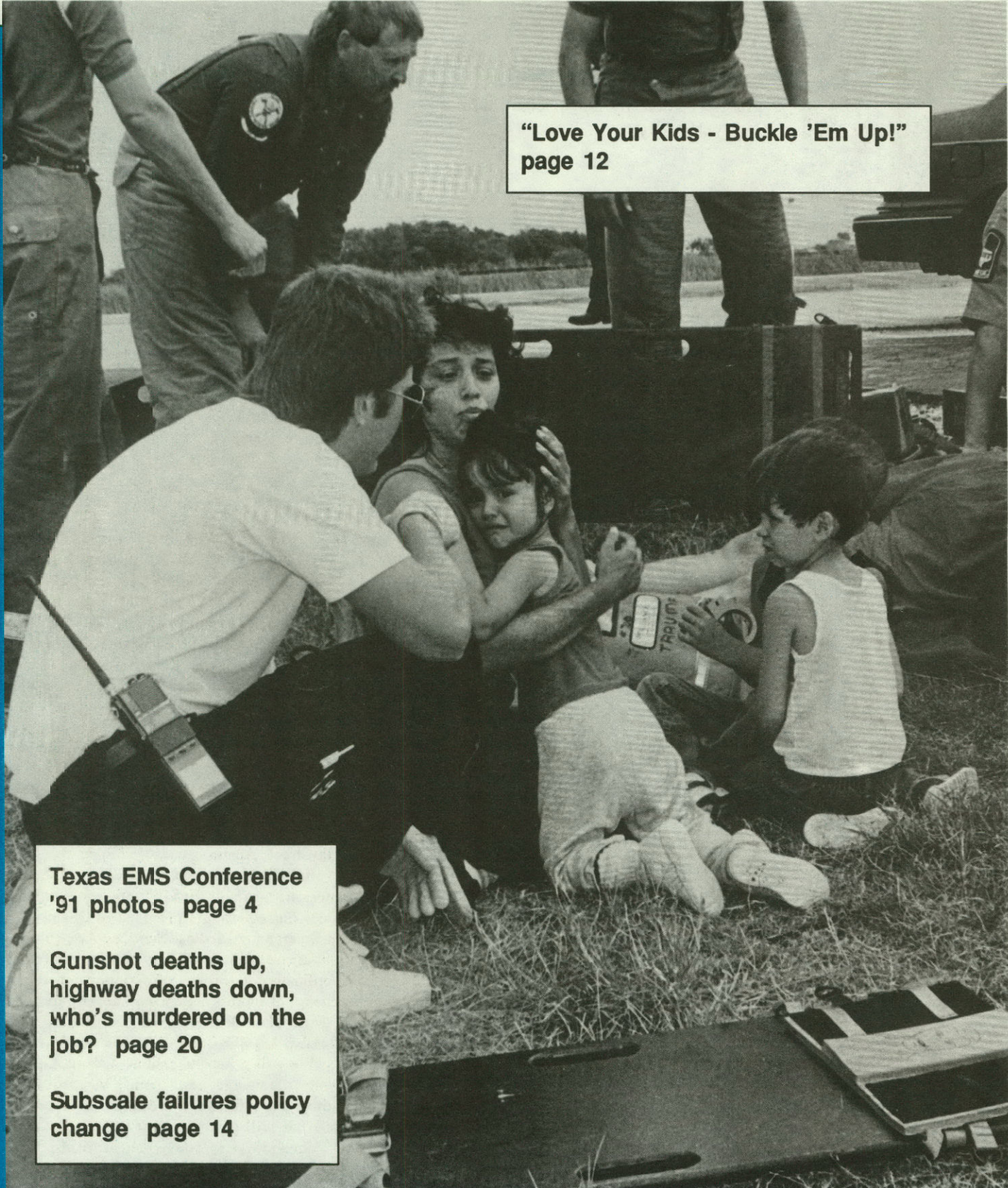


Texas EMS

M e s s e n g e r



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'91 photos page 4

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highway deaths down,
who's murdered on the
job? page 20

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change page 14

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Texas EMS

M e s s e n g e r

January/February 1992

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Over a three-year period almost one million dollars will go to local EMS

From
This
Side

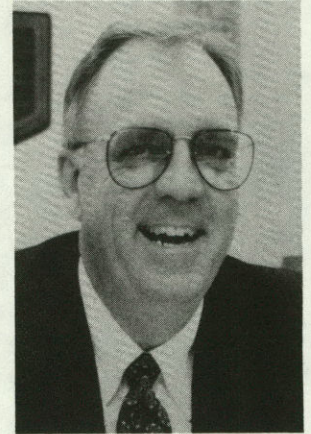
ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING things the Bureau was involved in during the past year was the funding of fourteen EMS local projects. This money was made available to us through the Texas Department of Transportation to decrease response times and increase public and rescuer safety. We were able to put nearly \$200,000 into very deserving emergency medical services across the state through this program. I hope you will read Rhonda Blackmore's article on page 21 where she reports on the first year of activity of the EMS Local Projects Grant Program.

We have just completed the first phase of reviewing grant applications for the second year of funding. By the time you read this issue of the *Texas EMS Messenger* I hope we will have announced

the EMS Local Projects grant recipients for this year, FY92. We will distribute \$250,000 in FY92 and another \$250,000 in FY93.

One of the things we identified was a need to start the grant cycle earlier so that contracts can be signed and effective by September 1, allowing the funded agencies a full year to complete their proposed projects. Therefore, we will be sending out information on the FY93 grants around April 1. If you want to receive a Request for Proposal packet, please send in the coupon below.

It's hard for me to believe we are already gearing up for a third group of EMS local projects. However, I am very proud that we will have made nearly one million dollars available to local groups to improve emergency medical service for the citizens of Texas.



GENE WEATHERALL
CHIEF
BUREAU OF
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>For TDH Use Only</p> <p>Dates</p> <p>Received: _____</p> <p>Mailed: _____</p> <p>Entered: _____</p> | <h2>EMS Local Projects Grant Program</h2> <p><i>Please send a copy of the current Request For Proposal packet to:</i></p> <p>Organization _____ Phone AC _____</p> <p>Mailing Address _____</p> <p>City/State/Zip _____</p> <p>Contact Person _____ Phone AC _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Type of Organization _____</p> |
|---|---|

To receive a packet for FY93 return this form to:

Local Projects Coordinator
Bureau of Emergency
Management
Texas Department of
Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3199

1991 Texas EMS Awards

Conference Photos by Rick Eubank



Woman of the Year

Hall of Fame

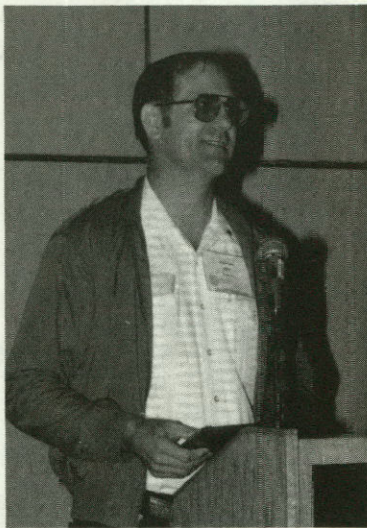
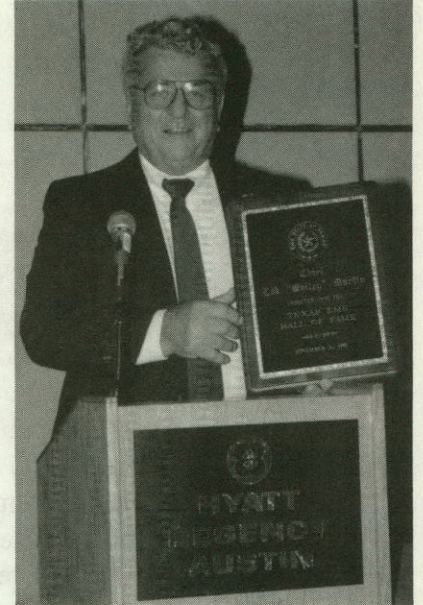
Two favorites of the 1991 Texas EMS Conference Awards Banquet were Hall of Fame Chief L. O. "Whitey" Martin of Houston and Mart's Babe Aycock, named first recipient of the Texas EMS Woman of the Year award.

Volunteer Provider of the Year winners, Naples-Omaha Volunteer Ambulance Service, let out a whoop when their name was announced and Wayne Cason (pictured left) accepted the award for the "members of the community" served by the ALS system.

