



- 1 Mass Casualty Trauma Triage
- 2 10 Scene Safety Tips to Get You Home Safe and Sound
- 3 National EMS Education Standards
- 5 Staff Announcement
- 6 GETAC Appointments Announced

MASS CASUALTY TRAUMA TRIAGE

"As a nation, we've got a lot of trailers with backboards and colored tape out there and that's not what the focus of mass casualty response is about anymore."
Dr. Edward Racht, American Medical Response.

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in partnership with Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Information Center (TRACIE) has developed a useful document titled "Mass Casualty Trauma Triage Paradigms and Pitfalls". It provides an in-depth study of the national mass casualty event response we have heard about or even been a part of. It will make you rethink what we have been teaching and doing for most of our careers.



The document also provides lessons learned from these events and provides insight into your future planning needs to respond to these major events. Please take the time to review this document and take these lesson learned as an opportunity to enhance your planning.

You can review this document at: <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-mass-casualty-triage-final-508.pdf>



The Code Green Campaign

Additional Links

NEWS FROM THE WEB

DSHS RESOURCES

- GETAC
- Rules
- Disciplinary actions
- Staff Contacts
- Preparedness



10 Scene Safety Tips to Get You Home Safe and Sound

Original post and permission granted by [EMS WORLD](#).

By Eric Liddy, SR. EMT-MEDIC.

For those who are just entering the wonderful world of EMS, scene safety is a top priority during the course of a career. For us “old-timers,” scene safety can lengthen our careers and help us make it to retirement.

Following are 10 scene safety tips that can help protect us and, at the same time, adhere to department guidelines.

<p>1. Be aware of your surroundings at all times: Understand that when you arrive on scene there may be various things going on that could compromise your safety and the safety of your partner. Scene overview should be the first thing that comes to mind. This overview begins the moment the run comes in. Weather conditions, road conditions, road construction and traffic flows are some of the things to consider when responding to any run.</p>	<p>2. Pay strict attention to hazardous scenes: Whether you are on an auto accident scene, fire scene or some other traumatic scene, you need to be aware of everything around you. Downed power lines, fuel leaks, hazardous material leaks, building collapses or industrial facilities are a few areas where you need to pay strict attention to the scene. Watch for things that may pose a risk to you, your partner and your patient and identify ways to make a rapid egress should you need to escape quickly.</p>
<p>3. Take appropriate measures on violent scenes: When responding to any scene where violence is transpiring, take appropriate measures that allow you to sit at a distance until the police arrive on scene and properly secure it. Don't try to be the hero! Stay at a safe distance where you are out of sight until police properly clear the scene and signal a safe return. Running into a known violent or drug overdose scene without police security could cost you and your partner your lives. Never, ever follow a police car into a scene. If the authorities need to draw their weapons, you don't want to be in the line of fire!</p>	<p>4. Wear safety gear and equipment: There is no excuse for not wearing your issued safety gear. Safety vests, EMS turnout gear, helmets, gloves, goggles and other safety equipment are designed for your protection. Never take these items for granted. They are designed to reduce injuries and limit or stop exposures to blood borne pathogens and chemical exposures. By wearing your gear, you can also prevent transmission of diseases and exposures of hazardous materials to yourself and your loved ones.</p>



5. Always operate your vehicle in a safe manner: There is never any excuse to drive in a manner that brings danger to yourself, your partner, your patient and the general public. It is already hazardous operating ANY emergency vehicle during the course of a shift, and by driving in a manner that is less than safe is detrimental to your health as well as others around you. Operate your vehicle with due caution during wet, foggy or snowy conditions. Always pay attention to the weather and road conditions. Avoiding sudden take offs and stops during inclement weather may prevent an unwanted accident. No matter how lousy the road conditions, take your time and get to your destination in one piece. Remember, it's their emergency, not ours!

Placement of your ambulance at hazardous scenes, such as auto accidents, is paramount. Place it in a manner that allows you rapid access. We generally park at least 200 feet in front of an accident scene on the shoulder at an angle. This places us well in front of the scene and adds a buffer between us and the accident. Remember, we are the most important people on the scene, and without us, our patients can't receive the high-quality care they need. Never, EVER turn your back on traffic! If you need to step back to your vehicle, walk backwards. This allows you to remain watchful of other vehicles and just may save your life.

