

# Texas EMS

M a g a z i n e



**Drunk Drivers  
Killed 1,249 In Texas  
Last Year**

## DWI ALTERNATIVES:

- ◆ ALCOHOL-FREE PARTIES
- ◆ RED RIBBON DAYS
- ◆ TEENAGER ALCOHOL AWARENESS
- ◆ SEATBELT EDUCATION

# About this issue



COVER PHOTO: It's a first! Two color photos on our cover. Jenny Borchardt took the big picture of Frisco Fire Department and Samuel Vargas of Kerrville took the tiny picture.

- 13 EMS Local Projects FY93 77 Texas towns win state and federal money *By Alana S. Mallard*
- 17 Texas EMS for Children The program's a year old *By Pauline VanMeurs*
- 18 Drunk and Drugged Driver Prevention Agencies join to produce DWI poster *By Texas Department of Transportation and Texas Department of Public Safety*
- 20 EMS Education Means DWI Prevention Drunk drivers kill 20,000 Americans every year *By Kelly D. Daigle*
- 22 What Can EMS Do? Call (512) 465-2170 to report drunk drivers *By Kelly D. Daigle*
- 28 Managing Stress Caring for yourself can lighten your load *By Cameron Brown*

## Departments

- 3 From This Side It's Conference Time *By Gene Weatherall*
- 4 EMS News *By Kelly D. Daigle*
- 8 Conference '92 Texas EMS Conference Workshops
- 25 More Conference '92 Photo Contest, Awards, Golf
- 30 Did You Read *By Paul Tabor*
- 32 Disciplinary Actions *By Vic Dwyer*
- 33 Letters Letters, Poems, Announcements, Corrections
- 34 Editor's Notes Halloween Safety Tips *By Alana S. Mallard*
- 35 Calendar *By Jan Brizendine*
- Back Page Bureau Profile: Charles English

# Texas EMS

M a g a z i n e

October 1992

Vol. 13 No. 9

Texas Department of Health

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*Put on your boots and come to Austin*

## It's Conference Time!

**I**F YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY REGISTERED for our 1992 Texas EMS Conference, now is the time. In this issue of the *Texas EMS Magazine* you will find information on nominating someone for an EMS award, entering the photo contest, and paying your registration or exhibitor fee.

We kind of joke around the office about how scary it was in 1986 when we decided to have the first Texas EMS Conference. We really did pool our pocket change to rent a post office box. And I really did cancel the conference three times because it just seemed like no one was going to register.

In 1986, 194 people came to the Texas EMS Conference and we had 12 exhibitors. The next year 250 of you came and after that, things just kind of got out of control in a really exciting way. Last year 1,200 people had a great time at our first conference in Palmer Auditorium and the Hyatt Regency.

It's an exciting time for us in the Bureau of Emergency Management, because we get to see many people during the conference that we do not see during the rest

of the year. Putting faces to names and voices on the telephone is a great experience for us.

You will be glad you attended this conference, because we will have some very special presentations. We have contracted with a video production company to reenact an EMS call that happened just before the conference last year. I think you will like it, and I hope you all come so you can see it. John Murray will talk about his trip to Russia, and about EMS in that area before the fall of the Soviet Union.

And if you are interested in preconference education, this year we have an 8-hour rappelling class, a 16-hour course coordinator class and an 8-hour instructor class, and an 8-hour BLS pediatric class. Call us if you want registration information on these preconference courses or on our famous golf tournament.

We appreciate how supportive Texas EMS has been of these state conferences over the years, and we know you will be just as happy with this one.

*See you in Austin!*

### *From This Side*

By  
GENE WEATHERALL, CHIEF  
BUREAU OF EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

Gene Weatherall and Houston's Joe Tyson give out door prizes at last year's Texas EMS Conference 25th birthday party.

# Local and Regional EMS News

## What is happening in your area?

Let us know!

Are you planning a fundraiser?

A training class?

A public education program?

Do you have new people on board?

Elected new officers?

Send your news to:

*Texas EMS Magazine*  
Alana S. Mallard, Editor  
Bureau of Emergency Management  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756-3199

## Spotlight on Region 5

Public Health Region 5 covers 50 counties in north central Texas. In 1991, the region had a population of 4,848,688, the highest population of any Public Health Region. The largest concentration of population is in Dallas county, with 1,870,753, which includes the city of Dallas.

According to September 1, 1992, data, Region 5 has 181 EMS services: 97 capable of basic life support, 22 capable of advanced, and 62 with MICU capabilities. Counties with firms who have MICU include Dallas, with 24 firms; Tarrant, with 12; Denton, with six; Ellis and Grayson, each with three; Brown, with two; and Baylor, Clay, Collin, Comanche, Cooke, Fannin, Hood, Hunt, Kaufman, Runnels, Wichita and Wise, each with one.

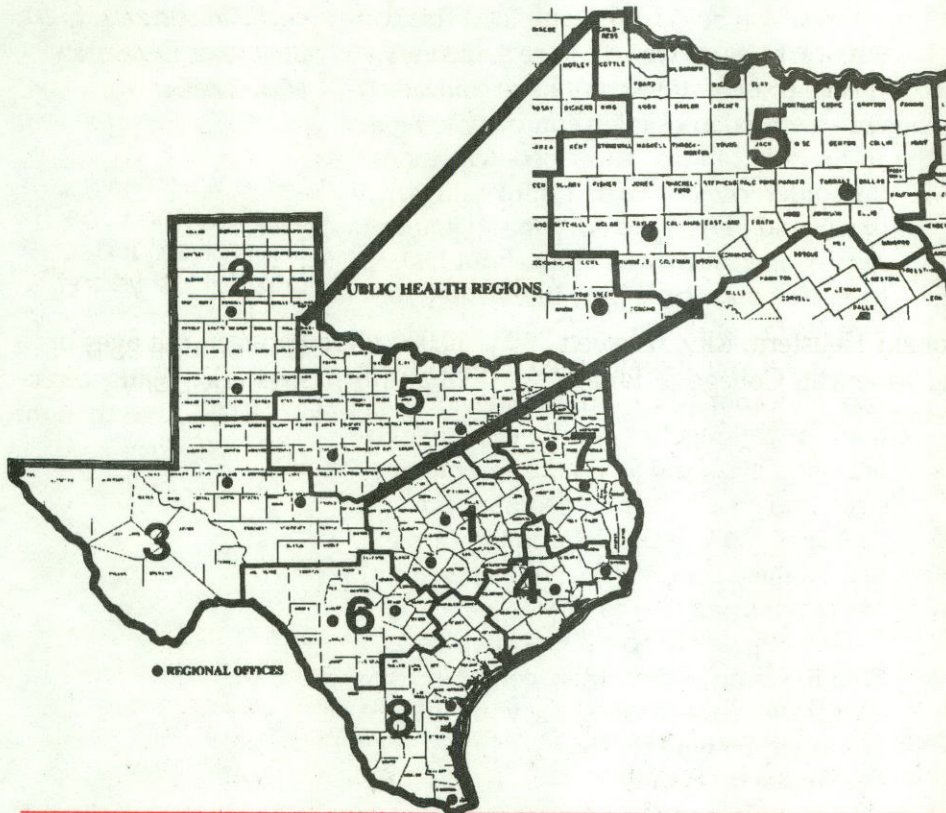
Of the 11,121 people with EMS certification in the region as of September 1, there are 2,223 ECAs, 5,907 EMTs, 442 EMT-Is, and 2,549 paramedics. The region also has 72 course coordinators, 252 instructors, and 295 examiners. C.R. Allen, MD, MPH, is the regional director and Jimmy Dunn is the EMS program administrator. Elliot Ralin is a program supervisor. Mike Hudson and Pat Elmes are program specialists. Rose White assists with administrative duties.

## Devine EMS begins work on new building

Devine EMS recently broke ground for an EMS building, a first for the volunteer service. The building is scheduled to be completed by January of 1993. The service's two ambulances, both with MICU capabilities, are now parked behind Devine City Hall.

The community paid for the metal frame through a bond election, and volunteers are doing all the finish work. The 2,560 square foot building will house three ambulances, and include an office, supply room, two full bathrooms, locker rooms, and training rooms. A second floor will be left empty to accommodate further expansion. And if the last few years is any indication of the growth, EMS will need that room soon.

"A couple of years ago we didn't even have an EMT-I. Then we implemented a continuing education plan and went from all basic to almost all EMT-Is," says Patrick Bourcier, EMS Director. "Our ambulances went from basic to MICU capable."



# Local and Regional EMS News

## Ten new EMTs join Uvalde volunteers

Ten volunteers of Uvalde EMS were honored in July at a graduation ceremony marking their completion of EMT training. The new graduates include Isabel M. Ballestros, Marie Contreras, Chris Day, Martha Garza, Allison Grigg, Chip King, Marie Quirova, Linda M. Rodriguez, J.J. Suarez, and Edgar Vinueza.

The service has 26 members: four are certified as paramedics; four as EMT-Is; 16 as EMTs; and two as ECAs. One paramedic and two EMT-Is are paid; the rest volunteer. Uvalde uses two ambulances with capability and one with ALS capability.

## Gonzales EMS receives Public Service Award

Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative presented its 1992 Public Service Award to Gonzales EMS. The service was honored for its dedication, and for providing a "much needed and valued service" to the area.

Gonzales Volunteer Emergency Service began in 1974 with modified funeral cars donated by local funeral homes. Volunteers were required to have eight hours of first aid training. Today the service owns three Type I ambulances, a one-ton rescue truck, and a Suburban equipped for first response. The service was recognized as the BLS System of the Year in Texas in 1986 and 1991, and in 1987 was awarded EMS Service of the Year award by the National Association of EMTs.



*Uvalde EMS honored 10 volunteers in July at a ceremony marking their completion of EMT training. The new volunteers are, left to right, Chris Day, J.J. Suarez, Chip King, Allison Grigg, Marie Quirova, Linda Rodriguez, Martha Garza, Marie Contrera, and Edgar Vinueza. Not pictured is Isabel Ballestros. Photo courtesy of the Uvalde Leader-News.*

The service has five paid employees: four are paramedics and one an EMT-I. In addition, EMS Director Eddie Callender says that they have about fifteen EMTs, including 5 EMT-Is. Of the service's three ambulances, two have MICU capabilities, and the other has ALS.

Gonzales EMS covers the city of Gonzales and about 80 percent of Gonzales county, which includes about 14,000. According to Callendar, they make about 850 runs a year.

## Texas physician receives national award for excellence

Ronald Hellstern, MD, received the American College of Emergency Physician's 1992 James D. Mills Outstanding Contribution to Emergency Medicine Award in July. The award is one of the highest honors the organization can give.

In nominating Hellstern, Texas ACEP wrote that Hellstern devoted nearly ten years to make ACEP a key resource for emergency medicine management information and is a "remarkable

role model." Hellstern, who practices in Dallas, is a member of the Bureau of Emergency Management's Trauma Technical Advisory Committee.

## Hereford EMS plans massive CPR training

Would the prospect of training half of your area's adult population in CPR be intimidating? That's just what Hereford EMS and Deaf Smith General Hospital plan to do over the next nine months.

"We have about 19,000 in the county and we figured about 10,000 were between the ages of 18 and 64," says L.V. Watts, director of Hereford EMS. "We thought that if we could give (training) to half of them, it would be a monumental occurrence."