Houston's Gold Star Ambulance received the Private Provider Award. The ALS commercial service operates 19 vehicles, and reimburses their employees (pictured right) for EMS training by the same percentage as their exam score.

The award-winning Think Child Safety program was the brainchild of City of Paris EMS paramedics (pictured right) and one of the reasons the northeast Texas ALS service was named Public Provider of the Year.

Nearly 1,250 people attended the November 26 awards banquet as Texas Department of Health honored EMS award winners.



Presented November 26

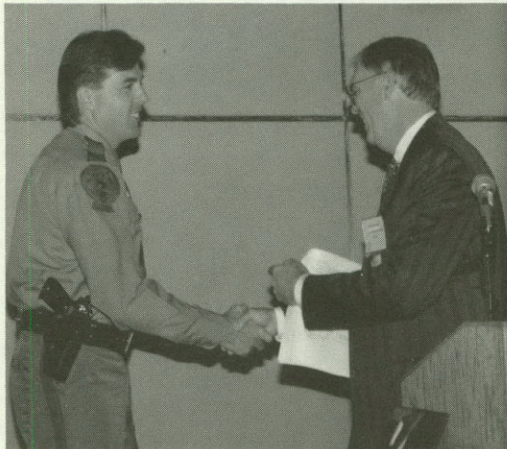


Paramedic Jerry Hutchison (pictured left), Texarkana Fire Department's assistant chief in charge of EMS receives the Administrator of the Year Award from Gene Weatherall. Hutchison, who recently recertified with 400 hours, is the former president of Northeast Texas EMS Course Coordinator Association and helped develop a local CISD team.

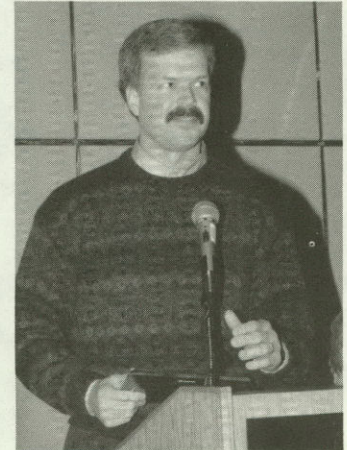


Dr. Kay Allen (pictured right), an EMT, chairs the board of North Hays County EMS and is director of the Extension Instruction and Materials Center

of The University of Texas at Austin. Allen filled a need for education in rural areas when she developed and implemented the state's first correspondence course for ECAs. She also served on statewide exam committees and gave expert EMS testimony in TDH hearings.

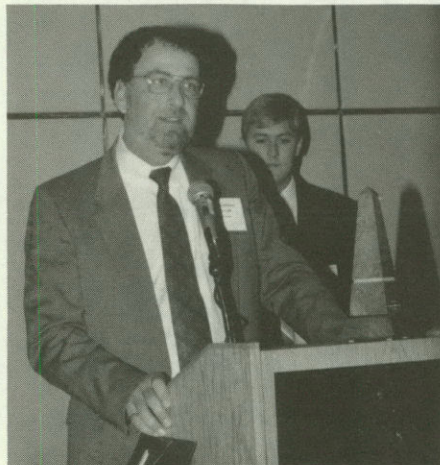


We wrote about DPS Trooper Dan Webb (pictured left) from Baytown in the November issue and here he receives the Citizen Award for his fast action in recognizing an infant's drugged state during a routine traffic stop of the infant's mother.

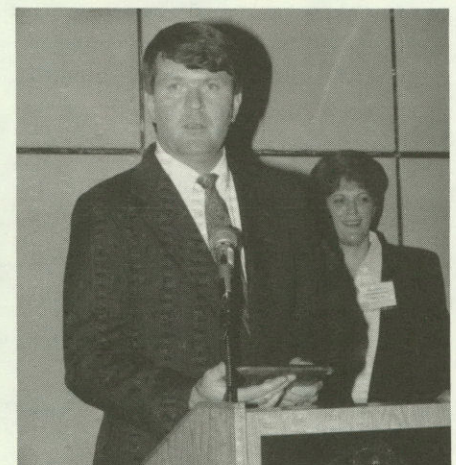


Plano EMS medical director Tom Ward, MD, (pictured right) has served on TEMSAC's Medical Directors Committee

and the state committee that reviews EMT and paramedic exams. He was honored as the state's outstanding medical director.



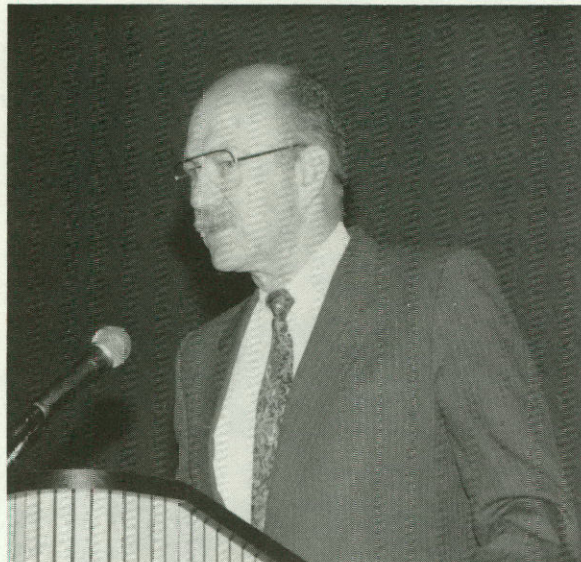
John Murray of Austin (pictured left) received a special award for his many years of involvement in Texas Association of EMTs. TAEMT President Scott Springfield presented the award to Murray and announced that in future years the award would be called the John A. Murray Award for Leadership.



Texas Ambulance Association thanked Representative Alan Schoolcraft (pictured right) for his help to Texas EMS during the Legislative Session. TAA president Faye Thomas, also a member of TEMSAC, presented the award to Schoolcraft.

“Thank you so much for working so hard to commend and educate us.”

1991's state EMS conference was the biggest ever, with approximately 1,250 participants, including paid registrants, exhibitor representatives, faculty members, staff members, and guests and observers.



Keynote speaker James Page, publisher of *JEMS* magazine, urged the audience to remember the “caring” in EMS, to have empathy for the people who are our patients.

“Keynote - James Page - very human, phenomenal.”



A panel discussion featuring responders to the October 16 shootings in Killeen ended Monday morning's general session.

Houston Fire Department's EMS Medical Director Paul Pepe, MD, spoke to a packed auditorium during his talk on resuscitation issues. Pepe also participated in two panel discussions on communications issues.





“Exhibits were excellent!”



From the evaluations...

“Dr. Wainscott should be cloned, we need more like him.”

“I think you have found the right place to have the conference, let’s call it home.”

“I think the entire conference was a great opportunity to learn and achieve more knowledge, the Awards Banquet was excellent.”

“The birthday cake was fantastic! Too many good workshops to choose from.”

“Dr. Pepe’s presentations are great - give us more!”

“I had a tremendous time in Austin and at the conference. Looking forward to 1992’s conference. Learned a lot, and bought a lot of stuff.”

“The DWI workshop on a scale of 1 to 5 should be rated a 10.”

(continued on next page)





“Too many good workshops to choose from.”

“I am very impressed with my first conference this year and also it was very educational.”

“This was my first EMS conference but not my last. Everything was arranged in a professional manner. I would rate it as an overall outstanding.”

“This was my first conference. I’ve never been around a nicer group of people.”

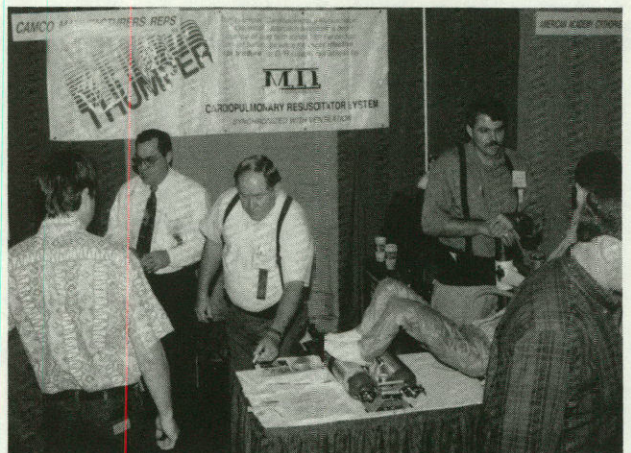
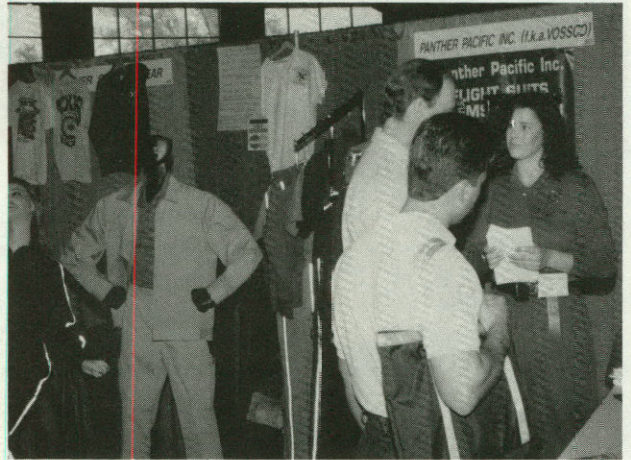
“Doug Key can make anything interesting.”