7. Put the cell phone away: Using a cell phone while you operate an ambulance is dangerous, and it may be against the law depending on where you live. Regardless, it's dangerous! That text or conversation with John or Sally can wait until you complete your call. There are already enough distractions going on inside the ambulance. Your partner, your patient and your own life aren't worth the risk or litigation you could face if you have an accident while texting or talking on your cell phone.

6. Conduct a pre-shift vehicle checkout: I know, I know, this part sucks, right? While most of us hate checking the oil, looking at the tires, checking the siren, and making sure all the lights work seems mundane. However, there are reasons management makes us do pre-shift vehicle checks. Those reasons are safety. By physically doing a pre-shift vehicle check, you get to know your rig. You can ensure it is in safe, working order and you can accommodate for repairs should something become inoperable.

8. Ask for help when backing up your rig: Whether you are backing into quarters or out of a parking spot, use your partner and your emergency lights even if your rig is equipped with a backing camera. Emergency lights signal to others around you that you are backing up. And your partner can signal traffic and give directional hand signals. Remember, this can be a safety issue, and we all want to go home injury free and lawsuit free at the end of our shifts.



9. Prevent lifting injuries: Oh, my aching back! How many times do you or your partner complain about back pain? Squat and use proper body mechanics to give you a shot at a long career. Lift with your legs, never your back. Bending to lift a patient who is strapped to your backboard or one who is on your pole stretcher can tear muscles in your lower back, which could cause a lifetime of pain and misery and may prevent you from doing your job.

Take a few moments before the beginning of your shift to do a few stretches. This allows muscles to loosen up and prepare them for your shift's physical abuse. If you are on a scene that requires you to carry your equipment a fair distance, load it onto the stretcher. Work smarter, not harder!

10. Eliminate drug and alcohol use while on duty: Many of us like to blow it up on our off days. I for one enjoy having some cold Guinness now and again with friends, but I refuse to come into work intoxicated.

It is intolerable by any employer to arrive at work intoxicated or high. It should be intolerable to you as well! We are trained, licensed professionals and should keep that appearance at all times while off duty or on duty. Smoking a "fatty" or downing a 40 before you come into work are not ways to help you get through your shift in a safe manner. You put everyone at risk by using drugs or alcohol while on duty and it may cost you your job and your freedom. If you or your partner has a drug or alcohol problem, seek counseling immediately. If you cannot control your substance abuse issue, then perhaps the medical field is not the place for you.

If you take prescribed medications that may impair your judgment, decision making ability or your ability to drive, contact your employer and advise them of the situation. It could mean the difference between life and death...yours, your partner's, your patients' and the general public's!

Safety is our No. 1 job. We are all responsible for our personal actions while we are on duty and the number one responsibility is our personal safety. Remembering these safety tips will help us all get home safe and sound to our loved ones at the end of our respective shifts.

Eric Liddy, Sr. is an EMT-medic with the City of Detroit Fire Department EMS Division, Medic 9, Nights 1 Crew, 7th Battalion. He also has served with the Berlin Orange Fire Department, senior firefighter/EMT; the Ionia County Hazardous Response Team, hazardous materials technician and the Ionia County Sheriff's Department, special deputy rescue and recovery diver. He is the author of The E.R. Loading Dock; Real Life EMS Stories From Around the World.



Staff Announcement

Joey Ancelet has been named the Manager of the Houston Office of EMS and Trauma Systems. Joey began his career as an EMT in 1991, had leadership roles in several EMS agencies in Texas and joined DSHS 13 years ago.

As an EMS Specialist, he demonstrated progressive thinking and provided outstanding support to our EMS stakeholders. Please join us in welcoming Joey to the Texas EMS and Trauma System management team!

Department issues guidance on transmitting 12-lead capability cardiac monitor/defibrillator equipment

Texas Administrative Code 157.11 states that all MICU ambulances must be equipped with a transmitting 12-lead capability cardiac monitor/defibrillator by January 1, 2020. The purpose of this rule was to ensure that when a 12 lead electrocardiography (ECG) is completed in a pre-hospital setting that the information from the ECG be transmitted to the receiving facility as soon as possible allowing the facility as much time as possible to prepare to receive and treat the patient.

