

# Texas EMS Trauma News

---

Spring 2018 Vol. 5 No. 2

## Safety

By Joe Schmider, State EMS Director

“Safety is understanding, it is an attitude of mind, it is not necessarily a simply following of rules or directions”. Garry Richards

Every 7 seconds an ambulance in Texas is dispatched to a call for help, 35% of the time it's a trauma response and 65% of the time it's a medical response. Your goal, our goal, for each response is to provide state of the art compassionate care and get home to our family and friends. To that end please allow me to remind y'all the need to take the following steps to ensure your safety when performing the duties as a EMS provider.

- When you are en route to a call, know where you are going before you start traveling.
- WEAR your seatbelt at all times, not just because it's the law, but because it WILL save your life.
- Be aware of the vehicles around you, NTHSA reports that traveling through an intersection is one of the most dangerous things we do.
- Use the vehicle red light and sirens with respect.
- If you are the driver, “JUST DRIVE!” Leave the radio, texting, phone, reading a map or GPS system, conversation between co-workers and other actives up to someone else on the unit.

- Get the correct amount of rest.
- When you get on location be aware of what's happening around you, note dark areas, when in doubt wait for the police.
- Always have an exit plan in mind.
- Stay in touch with other crew members.
- Trust your natural instinct, in other words, when the hair stands up on your arms and or neck, pay attention!

This is an electrifying and exciting service you provide to your community but you have to make sure that you are safe in providing this service. Please remember the following;

- Take care of your patient,
- Take care of your partner,
- Take care of yourself, but most important please take care of the people who take care of you, at the end of the day that's all that really matters.

You have chosen a great career or serve as a volunteer and for this commitment I say THANK YOU and please be safe out there!

NIOSH released an infographic with tips to protect EMS providers from exposures and prevent injuries. Click to view printable version

[https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ems/pdfs/EMS\\_Provider\\_Infographic.pdf?s\\_cid=3ni7d2nhtsa2018](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ems/pdfs/EMS_Provider_Infographic.pdf?s_cid=3ni7d2nhtsa2018)

## **Texas EMS Statistics**

### Certified Personnel

Grand Total of Active Licenses: 67,229

### By The Numbers

ECA 2,373

EMT 34,762

Advanced EMT 3,477

EMTP 19,285

LP 7,332

2017 NREMT Texas Overall Pass Rates

ECA 70%  
EMT 75%  
Advanced EMT 67%  
EMTP 89%

## EMS Providers

Grand Total of Active Licenses: 769  
Total EMS Vehicles 4,824

### **Total EMS Ground Vehicles 4,561**

BLS 950  
BLS/ALS Capable 179  
BLS/MICU Capable 2,401  
ALS 48  
ALS/MICU Capable 100  
MICU 883

### **Total EMS Air 263**

Specialty 78  
Rotor Wing 114  
Fixed Wing 71

A complete list of the 2017 Texas pass rates by program is available: at [www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/nationalregistry.shtm](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/nationalregistry.shtm).

## **Maternal rules go into effect**

The rules for Hospital Level of Care Designations for Maternal Care and Centers of Excellence for Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy became effective on March 1, 2018. Meetings will be scheduled in the next few months in various regions of the state to review the new rules. Please visit the Maternal Designation website at [www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/maternal.aspx](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/maternal.aspx) for resources to assist facilities in obtaining designation.

Here you'll find:

- Rules
- Webinar presentations

- Survey organizations
- Advisory council links
- Resource documents
- Program contacts

## **Texas EMS Awards**

Submit nominations by September 28

We're looking for the best in Texas, so let us know what makes your nominee really stand out.

Winners will be announced at the Texas EMS Conference Awards Luncheon

Click here for details and categories

<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/conference.shtm>

## **Where to find it**

Trauma Registries Update

A Registries Overview & Update presentation from March 27, 2018 is available at:  
[www.dshs.texas.gov/injury/MonthlyUpdates.shtm](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/injury/MonthlyUpdates.shtm)

The presentation includes:

- Queue Processing
- Formatting Errors
- Sharing User Accounts
- Blank NTDB Fields
- Updating Demographic Files
- Image Data in NEMSIS files
- User feedback on system

## **Celebrate**

In May we celebrate the contributions of the individuals who dedicate themselves to the health, safety and well-being of citizens across the nation.

