



Fort Worth says “Howdy” to Texas EMS Conference

Texas EMS Conference hadn't been to Fort Worth since 1996, but it seemed like just yesterday when the nearly 4,000 attendees, exhibit hall visitors, exhibitors, staff, instructors and volunteers invaded the streets of downtown. The city of Fort Worth was a warm and welcoming host, with mostly pleasant weather and lots of destinations for food and fun. This year's classes included big hits like the hands-on Guts and Gore Lung Lab and the Rapid Sequence Intubation panel. And folks who made it in early for preconference classes such as the cadaver lab and high-angle rescue were treated to even more hands-on experience. Ice cream and cookie breaks, the Valsalva Bowl, and the exhibit hall opening reception provided lots of opportunities for catching up with old friends and networking with new friends. We'll be back in Fort Worth for Texas EMS Conference 2009.



Clockwise from middle left: Texas EMS Conference offered almost 150 different classes to choose

from over three days. The classes included both one-hour lectures and longer hands-on options.

“Hold still, I’ve almost got it!” Students had several opportunities to practice intubation during preconference and two-hour hands-on classes. Sunday’s class gave students eight hours to practice intubation techniques.

“Don’t look down!” The high angle rescue class on Sunday took students to the Purina plant in Fort Worth to try out a little industrial rescue. Here, students watch as the victim is being lowered.

The conference offered several anatomy labs that made use of pig tracheas and/or lungs. As in years past, two-hour classes were limited to 25 students so participants could get plenty of instructor attention and time to master skills.

The first day of the high angle class took place at the Fort Worth Fire Department training tower. Here, a “volunteer” gets lowered down after being rescued from the top floor.

In the eight-hour class on Defensive Tactics, students learned how to make sure they didn’t get hurt when dealing with combative patients. Preconference classes happened on Saturday and Sunday, while the conference kicked off on Monday morning.



Top, an instructor makes sure a student positions the tube correctly in the Emergency Airway Management class on Saturday at the Worthington Hotel. All in all, about 400 people participated in preconference classes that included everything from an instructor course to a cadaver lab at a local college.

Above left, the breaks in between the almost 150 classes might have reminded participants of high school. The one-hour classes were in one end of the building, while the two-hour classes took up the other. The conference used nearly every bit of space in the convention center.

Above right, CareFlite displayed an A109E, one of four helicopters in the 182,000-square-foot exhibit hall. The exhibit hall kicked off with a welcome reception on Sunday, but more than two days were spent getting everything moved in and set up.

At right, the exhibit hall had thousands of visitors over the three days it was open. The hall had four helicopters, 55 vehicles and plenty of booths offering state-of-the-art EMS equipment and supplies.

At far right, Kolton Allen gets suited up for what will surely be a career in emergency response – in a few years, anyway. Nine-year-old Kolton has already been to several Texas EMS conferences.

Ever-growing exhibit hall includes something for everyone

If this year's exhibit hall seemed bigger than last year's, that's only because it was! We had more space than ever to move around in (182,000 square feet, to be exact). It comfortably held almost 200 exhibitors and lots of custom displays, and it had space for four helicopters, 55 vehicles and even an entire mobile hospital. Visitors and family joined conference attendees, faculty and volunteers to keep vendors busy talking up their state-of-the-art equipment, supplies and educational materials. It takes nearly three days and one street closure to set up the exhibit hall ... and about five hours to break it down.