If the first of the weekly Tuesday night trainings are any indication, organizers might be successful: 53 people graduated from the class on September 1.

Gene Weatherall, chief of the Bureau of Emergency Manage-

# Local and Regional EMS News

ment for the Texas Department of Health, said in a speech at the kickoff rally on August 25 that Hereford is on the "verge of national recognition and in a position to make history." Weatherall also announced that the health department has awarded Hereford EMS a grant for a computer through the EMS Local Projects grant program.

Hereford EMS has been based at Deaf Smith General Hospital for years, but Watts says they hope to have their own building by early 1993. The service, which makes about 1,100 calls a year, has three basic ambulances with MICU capabilities. The personnel roster includes six paramedics, two EMTs, and two EMTs.

## Ready Teddy jumps back into action

After taking it a little easier over the summer, our favorite bearamedic, Ready Teddy, jumped back into action as the weather cooled a bit. Ready made stops at several fairs and parades, including Fairfield, Temple, and Fredericksburg. RT also brought the safety message to children in San Antonio, Killeen, Meridian, Beaumont, Mexia, Blanco, and way out west in Marathon.

## Addressing the issue of emergency numbers

At least two 9-1-1 offices in Texas are located at what might be considered appropriate addresses. In Westlake Hills outside Austin, emergency calls are directed to 911 Westlake Drive. In El Paso, calls go to 911 N. Raynor Street.



*No, he didn't deliver this one but Ready Teddy loves babies and children. Here he holds a tiny, young admirer in Uvalde as part of EMS Week in 1992. National and Texas EMS Week is right around the corner, May 23-29, 1993.*

## Bureau of Emergency Management adds staff

Several new people have joined the Bureau of Emergency Management over the summer. Mike Polk joins the EMS Systems Development program as a communications specialist. Formerly with the radio shop at the Department of Public Safety, Polk is responsible for developing a statewide EMS communications plan. He has volunteered as an ECA for Travis County Fire Control, Travis County Rodeo, and the Special Olympics. Susan

Schubert and Chris Carver, both EMTs, work in Disaster Response, training emergency personnel in hazmat, radiological materials, and START. Carver worked with the Palestine Fire Department and CareFlight in Dallas, and was an intern in the Dallas Fire Department. Schubert volunteered with Johnson City EMS.

Terry McCormack, a former emergency nurse at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, joins the EMS for Children program as the education coordinator. And Jeff Jarvis, a paramedic, came on board the Certification program to review databases for EMS exams. Jarvis received a bachelor's degree in at Texas A&M, and a master's degree in EMS from New York Medical College. Along the way, he worked as a paramedic in New York City, Connecticut, and Williamson County, Texas.

## Local groups work to make EMS Week a success

Believe it or not, National and Texas EMS Week is right around the corner, May 23-29, 1993. Here are some ideas for activities for the week, taken from reports sent in for EMS Week 1992:

The El Campo EMS ambulance and crew visited a school to educate the students there about emergencies and how to use the 9-1-1 system. Crews also gave tours of the ambulance and Ready Teddy participated in a parade, where he and some friends gave Ready Teddy stickers and coloring books to kids.

# Local and Regional EMS News

In Alto, the City Council designated May 10-16 as EMS Week and the *Cherokeean/Herald* in Rusk published a long article about what to do in an emergency. The Alto Emergency Ambulance Service crews distributed information on when to call an ambulance.

The Sweeny Volunteer Fire Department visited schools and other places where citizens gathered to educate the public on how to use the local EMS system. The fire department held an open house to give tours of the station, and offered free blood pressure checks. Free CPR classes were also offered to the public that week.

## Longtime course coordinator dies after lengthy illness

Nancy Hare, a longtime course coordinator in Region 6, died August 17 after a lengthy illness. She was 49.

Hare was a member of New Braunfels Fire Department and a volunteer with Canyon Lake EMS. She was also active in the Texas Association of EMTs and the Wilderness Rescue Program at Garner State Park.

"Nancy was one of those people who always went out of her way to help others, especially in the area of EMS training," said Lee Sweeten, EMS program administrator for Region 6. "She will be greatly missed throughout the region."

Memorials may be made to Canyon Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Canyon Lake Volunteer EMS, or the New Braunfels Fire Fighters Association.



*The Texas Board of Health honored the North Texas Regional Advisory Council in August for organizing the state's first council to oversee the creation of a regional trauma system. The council, which includes several representatives from EMS, will plan a trauma system for 11 counties in North Texas. Attending the board meeting, left to right, were Woody Kuykendahl, trauma nurse coordinator of Wichita General Hospital; Texas Health Commissioner Dr. David Smith; Dr. Kevin Thomas, director of trauma at Bethania Regional Medical Center; Debra Walker, trauma nurse coordinator at Bethania; and Mike Harmon, director of Lifeline EMS in Wichita Falls.*

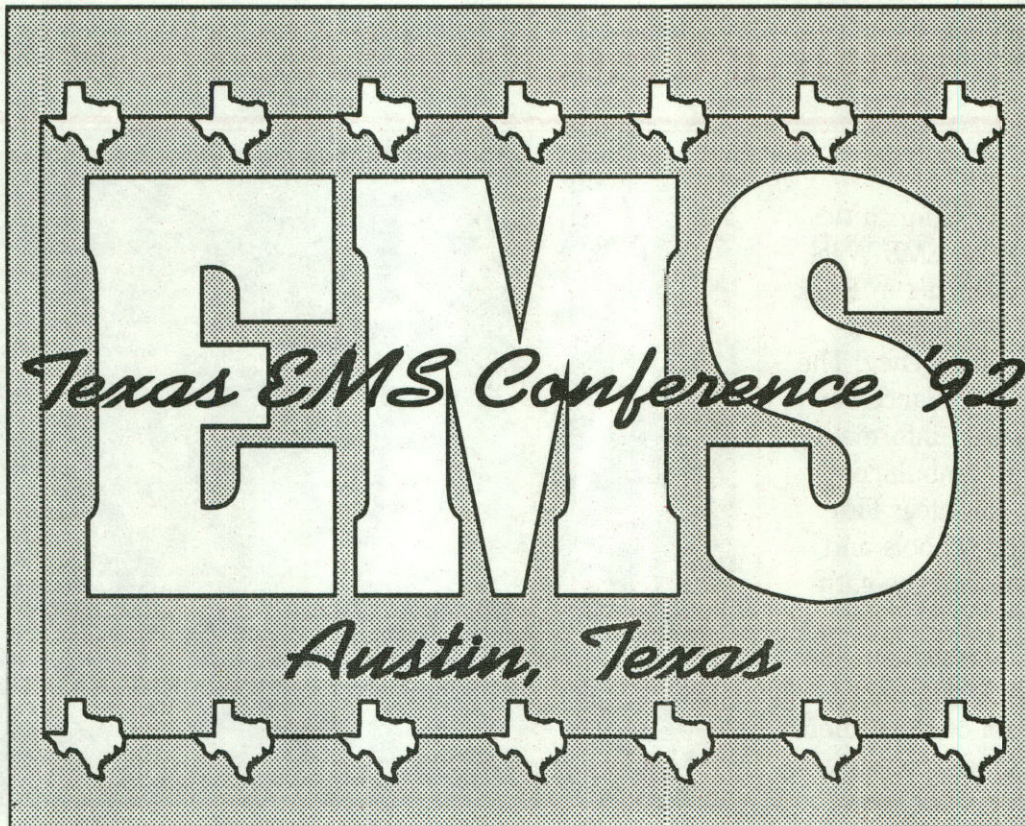
## Board of Health honors North Texas trauma group

The Texas Board of Health honored a group of regional officials August 22 for organizing the state's first council to oversee the creation of a regional trauma care system. The North Texas Regional Advisory Council, which includes representatives from several EMS services, will plan and coordinate a trauma care system in the counties of Archer, Clay, Baylor, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young. The trauma care system will coordinate services of EMS, hospitals, 9-1-1 dispatchers, emergency physicians and nurses, and injury prevention educators.

"Often, the difference between death and survival is the availability of prompt and expert medical care," says Dr. David Smith, Commissioner of Health. "An estimated one third of all trauma deaths could be prevented by trauma care systems."

Representing North Texas Regional Advisory Council were Mike Harmon, director of Lifeline EMS in Wichita Falls; Debra Walker, trauma nurse coordinator at Bethania Regional Medical Center; Woody Kuykendahl, trauma nurse coordinator at Wichita General Hospital; and Dr. Kevin Thomas, director of trauma at Bethania.

Harmon chaired the bylaws committee for the new organization.



The  
Bureau of Emergency Management  
is hosting a conference  
for 1,400 people and you're invited.

• Outstanding faculty • Beautiful locations • Luxurious accommodations • Fabulous food

November 23 - 25 at Palmer Auditorium and the Hyatt Regency Austin

Workshops: 16 hours of CE in Pediatric, Medical, Trauma, Administrative, Wellness, Rescue

Special Activities: Golf tournament, Coordinator and Instructor training,  
High-angle rescue training, Photo contest, and EMS awards

Conference fee:

\$50 through 11/1/92  
\$75 after 11/1/92

Exhibitor fee:

\$450 through 11/1/92  
\$550 through 11/1/92

Hotel convention rate:

\$55 single  
\$65 double

*For information call Alana Mallard, Conference Coordinator, or any member of the Conference Committee: Rhonda Blackmore, Debbie Bradford, Jan Brizendine, Bobbie Broadbent, Kelly Daigle, Vic Dwyer, Steve Hosford, Jerry Lester, Debby Maze, Cecelia McKenzie, Ernie Rodriguez, Billy Sladek, Paul Tabor, Pauline VanMeurs, Gene Weatherall, Pam West, or Linda Williams at (512) 458-7550.*



# TEXAS EMS CONFERENCE '92

## AGENDA

PALMER AUDITORIUM  
400 SOUTH FIRST  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN  
208 BARTON SPRINGS ROAD  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

## PRECONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AND 22

8:00am - 8:00pm Instructor Training  
(contact Debbie Bradford,  
512/458-7550, for registration)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

8:00am - 5:00pm Prehospital Provider Pediatric  
Course - BLS, (contact  
Pauline VanMeurs, 512/458-  
7550, for registration)

8:00am - 5:00pm Coordinator Training (contact  
Debbie Bradford, 512/458-  
7550, for registration)

8:00am - 5:00pm Basic Rappelling Course  
(contact Alana Mallard,  
512/458-7550, for registration)

9:00am - 5:00pm EMS Golf Tournament  
(contact Rhonda Blackmore,  
512/458-7550, for registration)

4:30pm - 8:00pm Conference Check-in and  
Registration, Hyatt Regency

6:00pm - 9:00pm Valsalva Bowl, Hyatt Regency  
(contact Jerry Reichel, 409/  
345-2288, for registration)

7:00pm - 7:30pm Celebrity Rappelling,  
Hyatt Regency

7:00pm - 9:00pm Welcome Reception honoring  
Exhibitors, Hyatt Regency

7:00am - 5:00pm Registration,  
Palmer Auditorium  
8:00am - 8:30am Opening Session and Welcome,  
Gene Weatherall,  
Alana Mallard  
8:30am - 9:30am EMS Lifesavers, Dr. Bill  
Clark and Fort Bend  
County EMS

