

Legislature meets until May

The Texas Legislature began its biannual session on January 8. The gavel will come down 140 days later on May 27. For everything you ever wanted to know about the legislature, including a list of important deadlines in the session and a look at the bills that have been filed, go to www.capitol.state.tx.us.



Emergency funding available

Has your area suffered a devastating event that might qualify you for Extraordinary Emergency Funding? The Extraordinary Emergency Fund is available to assist licensed EMS providers, hospitals and registered first responder organizations if unforeseeable events cause a degradation of service to the community. Situations that may severely reduce or incapacitate emergency response capability are considered extraordinary emergencies. For information, contact Haramain Shaikh at haramain.shaikh@dshs.state.tx.us or call (512) 834-67000, ext. 2377.



Recently awarded:

- City of Presidio, EMS,** \$116,322 for ambulance replacement
- Dalhart EMS,** \$50,000 for ambulance replacement
- Sweetwater Fire Department,** \$9,537 for ambulance engine replacement
- Pampa EMS,** \$16,711 for ambulance engine replacement

Two ways to honor emergency responders

Besides the awards given at Texas EMS Conference, DSHS honors individuals in EMS in two other ways. For information about either of the following, contact Kelly Harrell at (512) 834-6743 or at kelly.harrell@dshs.state.tx.us.

Texas EMS Hall of Fame

The Texas Department of State Health Services honors individuals who have made significant contributions to emergency medical services in Texas. This honor is intended to remain a permanent part of the EMS history of this state. Nominations are due June 1. For more information on how to nominate someone for Texas EMS Hall of Fame or to see who is in the Hall of Fame, go the website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/emfam.shtm.

Texas EMS Hall of Honor

The Texas EMS Hall of Honor memorial honors emergency medical service personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty. The plaques hang permanently at the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination in Austin as a tribute to those individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for public safety. Each plaque holds engraved names along with certifications and licensure, and date of death. The plaques are also displayed each year at Texas EMS Conference. Find the names of those killed in the line of duty at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/emshon.shtm.



Houston welcomes new EMS specialist



Brittany Seay

Brittany Seay recently joined the DSHS EMS office in Houston. Born in Longview, Seay became a EMT in 2007 and then a paramedic in 2009. She worked as a lead paramedic and field training officer for East Texas Medical Center EMS for almost four years. She has been in the Houston area for about two years.

Call for presentations online for 2013 conference

Want to present an education session at Texas EMS Conference 2013? Conference staff will be accepting submissions now through March 11. The conference takes place November 22–27 in Fort Worth. Preconference classes are November 22–24.



Take note: New for this year, Texas EMS Conference will seek a total of 75 lecture presentations, and lectures should focus on one of several specified areas. These areas of focus will be broad enough to encompass all of the DSHS continuing education categories (listed at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/ceareas.shtm), but will provide attendees with the opportunity to choose lectures based on an area of interest rather than only CE categories.

We also are seeking a completely new type of education session: hands-on specialty workshops. These workshops will be intense, interactive sessions in the style of a mini-preconference class (they will be held on Monday and Tuesday). Workshops will last from one to three hours, and the maximum number of students will be decided by the instructor. The goal is to offer these workshops at no additional charge to the attendee; however, final costs to the attendee will depend on the total budget for the workshop.

As always, we welcome preconference class submissions for sessions that will be between four and 24 hours in length.

Interested? Complete a Call for Presentations form and submit it **electronically, on the official conference submission forms, by March 11, 2012**. A volunteer committee will choose presentations based on area of focus, CE category and demonstrated appeal to attendees. Because we will choose fewer presentations for 2013, presenters are encouraged to use the Call for Presentations to demonstrate how each lecture or workshop will fit within the new education structure. As part of the new structure, Texas EMS Conference is pleased to offer a significant increase in honoraria for lectures and workshops. See the Call for Presentations instructions for more information.

Presenters whose sessions are accepted will be notified via email of acceptance. Traditionally, notices announcing our selection decisions are sent out by email around mid-June. Individual sessions are typically scheduled in September. Handouts are due electronically by October 14 and will be posted on the conference website several weeks before the conference.

Grants available for ECA training



Are you in a rural area that needs more EMS personnel? DSHS has a total of \$50,000 this fiscal year available for EMS training programs, registered first responder organizations (FROs), coordinators and instructors to conduct ECA courses in rural or underserved areas of the state lacking local EMS training resources. Grant funds cover the cost of instruction and textbooks, as well as other expenses such as printing and supplies. OEMS/TS will accept grant applications on a first-come-first-served basis until the funds run out for the fiscal year. Eligibility requirements for ECAT grants: A minimum of three students; students must agree to perform emergency care attendant services for at least one year with a local emergency medical service provider or first responder organization; services must be provided in a designated rural or underserved area of Texas, as determined by zip code or county; and the course coordinator must be affiliated with an educational program. And give yourself plenty of time: It takes about 60 days for an ECAT grant to work its way through the DSHS approval process. For more information, go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/TrainingFunding.shtm or contact Haramain Shaikh at haramain.shaikh@dshs.state.tx.us or call (512) 834-67000, ext. 2377.

Recently awarded:

Angel Care Ambulance
La Vernia Volunteer Fire
Department
North Lake Brownwood VFD
EMS
Trenton Volunteer Fire
Department

On Duty