“Verbal Judo - I could have listened all day.”

“Mr. Page is an excellent speaker - bring him back next year.”

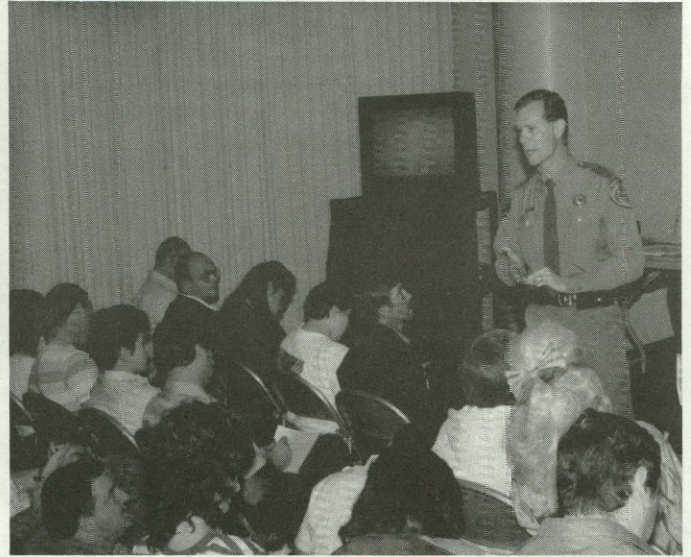
“Think Child Safety is an excellent program.”

“Great food.”

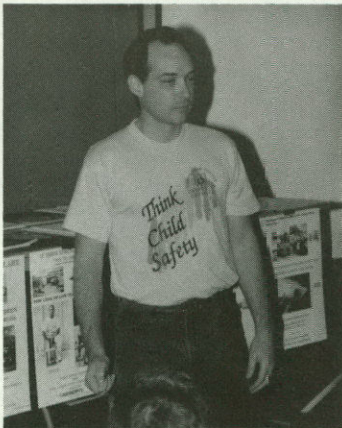




Dr. Don Gordon moderated a panel discussion featuring national emergency medical dispatch experts.



Workshop favorite DPS Lt. Mark Warren taught verbal judo techniques to a packed room. We promise to ask him back and give him "the big room" again.



City of Paris paramedic Stewart Dodson shared his concern for the safety of children in his Think Child Safety workshop when he urged other EMS personnel to teach children safety today so they can be leaders tomorrow.



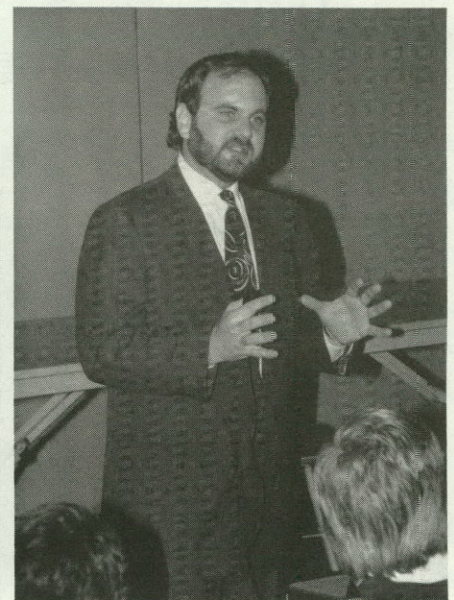
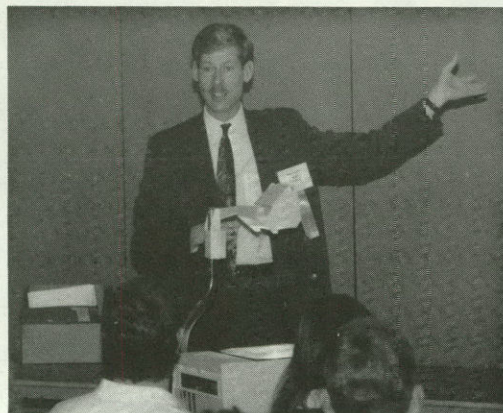
Dr. Michael Wainscott's workshop on the pitfalls in assessment and management was a big hit.

Donovan Butter, DO, always a favorite speaker, taught one of the pedi track workshops.



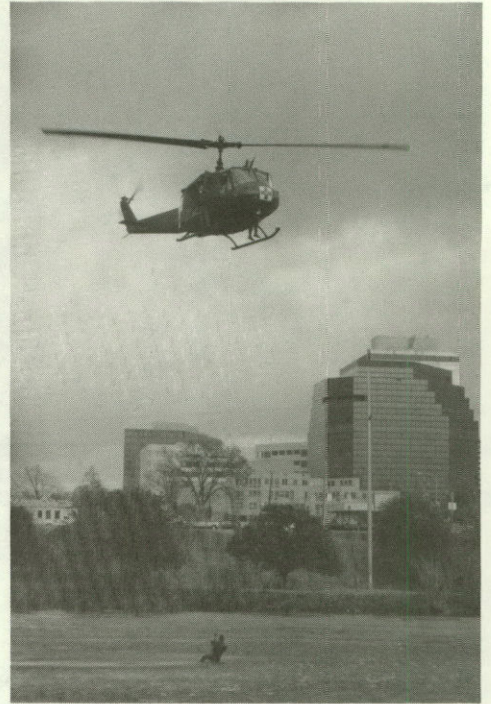
Third-party billing workshops gathered crowds of 50-75 people. Here, Ann Burger answers Medicaid questions.

"Doug Key could make anything entertaining," one of the evaluations told us. Charting and hospital diversions were Doug's topics this year.





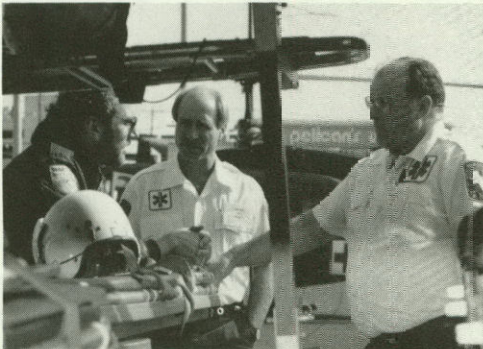
Fort Hood's 507th Air Medical Attachment kept a Huey on display throughout the conference. Austin STARflight was posted in the Auditorium parking lot during the day Tuesday.



Town Lake across from Palmer Auditorium was the scene of an Army water rescue demonstration that momentarily stopped traffic and nearby bridge construction.



Amarillo's Jamie Ferrell poses with Ready Teddy at the awards banquet. Ferrell's workshop on EMS response to sexual assault victims helped make EMS personnel aware of sexual assault survivor's needs.



Ground crew members visit with a flight medic at one of 3 helicopters on display.

Max and Tucker demonstrated their help in rehabilitating trauma patients and finding lost victims.





As a thank-you gesture to the EMS personnel we serve, Bureau staff distributed 25 year commemorative coins to the audience as the closing session began.



Austin's Bonnie Liles put together a slideshow Tribute to EMS featured at the closing session. Set to music, the slide program of child patients, women in EMS, and EMS heroes stirred many in the audience.

McFadin and Johnson win drawing

We received 230 evaluations. Thanks for giving us your "yeas" and "nays" of the conference. Jessie L. McFadin of Utopia and Johnny W. Johnson of Seabrook won the drawing for 2 complimentary registrations to next year's conference.



Woman of the Year Babe Aycock was featured in the women in EMS portion of the slideshow tribute and then took the stage to a standing ovation to talk about her involvement in EMS.



Conference hero Joe Tyson introduced the EMS heroes slideshow segment of the closing session after he had more than 600 heroes in the audience stand to steady applause. "You're all my heroes," he told us after he had ECAs, EMTs, paramedics, nurses, physicians, TDH employees, Killeen shooting responders, and Desert Storm veterans stand.