9:45am - 10:45am WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

PEDIATRIC Think Child Safety: Educating your  
Community - Stewart Dodson  
MEDICAL OB Emergencies - Dr. Bryan Bledsoe  
RURAL ISSUES Prolonged Transport: What Do I Do Now?  
CISD Family Relationships - Cameron Brown  
ADMINISTRATORS Medicaid EMS Program: Shouldn't You  
Bill? - Ann Prescott

11:00am - Noon WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

PEDIATRIC Grief and the Pediatric Patient - Tello Leal  
MEDICAL Autonomic Pharmacology - Doug Key  
RURAL ISSUES EMS Education: Not Just a One-time Shot  
CISD The Lying Snake: Healing the Wounded  
Healer - Dr. Jack Hinds  
ADMINISTRATORS Medicaid Guidelines - Ann Prescott

Noon - 6:00pm Exhibit Area Open

2:00pm - 3:00pm WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

PEDIATRIC Poison Centers: EMS and Prevention -  
Lena Day  
MEDICAL American Heart Association ACLS  
Update - Dr. James Atkins  
RURAL ISSUES A Panel: Issues Facing Rural EMS Today  
CISD Organizing a CISD Team - Paul Tabor  
ADMINISTRATORS Fleet Maintenance - Eric Malloy

3:15pm - 4:15pm WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

- PEDIATRIC Pediatric Trauma Emergencies - Scott Bolleter
- MEDICAL Africanized Honeybees: What's the Buzz? - Dr. Don Gordon
- RURAL ISSUES Volunteerism and Retention: Looking for a Few Good EMTs
- CISD Reducing Stress through Exercise - Richard Best
- ADMINISTRATORS Practical Applications of Quality Management - Gary Waites

4:30pm - 5:30pm WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

- PEDIATRIC Planning Childhood Injury Prevention Campaigns - Ann Athey
- MEDICAL Pitfalls in Assessment - Dr. Michael Wainscott
- RURAL ISSUES To ALS or Not to ALS? That is the Rural Question
- CISD CISD for Children - Cameron Brown
- ADMINISTRATORS Grant Writing: Getting the Money You Need - Bill Aston

- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Reception hosted by Texas Association of EMTs, Hyatt Regency Ballroom
- 8:00pm - 8:30pm Valsalva Bowl Finals, Hyatt Regency Ballroom

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- 7:00am - 11:45am Registration, Palmer Auditorium
- 8:00am - 9:15am EMS in Russia, John Murray, Palmer Auditorium

9:15am - 11:45am Exhibit Area Open

9:30am - 10:30am WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

- PEDIATRIC Pediatric Secondary Assessment - Dr. Robert Wiebe
- TRAUMA Rabies and Tetanus - Dr. Don Gordon
- LEGAL ISSUES What is Privileged Information? What About Bypass? - Gene Gandy
- RESCUE Dealing with Deaf Patients - Toni Dunne
- EDUCATORS Regional CE Programs: Join Your Neighbors for More Resources - Chris Nollette, David Phillips

10:45am - 11:45am WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

- PEDIATRIC Secondary Assessment (con't) - Dr. Robert Wiebe
- TRAUMA Environmental Assessments: Assault,

- LEGAL ISSUES SIDS, Abuse, Battering - Virginia Scott
- RESCUE Staying on the Side of the Angels: Health and Safety Code, EMS Rules - Vic Dwyer
- EDUCATORS Farm Emergencies - Steve Hanneman
- Accreditation Issues: Live Intubations, Medical Director - Gene Gandy

12:15pm - 2:00pm Awards Luncheon, Hyatt Regency

2:15pm - 7:00pm Exhibit Area Open

2:15pm - 3:15pm WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

- PEDIATRIC Adolescent Trauma - Dr. Donovan Butter
- TRAUMA Initial Trauma Assessment - Dr. Tom Ward
- LEGAL ISSUES Bioethics: Natural Death Act, CPR, DNR - Dr. Don Gordon
- RESCUE Industrial Toxins - Dr. A. Nelson Avery
- EDUCATORS Computer-Aided Instruction - Dr. Jim Moshinski

3:30pm - 4:30pm WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

- PEDIATRIC Pediatric Respiratory Emergencies - Dr. Bryan Bledsoe
- TRAUMA Protecting Yourself from Bloodborn Pathogens - Doug Key
- LEGAL ISSUES Your Day in Court: EMTs as Witnesses, EMTs as Defendants
- RESCUE Moulage Magic: Put Realism into Your Drills - Lee Sweeten, Jay Garner
- EDUCATORS Evaluating Student Performance - Debbie Bradford

4:45pm - 5:45pm WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

- PEDIATRIC Wednesday's Child: An Overview of Child Abuse
- TRAUMA Issues in Spinal Care - Tom Manix
- LEGAL ISSUES Forensics and EMS
- RESCUE Confined Space Rescues - Tony Repka, Joe McNair
- EDUCATORS An Educational Approach to Teaching - Dr. Tom Ward

5:45pm - 7:00pm Reception honoring EMS Award winners, Exhibit Area

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

- 9:00am - 10:00am Verbal Judo, Lt. Mark Warren Palmer Auditorium
- 10:15am - 11:15am Proper Care and Grooming of the Emergency Physician, Dr. Michael Wainscott
- 11:30am - 12:30pm Closing Session, Bob Koonce



## What you should know about the health department's Texas EMS Conference and the 1,200 people who come to Austin to attend it

**P**aramedics. EMTs. ECAs. Bears. Firefighters. Law enforcement. Dispatchers. ER docs and nurses. Volunteers. Educators. Manufacturers. Students. Veterans. Administrators. You name it, EMS comes to Austin for the state's annual EMS conference.

They come for CE and they come to instruct. Some want clinical education and this year they'll get it in Trauma, Medical, and Pediatric tracks.

Some come to learn how to run a system or how to protect themselves. And this year the new EMS Academy track and the Healing the Healer track fills the bill.

And everybody comes for a good time. An inspiring opening session starring Texas lifesavers. Awards luncheon. Golf tournament. Dance Across Texas. Our favorite (and future favorite!) vendors.

Be part of it. Come for the classes, come for the fun, and come to meet the people across the state who put patient care first.

Put November 23-25 at Palmer Auditorium on your calendar now and make your \$55 hotel reservation at the Hyatt (512) 477-1234. Call Kelly Daigle at (512) 458-7550 for conference information.

- Alana S. Mallard

REGISTRANT

### Texas EMS Conference '92 Registration Form

I'm convinced! Here's my \$50

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Make check to: **Texas Health Foundation**  
 Mail to: Texas EMS Conference '92

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PO Box 26399  
 Austin, Texas 78755-0399

\$50 through 11/1/92  
 \$75 after 11/1/92  
 no refund after 11/1/92

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# 1992 Texas EMS Conference Golf Tournament

## Sunday, November 22, 1992

- 4-person scramble, select-shot, all 4 tee off, then hit from best lie.
- Teams will be assigned based on average score.
- Only first 100 registrants will be accepted.
- Attempts will be made to have a physician, nurse, EMS, and vendor representation on each team.
- Tee times will be available on Friday, November 20, 1992 after 12:00 noon by calling Jimmy Clay Golf Course (512) 444-0999. *Please do not call prior to 12 noon.*
- \$35 per person, includes green fee, cart, range balls, refreshments and prizes.

### Jimmy Clay Golf Course

IH35 South to Stassney, east on Stassney to Jimmy Clay Road, turn right and you are there.

**Jimmy Clay Golf Course, 5400 Jimmy Clay Road, Austin, Texas**

You are officially entered in the tournament when we receive your money

### EMS Golf Tournament Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

My average score is \_\_\_\_\_, honest!

*Refunds will be made only if cancellation received in writing by November 1, 1992.*

Make your \$35 check payable to: **Texas Health Foundation**

and Mail to: Texas EMS Conference '92  
PO Box 26399  
Austin, TX 78755-0399



Call Rhonda Blackmore for information at (512) 458-7550

# EMS Grants Awarded to 77 Texas Towns

By Alana S. Mallard

**R**esidents of 77 Texas communities will share in \$522,000 in emergency medical service grants made by the Texas Department of Health this month. Fifty-one of the grant communities are in rural counties. EMS groups asked for nearly \$1 million in grant funding.

**T**HE GRANTS WILL PAY FOR EMERGENCY communications and ambulance equipment, as well as training for EMS personnel and members of the public. Seven towns will use their grants to help buy an ambulance or other first response vehicle. TDH began notifying the EMS agencies, hospitals, and training groups in August that they would receive funds through the EMS Local Projects grant program of the Bureau of Emergency Management.

This is the third year of the grant program. In 1991, the Texas Legislature began funding the program and TDH added federal block grant funds "We are working with our state legislators to quadruple the amount of state funding for local EMS agencies," said Dr. David R. Smith, Commissioner of Health. "This is one of the most practical and cost-efficient things the state can do for local emergency medical services. It puts the money right where the need is."

"We heard some great success stories," Dr. Smith said, "as we traveled around the state last year and visited with emergency medical services who

received grant funds. We expect this year's grants to improve emergency care in all these new areas."

Dr. Smith said that a \$5,000 automatic external defibrillator can mean the difference between life and death in many rural areas. Grants will help purchase 19 defibrillators and train EMTs and ECAs to use them.

Other training funded through the grant program includes: initial EMS certification and recertification training, swiftwater rescue training, critical incident stress debriefing training, hazardous material response training, Basic Trauma Life Support training, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support training. Residents of several communities, including Paris, Tyler, Kirby, Petersburg, Burnet and El Paso, will be trained in injury prevention or emergency action.

Information on applying for EMS

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EMS Local Projects is a program of the EMS Division. Rhonda Blackmore provides assistance to local emergency medical services regarding TDH grant funding, reimbursements, and reporting. Contact Blackmore at (512) 458-7550 for information on the FY94 funding cycle.

## EMS Local Projects FY 93

grants is available from the TDH Bureau of Emergency Management or at the Public Health Region EMS offices.

These groups received grants:

Alba Fire Department in Wood county received \$5,124 for EMS certification training and to purchase an automatic external defibrillator.

Allen Fire Department in Collin county \$9,075 for EMS certification training and to purchase a cardiac monitor and computer.

Bastrop County received \$6,609 to purchase and install communications equipment.

City of Benavides in Duval county received \$1,000 to purchase a computer.

Brazoria Volunteer Fire Department in Brazoria county received \$8,500 to purchase advanced life support training supplies and an automatic external defibrillator.

City of Burkburnett in Wichita county received \$4,524 for EMS certification training and to purchase a semi-automatic external defibrillator.

Burnet EMS in Burnet county received \$500 to purchase community education materials.

Caldwell Medical Assist Team in Caldwell county received \$626 to purchase oxygen equipment.

Chandler Volunteer Fire Department in Henderson county received \$11,001 for EMS certification training and to purchase an automatic external defibrillator and communications equipment.

Childress Regional Medical Center in Childress county received \$6,000 for EMS certification training.

Collingsworth Volunteer Ambulance Service in Wellington received \$448 to purchase a CPR manikin.

Comanche Community Hospital EMS in Comanche county received \$1,000 to purchase a computer.

Copperas Cove Fire Department in Coryell county received \$9,090 to purchase cardiac monitors.

Coryell Memorial Hospital in Coryell county received \$4,647 to purchase a cardiac monitor.

Cross Plains EMS in Callahan county received \$20,000 to purchase an ambulance.

