
2007 comes to close without major hurricane

Well... this calls for a sigh of relief (and more than a little disbelief): we reached the end of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season on November 30 without a major hurricane hitting the Texas coast. We had a couple of close shaves: the threat of Hurricane Dean triggered the largest mobilization of emergency resources to date in our state's history; and Humberto developed quickly and moved ashore near High Island in September, but weakened so rapidly that Texas averted major damage. When Dean came knocking, we were much more prepared than we were in 2005, when Katrina and Rita delivered a double punch. We now have 196 ground providers and six air providers who have signed our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to respond if called – and we *did* call during Dean. Now, since we have a few months of not stressing about potential tropical activity, DSHS is working with stakeholders to improve the MOA. We will be taking stakeholder input for a while longer, and we'll keep you updated on any changes in the magazine and on our website.

Question: When's a good time to hold a retreat? Answer: When your organization wants to refresh its perspective and consider changes in order to continue to stay true to its purpose. The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council was created in 1999 and has served as the voice of Texas EMS and trauma systems since then. All organizations benefit from periodically taking fresh looks at the way they operate and some quiet time away from distractions to sort through opportunities for improvement. GETAC will be "retreating" on January 25-27 at the YO Ranch Resort in Kerrville. Council members intend to review a number of issues, including existing committee structures and the recommendations of the EMS and Trauma Regulatory Structure Task Force. Recommendations from the retreat will then be brought to EMS/Trauma Systems stakeholders at the February 6-8 GETAC committee meetings at the Hilton Airport Austin, 9515 New Airport Drive. Call (512) 385-6767 to reserve a room. As always, call early – the hotel will only give DSHS a limited number of rooms at the \$85 rate and when they're gone, they're gone.

Several EMS rules are working their way through the approval process. The Comprehensive Clinical Management Plan (157.39), a renewal option for medics with participating employers, is scheduled for publication in the *Texas Register* sometime in December. The rule would be effective 20 days after publication. (The *Texas Register* comes out each Friday.) Other rules, 157.11(Provider), 157.38 (CE) and 157.44 (Instructor) are scheduled to be presented to the DSHS Council in January. If approved the rules would then go to the Health and Human Services Commission for approval.

And finally, we are wrapping up the last loose ends of Texas EMS Conference 2007 and have already started working on the 2008 conference in Fort Worth. The Call for Presentations is posted on our website.

Hope you all had a very happy holiday season and a happy New Year. On behalf of all of us at DSHS, we look forward to seeing you here in Austin at the February meetings so you can hear for yourselves the new ideas and recommendations about GETAC that will come out of the retreat...



FROM THIS SIDE



Steve Janda
Office of EMS/Trauma
Systems Coordination