"This was my first conference but not my last."

Love Your Kids -

Buckle Em 'Up!

By Alana S. Mallard



Correct use of child safety seats and belts is 71 percent effective in preventing death and 67 percent effective preventing serious injuries to children 4 and under. Photo by Fred Sadowski, *Texarkana (Texas) Gazette*. Facing page photo by Leslie Renken.

Although more and more adults are wearing their car safety belts, across Texas only about half the children riding in vehicles are belted in.



The Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University in College Station completed a survey in 14 Texas cities where 12,735 child passengers were observed for safety belt use. The observation survey results showed that 54.1 percent of the 12,735 children wore the adult lap belt correctly or were correctly belted into the child safety seat. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,

correctly used child safety seats could prevent 53,000 injuries every year.

Last year, Lampasas paramedic Lanelle Scarborough responded to a traffic crash involving four members of a family on their way from Austin to San Angelo. "The only member of that family who was not seriously injured was the little child who was belted into her seat," Scarborough said recently. Both parents were injured and an infant who was thrown from the vehicle suffered a broken back. Neither the parents nor the infant were buckled in. "The baby was real lucky, because it had been raining and she landed on some soft, muddy ground," Scarborough said, "otherwise every bone in her body could have been broken."

"The only member of that family who was not seriously injured was the little child who was belted into her seat"

Luckily, all the members of this family survived a horrifying traffic crash. The infant has recovered from her cervical spine fracture with no apparent ill effects. Not every child is this lucky. Thirty Texas children four and younger were killed in vehicle crashes in 1989. Those deaths could probably have been prevented by the correct use of a child safety seat.

Child Passenger Safety Week, February 9-15, aims at teaching Texas communities the importance of using safety belts and safety seats for every child who is a passenger in a vehicle. Texas Department of Transportation and Texas Department of Health are sponsoring Child Passenger Safety Week and urge local EMS groups to promote "Love Your Kids - Buckle 'Em Up!" in their communities to teach parents, grandparents, babysitters, and friends to make every ride in a vehicle as safe as possible for the little ones.

The health department's Safe Riders Program and the Bureau of Emergency Management will mail child passenger safety information to Texas' 1,250 EMS organizations this month to help services teach the public the importance of child passenger safety.

Three of Lanelle Scarborough's patients did not wear safety restraints and were seriously injured. They were lucky, though, and they survived because EMS was quick to respond and because hospital care was available.

But Texas children deserve more than luck. They deserve the safety and love of being buckled up every time they ride in a vehicle. "The little girl was the only one who had on a seat belt," Scarborough said, "and all she got was a little bump on her forehead." ♥

New policy requires critical subscale failures to retake entire exam

Effective April 15, 1992, any candidate who fails one or more critical subscales on the paramedic or intermediate certification exam will retake the entire written exam for their retest. The Certification Review Committee, the Medical Directors

Subcommittee of Texas Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and Texas Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council as a whole gave full support to this policy change during the December 5 and 6 meetings. The support for this policy follows:

- 75% of all testing candidates who failed one or more subscales made below an overall score of 80;
- 98% of all testing candidates who failed one or more subscales made below the overall state average (mean) score;
- candidates who have failed one or more subscales but have made an overall score of at least 70, are borderline candidates on all critical content areas; and
- certification testing for EMS and other allied health professionals in most other states is handled with retesting on the entire exam.

The following points may clear up any

confusion about this new policy:

- EMT and ECA candidates have been retesting on the entire exam for many years, so this policy will not effect that process.
- This policy will be effective for both initial and recertification paramedic and intermediate candidates.
- If a candidate fails one or more subscales on the first try, and fails one or two different subscales on the retest, the person must enroll in a refresher course before attempting an exam at that level again.
- The critical subscales for both the paramedic and intermediate exams will stay the same as the years before. Subscales 1-5 are critical on the paramedic exam, and subscales 1-3 are critical on the intermediate exam. If a candidate fails only subscale 6, and scores at least a 70 on the paramedic exam, there will be no need for a retest.

● As before, a total score of below 70 will result in an entire retest.

The revised paramedic exam blueprint will also begin in April, 1992. You can find the latest information on the subscale breakdowns in the article from the August 1991 issue of the *Texas EMS Messenger*.

Summary of Texas-certified EMS Personnel

December, 1991

| | ECA | EMT | EMT-I | EMT-P | Total |
|----------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| EMS affiliated | 5,712 | 11,999 | 1,693 | 5,639 | 25,043 |
| Nonaffiliated | 4,197 | 9,879 | 643 | 1,428 | 16,147 |
| Total | 9,909 | 21,878 | 2,336 | 7,067 | 41,190 |

If you have questions, call Debbie Bradford at (512) 458-7550. Bradford directs the Bureau's EMS Certification Program.

Trauma system development is happening across the state

The Trauma Technical Advisory Committee and Bureau staff have been working intensely over the past 2 1/2 years to design a statewide EMS and trauma system for Texas. With little funding, rules and basic documents including trauma facility

criteria and a triage scheme have been developed. However, there has been a feeling among many that we were going to throw a big party and no one would come because there is no state funding for system development or uncompensated trauma care.

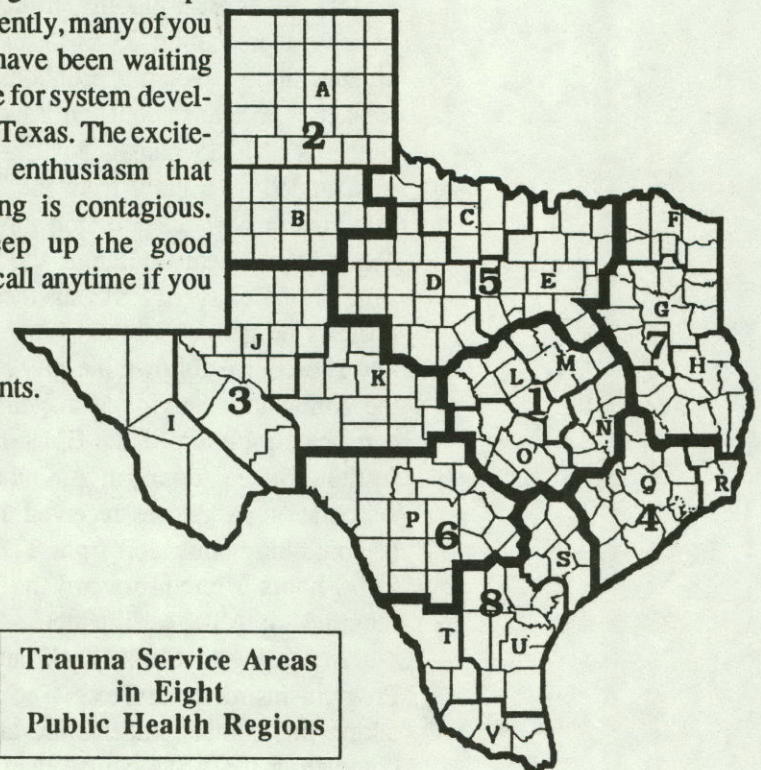
To my delight, some areas are coming to the party early! I attended a meeting in Irving on December 3 hosted by the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council. Thirty health care providers attended including hospitals, EMS personnel, physicians, and interested organizations. The purpose of the gathering was to begin preliminary discussions regarding regional advisory council formation and system development in Trauma Service Area E. Trauma Service Area C, the Wichita Falls area, has already had such preliminary discussions and plans to meet in January to officially organize their regional advisory council. Additionally, I have received inquiries from three other areas about regional advisory council formation and from five hospitals wanting trauma facility designation applications.

The interesting thing about all this is that we just recently ended the official comment period of the rules. Texas Trauma Advisory Committee met on November 18 to address

the comments received to that point, and to recommend a few minor changes to the rules. The committee also discussed future plans; their efforts will likely be toward acquiring state funding.

We plan to go back to the Texas Board of Health on January 25, 1992, to ask for final adoption of the EMS/trauma system rules. If adopted, the rules will be published once again in the *Texas Register* and this publication. We expect the rules to then be final around March 1, 1992. It is at that point that we will begin official implementation.

Apparently, many of you out there have been waiting a long time for system development in Texas. The excitement and enthusiasm that I am seeing is contagious. Please keep up the good work and call anytime if you have questions or comments.



Kathryn Perkins is administrator of the Bureau's EMS/Trauma Systems Development Program. Contact her at (512) 458-7550.