Culberson County EMS received \$30,000 to purchase an ambulance.

Cypress Creek Emergency Medical Services in Harris county received \$3,885 to purchase pulse oximeters.

Darrouzett EMS in Lipscomb county received \$16,944 to purchase CPR and advanced life support training equipment, a cardiac monitor and a used ambulance.

Hereford EMS in Deaf Smith county received \$1,000 to purchase a computer.

Dixie Volunteer Fire Department in Smith county received \$5,993 for EMS certification training and an automatic external defibrillator.

Donna EMS in Hidalgo county received \$3,710 to purchase a computer and training equipment.

El Paso EMS received \$10,018 to purchase CPR training equipment and supplies and community education supplies.

FM 969 Volunteer Fire Department First Responders in Bastrop County received \$877 for swiftwater rescue training.

Farmersville Volunteer Fire Department in Collin county received \$5,213 for extrication training and to purchase communications equipment.

Fischer County Hospital District EMS received \$6,000 to purchase communications equipment and a cardiac monitor.

Flint-Gresham Volunteer Fire Department in Smith county received \$6,140 for EMS certification training, basic life support supplies, and an au-

automatic external defibrillator.

Forestburg Volunteer Fire Department/EMS in Montague county received \$5,033 to purchase a response vehicle, radio, and basic life support supplies.

Frio County EMS in conjunction with La Salle County Emergency Medical Services received \$20,510 for EMS certification training and to purchase automatic external defibrillators.

Granite Shoals Volunteer Fire Department/EMS in Burnet county received \$6,398 to purchase an automatic external defibrillator and communications equipment.

Grapeland Volunteer Fire Department/EMS in Houston county received \$4,581 for a computer and advanced life support training supplies.

H & S EMS in Spearman, Hansford county, received \$1,935 to purchase CPR manikins, an IV training arm, and training videos.

Hawley Volunteer Fire Department in Jones county received \$11,426 for EMS certification training, a computer, CPR manikins, and basic life support supplies.

Hemphill County EMS received \$5,088 to purchase a pulse oximeter, ventilator, and IV pumps.

Hood General Hospital EMS received \$1,000 for a computer.

Hopkins County EMS in Sulphur Springs received \$13,500 to purchase a cardiac monitor and an automatic external defibrillator.

Howard College in Big Spring received \$20,160 to purchase advanced life support training equipment and supplies.

Hull-Daisetta EMS in Liberty county received \$7,966 for EMS certification training, communications equipment, and basic life support supplies.

Itasca Volunteer Ambulance Service in Hill county received \$5,871 for basic life support training supplies and a computer.

Jeff Davis County Emergency Medical Services received \$1,000 to purchase a computer.

Kirby Volunteer Fire Fighting in Bexar county received \$1,373 to purchase CPR manikins and medical anti-shock trousers.

Lazbuddie EMS in Parmer county received \$14,800 to purchase a used ambulance.

Leon County EMS received \$1,000 to purchase a computer.

Leon Valley Fire Department/EMS in Bexar county received \$8,970 to purchase pulse oximeters and a cardiac monitor.

LifeCare Emergency Medical Services in Weatherford in Parker county received \$9,250 to purchase cardiac monitors.

Lindale Volunteer Fire Department in Smith county received \$4,816 for EMS certification training and automatic external defibrillator.

Live Oak County EMS received \$7,245 to purchase a response vehicle.

Lowry Crossing Volunteer Fire Department in Collin county received \$2,479 for EMS certification training, basic life support supplies, and a computer.

Marble Falls EMS in Burnet county received \$9,703 to implement Basic Trauma Life Support and continuing education training and to purchase basic life support training supplies.

Mart Volunteer EMS in McLennan county received \$9,601 to purchase advanced life support training videos and equipment.

McCuistion Regional Medical Center in Paris in Lamar county received \$5,800 to develop a community education video.

Midfield Volunteer Fire Department in Matagorda county received \$2,105 to purchase a computer, a copier, and a desk.

## EMS Local Projects FY 93

Mills County EMS received \$8,470 to purchase a computer, an automatic external defibrillator, and communications equipment.

Mineola Fire Department in Wood county received \$4,048 to purchase an automatic external defibrillator.

Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler in Smith county received \$2,525 for Critical Incident Stress Debriefing training.

Mount Vernon EMS in Franklin county received \$6,815 for EMS certification training, prehospital medical equipment, radios, and a computer.

Normangee Volunteer EMS in Leon county received \$11,290 for EMS certification and continuing education training and to purchase training equipment and supplies.

North Blanco County EMS received \$1,000 to purchase a computer.

North Tarrant County Rural Fire Department in Keller received \$3,415 for EMS certification training, books, and oxygen supplies.

EMS of Nueces Canyon in Camp Wood in Real county received \$5,142 to purchase an automatic external defibrillator.

City of Paris in Lamar county received \$4,565 to expand the "Think Child Safety" community education program.

Pearland Volunteer EMS in Brazoria county received \$6,982 to purchase CPR training manikins and supplies.

Petersburg Volunteer EMS in Hale county received \$2,616 to purchase CPR manikins and advanced life support training equipment.

Presidio EMS received \$5,600 for Hazardous Material training.

Rising Star EMS in Eastland county received \$1,981 to purchase communications equipment.

San Angelo Fire Department in Tom Green county received \$22,248 to purchase automatic external defibrillators.

San Augustine Ambulance Service received \$1,528 to purchase CPR

manikins and advanced life support training supplies.

San Jacinto College Central in Harris county received \$6,218 to continuing education training courses and pediatric advanced life support training supplies.

Sanger Volunteer Fire Department in Denton county received \$8,422 for EMS certification training, an automatic external defibrillator, and CPR training manikins and supplies.

South Plains Regional Rescue Team in Lubbock received \$8,028 for rescue training, equipment, and supplies.

Stratford Ambulance Service in Sherman county received \$4,224 for EMS certification training and a computer.

Sweetwater Fire Department in Nolan county received \$7,027 to purchase a computer, CPR training manikins and supplies, and an IV training arm.

Terlingua Medics in Brewster county received \$4,384 to purchase training and basic life support equipment and supplies and radios.

Texas BTLs Association in Nueces county received \$6,491 to conduct Basic Life Support Training courses.

Uvalde EMS received \$4,202 to purchase advanced life support training equipment.

Vernon Regional Junior College in Wilbarger county received \$3,150 to purchase CPR manikins and basic life support training supplies.

Willacy County EMS received \$10,648 for dispatcher training and communications equipment.

Winnie-Stowell Volunteer Fire Department in Chambers county received \$11,600 for EMS certification training and extrication equipment.





## EMS for Children celebrates its first birthday and the news is good!

By Pauline VanMeurs

EMS FOR CHILDREN REACHED A MAJOR milestone in August when 40 prehospital instructor/trainers and program directors from across Texas attended the first Pediatric Prehospital Provider Course. This initial course created a core faculty that could then take the course back to their regions. The course, held in Victoria and hosted by the EMT Division of Victoria College, was coordinated by Mark Reger and Scott Bolleter.

Days One and Two consisted of didactic training and skills and assessment stations. Day 3 was several hours of brainstorming among the participants and presenters of the course to improve the course and facilitate its use throughout the state. It was a very educational process for the program staff. Valuable information was exchanged between the EMSC staff and the participant and among participants on presenting a quality course to as many participants as possible. Format and presentation details were also discussed. As a result, the EMSC program is currently working on one last revision to the printed material. Several members of the participant group volunteered their time and expertise to the process of audio visual development.

"The fall training schedule is filling up fast," says Terry McCormack, EMSC educational coordinator. "This first round of courses seems to be mostly instructor courses presented by the initial

group to increase the number of people able to present the program. I expect to see a number of courses available for the providers by the first of the year." An EMS for Children communications network may provide mere information on upcoming courses through the *Texas EMS Magazine* and Public Health Region 1 computer bulletin board.

Also completed is a 30-second PSA addressing the proper use of child safety seats. The ad was produced by FOCUS Group Film Video Productions of Austin. What makes this ad very special is that, except for the studio time for editing, dubbing, and closed-captioning, the entire project was done from initial concept to completion on volunteer time. Bonnie Liles and Ed Strout of the Austin EMS/STARflight DWI Awareness Program developed the ad's concept. Dominic Cancilla and Tim Bishop of FOCUS Group produced and directed the video with Dominic shooting the actual footage. Talent was provided by Stephanie Ochoa Neely of Austin EMS and her extremely photogenic infant son Ryan and Dean Simpson, Dominic's roommate, also of Austin. The PSA is available on loan from the Texas Department of Health Film library for EMS, hospital, and other public service groups to sponsor in their communities. There is even a spot at the end of the tape left over for these groups to add their own logos. For more information, just call the EMSC program.

So what can you expect in the next year from EMSC? Look for:

- More Pediatric Prehospital Provider Courses.
- A pediatric preceptorship program designed to give prehospital providers some hands on experience in the hospital environment.
- Interactive software to help folks retain some of that hard-earned knowledge they acquire at the course—a disk for your PC that provides scenarios and a question-and-answer practice.
- Recommended regionalization criteria for systems development.
- Recommended pediatric data points for the Trauma Registry.
- Public education campaigns geared toward the prevention of traumatic injury in children.

It has been a full and satisfying year for the EMSC program. We would all like to thank the many people who have done so much for the program through their support and ideas. There have been too many of you to list by name. We continue to rely on your dedication to the well-being of the children of Texas for our success and acknowledge all your efforts. Give yourselves a pat on the back.

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# Before you drink one for the



Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month - December 1 - 31, 1992

•Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission •Texas Education Agency •Texas Safety Association •MADD

road...



think about the chaser.

•Texas Department of Public Safety •Texas Department of Transportation •Texas Department of Health



Texas EMS Magazine October 1992



Paris paramedic Stewart Dodson (far left) helps a Think Child Safety high school group talk to kids about alcohol.

# EMS education means DWI prevention

**A** summer evening in June, 1987. The Quiroz family—parents Gerard and Lynn, and children Paxton, Crissa, Chago and Tacia—travels a black ribbon of Hill Country road that brings the family's station wagon to the top of stunning vistas as it snakes around limestone cliffs. As they crest a hill, Gerard sees too late that a brown car has crossed the median. It slams into the front and skids down the left side of the family's car, puncturing the gas tank. The station wagon bursts into flames, sliding another 50 feet before stopping. Passersby help some family members escape, but nine-year-old Crissa and seven-month-old Tacia burn to death before they can be pulled from the wreck. Gerard and 4-year-old Chago survive with minor injuries, but Lynn and 12-year-old Paxton suffer burns on 30 percent of their bodies, and broken bones. From the brown car, EMTs extricate a man who will later die of his injuries. Sitting in the back window, his dog watches as police pull a dozen beer cans from the floorboard.

EVERY YEAR ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, more than 20,000 Americans die from crashes involving drunk drivers—about the same number who would be killed if 100 jumbo jets crashed each year leaving no survivors. Another another 1.5 million people in the U.S. are injured by drunk drivers. In Texas in 1991, 1,249 people died in crashes involving drunk drivers, which accounted for nearly 50

B y K e l l y D . D a i g l e

percent of all the people who died in motor vehicle crashes.

"We find that about half of all traffic fatalities are attributable to drinking and driving," says Mike Cox, Department of Public Safety spokesperson. Based on accident records from 1987-1991, a fatal DWI crash most likely happens on a rural part of a U.S. or State Route between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. and involves a 21-year-old male driver.

