
Town hall meetings bring DSHS to you

Wondering about how recent legislation will affect you? Have a question about National Registry? The Office of EMS/Trauma Systems is holding a series of town hall meetings to answer any questions you have. The dates and cities have been set through this spring, and we expect more to be added, including one during Texas EMS Conference in November. This is your chance to ask any questions you've ever had about the how and why of EMS regulation. The locations of the meetings will be posted on our website as soon as they are confirmed. Check the link on the homepage of our website for updates. See page 10 for dates and cities confirmed for upcoming meetings.

Sad news recently about three line of duty deaths on a medical helicopter during a training exercise in El Paso. Paramedics John Sutter and Anthony Archuleta and pilot William Montgomery crashed on final approach to the landing zone. We will, of course, pay tribute to them at Texas EMS Conference during the Tuesday luncheon.

At the last Texas EMS Conference, we tried out some new exhibit hall hours. The result was mixed — some liked the new hours, but most people wanted at least a few hours on Tuesday. So we've fiddled with the hours again. We'll be open 2 – 7 pm on Sunday; 11 am – 6 pm on Monday; and 8 – 11 am on Tuesday. The hall will close for good before the luncheon, but exhibitors will not be able to move out until after the luncheon so the noise does not disturb the luncheon. It's a little risky — it will be hard to corral the exhibitors. But we're going to see if we can make this work. The hall will be open the same number of hours it has always been open: 15.

I know, I know. Weather forecasters are notorious for not getting it right. And when hurricane prediction centers say we'll have a busy season, we take a wait-and-see attitude. But the truth is regardless of the number of storms we actually get, we still have to be ready just in case. We still need providers to sign our memorandums of agreement to respond to any disasters in Texas. Go to our website for more information and click on the ambulance at the top of the page.

We haven't wrapped up this issue of the magazine and already we're looking for content for our next issue. A couple of years ago, we began dedicating our May/June issue to EMS calls that made a difference in people's lives — usually a lifesaving one. We are again looking for stories that illustrate EMS personnel doing what they do best. All I need is for you to send a bit about the story and how we can contact the patient. We'll take care of the rest. See the ad on page 12 for more details. Hope to hear from you!



FROM THIS SIDE



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