Texas Tech hosts EMS management training for 23 services

By Linda Wolfe

Recognizing the need for trained and motivated managers in EMS, *Basic EMS Management* was the theme of a recently completed course sponsored by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, South Plains Emergency Medical Services, and Panhandle Emergency Medical Services System. Over an 8-month period, 54 students representing 23 EMS and fire organizations traveled to Lubbock on weekends to learn about the issues and concerns of EMS management. The course was funded by a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation through the Texas Department of Health and the Bureau of Emergency Management's Local Projects program.

The course follows the guidelines of the Ambulance Service Management certificate program of the EMS Training Institute of the American Ambulance Association. Attendees received 100 hours of continuing education from TDH, as well as 90 hours of credit toward the 170 hours required for ASM certification.

According to Chris Black, an EMS Program instructor at Texas Tech, "By taking this course, students are closer to completing the ASM course than anyone else in the nation." In addition, having

received the 90 hours of ASM credit, students now may participate in an internship program offered by the EMS-MTI, which allows participants to work with a major EMS provider for up to 6 weeks in a management intern position.

Bryan Stewart, a paramedic with Shallowater Volunteer EMS attended the course. He said, "The course was very interesting, especially the material on personnel, fleet maintenance, and billing procedures. Overall, it's a great course that everyone should take." As a result, Stewart said, "We found out we weren't in compliance with correct billing procedures and rectified that. We reorganized our system to spread the work around, so the president isn't doing everything and drowning in a sea of paperwork. We got lots of new ideas from the policies and procedures manual they distributed, and we're doing a lot more quality assurance now."

Other students were also pleased with the course. "I feel this is something we have needed for a long time." "I have learned a lot in the past 7 months and feel honored to have attended the first management course in this area." "This course should be open to all EMS people across the State."

Organizations whose personnel attended the training included Abernathy EMS, Aerocare, Cochran County EMS, Crosbyton EMS, Emergicare, Fritch EMS, Idalou EMS, Levelland EMS, Littlefield EMS, Lone Star EMS, Lovington (New Mexico) Fire Department, Lubbock EMS, Newton First Responders, Ralls EMS, River City Fire Department, Seagraves EMS, Shallowater EMS, Slaton EMS, Texas

Department of Health, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, Titus County EMS, Waterwood EMS and Wolfforth EMS.

Faculty from across Texas and the nation taught sessions on subjects such as finance, risk management, quality assurance, personnel, supervision, and public relations.

Faculty member Dennis Brodigan,

Basic EMS Management

The course objective is to provide Emergency Medical Technicians, both career and volunteer, with a basic knowledge of the issues and concerns of Emergency Medical Service management and to prepare them for advancement into supervisory and managerial positions. This course also is designed to provide current supervisors and managers of Emergency Medical Services with additional knowledge and tools to enable them to better perform their jobs.

The 100-hour course covered these topics:

Human Resources How to manage people; personnel recruiting, screening and selection, orientation, and retention; policies and procedures; compensation; benefits; and CISD.

Finance How to attend to important financial details, accounting, budgeting and budget control, capital equipment budgeting, purchasing and inventory control, accounts payable and receivable management, third party management, and alternative revenue sources.

Operations Management How to design, monitor, and manage an EMS system; unit hour analysis; scheduling; communications and dispatch; equipment management; systems design; disaster planning and response; accreditation; and fleet maintenance.

Risk Management How to prevent accidents and reduce loss, the role of management in reducing risk, vehicle operation, infection

control, safety committees, insurance purchasing, medico-legal issues, and professional persuasion.

Quality Assurance and Personnel Development How to implement and maintain quality assurance, continuing education, and staff development programs.

Supervision and Leadership How to effectively lead and supervise those with whom you work, general management theory, participative management, leadership skills building, executive decision making, interpersonal communication, personnel motivation, performance appraisal techniques, personnel conflict resolution, and personnel discipline.

Public/Government Relations How to keep the public and governmental entities aware of your performance through customer service, community service, governmental relations, and media relations.

EMS Manager for Rural/Metro Corporation in Knoxville, Tennessee, taught the sessions on Human Resources Management. He stated that the course "is very worthwhile. EMS is a very young industry as compared to other parts of the health care industry. EMTs and paramedics work their way up from the street with no formal training in management; other industries have people with college degrees in business administration."

When asked for some tips on personnel recruiting, Brodigan replied, "The most important purpose of recruiting is to ensure that you're recruiting the right person for the right job. You must be sure that the person is suited for the environment in which he or she will perform. This job doesn't suit everyone, even if they are certified by the state."

Brodigan continued, "You must have a comprehensive management plan and process in place before you begin recruiting. You need to target specific institutions, people, and areas for potential employees. Critical are the application and screening process and the personal interview. For instance, check with previous employers, the state regarding certification, driving records, and drug/alcohol screening. Interviews need to be specific to what you're looking for. You may have more than one person in on the interview process, looking for specific things. For instance, have your fleet manager help interview someone who may be doing a lot of driving about their driving habits."

Brodigan concluded, "With volunteer agencies, you must be creative. Recruiting people, keeping them, and disciplining them are limited only by the imagination of the Board of Directors."

Other faculty included Chris Alexander, KAMC Action News, Lubbock; Terry Bavousett, Texas Department of Health, Canyon; Dennis Brodigan, Rural/Metro Corporation, Knoxville, Tennessee; Neil Coker and Chris Black, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, Lubbock; James B. Davis, Ed.D, West Texas State University, Canyon; Doak Enabnit, Lub-

bock EMS, Lubbock; Diane Hitt, R.N., University Medical Center, Lubbock; Ron Hiner, Ph.D, West Texas State University, Canyon; Mike Kelly, SECOMERICA, Newport Beach, California; Doug Key and Steve Athey, MEDSTAR, Fort Worth; Darvin Morrison, J.D., EMT-P, Lubbock; Robert Riley, LIFEFLEET, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and F.E. Shaheen, Medical Systems, Inc., Levelland.

Local Projects Coordinator Rhonda Blackmore, who also attended the course said, "It's been a long time coming for management training specifically geared toward EMS to be available and reasonably priced. The sessions were informative and pertinent to rural and urban, paid and volunteer systems. Especially informative to me were the ones on human resources and finance."

Texas Tech currently is investigating the possibility of offering the course on a regional basis throughout Texas or by satellite using the Texas Tech MedNet transmission facilities. According to Black, plans are not finalized at this time. The ambulance association has committed funding for video taping and editing of the course, and a search is on for funding of satellite time. The course may eventually be available on video tapes for checkout. The next course tentatively is planned for September 1992, with the site to be determined.

For more information on the Texas Tech University Health Science Center EMS management program, contact Chris Black at (806) 743-3218.

Other sources of EMS-specific management training are Fitch & Associates, Inc., 303 Marshall Road, Box 170, Platte City, MO 64079-0170, and the American Ambulance Association Management Training Institute, Tracy Skeen, Training Committee Chair, (503) 239-4399 or Kathy Nevins, 1-800-523-4447.

Thanks to the Exhibitors of the 1991 Texas EMS Conference

3 M Traffic Control Systems
A. A. Emergency Sales & Service
Advanced Life Support Medical
American Academy Orthopaedic
Amoco Production Company
Armstrong Medical Industries, Inc.
Austin Convention Bureau
Austin EMS
Austin Gateway
Austin Rape Crisis Center
Ballinger Health Care Products
Bashaw Medical, Inc.
Bound Tree Corporation
Brady Company
California Medical Products, Inc.
Camco Manufacturers Reps
Collins Ambulance Sales & Service
Cowman & Associates
Critical Care Products
Dallas/Fort Worth Airport
Dixie USA, Inc.
Dyna Med
El Paso EMS
Emergency Consultants
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EMS Trauma Registry, TDH
Excellence, Inc.
FastServ
Ferno
First Response, Inc.
Fisher Sportswear
Frazer, Inc.
Geis Alvarado & Associates
Kidney Health Care, TDH
Kneupper Fire & Rescue Equipment
Laerdal Medical Corporation
Life Design Systems, Inc.
Life Safety Services

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Medical Plastics Laboratory, Inc.
Medical Priority Consultants, Inc.
Mid South Ambulance, Inc.
Mosby-Year Book, Inc.
Panther Pacific, Inc.
Physio Control
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Powerphone
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Pro-Med, Inc.
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RAM Software Systems, Inc.
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S & P Communications
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Spacelabs, Inc.
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Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Texas Ladies of Fire
TSEMT
Troll Safety and Rescue Equipment
Volunteer Firemen's Insurance of Texas
Warantek
Whelen Engineering Company
Zoll Medical Corporation

Did You Read...

