher to a hospital bed or gurney) for extended periods of time has been cited by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) as a violation of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). According to CMS, “A hospital has an EMTALA obligation as soon as a patient ‘presents’ at a hospital’s dedicated emergency department, or on hospital property (as defined at 42 CFR 489.24(b)) other than the dedicated emergency department, and a request is made on the individual’s behalf for examination or treatment of an emergency medical condition.” Additionally, CMS has indicated this practice may also result in a violation of 42 CFR 482.55, the Conditions of Participation for Hospitals for Emergency Services, which requires that a hospital meet the emergency needs of patients in accordance with acceptable standards of practice. CMS documentation of their opinion, EMTALA- “Parking” of Emergency Medical Service Patients in Hospitals, is available in a letter to State Survey Agency Directors.

For more information... <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/downloads/SCLetter06-21.pdf>.

Texas EMS Awards

Submit nominations by September 30

Find the form at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/conference.shtm>.

Let us know what makes your nominee really stand out as the best in Texas. Winners will be announced at the Texas EMS Conference Awards Luncheon.

Award Categories:

- Citizen
- EMS Educator
- Trauma Center
- First Responder
- EMS Administrator
- Volunteer Provider
- Air Medical Service
- EMS Medical Director
- Private/Public Provider
- Regional Advisory Council
- Telecommunicator of the Year
- Outstanding EMS Person of the Year
- Public Information/Injury Prevention

Sponsored by Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas EMS Providers

In 2005, DSHS staff participated in the North Texas Healthcare fraud work group, hosted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations. The participants included representatives from the health insurance industry; EMS licensed providers, trade organizations, advocacy groups and other governmental agencies that had an interest in combating fraud, waste and abuse committed by EMS providers.

In June 2011, DSHS conducted inspections to verify EMS provider compliance with Texas Administrative Code §157.11. As a result, DSHS identified 62 EMS providers that were not located at the physical address of record. The proliferation of EMS providers in Texas reached an all-time high in the fall of 2011 at 1,227. With new legislation, partnering with many state and federal agencies the numbers of EMS providers in Texas has been reduced by 434. In turn this partnership has help reduce fraud, waste and abuse committed by EMS providers.

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

FEATURED ARTICLES

First responders Paramedics' risk of being assaulted far exceeds risk to firefighting colleagues. http://drexel.edu/dornsife/news/latest-news/2016/January/EMT_Violence_Study/

Communication Revolution. <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/communication-revolution>

Additional Reading

The Autism Society of Central Texas releases free training video for first responders. <http://www.austinautismsociety.org/first-responder-autism-training-video/>

Austin Trauma & Critical Care Conference June 1-3, 2016: <https://www.seton.net/austin-trauma-and-critical-care-conference/>

Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program: 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/NewsAndPublications/TheWashingtonUpdate/>
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.

EMSC Program News: <http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc/currentnews/programnews/>
Ensuring that all children receive appropriate care in a health care emergency.

NACo County News: <http://www.naco.org/newsroom/countynews/Current%20Issue/1-13-14/Pages/default.aspx>
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: <http://ihdelivery.com/>
Integrated Healthcare Delivery focuses on improving the patient experience of care through inter-professional collaborations.