

# Profile: EMS Compliance – North Group

The business of regulating EMS is statewide, and each area of the state has an EMS compliance office responsible for EMS education program and course approval, inspections of ambulances, provider licensing and complaint investigation. There are four compliance service areas: north, south, east and central. The North Group employs 11 staff and has six offices located across 123 counties, four public health regions and eight trauma service areas. EMS Compliance is part of the Patient Care Quality Unit in the Health Care Quality Section. The Section is in the Division of Regulatory Services. Kathy Perkins is assistant commissioner for the Division; Renee Clack is director of the Section; and Derek Jakovich is director of the Unit.

In addition to their regulatory responsibilities, EMS Compliance staff are also actively involved in the EMS/trauma regional advisory councils and in providing technical assistance to EMS providers, certificants and the public. From the Panhandle to the D/FW Metroplex to the deep East Texas woods, the EMS Compliance North Group has a wide-ranging area of responsibility.

## **Kevin Veal – Arlington Manager, North EMS Compliance Group**

**Past/current EMS certifications**  
Previous Certifications — EMT, EMT-I, EMT-P, Advanced Coordinator; Current – LP (Inactive)

### **How long in EMS?**

17 years

### **How long with the state?**

11 years

### **Phone number/email address**

817-264-4720

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## **Sharon Tillman – Canyon**

The primary coverage area for the Canyon office is the northernmost 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. Fifty-one EMS organizations are in Trauma Service Area A. All



*North Group staff include: (top row, from left) Denny Martin, Valerie Tumlinson, Kevin Veal, Sharon Tillman, Andrew Cargile and Tami Littleton; (bottom row, from left) Pat Dilday, Jerry Bradshaw, Pat Elmes and Donn Barnes; (inset) David Post.*

but six of these operate under one medical director. Carl Paetzold, MD, has served as medical director for Panhandle Emergency Medical Service System (PEMSS) since 1997. Dr. Paetzold began his EMS career as a paramedic in Amarillo. I appreciate the dedication of our EMS personnel in serving our citizens and all those traveling through the Texas Panhandle.

## **Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF) EMT**

### **How long in EMS?**

I began my EMS career in May 1997.

### **How long with the state?**

In March 2007, I began my 25th year of state service.

### **Phone number/email address**

806-655-7151 ext. 251

sharon.tillman@dshs.state.tx.us

## **Denny Martin – Lubbock**

The South Plains EMS organization (SPEMS) is a 501(c)(3) corporation and is a consortium of approximately 40 EMS ambulance services and first responder organizations. SPEMS offers medical direction for all organizations under its purview. Providers under the SPEMS direction also are required to participate in its quality improvement program, which consists of a doctor-led, peer-driven case review model. The organization has a set of treatment protocols that are constantly monitored

by a committee of providers.

Protocols are communicated and provided to all providers in the group. All the provider members are encouraged to participate in the operations of the organization. Also, all member providers are required to sign a mutual-aid agreement with SPEMS that ensures mutual aid to the area. Mutual aid is coordinated through the Lubbock EMS regional dispatching center.

Also, there is a large first-responder organization, the Rapid Response and Medical Support team (RRAMS team), that provides medical support for large-scale events in and around the Lubbock area. They are affiliated with SPEMS but are operated as a committee of SPEMS. This is a volunteer organization; it handles stand-by events that are large for Lubbock. The volunteers stand by at Texas Tech University football and basketball games and coordinate medical care for their transporting agency, Lubbock EMS. Also, they stand by at the largest free fireworks display in the state every fourth of July. The administrator of RRAMS is a practicing field medic and a consultant to the RAC-B and SPEMS Inc.

Lubbock, is in the southern portion of the Texas Panhandle in an area commonly referred to as the South Plains. There are approximately 400,000 people in the RAC-B; 210,000 of them live in Lubbock. The area also is known as the Llano Estacado, or the staked plains – in other words, everything is flat. Toward the east side of the South Plains, you start seeing what is referred to as “ranch country,” which is made up of wild grassland and is home to several of the larger ranches in Texas, including the 6666 and Pitchfork, among many others.

## **Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)**

Licensed paramedic

### **How long in EMS?**

25 years

### **How long with the state?**

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29 years

**Phone number/email address**

806-767-0488

denver.martin@dshs.state.tx.us

**Jerry Bradshaw – Wichita Falls**

The Wichita Falls Field Office, located on the campus of the North Texas State Hospital for the past two years, covers 13 rural counties in North Central Texas. The TSA-C consists of 18 providers, 11 registered FROs and two air medical services. All services are 911 providers located within their counties, and each service is small and uniquely willing to share information and provide aid, when needed.

I was instrumental in developing the current Providers Association, which has grown over the years to the point that there is a mutual-aid agreement, regional communications, regional protocols and a regional reporting system. The providers are strongly involved in the RAC and have played a significant role within the regional advisory council.

**Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)**

Former certified volunteer firefighter, EMT (1980), paramedic (1981), advanced instructor (1984), advanced coordinator (1985)

**How long in EMS?**

27 years

**How long with the state?**

12 years

**Phone number/email address**

940-689-5928

jerry.bradshaw@dshs.state.tx.us

**Andrew Cargile – Abilene**

The Abilene office of the North EMS Compliance Group supervises 32 EMS providers and 21 first-responder organizations. There are four major educational programs handled by the Abilene office. The Big Country Regional Advisory Council assists most of the Abilene area providers and first responders. Prior to the BCRAC, EMS managers and hospital personnel formed the Abilene Area Pre-hospital Committee. Since 1990, the Big Country EMS Providers Organization has operated its own EMS organization with the goal of developing a network to assist each other. For many years, this area has worked towards excellence in pre-hospital care.

**Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)**

Currently a licensed paramedic; originally certified as an EMT in 1976

**How long in EMS?**

31 years

**How long with the state?**

29 years

**Phone number/email address**

325-795-5859

andrew.cargile@dshs.state.tx.us

**Donn Barnes, David Post, Pat Elmes and Tami Littleton – Arlington**

The staff in the Arlington EMS compliance office covers 19 counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, including more than 130 providers, more than 85 FROs, 23 education programs and several CE training programs. Our staff works closely with various law

enforcement and other regulatory agencies. The Arlington staff serves as ad-hoc members to RAC-E committees, area medical control groups, education advisory councils and local governmental groups. All the Arlington EMS staff serves in some capacity with state disaster groups, e.g., EOC, DDC, RSS, etc.

**Donn Barnes**

**Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)**

ARC Advanced 1st Aid card (1971); Texas EMT (1990); Texas paramedic (1993); National Registry paramedic (1993) Texas instructor (1994); Texas examiner (1994); Texas licensed paramedic (2000); former ACLS instructor; former BTLS instructor; former REMS (Remote Environment Medical Support) instructor; former AHA CPR instructor trainer.

**How long in EMS?**

36 years

**How long with the state?**

2 years

**Phone number/email address**

817-264-4723

donn.barnes@dshs.state.tx.us

**David Post**

**Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)**

EMT-P, former Texas police officer (1985 to 1991), U.S. Air Force medical specialist (1965 to 1969), U.S. Naval corpsman (1981 to 1989); San Francisco county paramedic (1969 to 1979).

**How long in EMS?**

I started in emergency medicine in 1965 (served in the Air Force in the Vietnam War, 1968). After working in EMS in California until 1979, I came to Texas and have been working here in EMS since.

**How long with the state?**

10 years

**Phone number/email address**

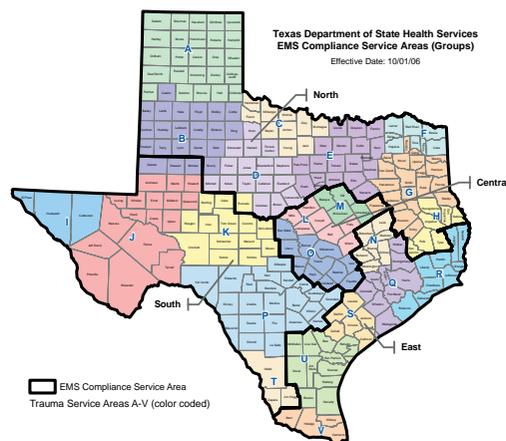
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**Pat Elmes**

**Past/current EMS certifications (and**

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Source: Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination November 2004

Mapped by GIS Staff, Center for Health Statistics July 2006

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**related, such as LE and FF)**

Paramedic, U.S. Navy-1st Class Petty Officer-Marine (FMF) Corpsman and Operating Room Technician.

**How long in EMS?**

29 Years in EMS

**How long with the state?**

20 years

**Phone number/email address**

817-264-4722

pat.elmes@dshs.state.tx.us

**Tami Littleton**

**How long with the state?**

6 years with DSHS

**Phone number/email address**

817-264-4720

tami.littleton@dshs.state.tx.us

**GETAC  
May 23-25**

**Pat Dilday and Valerie Tumlinson  
– Tyler**

Our office is in the Cotton Belt Building, just around the corner from the famous Tyler Rose Garden. Tyler is in the Piney Woods of East Texas and is host to the beautiful Azalea Trail. Our coverage area consists of 33 counties, bordering Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas and the Gulf of Mexico. Providers in Hardin, Jefferson and Orange counties are currently in our coverage area. Our service area includes the largest first-responder network in the state -- approximately 150 registered first-responder organizations. Their role is an integral part of the EMS system. Our area also includes three very active Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Our education programs, EMS providers, first responders and RACs are each unique, but all share the same goal of providing quality patient care.

All postings will remain on the website and in the Texas EMS Magazine listing:

- Until the suspension or probation expires; or,
- For one year after final action is taken (for decertifications, denials, revocations and administrative penalties).

**Pat Dilday**

**Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)**

EMT

**How long in EMS?**

13 years

**How long with the state?**

14 years

**Phone number/email address**

903-533-5377

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**Valerie Tumlinson**

**Past/current EMS certifications (and related, such as LE and FF)**

EMT-I

**How long in EMS?**

12 years

**How long with the state?**

13 years

**Phone number/email address**

903-533-5282

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