But death isn't the only legacy a drunk driver leaves. More than 33,000 people were injured in crashes involving drunk drivers in Texas in 1991.

"My feeling is that the injured victims are statistics which are not pointed out often enough, because these are people who have not just broken an arm," says Karen Housewright, executive director of Texas State Office of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. "There are people who are still in wheelchairs ... and can't take care of themselves. Their lives are ruined by drunk drivers."

In the MADD office, a huge quilt hangs near the front door, the quilt squares decorated with the remembrances of victims of drunk drivers. "Based on the size of (these squares), if it were to represent all the people ... injured in Texas in one year by drunk drivers, it would take up an acre," says Housewright.

MADD estimates that one out of every ten drivers on a weekend is legally intoxicated; after 2 a.m. on a Friday or Saturday night, the number jumps to one in four. The figure may be even higher during the holiday party season between Thanksgiving and New Year's. Nationally in 1991, 77 percent of the New Year's Day traffic fatalities involved alcohol.

To raise the public's awareness of the dangers of drunk driving, for the last ten years the second week of December has been tagged as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Week. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration coordinates the event to educate people about the problem of drunk motorists, especially during the holidays. In Texas, drunk and drugged

driving prevention awareness extends from December 1 through December 31.

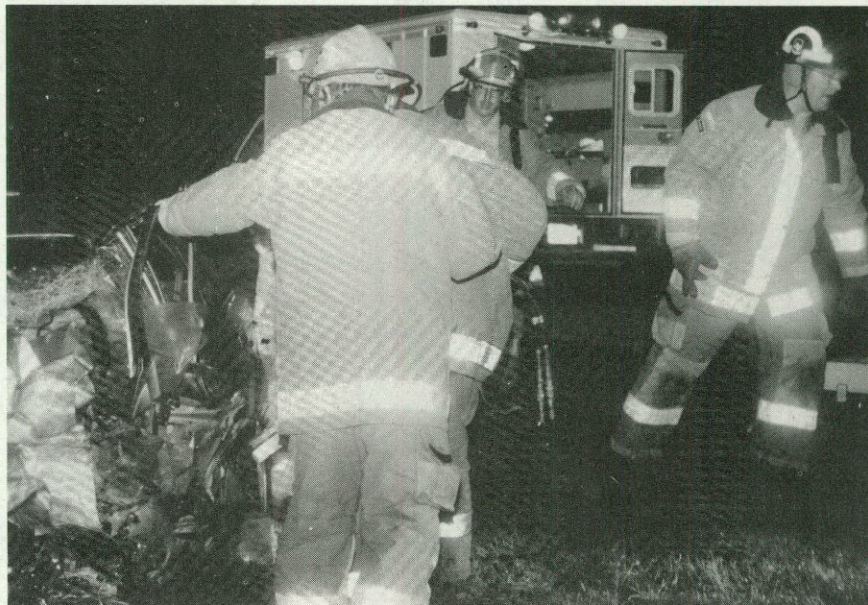
"Including the whole month ... makes sense because it's hard to single out just a week when (drunk driving) goes on the whole holiday season," says Jean Oliver, a public information manager for the Texas Department of Transportation.

Oliver is also the chair of a committee planning activities for drunk and drugged driving prevention in Texas.

But the program's success depends on the efforts of local organizations and volunteers to make the public aware of the dangers of drinking and driving. Housewright says that everyone should

*Every year across the United States, more than 20,000 Americans die from crashes involving drunk drivers—about the same number who would be killed if 100 jumbo jets crashed each year leaving no survivors.*

Photo by Jenny Borhardt



be educated about drunk driving, including high school students. In Texas in 1991, 100 people between the ages of 15 and 18 died in alcohol-related crashes; only 34 of those were the drivers. DPS reported 1,597 crashes in 1991 for DWI drivers between the ages of 16 and 18.

"Unfortunately, kids need to learn that our bodies are not as strong and as capable of recovery as we think they are," Housewright says. "The problem with teenagers and drinking and driving is that they feel invincible and that it will happen to someone else."

MADD, in cooperation with USAA

*In Texas in 1991, 100 people between the ages of 15 and 18 died in alcohol-related crashes.*

*The problem with teenagers and drinking and driving is that teenagers feel invincible, that it will happen to someone else.*

insurance, has produced a video aimed at educating high school students. "Shattered Lives: Teen Victims of Drunk

Drivers" details the stories of teenagers who have been affected by drunk driving—either their own or someone else's.

"(In the video), they see that it's not just happening to old people or people older than 20," says Housewright. "It happens to kids, too."

Young children, too, must be edu-

cated. Housewright says that MADD tries to involve children even at the pre-school level.

"I'm encouraged by all the education going on at very young ages," says Housewright. "By the time these kids get to be drivers, they are going to be a lot more conscious about the dangers of drinking and driving."

Stewart Dodson, a paramedic for the City of Paris and a founder of Think Child Safety, says that his group began DWI education because of the number of children and teens killed in drunk driving accidents.

"In one case, a student was killed by a drunk driver," says Dodson, "and we had to work on her and at the same time work on the driver. That gets to you."

Dodson began to educate high school students in the dangers of drinking and driving by showing them photos of DWIs. Students also vote on whether to participate in a program in which they promise not to get into any vehicle where there is alcohol.

"It became evident that we needed to ... show actual footage about what drinking and driving can do," says Dodson. "We wanted to show them what (paramedics) see in our daily work."

High school students also take the

## What Can EMS Do About Drunk Drivers?

Is there a way to keep habitual alcohol abusers off the road? Yes, says the Division of Medical Standards on Motor Vehicle Operation, a division of the Bureau of Emergency Management. That division, known as the Medical Advisory Board, reviews the medical records of drivers who have a medical impairment, including abuse of alcohol or drugs. Each month, MAB's physician board reviews about 400 new cases involving alcohol or drug abuse, out of a total of about 1,200 cases. MAB then recommends to DPS whether the license should be issued, issued with restrictions, or revoked.

MAB offers free training to law enforcement and emergency personnel so they can more easily recognize conditions which should be referred to MAB's physicians. The training earns EMTs an hour of continuing education credit. For information about the Medical Advisory Board or training sessions, call (512) 458-7550.

To report someone you suspect of being an unsafe driver due to alcohol or drug abuse, call Driver Improvement and Control at DPS at (512) 465-2170. DIC can detail the information they need for the report and refer the case to MAB. —Kelly Daigle

message to grades one through three in the elementary school. While younger students won't be driving, they do have the choice of whether to ride with someone who is impaired.

"Those kids, especially third graders, who can express their opinion better, can let people know they do not want to ride in a car with alcohol," says Dodson. "We're not trying to take over the parent's role. We just want to educate them."

Bonnie Liles and Ed Strout, paramedics with the City of Austin, also use education as a tool for prevention. In 1988, they and Allen Boutwell developed a DWI slide show and since then have presented it to 192,000 high school students across the state. They also helped eleven other communities develop slide presentations.

"The job we do as paramedics is reactionary. We sit around and wait for something bad to happen," says Liles. "There are very few things in life we have control over, but DWI is one thing that can be prevented.

"If people are educated (about alcohol) ... we may influence their decision to get in the car. I call it prevention through intervention."

- Talk to high school students about the effects of drinking and driving. A videotape, "Shattered Lives: Teen Victims of Drunk Drivers" is available on loan from the state office of MADD (see box). The short video features teens talking about how their lives were altered by a drunk driver or their own drunk driving. The video comes with a booklet of discussion topics for students.

- Set up a multi-victim incident, or MVI, with a drunk driving scenario. New Braunfels Fire Department staged a successful and effective exercise in front of the high school. The drill is detailed in the May 1992 issue of *Texas EMS Magazine*.

- Sponsor a red ribbon campaign and distribute ribbons for people to attach to their cars; contact local civic clubs and merchants for donations to



Photo by Richard Finnell

buy the ribbons, and help in distributing them.

- Promote seat belt use by always wearing a seat belt in an emergency vehicle or car. Only about 13 percent of the drivers in the DWI fatalities wore seat belts when they crashed. Statewide, about 70 percent of adult drivers and front seat passengers buckled up in 1991.

- Encourage students and their parents to sponsor chemical-free parties in the holiday season. Enlist the help of civic clubs. At the least, encourage people to have a designated driver.

- Put together a slide show or video about the impact of drunk driving on victims. MADD's Housewright says that when people see photos of local crashes, it makes a big impact.

- Contact the media. Radio and television stations will read Public Service Announcements on the air. Television stations and newspapers may do a story on the red ribbon campaign sponsored by EMS or DWI education presentations.

- Contact local insurance agents. Many insurance companies produce brochures about drunk driving.

Kelly Daigle, staff writer for *Texas EMS Magazine*, serves on the state DWI education committee. She is planning a designated driver program for the Tuesday night New West dance during the Texas EMS Conference in November.

## RESOURCES FOR ALCOHOL AWARENESS

Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
National Office  
Box 541688  
Dallas, Texas 75354-1688  
(214) 744-6233

Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
State Office  
2525 Wallingwood, Suite 700  
Austin, Texas 78746  
(512) 328-MADD

There are also more than 20 local offices around the state. From the Mothers Against Drunk Driving offices:

Brochures are helpful to victims of DWI crashes and as an educational tool for others.

"How You Can Help"  
"Victim Information Pamphlet"  
"Your Loved One Drinks and Drives"  
"Closed Head Injury: A Common Complication of Vehicular Crashes"  
"Financial Recovery after a Drunk Driving Crash"  
"We Hurt Too: A Guide for Adult Siblings"  
"Don't Call Me Lucky!: For Those Injured in Drunk Driving Crashes" ... and Their Family and Friends  
"Will It Always Fell This Way?"  
(also available in Spanish)  
"Your Grief: You're Not Going Crazy"  
(also available in Spanish)  
"Helping Children Cope with Death in the Family"

MADD also has an educational videotape available for students. "Shattered Lives: Teen Victims of Drunk Drivers" interviews teenagers who have been affected by drunk driving—either their own or someone else's. The tape is available on loan from the MADD state office in Austin for the cost of mailing. For information, call MADD at (512) 328-MADD.

Jean Oliver  
Texas Department of Transportation  
D18TS  
125 E. 11th  
Austin, Texas 78701-2483  
(512) 416-3171

Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD)  
Box 800  
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752  
(508) 481-3568

SADD has brochures on how to start a local chapter.

Bonnie Liles or Ed Strout  
P.O. Box 1025  
Cedar Park, Texas 78613  
(512) 469-2050

Bonnie and Ed have put together a powerful DWI slide show and have helped several other communities put together DWI presentations. Contact them for information about the cost of their workshop or presenting the program.

*The Texas EMS Advisory Council's Education Committee wants your comments on the following position statement:*

# Position Statement on Licensure

**A**s an overview, we see licensure at the paramedic level as being comprised of a comprehensive package involving training, continuing education, and the renewal process with the goal being, as always, the delivery of quality patient care.

Our ultimate goal is to provide a mechanism for optional licensure at the paramedic level, thereby creating a fifth level as an incentive-based career ladder.

