

Texas EMS Trauma News

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A quarter-century plus two: Kathy Perkins retires after 27 years

Simply put, Texas has a trauma system because of Kathy Perkins. She would be the first to deflect any praise and give the credit to those who believed in her vision and worked to create the system, but Perkins spent years making endless phone calls to hospitals and EMS providers asking them to participate in what was a voluntary system to improve trauma care. She relied on those volunteers and encouraged them to believe that wide ranging and unorganized resources that included 1,000 emergency medical services providers and 300 hospitals could become the fully implemented statewide trauma system.

On November 30 Perkins retired from her position as DSHS Assistant Commissioner for Regulatory Services. She began her career in 1989 as a statistical clerk in the Bureau of Emergency Management. As Assistant Commissioner she oversaw regulation of everything from alligator meat to youth camps, but she always had EMS/Trauma System within her purview, and, as she likes to say, in her heart. The EMS/Trauma System has grown over the years and now includes a strong system of Regional Advisory Councils devoted to emergency care and disaster response, a functioning trauma registry, 286 designated trauma facilities, 148 designated stroke facilities and neonatal along with maternal designation coming soon.

As an ex-Army nurse, Kathy says one of her proudest achievements was making sure military hospitals were included in the trauma system, which put Texas at the forefront of research for improving care for soldiers on the battlefield in Iraq and Afghanistan. After decades in state government, she's taking some time to travel and spend with family before she decides what comes next. But she's sure of one thing; she is determined to continue making a difference in the lives of Texans. On November 22, the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) presented Kathy with a lifetime achievement award for providing vision and leadership to the Texas EMS/Trauma System.

2016 EMS Awards

EMS Person Award went to two persons this year: Basilio Moreno III, EMT-P and Sam Schuleman, LP

EMS Educator Award

Robert Atripaldi, BCOR, EMT-P

EMS Medical Director Award

Neal J. Richmond MD

EMS Public Information/Injury Prevention Award

El Paso Fire Department

Citizen Award

Catie Wiedenhofer

EMS Administrator Award

Division Chief Ricky Reeves

Private/Public Provider Award
Somervell County Fire & EMS

EMS First Responder Award
Forney Fire Department

Outstanding RAC Award
Panhandle RAC

Designated Trauma Facility Award
CHI St. Joseph Health Regional

EMS Air Medical Service Award
Cook Children's Teddy Bear Transport

Journey of Excellence Award - Chief Vance Riley
For his leadership and dedication to the Texas EMS/Trauma System

REPORTING TO LEGISLATURE

On December 1 of each even-numbered year, the department shall electronically submit a report to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the standing committees of the house and senate with jurisdiction over the department on the effect of the changes made within the State EMS system. The following questions must be answered in this report;

- (1) the total number of applications for emergency medical services provider licenses submitted to the department and the number of applications for which licenses were issued or licenses were denied by the department;
- (2) the number of emergency medical services provider licenses that were suspended or revoked by the department for violations of those sections and a description of the types of violations that led to the license suspension or revocation;
- (3) the number of occurrences and types of fraud committed by licensed emergency medical services providers related to those sections;
- (4) the number of complaints made against licensed emergency medical services providers for violations of those sections and a description of the types of complaints; and
- (5) the status of any coordination efforts of the department and the Texas Medical Board related to those sections.

The *2016 Report on Emergency Medical Services Complaints and Investigation* can be found at <http://dshs.texas.gov/emtraumasystems/default.shtm> under the News/Features section.

The *Report on Emergency Medical Services, Dec. 2016* can be found under **DSHS Legislative Reports - 2016** at <https://dshs.texas.gov/Legislative/Reports-2016.aspx>.

Joseph W. Schmider

Want to follow the 85th Texas Legislative session online?

Live streaming video of both the Senate and House can be found at www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx

Archived videos of legislative meetings

- Senate – www.senate.state.tx.us/bin/live.php
- House – www.house.state.tx.us/video-audio/

EMS PROVIDERS

NEW DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

VISIT [HTTP://DSHS.TEXAS.GOV/EMSTRAUMASYSTEMS/PROVFRO.SHTM](http://DSHS.TEXAS.GOV/EMSTRAUMASYSTEMS/PROVFRO.SHTM)

UNDER NOTICES AND SIGNS:

CONSUMER COMPLAINT NOTICE

EMS VEHICLE OUT OF SERVICE SIGN

NEWS FROM THE WEB — SPECIAL EDITION — SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't get fired for Facebook: 10 ways to use social media safely

How to make sure your online activities do not interfere with your job as a paramedic or EMT at your agency

EMS1.com - Jul 22, 2010

We've seen several cases in recent months where EMS providers have gotten in hot water and even lost their jobs for posting what their employer believed were inappropriate images, videos, or comments. For instance, take a look at SC firefighter-paramedic fired over Facebook video post or NYC EMS lieutenant may lose job over Facebook post, prank.

