

Texas EMS Trauma News

Autumn 2014 Vol. 1 No. 3

Senate Bill 8 and House Resolution 3556 Revisited EMS Provider License

- By December 1, 2014 DSHS will submit a report on the effect of the new regulations.
- August 31, 2014 - One year moratorium on new EMS provider licenses ends
- August 10, 2014 - New rules adopted based on SB 8 and HB 3556.
 - A letter of approval from a municipality's governing body or county commissioner's court will need to be submitted when applying to provide initial EMS service. National Traffic and Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) has developed the following document; "Community—Based Needs Assessment" at <ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/CommunityBasedNeeds.pdf>. This document will assist you and local leaders in conducting an assessment of the community EMS needs.
 - Medical director requirement for all EMS providers. There is an online medical director's course available at no cost until August 31, 2015 for Texas personnel. Go to www.medicaldirectoronline.com.
 - Training and education requirements for EMS administrators of record (AOR). A two-day course is being offered for the first time at the Texas EMS Conference in Fort Worth this November. There will be an additional 8 hours of continuing education offered for AOR throughout the conference. For more detail go to www.texasemsconference.com.
 - Letter of credit.
 - \$50,000 surety bond for Medicaid/CHIP providers.
- February 2014 - DSHS in collaboration with HHSC and the Texas Medical Board issued a joint report with recommendations to reduce fraud, waste and abuse. Special thanks to the GETAC EMS Committee with their assistances with these recommendations.

Announcement: Effective September 1, 2014, the EMS Certification & Licensing Group will process all initial and renewal applications for EMS providers. The EMS Compliance Central Group is no longer processing these applications. The EMS Certification & Licensing Group can be reached at 512-834-6734 or via email at EMSCert@dshs.state.tx.us for questions.

FOLLOW THE 84TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Stream: The Senate and the House have live video streaming and archives of previous meeting videos through the Texas Legislature Online site. <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

Search for legislation affecting Texas statutes easily using the Legislative Reference Library of Texas Index. <http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/legis/isaf/lrlhome.cfm>

Save the dates: A summary of important dates for the 84th Legislative Session are available from the Texas Legislative Council. <http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/dates/dates%20of%20interest.pdf>

Online medical director course offered to Texas personnel

Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation is now offering a web-based DSHS approved course for medical directors and interested EMS providers. This course is an entry level orientation for medical directors covering the essentials for emergency medical services (EMS) oversight and direction. It meets the requirements of Texas Administrative Code Title 22, §197.3.

The Medical Directors Online Course is available free for Texas personnel September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015. You will

receive a certificate of completion from the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) at the end of the course. Visit www.medicaldirectoronline.com for more course and registration information.

From medicaldirectoronline.com:

These materials were adapted from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) *Guide for Preparing Medical Directors* developed originally by the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

This web-based program was produced by the Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation in collaboration with NAEMSP, the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), Montana State University—Burns Technology Center and Oolite Media.

DSHS initial administrator-of-record course offered at Texas EMS Conference

DSHS will be presenting an initial administrator-of-record course during the preconference sessions of the Texas EMS Conference in November. The course is available to anyone interested in becoming administrator-of-record (AOR) and fulfills the new legislative requirement outlined in Senate Bill 8 for AORs to complete an initial education course in EMS administration. This course will include current information on Texas EMS laws and rules, dispatch, billing, medical accountability and quality improvement in the EMS system. The two-day course is offered November 22-23 at the Fort Worth Convention Center. Early registration pricing is \$325, after October 15 the rate is \$400.

Visit <http://texasemsconference.com> for registration details and other highlights of this year's conference.

FY15 Uncompensated Trauma Care (UCC) Funding Application

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Office of EMS and Trauma Systems Coordination (OEMS/TS) is pleased to announce that the application needed to apply for the fiscal year (FY) 2015 Designated Trauma Facilities and Emergency Medical Services (DTF/EMS) Account - Hospital Allocation will be available October 15, 2014 and accessible on our website www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/.

The trauma care funding program enacted by House Bill 3588, 78th Texas Legislature, stipulates that 96% of the funds accumulated in the Designated Trauma Facilities and Emergency Medical Services (DTF/EMS) Account (3588 monies) be distributed to eligible Texas hospitals to reimburse a portion of their uncompensated trauma care. To be eligible for the DTF/EMS Account-Hospital Allocation, a hospital must be a designated trauma facility by the application due date or meet "in active pursuit of trauma designation" requirements by the application due date. The application must be emailed per instructions in the application no later than January 30, 2015.

"In active pursuit" requirements:

- Submit a letter of intent to designate as a trauma facility
- Submit a "timely and sufficient" trauma designation application;
- Submit evidence of data submitted to the State EMS/Trauma Registry;
- Submit evidence of participation in the appropriate Regional Advisory Council; and
- Provide evidence that a hospital trauma performance improvement committee has been developed.