Licensure should be tied to education with these rule changes as a starting point:

"A candidate for licensure as EMT-Paramedic shall

1. be 18 years of age;
2. successfully complete
  - a. a TDH-approved paramedic course accredited by CAHEA and 30 credit hours toward a degree plan, or
  - b. a TDH-approved paramedic course and 60 credit hours toward a degree plan, or
  - c. a TDH-approved paramedic course and have earned an associate or higher degree; and
3. submit to TDH an application for examination."

Licensure would not affect the current scope of practice, which remains under the authority of the Medical Director.

We recommend that the December 3, 1992, meeting of the education committee focus on refining language for rule changes and taking a first look at new CE material developed by the Bureau of Emergency Management.

We further recommend that the Bureau's legislative package allow elimination of recertification testing for all levels: ECA, EMT, EMT-Intermediate, and EMT-Paramedic.

Please direct your comments to Leslie Madden, Chair, TEMSAC Education Committee, c/o Kendall County EMS, Route 2 Box 2010A, Boerne, Texas 78006, or to Gene Gandy, TEMSAC, P.O. Box 131566, Tyler, Texas 75713-1566, or to any TEMSAC or Education Committee member.





# Exhibitors, You Need to Be Here!

Texas' biggest EMS conference is November 23, 24, and 25 in Austin. Call Jan Brizendine at (512) 458-7550 for exhibitor details.

**EXHIBITORS**

1992 Texas EMS Conference Exhibitor Registration Form

Firm Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Representative's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$450 through 11/1/92  
 \$550 after 11/1/92  
 no refund after 11/1/92

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Make check to: **Texas Health Foundation**

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mail to: **Texas EMS Conference '92**  
**P.O. Box 26399**  
**Austin, Texas 78755-0399**

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Type of business/products \_\_\_\_\_

How many booths? \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle space? \_\_\_\_\_ Electrical power? \_\_\_\_\_

## 1992 EMS Awards

**E**ach year the Texas Department of Health recognizes outstanding achievement in the EMS field.

Recipients are chosen from nominations made by EMS personnel, organizations, or individual citizens. Nominations should be no more than 5 pages typed or printed. Each nomination should also have a cover letter which lists:

1. Category for which nomination is being made;
2. The name of the individual or organization being nominated; and
3. The name of the individual or organization submitting the nomination (include complete address and daytime phone number).

You may include letters of support from people or organizations who know the nominee's accomplishments, including the EMS Program Adminis-

trator in your Public Health Region.

The nomination package should describe the significant accomplishments for which the nominee should be considered as a recipient.

Deadline for nomination is November 1, 1992. An EMS organization may nominate itself. You must submit five copies of your nomination to:

1992 EMS Awards

Bureau of Emergency Management

Texas Department of Health

1100 West 49th Street

Austin, Texas 78756-3199

If you have any questions, contact Steve Hosford or Alana Mallard at (512) 458-7550. Winners will be announced at Texas EMS Conference '92 during the Awards Banquet on November 24, 1992.

Deadline for nominations is November 1, 1992.

### Awards are divided into the following categories:

**EMS Educator Award** honors a state-certified EMS Instructor or Course Coordinator who has advanced EMS education in Texas.

**EMS Medical Director Award** honors a physician who has served as a medical director, on-line or off-line, for a BLS or an ALS service in Texas.

**EMS Administrator Award** honors an administrator, researcher, or manager on the local, city, county, COG, or State level who has made a positive contribution to EMS.

**Public Information Award** honors an EMS group or individual for outstanding achievement in public education, injury prevention, or health promotion.

**Citizen Award** honors a private citizen for heroic lifesaving act or unique advocacy of EMS.

**Private Provider Award** honors a

privately-owned commercial organization which assumed a leadership role in EMS by achievement in areas of patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education, and training.

**Public Provider Award** honors an organization operated by a county, municipality, tax-based hospital, or state or local government agency which assumed a leadership role in EMS by achievement in areas of patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education, and training.

**Volunteer Provider Award** honors an organization staffed by volunteers which assumed a leadership role in EMS by achievement in areas of patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education, and training.

# 1992 Texas EMS Photography Contest

It's time again to enter the annual Texas EMS photo contest. Good patient care should be exemplified in your entries.

Your photo could be your medical director watching a paramedic during a skills exam, a first responder helping move a car crash patient, or EMTs talking to children about safety rules.

All entries in the 1992 Texas EMS Photography Contest will be displayed in a special exhibit November 23, 24, and 25 at Texas EMS Conference '92 in the Palmer Auditorium Exhibit Area. Some entries may be selected for publication in the *Texas EMS Magazine* and in educational brochures published by the Bureau of Emergency Management. Photographers will receive photography credit and complimentary copies.

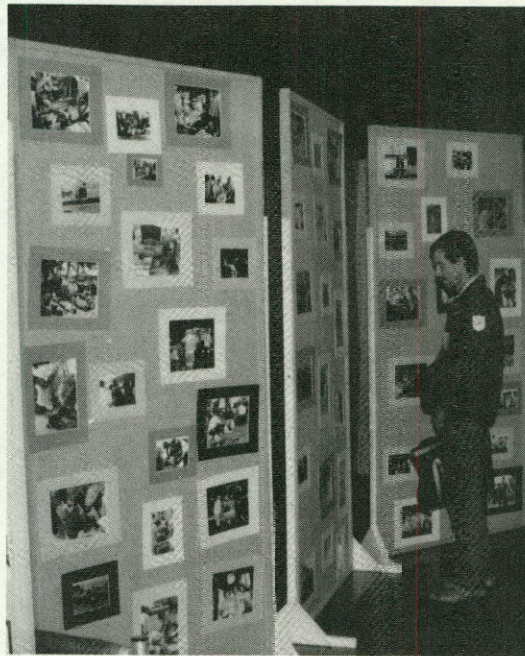


PHOTO CONTEST

More than 100 photo entries were displayed at Texas EMS Conference '91.

## The Rules

- Anyone is eligible.
- No entry fee is required.
- Entries must be received **no later than November 1, 1992**, and the winners will be announced at the Texas EMS Conference, November 23-25, and in the January 1993 issue of the *Texas EMS Magazine*.
- Unmatted prints **8x10 inches** or **5x7 inches** may be submitted, in color or black-and-white. Fill out the entry form on this page, tape it to the back of your photograph, and mail your entry to Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Management, 1992 Texas EMS Photography Contest, 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756. Every photograph must be identified with an entry form taped to the back of the photograph.
- Entries become the property of Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Management and will not be returned.
- Three grand prize winners will receive \$100 each and an award certificate and fifteen honorable mention winners will receive award certificates. Judges will select winning photographs based on artistic composition, originality, visual appeal and good patient care.

## 1992 Texas EMS Photography Contest Entry Form

Photographer's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

(work) \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for entering: November 1, 1992**

Tape this form to the back of photograph entry.

Mail to: Texas Department of Health  
Bureau of Emergency Management  
1992 Texas EMS Photography Contest  
1100 W. 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756

For more information contact Alana Mallard 512/458-7550.

# Managing stress *can make your day positive*



*Cameron Brown takes time out from a busy work schedule to play with her daughter.*

Stress consumes our lives from sunrise to sunset. When the clock radio blares "Achy Breaky Heart," my heart startles me awake. I scurry to hit the doze button before I have to hear another verse of this overplayed song. After dozing fitfully between several hits on the doze button, I look at the clock to discover I have 30 minutes to shower, iron my uniform and my daughter's school clothes, cook breakfast, dress, drop off my daughter at school, then drive like a maniac to work. I'm distressed and the day has just begun.

## *Caring for*

There are two types of stress—eustress and distress. Eustress is the positive stress that motivates us to get up in the morning. Distress is the negative stress that can create problems with emergency runs and interpersonal conflicts at home and at work.

Time management could help me eliminate my particular distress this morning. I should have ironed clothes the previous night. I could have gone to bed earlier. Some people need 6 to 8 hours of sleep. It is not the number of hours you sleep, but the amount of rest you get. Stress at work or home will affect how well you rest. Keep a journal if you wake up several times during the night and can't sleep because you are worried about problems at home or at the station. Write your concerns on paper and tell yourself these problems cannot be solved at 3 a.m. My husband has a great philosophy: "We don't have any problems; we have minor inconveniences." This attitude helps put the inconveniences of life into perspective.

Time management is essential for our mental and physical well-

being. Look at the mornings as an opportunity to get a great start and imagine your morning as the foundation of your day. Rise 30 minutes earlier, set goals for the day, and begin with a positive attitude. As emergency workers we encounter so much gloom and doom that we sometimes become vicarious victims. While on duty, visualize the day and extract the positive out of every negative situation. Look at the potential each day has to offer and give yourself permission to do something special for yourself.

Start your day with a high energy breakfast loaded with complex carbohydrates such as whole grain cereals and bread, fresh fruit, or lowfat yogurt. Limit your intake of fatty foods such as bacon, sausage, and ham. Diets full of processed flour, salt, fat, and sugar worsen stress reactions. Watch your intake of caffeine. The stimulant effect of caffeine increases heart rate and elevates blood pressure. Each 6 oz. cup of coffee contains approximately 110 mg. of caffeine and your daily intake should not exceed 250 mg.

If you want to exercise but have no time while on duty, work

out before work. Walking is excellent and allows you to exercise and communicate with your children or significant other at the same time. Cycling, jogging, or other aerobic activities provide excellent cardiovascular benefits. When you exercise, your metabolism increases and you burn more calories. Active, competitive sports such as tennis, racquetball, baseball, and softball help in stress reduction by relieving frustration and anxiety. Exercise at least 30 minutes three days a week. Choose an exercise you enjoy so you won't get bored and quit.

Caring for yourself is a lifelong commitment. Take proper care of yourself by eating a well-balanced diet, exercising, and getting proper rest.

Next month I will discuss additional ways to care for yourself throughout the day. Remember, in order to care for others you must take proper care of yourself.

B y C a m e r o n B r o w n

# *the caregiver*

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Cameron Brown, an EMT and master firefighter, is director of health, fitness, and crisis management for Fort Worth Fire Department. She has done critical incident stress debriefing since 1986 and is a member of the National Association of Social Workers. She went to Florida in September as a member of a team to provide critical incident stress debriefing for Hurricane Andrew rescue workers. Cameron will talk about stress at the Texas EMS Conference in November during her two presentations—Family Relationships and CISD for Children.

# Did you read... By Paul Tabor, EMT-P

The practice of leaving fluid for an extended period of time in the reservoir of a wall oxygen outlet in an ambulance could be hazardous to the health of your patients.

The workplace has become increasingly dangerous for EMS personnel due to violent crime.

**F**ireSoft, a public-service software company, has published a *Guide to Emergency Services Computing*. The Guide includes discussions of computer hardware, software, and implementation specifically for fire and EMS departments. Also included are a computer glossary, tips on how to understand computer hardware advertisements, and how to protect your computer investment. For more information, contact FireSoft, 128 Rogers St., Cambridge, MA 02142-1024; 1-800-648-4861.

*(EMS Insider, July 1992.)*

**T**he US Department of Transportation's 1990 Emergency Response Guidebook is available in a computer version. Including several features that allow rapid location of information, the computer program comes on both 5.25-inch and 3.5-inch floppy disks and may be copied onto a personal computer hard drive. The program costs \$59 but government agencies and their personnel can purchase it for \$39. Either amount must be prepaid and include postage. To order send a check or money order to Hazmat America Inc., 9 Browning Road, Arlington, MA 02174-7011. For more information call 617/646-4564 Monday through Friday.