By Alana S. Mallard

Gunshots replace motor vehicle crashes as leading cause of injury deaths in Texas

In 1990 in Texas 3,443 people died of gunshot wounds and 3,309 died of motor vehicle crashes.

For the first time since Texas Department of Health began keeping automated death statistics, deaths from gunshots outnumbered deaths from motor vehicle crashes. According to department researchers David F. Zane, Mary Jo Preece, Dr. Patti J. Patterson, and Dr. Erik K. Svenkerud, in 1990 in Texas 3,443 people died of gunshot wounds and 3,309 died of motor vehicle crashes.

Zane, Preece, Patterson, and Svenkerud studied Texas vital statistics for firearm-related deaths over a six-year period, from 1985 through 1990, when a total of 19,184 Texans died of gunshots. Four hundred eight of the deaths were children under the age of 15, and individuals aged 25 to 34 died at the rate of 28.9 per 100,000 population, the highest death rate for any age group.

The study showed that 48 percent of firearm deaths were suicides, 45 percent were assaults, and that the elderly over 65 years of age committed suicide at a higher rate than any other age group, 18.4 per 100,000 population.

Highway deaths nationwide expected to hit 30-year low in 1991

In 1991 the number of people killed nationwide in traffic crashes is expected to be no more than 41,350, according to an Associated Press story released Decem-

ber 17 in Washington, DC. If the estimated number of 1991 deaths holds true, it will be the lowest highway death count in 30 years.

In 1990 a total of 44,529 people died in motor vehicle crashes in this country, and in 1989 45,582 were killed in crashes, according to statistics kept by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

A spokesperson for the federal agency credited state and federal safety campaigns, laws raising the drinking age to 21, speed and alcohol enforcement, motorcycle helmet laws, and increased safety belt use.

Female workers more likely to be homicide victims

A study conducted between 1980 and 1985 showed that 42 percent of the work-related deaths suffered by women in this country were homicides. Only 12 percent of on-the-job fatalities among men were murders.

Experts with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health studied work-related deaths and determined that if a woman is going to die from an injury at work, she will probably be murdered.

The study revealed that murders of women were generally the result of a crime such as robbery and involved the exchange of money and night employment. In the six-year study, 41 percent of the female murder victims worked in retail and 20 percent worked in service industries.

42 percent of the work-related deaths suffered by women in this country were homicides.

For 1990-91, the Texas Department of Transportation contracted with the Texas Department of Health and the Bureau of Emergency Management to fund EMS Local Projects with an emphasis on decreasing response and on-scene times and improving personnel and victim safety. Of the 21 requests for

Fourteen EMS local projects complete first year of grant funding

assistance we received, which totaled \$487,000, we funded 14 projects in the fiscal year that ended August 31, 1991. These diverse projects included:

Lone Star-Jenkins EMS \$24,000 to hire and train EMS manager to develop an EMS management plan for the area, conduct community education presentations, and raise funds for the service.

City of Newton \$36,000 to develop and implement a First Responder program.

Palo Pinto General Hospital \$30,000 to

develop and expand in-house EMS management training for rural EMS providers.

Uvalde EMS \$14,000 to hire an officer manager responsible for developing and implementing a continuing education program.

South Plains EMS, Incorporated \$15,154 to complete three projects: DWI Awareness program for high school and college students; EMS Management Training for rural EMS providers; Critical Incident

By Rhonda S. Blackmore

Stress Debriefing teams.

EMS of Nueces Canyon \$1,475 to conduct a Basic Trauma Life Support class for 30 rural EMS providers.

Lifeline EMS in Wichita Falls and Windthorst VFD \$5,000 to pay registration for individuals to attend classes to upgrade their training to provide Advanced Life Support and to attend initial training and instructor training for several specialized EMS related courses.

West Volunteer Ambulance Association \$3,500 to develop and implement a continuing education program.

Bryan Fire Department \$2,000 to develop and implement a public education program and have personnel attend BTLs course.

Bertram Volunteer EMS \$1,000 to conduct an auto extrication class.

Two other funded projects provided Advanced Trauma Life Support training for 30 rural physicians and 21 BTLs courses, which trained 363 individuals.

Typical problems we identified through monitoring the projects included inadequate recordkeeping, low attendance at several of the training sessions, and misunderstanding of contract requirements.

For the funding year that ends August 31, 1992, we received 79 proposals, which are currently being reviewed. Notifications will probably be made to successful applicants in January.

An additional \$250,000 is available for FY93, the year that begins September 1, 1992. Proposal packets will be available April 1 and a notice will be posted in the *Texas Register*. The form on page 3 can be completed and returned to our office if you are interested in obtaining a proposal packet.

Rhonda Blackmore is a paramedic and coordinator of the Bureau's EMS Local Projects Grant Program.

How to ask for money; grant writing for EMS

An eight-hour training course sponsored by the Texas Department of Health and the University of Texas is scheduled in March. The course will emphasize various aspects of grant proposal development. Call Rhonda Blackmore (512) 458-7550, Bureau of Emergency Management, for more information.

Austin's Sally Muir sweeps the 1991 photo contest with closeups of EMS personnel

With Judy Dwyer's help, James Page makes the final selection of Grand Prize photos.



SALLY F. MUIR OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN EMS Department was a Grand Prize photograph winner and winner of three Honorable Mention photographs in the recent "Team That Cares" EMS photo contest judged during Texas EMS Conference '91. Muir entered six color photos in the contest and

all but one of the photos featured closeup shots of medics' faces as they cared for their patients.

Other Grand Prize photographs were taken by Celeste Garcia of Victoria, and Leigh Renai Rudy of Decatur. The three women each won \$100 for their winning photos.

Fifteen Honorable Mention photos were also chosen by the six judges who considered not only the emotional appeal of each photo but the depiction of appropriate patient care and rescuer protection. Judges included TEMSAC member Joe Tyson; Houston EMS' Dr. Paul Pepe; EMS Division Director Pam West; Public Health Region 4 EMS manager Wayne Morris; our Australian visitor, Chris Patrick of New South Wales EMS; and the conference Keynote Speaker, James O. Page, publisher of *JEMS* magazine. Judy Dwyer matted the photos and coordinated the judging for the contest.

Atlanta Fire Chief Waylon Jackson entered a photo taken by the *Citizens Journal* newspaper in Atlanta, Texas, which won the People's Choice award. The photo was also awarded an Honorable Mention by the panel of judges. This is the first year the contest has had a People's Choice category, and more than 300 hundred conference participants voted for their favorites.

Honorable Mention photographs were



The Bureau's Cindy Ochoa (left) looks at some of the 104 entries in the 1991 EMS photo contest.

Board of Health allows mandatory testing of patients in suspected exposure cases

The Texas Board of Health adopted Communicable Disease Rule 97.22 on August 24, 1991, to allow the mandatory testing of individuals who may have exposed EMS, fire, law enforcement, or correctional personnel to certain reportable communicable diseases. Testing must be requested of the local designated health official within 72 hours of the expected exposure.

In the event the patient suspected of the exposure refuses to be tested or to provide test results, the emergency worker can request referral of the case to District Court, although if the Court disallows

testing the emergency worker must pay court costs.

In cases where mandatory testing is approved, the emergency worker and the patient suspected of exposing the worker will receive appropriate counseling.

Copies of Communicable Disease Rule 97.22 are available from Texas Department of Health, Bureau of HIV and STD Control, (512) 458-7463, or from Paul Tabor, Bureau of Emergency Management, 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756, (512) 458-7550.

- Paul Tabor

People's Choice Award

also taken by Robert A. Stewart of New Braunfels, Windcrest Volunteer Fire Department in San Antonio, Leslie Renken of Odessa, Mary J. Rapes of Houston, Gary Don Abernathy of Wichita Falls, Mark McClendon of Uvalde, Jenny Borchardt of Frisco, Tom Rinard of Waco, Fred Sadowski of Texarkana, Annelies Schlicker of New Braunfels, and Jim Winn of Fort Worth.

Photographers entered 104 photos this year, more than any other year. Many of the entries, including those not chosen as winners, will be featured in issues of the *Texas EMS Messenger* and in brochures and posters produced by the Bureau of Emergency Management. Each winner received a ribbon and an award certificate from the Bureau.

It is never too early to take photos for the 1992 contest. The theme for the photo contest and for 1992 EMS Week is "EMS - It Starts With You."