The department has provided guidance to assist EMS ambulance providers in creating a system to meet the new requirements by January 1, 2020.

The guidance document can be found on the EMS/Trauma Systems [policy index page](#).

Ask Joe!

Spend an hour getting answers to your questions and earn 1 hour of continuing education Spec Cons.

Seating is limited. Donuts and coffee will be served.
Tuesday, November 26, 9:15 a.m.
Fort Worth Convention Center



GETAC Appointments Announced

Governor Greg Abbott appointed new members to the Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services. The council recommends changes to the EMS/Trauma System in order to ensure that the community receives comprehensive and efficient emergency care.

Darrin R. Rudolph of Longview is the Owner of Rudy's Transport Services of East Texas, LLC and is Pastor of Greenhill Baptist Church. He is a member of the Independent Funeral Directors Association and 3rd Degree Member of Fred Douglas Lodge. Rudolph received his Funeral Director Certification from the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service and is currently working on a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from American InterContinental University.

Cassie Campbell of Salado is the director of nursing trauma and child protection team at McLane Children's Medical Center, Baylor Scott & White Health. She is a member of the Emergency Nurses Association, Texas Emergency Nurses Association, Texas Nurses Association, and the American Nurses Association. Campbell received an Associate's degree in applied science of nursing from Central Texas College, a Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of Mary Hardin Baylor, and a Master of Science with an emphasis in nursing administration from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Jorie Klein of Dallas is the senior director of Trauma at Parkland Health & Hospital System. She is the immediate past-chair of the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council, member and past president of the Society of Trauma Nurses, and former board chair of the Texas EMS, Trauma, and Acute Care Foundation. Klein received an Associate's Degree in nursing from Cooke County College and a Bachelor of Science in nursing from University of Phoenix, and is currently pursuing Master of Science in nursing and Master of Health Administration from the University of Phoenix.

Lucille Maes of Angleton is the Chief of the Angleton Area Emergency Medical Corps, Inc. She is a member of Texas EMS Alliance and the American Ambulance Association and a former member of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians and National EMS Management Association. She has served on the board of directors and currently serves as an advisory member of the Texas Line of Duty Death Task Force. Maes received her Paramedic certification from San Jacinto College.

Dudley Wait of Schertz is a paramedic for the City of Schertz. He is a board member and past president for Texas EMS **Alliance** and former president of the Texas Ambulance Association. Currently, he serves as vice chair for the Texas EMS Trauma and Acute Care Foundation. Wait received his paramedic certification from Houston Community College and a Bachelor of Business Administration in management from Texas A&M University.



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.

NEWS FROM THE WEB

FEATURED ARTICLES

EMS and the Opioid Crisis: <https://www.ems.gov/projects/opioid-crisis.html>

The Future of EMS Education: Revising the EMS Education Standards Webinar: <https://www.ems.gov/ems-focus.html>

NAEMT Awards:

Dr. Perse Receives NAEMT's Most Prestigious 2019 Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award: [http://www.naemt.org/](http://www.naemt.org/WhatsNewALLNEWS/2019/10/16/dr-perse-receives-naemt-s-most-prestigious-2019-rocco-v.-morando-lifetime-achievement-award)

[WhatsNewALLNEWS/2019/10/16/dr-perse-receives-naemt-s-most-prestigious-2019-rocco-v.-morando-lifetime-achievement-award](http://www.naemt.org/WhatsNewALLNEWS/2019/10/16/dr-perse-receives-naemt-s-most-prestigious-2019-rocco-v.-morando-lifetime-achievement-award)
2019 National EMS Awards of Excellence Recipients Announced: https://www.naemt.org/docs/default-source/media-docs/naemt-press-releases/2019/2019-national-ems-awards-of-excellence-recipients-8-15-19.pdf?sfvrsn=afb1d692_0

Melissa Stuiwe, Portland, Texas, 2019 NAEMT/Jones & Bartlett Learning EMS Educator of the Year

San Antonio Fire Department EMS, San Antonio, Texas, 2019 Dick Ferneau Career EMS Service of the Year

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 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.