Internet access to global electronic information resources and to social networking media has revolutionized information sharing. These networking capabilities are changing the way we work and communicate with each other.

But with this new societal free flow of "information sharing" comes legitimate patient privacy and business concerns for the EMS employer. EMS agencies — both public and private alike — have a legitimate business interest to ensure that social networking is used in a way that does not violate patient confidentiality, harm the organization's reputation and business interests, or interfere with the work of others.

How can you make sure that your online activities do not interfere with your job or work activities at your EMS agency? The main thing is to always think about how others in your agency or the public would perceive your comment before you post it.

In other words, think before you hit the "enter" key. One of the problems with "reacting" to an event or someone else's post is that your own reaction will likely reflect your emotions at the time. Ideally, you should craft a thoughtful response after some reflection. "Reacting" rather than "responding" may cause you to post something you may regret later.

Here are 10 helpful principles that can help you avoid any issues with your EMS agency about what you post on Facebook or other social networking media.

[read the full story](https://www.ems1.com/ems-products/consulting-management-and-legal-services/articles/852706-Dont-get-fired-for-Facebook-10-ways-to-use-social-media-safely/) at <https://www.ems1.com/ems-products/consulting-management-and-legal-services/articles/852706-Dont-get-fired-for-Facebook-10-ways-to-use-social-media-safely/>

Renee Clack retires after more than 26 years of service

Renee Clack, Director of the Health Care Quality Section retired from DSHS December 31. She began her career with the Texas Department of Human Services in 1989 and rose to director of long-term care regulation. In 2004, she came to DSHS from DADS and managed the Regulatory Licensing Group, which includes EMS certification and licensure. As the HCQS Director Renee oversaw the Patient Quality Care Unit, Regulatory and Professional Licensing Units, as well as the EMS/Trauma Systems Unit. She always put faith in her team to ensure that our goals were focused on improving the care and well-being of the citizens of Texas. Her leadership and dedication will be greatly missed.

Name Change: EMT-I to AEMT

Senate Bill 219, passed during the regular session of the 84th Legislature, requires changing the name of Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I) to Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT). The change will take effect January 2017 and the process will take 4 years to complete. In Texas an EMT-I and AEMT are recognized as the same level of certification. When a

current EMT-I renews their certification the certification level will be changed to AEMT, no further action is needed. **Please note** that there may be additional requirements to maintain and be recognized as a National Registry AEMT, for that information please go to <https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public>

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

The Minnesota Department of Health has published a Community Paramedic (CP) Toolkit to assist employers and organizations who are planning to hire Community Paramedics. The toolkit and background resources are available on our Toolkit webpage at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/toolkit.html>

Calif. EMT Sued After Posting Graphic Photos of Patient's Injuries Online

The 21-year-old victim lost a leg in an motorcycle crash.

Dr. Jon Krohmer named as next director of NHTSA's Office Of Emergency Medical Services

<https://www.naemt.org/advocacy/news/2016/08/24/dr.-jon-krohmer-named-as-next-director-of-nhtsa-s-office-of-emergency-medical-services>

San Antonio trauma patients 'opted-in' to participate in drug study

www.kens5.com/story/news/health/2015/08/14/sa-trauma-patients-opted-in-to-participate-in-drug-study/31737709/

7/3/15 ABC News Tired EMS Workers a Prescription for Danger on the Roads, Experts Say

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/tired-ems-workers-prescription-danger-roads-experts/story?id=31876777>

The American Heart Association announced its Gold, Silver and Bronze Award recipients for STEMI care in May including 19 Texas gold winners and a link to the national list which includes the Silver and Bronze award winners in Texas. <http://ccemsnews.com/2015/05/29/ccems-1-in-heart-attack-care-in-texas-gulf-region/>

Additional Reading

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/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.

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.