*(Response: EMS Alaska, Spring 1992.)*

**T**he practice of leaving fluid for an extended period of time in the reservoir of a wall oxygen outlet in an ambulance could be hazardous to the health of your patients.

Water left in these humidifiers in the warm, dark, moist environment in the back of an ambulance can support the growth of potential disease-causing organisms. When this contaminated water is introduced into the respiratory tract

of a patient with a reduced ability to fight off the invading organisms, pulmonary infections can result that may threaten the life of the patient. Because contaminated equipment has been incriminated in epidemics of respiratory infections, an effective program for sterilization or disinfection is essential for preventing equipment-related outbreaks. Reusable humidifier reservoirs for use with wall oxygen outlets should be cleaned, rinsed, and dried daily. The fluid, tubing, nasal prongs, and mask used to deliver oxygen from a wall outlet in an ambulance should be changed between patients.

The goal should be to render parts of the oxygen delivery system that may be associated with infection transmission free of microbial contamination or to reduce the contamination risk of equipment-associated infection. High-level disinfection may be accomplished by hot-water pasteurization or liquid chemicals or disinfectants. Use distilled water when refilling the reservoir.

*(The Florida EMS Newsletter, Spring 92 via U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Annals of Emergency Medicine.)*

**W**hen a road accident occurs, the police communications officer or 911 operator generally receives the first call. If the caller reports injuries, the emergency medical services dispatcher is notified immediately; but if the caller is uncertain of injuries, the operator may wait. Most often an ambulance is not needed. However, in nearly 20 percent of fatal road accidents in Missouri, waiting for confirmation of need resulted in a delay of 5 minutes or more in the dispatch of an ambulance.

*(American Journal of Public Health, "Delay in Ambulance Dispatch to Road Accidents," Harold Brodsky, PhD, June 1992.)*

**T**he Florida EMS Clearinghouse has three new bibliographies available: Prehospital treatment of trauma, hazardous materials, and EMS for children. Funds tight? They also have a list of grant sources including: EMS, disaster management, and injury control programs. These grants are available to individuals and organizations that qualify according to the specifications of each particular grant. The descriptions of the grants have been taken from the latest editions of various sources.

(*The Florida EMS Newsletter*, Spring 92.)

**T**he American Ambulance Association urges EMS providers to maintain all backboards in "like-new" condition because of infection-control concerns. Backboards that are frayed or splintered should be taken out of service and repaired or replaced, according to Lynn Zimmerman, chair of the AAA professional standards committee.

(*EMS Insider*, July 1992.)

**A**n Oregon paramedic who is developing materials to help prehospital providers deliver better care to non-English-speaking patients would like to hear from EMS services and emergency departments that have addressed this issue.

Ken Klepper, EMT-P, has been funded by the International Refugee Center of Oregon in Portland to collect and study available materials on language translation in emergency situations and determine which methods are most effective.

Klepper asks people to send him samples of language translation booklets, graphics, and other methods used by emergency services to overcome language barriers.

To share information, contact Ken Klepper, EMT-P, 8735 S.E. 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97202; 503/232-5136.

(*EMS Insider*, July 1992.)

**S**eventy physicians involved in air-medical services around the U.S. and several other countries gathered at the first Air Medical Physicians Leadership Conference, held in Utah April 26 and 27, and laid the groundwork for a new organization. The new Air Medical Physicians Association (AMPA) will provide a structure for physicians involved or interested in air-medical service to network and address common concerns.

For more information, contact Pat Petersen, Executive Director, Air Medical Physicians Association, Department of Critical Care Medicine, Latter Day Saints Hospital, Eighth Avenue and C Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84143; 801/321-3699.

(*EMS Insider*, July 1992.)

**T**he workplace has become increasingly dangerous for EMS personnel due to violent crime. *Emergency Medical Update* has responded with a special edition on Crime and EMS which provides survival information for EMS responders.

The Crime and EMS edition is available in all formats for \$135. An Instructor Guide is included. For more information contact *Emergency Medical Update* at 1-800-327-3842.

(*Lytes & Sirens*, A Publication of the Illinois Department of Public Health, Summer 1992.)

**A** 1989 study by IBM shows that Interactive Video Disc training cut instruction time by 25 percent in its in-house employee training program while boosting comprehension by some 60 percent. Studies among other users have shown similar, if not better, results. Industry analysts also credit IVD with a 30 percent overall reduction in training costs.

(*911 Magazine*, "Interactive Video Disk Training," Craig A. Sullivan, July/August, 1992.)

Backboards that are frayed or splintered should be taken out of service and repaired or replaced because of infection-control concerns.

The new Air Medical Physicians Association (AMPA) will provide a structure for physicians involved or interested in air-medical service to network and address common concerns.

Citations used with permission.

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.

**Baird, Walter Lynn**, Canton, Texas. Revocation of EMT-Paramedic license. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(4)(M)(S), violating standard that would jeopardize the health or safety of a patient or has potential negative effect on patient.

**Daul, Lynn Ryan**, Galveston, Texas. Twelve months probation of EMT-Intermediate certification through June 8, 1993. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(4)(I), attempting to obtain certification by fraud, forgery, deception, misrepresentation, or subterfuge.

**Fisher, Shelia Y.**, Houston, Texas. Emergency suspension of EMT certification. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(1), failure to pass recertification test and retest.

**Flesher Ambulance Service**, Van Alstyne, Texas. Eighteen months probation of suspension of provider license through September 10, 1993. Violation of Health and Safety Code, Chapter 773.050, failure to staff emergency medical service vehicle with at least two certified personnel.

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

\* **Garza, Juan**, Laredo, Texas. Suspension of EMT-paramedic certification through February 13, 1993. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(2)(A), failure to follow EMS standards of care in management of a patient.

\* **Humphrey, Lloyd D.**, Tomball, Texas. Revocation of EMT-Basic certification. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(4)(J), conviction of a felony while certified.

**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.

**Marshall, Russell**, Longview, Texas. Eleven months probation of suspension through March 19, 1993. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(4)(I), assisting another to obtain certification by fraud, forgery, deception, misrepresentation, or subterfuge.

**Mission Critical Care**, Mission, Texas. Administrative penalty of \$1,000. Health and Safety Code, Chapter 773.050, failure to staff with two certified personnel; Chapter 773.064, administrative penalty.

**Mochman, Daryl**, Pittsburg, Texas. Revocation of EMT-Paramedic certification and one year probation of EMT-Intermediate certification through February 19, 1993. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(4) I, obtaining certification by fraud, forgery, deception, or misrepresentation.

**Poore, Kevin Lee**, San Antonio, Texas. Denial of recertification of EMT-Basic. EMS rule 157.53, failure to report convictions on application, misdemeanor convictions while certified.

**Ragsdale, Michael Shane**, Weir, Texas. Revocation of EMT certification. EMS rule 157.53 (a)(3), conviction of a crime that directly relates to EMS profession; also (6), falsifying application for certification.

**Rawls, Clay A.**, Houston, Texas. Emergency suspension of ECA certification. EMS rule 157(a)(1)(A), failure to pass state skills test and retest.

\* **Sandes, Phil R.**, Jacksonville, Texas. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(4)(J), conviction of a felony while certified.

**Terhune, Paul**, Irving, Texas. Revocation of EMT-Paramedic certification. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(4)(o), revocation when EMS certificate revoked in another state while holding a Texas EMS certificate.

**Tobey, Sam W., IV**, Silsbee, Texas. Six months probation of examiner certification through October 29, 1992. EMS rule 157.64(c)(1)(B) to (D), compromise of skills exam standards, failure to complete department skills examination forms.

\* **Wiley, Ronald C.**, Rockdale, Texas. Revocation of EMT-Intermediate certification. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(4)(S), violation of standard that would jeopardize the health or safety of a patient or that has a potential negative effect on the health or safety of a patient.

**Wilson, Jeffrey David**, Winnsboro, Texas. Eighteen months probation of EMT certification through January, 17, 1994. EMS rule 157.51 (a)(4), misdemeanor conviction while certified.

\*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.



**Emergency Care Attendants:** I am writing to publicly acknowledge two volunteers from Marfa, Texas.

On July 15, 1992, at 11:28 p.m., the Jeff Davis County Ambulance service was called by Marfa Dispatch to assist two very recently certified Emergency Care Attendants because the Marfa ambulance was already in service transporting a patient to Alpine.

Norma West and Gilbert Gonzales completed their ECA training classes in April of this year. This was their first critical call without higher trained personnel present. When Norma and Gilbert arrived to answer the call, the patient was in full cardiac arrest. They performed CPR and had a return of heartbeat and breathing at the time we arrived on the scene from Fort Davis.

I feel that Norma and Gilbert prove both the important of ECA training in the Tri-County area and the importance of people willing to give of their time for both training and service to our communities.

Hats off! And thanks to Norma West and Gilbert Gonzales for a job well done!

*Charles H. Bergmann*  
Jeff Davis County Ambulance

**EMS poetry:** I usually only write my poems for myself, but it seemed right to share this one through the "Messenger."

*Dana Havard, EMT-P, RN*  
Beach City, Texas

<i>Brake lights</i>	<i>Flashing red, red, red...</i>	<i>before I got there</i>
<i>A few cars ahead</i>	<i>Red on my hands I forgot</i>	<i>But He gave me this talent to</i>
<i>Something's up</i>	<i>to glove</i>	<i>help, didn't He?!</i>
<i>I hope the delay is not</i>	<i>In my hurry to save a life</i>	<i>Creeping, braking, necks</i>
<i>long.</i>	<i>Pleading eyes</i>	<i>craning to see</i>
<i>Creeping, braking</i>	<i>My hands work quickly</i>	<i>Everyone drives slowly for a</i>
<i>Creeping, braking</i>	<i>Racing against life</i>	<i>few miles past it.</i>
<i>Cresting the hill</i>	<i>Draining. Hopeless.</i>	<i>Feeling their own mortality</i>
<i>I recognize the</i>	<i>Ragged breath</i>	<i>perhaps.</i>
<i>devastation.</i>	<i>My sweat mingles with red</i>	<i>Me? I feel for everyone on</i>
<i>Flashing red, flashing blue</i>	<i>I already know my efforts</i>	<i>scene</i>
<i>Flashing yellow,</i>	<i>are wasted</i>	<i>I can hear the families' tears</i>
<i>sometimes orange</i>	<i>I already know I can't be</i>	<i>in my head.</i>
<i>Flashing red, flashing</i>	<i>quick enough</i>	
<i>white</i>	<i>This life God claimed</i>	

—Dana Havard

Announcements

**EMS action shots:** National EMS author is seeking EMS action photographs or slides for possible inclusion in EMS textbooks. Color 35 millimeter slides are preferred and should illustrate proper EMS procedures. Contact Dr. Bryan Bledsoe, 5517 Katey Lane, Arlington, TX 76017.

**Studies and presentations for EMS Today Conference in Phoenix.** Deadline for submission November 16, 1992. Call (619) 431-8088 to receive information packet.

Corrections

In the August issue on page 27 we should have listed ECA course 023282 as an independent course. We inadvertently called Cheryl Strawn of Burnet a paramedic in our September issue on page 25; she is an EMT.