Funds are distributed in the following manner:

- Fifteen percent of the total amount of funds available for the Hospital Allocation will be divided equally among all eligible applicants.
- The remaining 85% of the Hospital Allocation funds will be distributed to eligible hospitals based on the percentage of uncompensated trauma care a hospital provides in relation to the total uncompensated care provided by all the eligible hospitals that apply for the Hospital Allocation.

For questions or additional information regarding the uncompensated trauma care funding, please contact Indra Hernandez at indra.hernandez@dshs.state.tx.us or 512-834-6669.

What is MUCC?

The Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) has statutory authority to identify state and local emergency medical services (EMS) and 9-1-1 needs, to recommend new or expanded programs and to identify the ways in which federal agencies can streamline their processes for support of EMS.

At a December 19, 2011, meeting of the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) the FICEMS' Preparedness Committee presented a concept paper for FICEMS consideration on the national implementation of **the Model**

Uniform Core Criteria (MUCC) for mass casualty triage. The FICEMS' Preparedness Committee was subsequently directed to develop a national MUCC implementation strategy for consideration by the FICEMS with input from the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC).

FICEMS has adopted the following position statement:

The FICEMS recommends that state and local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems improve their mass casualty incident triage capabilities through adoption of triage protocols and systems that are based on the Model Uniform Core Criteria. Federal resources may be used to support development of capabilities which improve EMS system preparedness for mass casualty triage.

For background on the national implementation of the MUCC principles and recommended strategies and action steps to be taken by FICEMS member agencies to support national implementation of the MUCC go to <http://www.ems.gov/preparedness.htm> and click on the heading "Mass Casualty Incident Preparedness and Research".

Mark your calendars- November 3-4

Stakeholder meeting to review Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapter 157

More detail coming soon. Sign up to receive email notification on this meeting and other updates from EMS/Trauma Systems at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/Email-Updates.shtm

Lawyer or no lawyer?

If you are an EMS provider or an EMT or Paramedic who received a "Notice of Violation" letter (NOV) from DSHS proposing a disciplinary action and you followed up with a request for an informal conference and/or appeal hearing at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), you may be wondering: "Am I required to bring a lawyer?"

Although a lawyer is not required, you may bring one to either the informal conference or to an appeal hearing at SOAH. You should probably consult with a lawyer before making that decision. If a lawyer will be coming with you, please have him/her provide the department's enforcement unit with a formal letter of representation.

Access Texas Trauma Registry

Want the latest Texas Trauma Registry data? Get info about hospitals, submersions, pediatrics and more at www.dshs.state.tx.us/injury/data/

Archived registry data (prior to 2012) may be found at www.dshs.state.tx.us/injury/data/Data-Archive.doc

Not what you're looking for? Contact Texas Trauma Registry staff and submit a data request or inquiry at injury.web@dshs.state.tx.us

New Staff

Jewell Potter

I started working for the state in 1994 with TDCJ. In 2002 I left Texas for a few years and worked for TSA in Rochester, MN. I came back to the state working for DADS and from there I came to DSHS where I worked in the Newborn Screening Program for 7 years, until this year when I came to work for EMS/Trauma Systems in the brand new Perinatal Designation Program.

Tambra Rogers

I have been with the Department of State Health Services for 5 years. I started in EMS Certification and Licensing group, certifying EMS personnel. I am now a part of the EMS/Trauma Systems department as a Program Specialist I for the Designation Programs where I assist hospitals in the process of becoming trauma or stroke designated.

Charles Glenn

I transferred here from HHSC. I was employed there for 11 months. Now I am the Administrative Assistant for the Perinatal Designation Program.

MONOC Mobile Health Services is proud to announce the completion of its second free public service announcement (PSA) video for emergency responders. This video explains the importance of wearing high visibility safety vests whenever working on roadways, and how it can save lives. To view the video go to <http://www.monoc.org/safetyVestPSA.cfm>

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

CDC releases Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for Management of Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Virus Disease in the United States
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-emergency-medical-services-systems-911-public-safety-answering-points-management-patients-known-suspected-united-states.html.

Mind of an EMS Manager
www.emsworld.com/article/11566411/inside-the-mind-of-an-ems-manager

DEA Final Rule Rescheduling Hydrocodone Combination Products
www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/EMS/pdf/DEAFinalRule.pdf

Dr. James "Red" Duke Elementary honors man instrumental in development of Life Flight service <http://www.chron.com/neighborhood/pearland/news/article/Iconic-surgeon-touched-that-school-bears-his-5759604.php>

Additional Reading

Homeland Security Affairs: www.hsaj.org/?home

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/NewsAndPublications/TheWashingtonUpdate/>
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.

EMSC Program News: <http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc/currentnews/programnews/>
Ensuring that all children receive appropriate care in a health care emergency.

NACo County News: <http://www.naco.org/newsroom/countynews/Current%20Issue/1-13-14/Pages/default.aspx>
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: <http://ihdelivery.com/>
Integrated Healthcare Delivery focuses on improving the patient experience of care through inter-professional collaborations.