Join us in thanking our Texas EMS and nursing personnel and spread the word on trauma prevention throughout your community.

Here are the themes for this year:

National Trauma Awareness Month- Injury is no accident: 30 years of making a difference

National Nurses Week- May 6-12- Nurses: Inspire, Innovate, Influence National

EMS Week- May 20-26- EMS STRONG: Stronger Together

Click on the event links below to begin planning your celebrations. These sites offer free toolkits and materials to help you get started.

National Trauma Awareness Month-

<http://www.amtrauma.org/?page=NTAM2018>

National Nurses Week

<https://www.nursingworld.org/education-events/national-nurses-week/>

National EMS Week

<https://www.acep.org/emsweek/#sm.0000nkovnb1da6dmhu0qynv7ntbzx>

## **New staff joins EMS Trauma System Section and EMS Licensing**

Dedra Williams joins the EMS/Trauma System Section as the new Contracts Specialist. She will be responsible for developing programmatic statements of work, providing technical assistance with awarded contracts, programmatic budget planning, and assisting with contract monitoring for inclusion in annual and emergency contracts related to the EMS and Trauma System. Most recently, Dedra worked as a Purchaser at the Procurement and Contracting Services Section with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and has been within state agencies for approximately 4 years.

Christina Coleman joins the EMS/Trauma System Section as the new Information Specialist III. She will oversee the EMS/Trauma System policies, rules, and laws as well as assist with the design and production of the Texas EMS Trauma News electronic newsletter. Most recently, Christina worked as a License and Permit Specialist at the Business Filing & Verification Section in the Consumer Protection Division with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and has been with the agency for approximately 5 years.

Emily Hyde joins the Business Filing & Verification Section as the new EMS Licensing Manger. Most recently, Emily worked in the EMS Compliance Unit in Austin for almost 3 years. Before coming to the Division, she served in various capacities in several Fire Departments over a span of 14 years as a Firefighter, Paramedic, Paramedic Supervisor, Flight Paramedic, and EMS Instructor. Emily is a Licensed Paramedic and Certified EMS Instructor, and has a Fire Technology Associates Degree and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Safety Management.

## **NEWS FROM THE WEB**

External links to other sites are intended to be informational and do not have the endorsement of the Texas Department of State Health Services. These sites may also not be accessible to persons with disabilities.

### **Featured Articles**

Taking the pulse of Texas hospitals, revenue is up, but rural care is down Dallas News

<https://www.dallasnews.com/business/health-care/2018/04/09/taking-pulse-texas-hospitals>

Texas's maternal mortality rate was unbelievably high. Now we know why. The Washington Post

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2018/04/11/texas-maternal-mortality-rate-was-unbelievably-high-now-we-know-why/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.c73d6899f501](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2018/04/11/texas-maternal-mortality-rate-was-unbelievably-high-now-we-know-why/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.c73d6899f501)

### **Additional Reading**

NHTSA's EMS Update:

<https://www.ems.gov/ems-update.html>

Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program:

[www.tsahc.org/homeownership/loans-down-payment-assistance](http://www.tsahc.org/homeownership/loans-down-payment-assistance)

The program, spearheaded by the Texas legislature, provides a 30-year fixed rate home loan to Texas EMS personnel, firefighters, peace officers and others. In addition, this program offers down payment and closing cost assistance of up to 5% of the mortgage loan amount, in the form of a grant.

Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons:

<http://bulletin.facs.org/>

The Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons is published monthly by the American College of Surgeons.

Washington Update:

<http://www.nasemso.org/WashingtonUpdate/>

The Washington Update is produced bi-monthly by the National Association of State EMS Officials in cooperation with NHTSA OEMS, with funds also provided by HHS EMSC.

NACo County News:

<http://www.naco.org/news>

The voice of American counties.

The Pony Express:

<https://www.bcm.edu/departments/pediatrics/texasemsc/?pmid=15790>

Official Newsletter of the EMSC State Partnership, Texas.

Integrated Healthcare Delivery:

<https://www.emsworld.com/article/11294452/integrated-future>

Integrated Healthcare Delivery focuses on improving the patient experience of care through inter-professional collaborations

Questions, comments or suggestions about Texas EMS Trauma News? Contact us at [EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us).