- Alana S. Mallard



The information in this section is intended to provide public notice of disciplinary action by the Texas Department of Health and the Bureau of Emergency Management and is not intended to reflect the specific findings of either entity. This information may not reflect any number of factors including, but not limited to, the severity of harm to a patient, any mitigating factors, or a certificant's disciplinary history. This listing is not intended as a guide to the level of sanctions appropriate for a particular act of misconduct.

For information, contact the Bureau's Chief Investigator Vic Dwyer at (512) 458-7550.

Barnett, Barney, Coppell, Texas. Six-month suspension of EMT-Paramedic certification effective August 16, 1991. EMS rule 157.51, failure to administer medications and/or treatments in a responsible manner in accordance with medical director's orders or protocols.

* Charanza, Paula, Wallis, Texas. Cancellation of EMS certification. EMS rule 157.51, conviction of felony while certified and interference with EMS personnel.

* Felps, Sam Bob, Menard, Texas. Denial of EMT certification; hearing held. EMS rule 157.44, felon applying for certification.

Flores, Mario Oscar (Jenkins), Houston, Texas. Denial of certification; no hearing requested. EMS rule 157.44, felon applying for certification.

Freeport Fire Department, Freeport, Texas. Eighteen-month probation of provider license effective through May, 1993. Health and Safety Code, Chapter 773.050, failure to staff emergency medical services vehicle with at least two certified personnel.

Handy, Juan Jose, Harlingen, Texas. Six-month probation of EMT-Paramedic certification effective August 31, 1991. EMS rule 157.51, failure to list misdemeanor conviction on certification application.

* Koerth, Melvin Lee, Iowa Park, Texas. Suspension of EMT certification for 12 months through December, 1992. EMS rule 157.51, failure to report conviction on certification application.

* Lively, Lois G., El Dorado, Texas. Revocation of EMT-Intermediate certification. EMS rule 157.51, obtaining certification through misrepresentation of ambulance internship.

* Nolte, Randy, Winters, Texas. Revocation of EMT-Paramedic certification. EMS rule 157.51, convicted of felony while certified.

Salerno, Larry, Houston, Texas. Denial of certification; Bureau action upheld in requested hearing. EMS rule 157.44, felon applying for certification.

Tatum, Charles H., Eastland, Texas. Thirty days jail term, probated for one year, \$50 fine. Health and Safety Code, Chapter 773.064, criminal penalties, misrepresentation of EMT certification.

Watkins, Thomas A. Jr., Denton, Texas. Denial of certification; Bureau action upheld in requested hearing. EMS rule 157.44, felon applying for certification.

* Young, Michael, San Angelo, Texas. Six-month probation of Course Coordinator certification through May, 1992. EMS rule 157.51, assisting another to gain certification through misrepresentation.

* These listings are new this issue.

Denials and revocations will be printed in three consecutive issues. Suspensions and probated suspensions will be printed until suspension or probation expires.

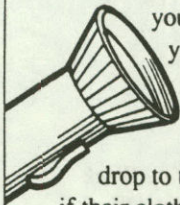
On the Safety Circuit

Plan Your Escape

Fire Can Happen Any Time!

And if it does, every second counts. Will you and your family know what to do?

■ Practice an escape plan from each room in the house. Feel your way out with your eyes closed.



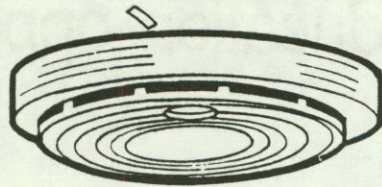
■ Teach your family to stop, drop to the ground and roll if their clothes catch fire.

■ Keep the fire department's number by the phone. By your bed, have a flashlight to help you see and a whistle to alert your family.

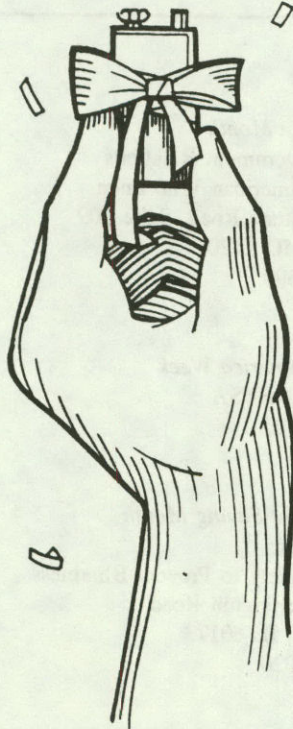
■ Install smoke detectors on every level of your house. Test them monthly, and change the batteries at least once a year.



Remember, fire can happen any time, so make plans for a surprise visit!



Wish Your Smoke Detector A Happy Birthday



Smoke detectors have birthdays too—and new batteries are the best present you can give them. Test your smoke detectors' batteries once a month and replace batteries at least once a year.

A message from the U.S. Fire Administration



Texas EMS

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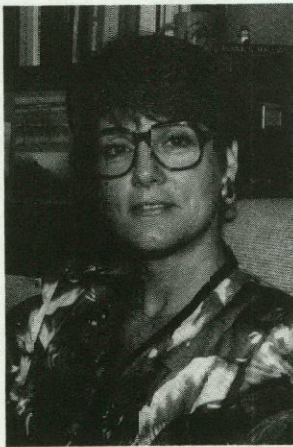
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By Alana S. Mallard
Editor

1992 safety observance periods offer public education opportunities for EMS

Every year the National Safety Council sponsors several safety-related promotions that seem to be tailor-made for an EMS injury prevention talk to a school, a parent group, or a community organization. Many of the special "weeks" have free packets and materials such as sample newspaper articles, letters to the editor,

and mayors' proclamations.

You will make any talk or article on injury prevention more powerful if you do these things: Get your audience's attention with statistics, tell someone's personal story, and give a call to action.

Call me at (512) 458-7550 if I can help you.

February 14-16

National Safety Sabbath
Jeff Nickel
National Safety Council
444 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 527-4800, ext. 7201

February 10-15

National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week
Rita Weiss
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW (NTS-11)
Washington, DC 20590
(202) 366-2705

March 15-21

National Poison Prevention Week
Poison Prevention Week Council
5401 Westbard Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20013
(301) 492-6580

April 12-18

National Building Safety Week
Marla McIntyre
National Conference of States on Building Codes & Standards
481 Carlisle Drive
Herndon, VA 22070
(703) 437-0100

May

National Bike Month
Director Government Relations
League of American Wheelmen
6707 Whitestone Road, Suite 209
Baltimore, MD 21207
(301) 944-3399

May 18-25

Buckle Up America Week
Rita Weiss, NHTSA
(202) 366-2705

May

National Sight Saving Month
Debra J. Kern
National Society to Prevent Blindness
500 East Remington Road
Schaumburg, IL 60173
(708) 843-2020

June 7-13

National Safe Boating Week
Lisa Grady
National Safety Council
(312) 527-4800, ext. 8706

June 7-13

National Safety Week
Tricia Gadsby
American Society of Safety Engineers
1800 East Oakton
Des Plaines, IL 60018-2187
(708) 692-4121, ext. 11

September 20-26

National Farm Safety Week
Jack Burke
National Safety Council
(312) 527-4800, ext. 7602

October 18-24

National School Bus Safety Week
National School Bus Safety Week
P.O. Box 2639
Springfield, VA 22152

October

National Garage Door Safety Month
Lisa Grady
National Safety Council
(312) 527-4800, ext. 8706

October 4-10

National Fire Prevention Week
National Fire Prevention Association
Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 0226
1-800-344-3555

December 6-12

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week
Elizabeth Hendrichs
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, S.W., (NTS-11)
Washington, D.C. 20590
(202) 366-2705

Around The State

February 14, 1992, Texas Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. 9:00 am, Red Lion Hotel. Austin, TX. Contact Harold Broadbent at 512/458-7550.

February 17-19, 1992, Hermann Life Flight Emergency Care Symposium. Adam's Mark Hotel. Houston, TX. Contact Michelle Ferguson 713/793-5590.

March 11-14, 1992, JEMS 10th EMS Today Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 619/431-8088.

April 24-25, 1992, Trauma-The Twentieth Century Epidemic: Critical Decisions - Are We Thinking? Colorado Springs, CO. 719/636-8800.

June 10-11, 1992, Tenth Annual Emergency Care Update. Sponsored by CareFlite Dallas. Arlington, Tx. Hospital and pre-hospital personnel. Robin Beardsley 817/882-4010, 1-800-772-5840 or Louann McGrath 214/944-8143.

Executive Director: Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority, Fort Worth, TX. Manage business operations. \$50,000 to \$75,000, depending upon qualifications. E.O.E. Send resume before January 15 to Attn: William Garrison, Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority, 3113 South University Drive, Suite 500, Fort Worth, TX 76109.

District Supervisor: Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice, EMS Division. Paramedic with at least one year supervisory exp. Prefer strong administrative skills. Scheduling, evaluations, training, record keeping. Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice, Box 99 Personnel Annex, Huntsville, TX 77342-0099. 409/291-4029.

Paramedics: Galveston EMS. 9-1-1 MICU. Advanced protocols. \$20,220 after 6 mo. for EMT-P with experience. S. Atwell, PO Box 838, Galveston, TX 77553. 409/766-2144.

Paramedic: Certified as paramedic at least 5 years. Experience in field of ALS or MICU. State certified instructor preferred. Resume: Edinburg EMS, Noe Ramon, 720 N 12th, Edinburg, TX 78539.

State EMS Director: State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, 450 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho 83720. 208/334-5994.

EMS Administrative Director: Operational management of ALS service, Orange County, TX. Interaction with board of directors, healthcare and public organizations. Communication/marketing skills needed. Accomplishments, salary history and professional experience to Jamiel Yamen, Fitch & Assoc., 303 Marshall Rd., Box 170, Platte City, MO 64078-0170. 816/431-2600. (12)

EMT-I/Paramedic: TX Dept. of Corrections. \$1622/mo. Texas certification EMT-I/Paramedic. TDC, Box 99, Personnel, Huntsville, TX 77342. 409/294-2755.

Executive Director: Volunteer EMS in Harris County, Texas. Manage operations. \$25K(+). Resume (mark confidential) E. Ortega, P.O. Box 2521, 3752, Houston, TX 77252-2521.

EMTs: All levels of EMS certification in all areas of the state. Tech-Star, P.O. Box 7, Stamford, TX 79553, 915/773-5691.

Job Opening: Hi-Tech Stat Ambulance service. Immediate part-time/full-time openings for quality drivers holding EMS certification. Jim Becka, 713/790-9002.

Flight nurses and paramedics: Immediate opening for part-time, on-call, experienced Flight Medics in Houston, Dallas and Austin. ACLS certified; 2 years critical care/ICU/CCU experience; bilingual; previous flight experience. \$18-\$25/hour. Resume: Mark Monte Mitchell, MD, Air Ambulance America, P.O. Box 4051, Austin, TX 78765.

Paramedics: Hi-Tech Stat Ambulance service. Full-time

openings on 24-hour units. ER & fluid pump experience helpful. \$20K starting. Jim Becka, 713/790-9002.

Director: Rural south Texas area. Managerial experience preferred. Strong interpersonal skills essential. Send resume to: Administration, 1400 S. St. Marys, Falfurrias, TX 78355.

Instructor/Coordinator: Bachelors degree preferred. National- and state-certified paramedic; ACLS; EMS coordinator and instructor certification. Contact Alfredo C. Zamora, Texas Southmost College, Personnel Director, 80 Fort Brown, Brownsville, TX 78520.

Instructor: Health occupations class for Los Fresnos High School Juniors/Seniors. Must be licensed health care professional. Bachelor degree required. Some teaching experience is preferred. Contact Alfredo C. Zamora, Texas Southmost College, Personnel Director, 80 Fort Brown, Brownsville, TX 78520.

EMS Positions: EMS Employment Newsletter. Lists jobs in CA, TX, OH, partial list in other states. \$7 for 3 issues. PO Box 51924, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. (12)

EMS Positions: Job opportunities - for current listings send \$2.75 to Texas Employment for Emergency Medical Services (TEEMS), PO Box 540911, Grand Prairie, TX 75054-0911.

EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P: Full-time employment, salary plus benefits. 915/943-2574 for applications.

Paramedic: Mature person to work a hospital-based EMS system. Good pay and benefits. Contact Mike Gilbert, Fisher County Hospital, Rotan, TX. 915/735-2256. (12)

For Sale: 1984 Ford Type I. Excellent condition. 409/793-4900. \$15,000.

For Sale: 1977 Dodge Type II. New transmission. Excellent condition. Some equipment. \$6,500. 817/592-2651. Park Ambulance. (1)

For Sale: 1986 Collins Type II ambulance. 1988 and 1989 Wheeled Coach Type II ambulances with ALS cabinets. Debra or Rick 214/644-1444.

For Sale: 1984 Chevrolet Atlantic Type I Modular Ambulance, \$12,000; 1981 Ford EVF Type II, \$8,000; 1979 Ford Prestige Type II, \$6,000; All three units have new engines. Must sell. Mike 915/837-7471/leave message.

For Sale: 1984 Type I walk-through Wheeled Coach. 1985 Type II van Wheeled Coach. Both units are offered with all BLS and ALS equipment. 512/786-3873.

For Sale: Manikin, one reconditioned recording Resuscitator. List \$1885 - your price \$800. Parts and supplies also available. Devin Zaring, Manikin Repair Center. 713/484-8382.

For Sale: 1987 Ford Type I Select ambulance. New paint, good condition. David Cleveland. 409/294-0949.

For Sale: 1985 Dodge Type I modular ambulance. New motor/transmission. Jerry Woods funeral home. \$9,200/negotiable. Nocona, TX. 817/825-3285.

For Sale: 1978 Dodge Ambulance. Tip-top shape. Fully equipped. 903/968-6419 or John Allen (903) 968-2568.

For Sale: 1985 Wheeled Coach Type I walk through, Jon Neel, 409/345-2390. (12)

For Sale: Basic paramedic pants. All sizes available. Panther Pacific. PO Box 176, Lewisville, TX 75067. 214/219-0581.

For Sale: Motorola Max Trac 300. 16 channel, scanning, UHF radio, currently programmed with all med channels. \$500. 512/631-7962.

For Sale: 100-watt GE Master II 8 channel capacity VHF high band; Federal model 11 overhead lights; Ed Marchant. 512/465-2049.

Bobbie Broadbent - budgets, (volley)balls, and bears are a few of her favorite things



To help build the EMS monument, conference registrants bought 25th birthday souvenirs from (left to right) Cindy Ochoa, Bobbie Broadbent and Jena Cherry.

our first, and very popular and successful, volleyball tournament in 1988. Those little teddy bears with the tiny t-shirts that we had at this year's conference were another of Bobbie's excellent ideas. "People will love them," she told me when we were ordering mugs and t-shirts for the conference. And she was right. Bobbie has already started campaigning to include a volleyball tournament in our plans for the 1992 EMS conference.

As the Bureau of Emergency Management's Chief Accountant (a job she has had for ten years), Bobbie has fiscal responsibility for more than \$2,000,000 every year. Most of Bobbie's accounting work is with Bureau program administrators, although if you have been a member of TEMSAC or TTAC or any one of several committees and groups the Bureau has called together over the years, Bobbie has probably explained the State travel reimbursement process to you.

"I love working with budgets," Bobbie said. "If I had my way, I'd be up here 24 hours a day. Well, if I didn't have a family, I'd be up here," she added. Bobbie's family includes the EMS Division's Harold Broadbent, her husband, who makes sure she doesn't spend 24 hours a day on Bureau budgets. After all, she needs to spend time with two-year-old granddaughter Mandi and brand-new grandson Zachary. Bobbie and Harold go rough camping as often as they can to Georgetown and the Texas coast. They have five grown children. Bobbie also

Not many Chief Accountants also organize volleyball tournaments, answer telephones, and sell little teddy bears as part of their job description, but Bobbie Broadbent does.

The volleyball and teddy bears were part of Bobbie's work on the Conference Committee for our annual EMS conferences in Austin. She organized

spends time helping out as a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Department of Health Credit Union.

Bobbie's Chief Accountant duties with the Bureau's Staff Services section include supervising our receptionist, Cindy Ochoa, and occasionally Bobbie will work the front receptionist area answering telephones for the Bureau, as will her other staff members, Jena Cherry and Linda Williams. Bobbie deserves much of the credit for the cheerful, helpful way telephone calls to the Bureau are handled.

Bobbie's staff and her boss, Billy Sladek, handled registration and souvenir sales at the conference this year. Cindy and Jena have been with the Bureau for less than a year, so it was their first conference. However, Linda has been on the Conference Committee as treasurer since 1986.

"Linda and Jena and Cindy are the best crew anyone could ever want. We're like a family," Bobbie said. "They all hated for the conference to be over because they met so many real friends," she said, "and we're all looking forward to seeing everybody again next year at the conference." In the meantime, Bobbie will be directing phone calls and balancing our program budgets.

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