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Alana S. Mallard  
Editor, *Texas EMS Magazine*

# Make sure Halloween is a treat Not a trick

I heard Houston's Dr. Paul Pepe talk about accidents when I was in Dallas in September for the excellent Second Annual North Texas Trauma Symposium. Actually, what Dr. Pepe said about accidents was that he didn't believe there was any such thing. That every accident could be prevented. I think he's right, and I think the EMS job of teaching injury prevention is a year-round job.

Holidays need a bigger dose of injury prevention attention because celebrations sometimes leave us and our little ones thinking more about the festivities and less about safe behavior.

The Texas Safety Association reminds us that the excitement of Halloween night can cause children to forget to be careful, and that both children and adults need to be serious about safety on this annual day of make-believe.

Here are tips for motorists, costume-makers, and trick-or-treaters:

Drivers, slow down in neighborhoods and watch for kids walking on roadways, medians, and curbs. Those goblins might dart out into the street from between parked cars, so be especially alert. Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully as you watch for children. If you are driving to a costume party, don't wear your mask while you drive, and avoid costumes that make it difficult to move your arms and legs.

If you are making a costume, make

it loose enough so warm clothing can be worn underneath (Who really knows with this Texas weather!), and to allow free movement. Remember that falls are the leading cause of accidents on Halloween, according to the National Safety Council, so don't dream up a tripping hazard for yourself or your child. Use light-colored, fire-retardant fabric, and put reflective tape on the kids' costumes to make them even more visible. Consider using stage makeup—it won't block vision like a mask will. Attach your youngster's name, address, and telephone number to the costume, but not in an easily visible place.

Now for that scary monster who demands tricks or treats. Make sure that an adult or older teenager supervises kids younger than 12 who go door-to-door. Parents should plan a route for the kids in their own neighborhood that includes only residences with lights. Warn the children never to enter a stranger's home—not at Halloween, not ever. Give your kids change for a phone call back home in case a problem needs to be solved, agree to a time they will return, and remind the kids not to eat their treats until after inspection by you or by the hospital's X-ray department.

Halloween doesn't have to be scary and dangerous, it can be scary and safe if you remember not to give an accident a place to happen.

Think Child Safety, punkinheads. And think grown-up safety while you're at it. I sure hope you are reading this in October—the color covers are playing heck with our publishing schedule.



*Remember that we publish this magazine to help you. Anything you read here you can reprint in your local newspaper, in a handout, or in your service's newsletter. And I'd love to see a copy.*

# Calendar

## Meetings

November 2-13, 1992. **Basic Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF)**, 87-hour program provides classroom and hands-on firefighting training. Meets basic requirements of the Federal Aviation Admin. \$800. Fire Protection Training Division, Texas Engineering Extension Service, College Station, TX. 409/845-1152.

November 7, 1992. **Industrial Disaster Management Seminar**. Sponsored by the Emergency Municipal Medical Association (EMMA), Pasadena Community Center. Contact Jim Becka 713/790-1066 for details.

November 7-8, 1992. **Basic Vertical Rescue**. \$75. McLennan Community College, Waco, TX. 817/750-3512.

November 13, 1992. **Neuro/Trauma Symposium**. Program: "Current Trends in Assessment and Treatment of Central Nervous System Trauma." Seton Medical Center, Austin, TX. Carol Schauf 512/323-1015.

November 14, 1992. **Introduction to Search and Rescue**. \$100. McLennan Community College, Waco, TX. 817/750-3512.

November 18-22, 1992. **Vertical Rescue Specialist Course**. Sponsored by Troll Safety and Rescue. Austin, TX. \$340. All equipment provided. Linda or Joe Duncum. 512/837-6983.

November 21-22, 1992. **Instructor Certification Training Course**. Pre-conference to Texas EMS Conference '92. Austin, Texas. Contact Debbie Bradford for registration. Enrollment is limited. 512/458-7550.

November 22, 1992. **Prehospital Provider Pediatric Course - BLS**. Pre-conference to Texas EMS Conference '92. Austin, Texas. Contact Pauline VanMeurs for registration. Enrollment is limited. 512/458-7550.

November 22, 1992. **Golf Tournament**. Pre-conference to Texas EMS Conference '92. Austin, Texas. Contact Rhonda Blackmore for registration. 512/458-7550.

November 22, 1992. **Basic Rappelling Course**. Pre-conference to Texas EMS Conference '92. Austin, Texas. Contact Alana Mallard for registration. 512/458-7550.

November 22, 1992. **Coordination Certification Training Course**. Pre-conference to Texas EMS Conference '92. Austin, Texas. Contact Debbie Bradford for registration. Enrollment is limited. 512/458-7550.

November 22-23, 1992. **Valsalva Bowl Competition at Texas EMS Conference '92**. Austin, Texas. Contact Jerry Reichel 409/345-2288.

November 23-25, 1992. **Texas EMS Conference '92**. Austin, Texas. Hyatt Regency, Palmer Auditorium. \$50 registration fee, \$450 exhibitor fee. Contact Kelly Daigle for conference information or Jan Brizendine for exhibitor information at 512/458-7550.

December 3-4, 1992. **TEMSAC meeting**. Austin, Texas. Contact Harold Broadbent 512/458-7550.

December 4, 1992. **Swiftwater Rescue Technician I**. \$130. McLennan Community College, Waco, TX. 817/750-3512.

December 10, 1992. **Advanced Vertical Rescue**. \$130. McLennan Community College, Waco, TX. 817/750-3512.

February 25-28, 1993. **Disaster '93 - The International Disaster Management Conference**. Twin Towers Hotel, Orlando, Florida. 1-800-766-6335 or 407/281-7396

## Jobs

**Education Specialist**: Paramedic Instructor/Coordinator preferred with experience in EMS prehospital care, investigation, and EMS education, for development of EMS certification examinations, certification of personnel with felony backgrounds, and complaint investigation relation to EMS education. Debbie Bradford, Bureau of Emergency Management, 512/458-7550.

**Fireman/Paramedic**: Saudi/American joint venture is recruiting highly skilled fire rescue professionals for the new international airport located in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. Positions include: chief fire officer, deputy chief, assistant chiefs, fire prevention officer, station captains, lieutenants and paramedics. Benefits: tax free income, transportation, housing, food, uniforms, insurance, 45 days vacation with free airfare. Fax resume: Integrated Resources, 716/677-6812.\*

**Paramedics**: 9-1-1 MICU system in Arlington. Progressive protocols, excellent equipment. \$21,000 with complete benefits package. Resume: Mike Smith, Life Star Ambulance, 601 E. Main, Arlington, TX 76010. 817/261-3881.\*

**Clinical Coordinator**: Paramedic and/or registered nurse. EMS coordinator, advanced instructor, ACLS certified, BCLS instructor. 5 years experience. Resume and salary requirements: Mike Smith, Life Star Ambulance, 601 E. Main, Arlington, TX 76010. 817/261-3881.\*

**EMS Instructor/Examiner**: Gulf coast area. \$1,400-\$2,000 plus car, benefits and relocation allowance, depending upon teaching experience. 1-800-462-9569.\*

**Training Coordinator/Quality Assurance Manager**: Private ALS/MICU service in south Texas. Eligibility for Texas advanced course coordinator certification required. Resume: AMCARE, 10116 Huebner Road, San Antonio, TX 78240. EOE.\*

**Paramedic**: Certified EMT-P for city/county 9-1-1 emergency/emergency transfers EMS system.

Mike Scudder, W.T.A.S., Alpine EMS, PO Box 338, Alpine, TX 79831. 915/837-3028.\*

**Paramedic**: TDH EMT-P certification. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Irma Trevino, 101 W. Burleson, Wharton, TX 77488. Individuals hired by the City of Wharton must pass a physical and alcohol/drug test. EOE.\*

**EMT-I/Paramedic**: TX Dept. of Corrections. \$1654/mo. Texas certification EMT-I/Paramedic. TDC, Box 99, Personnel, Huntsville, TX 77342. 409/291-4029.

**Operations Manager**: Stamford EMS accepting applications for operations manager, must be a paramedic. Send application to Stamford EMS, PO Box 27, Stamford, TX 79553.\*

**EMT/Paramedic**: Calhoun County EMS is accepting applications for three full-time positions. Call Carl at 512/552-1140 or write to: 216 E. Mahan, Port Lavaca, TX 77979.\*

## For Sale

**For Sale**: ICOM H16a VHF-High 16 ch. keypad programmable scanning Handheld \$515. 512/693-4999.\*

**For Sale**: Numerous supplies and equipment from BLS to MICU. Radios, pagers, linen, desks, chairs and much, more. Serious inquiries to PO Box 2951, Palestine, TX 75801 for a complete listing.\*

**For Sale**: 1984 Ford Wheeled Coach Type II, gas vacuum/electric suction, light bar & siren, under bench storage, lots of cabinets, good condition. \$6,500. Mike Branigan, Hall Co. EMS, Memphis, TX 806/259-2023 days, or 259-2618 evenings.\*

**For Sale**: ICOM IC-H2/6 6 channel VHF Synthesized handheld transceiver. IC-CM3 battery 1 watt (1), IC-CM5 5 watt (2), CM-30 battery charger, CM-25U battery charger, IC-CM9 lapel mic & speaker. Leather case, car antenna. David 903/839-6882.

**For Sale**: ICOM U10 UHF10 ch. Handheld synthesized two-way radio with desktop charger \$440, 512/693-4999.

**For Sale**: Laerdal airway management trainer, unused. List price \$1,150. Tony Boyd. 915/858-0260.

**For Sale**: 1979 Ford Type III. Excellent condition, low mileage, many extras. \$13,000. 512/729-2112.\*

\* This listing is new to this issue.

## Moving? Renewing your subscription? Placing an ad?

**Moving?** Let us know your new address—the post office does not automatically mail your magazine to your new address. Use the subscription form in the magazine to change your address and mark the change of address box. We don't want you to miss an issue!

**Renewing your subscription?** Paid subscriptions have a 4-digit number on the mailing label. Example: 9304 means the subscription expires with the April, '93 issue. Use the subscription form in the magazine to renew your subscription and mark the renewal box.

**Placing an ad?** To place an ad in the calendar section, write the ad (keep the words to a minimum, please) and fax to: *Texas EMS Magazine*, 512/458-7407 or send to the address below. Ads will run in two issues and then be removed.

For circulation and calendar information call or write Jan Brizendine at 512/458-7550 or *Texas EMS Magazine*, 1100 West 49th, Austin, Texas 78756-3199.

# On the road: Charles English knows about driving airplanes and cars

**O**n a clear day, you can see forever—especially if you're with Charles English soaring high above the hill country in his bright blue and yellow airplane. Charles, director of the Division of Medical Standards on Motor Vehicle Operation, began flying airplanes when he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1955. Charles' division, also called the Medical Advisory Board, is part of the Bureau of Emergency Management.



*Charles English confers with D. Parkhill about one of the thousands of cases MAB reviews each year.*

Although Charles spends his free time in the air, at work he's more concerned with roads—specifically, the way people drive on the roads. The Medical Advisory Board reviews the medical records of drivers who abuse alcohol or drugs, or have a medical condition which makes them dangerous behind the wheel.

"The general mission of the Medical Advisory Board is to allow people who have a medical handicap to operate a motor vehicle," says Charles, "and to remove those people with a medical

condition who cannot safely operate a motor vehicle."

Drivers are usually referred to MAB in one of three ways: through the driver's license application, by physicians, or by police officers. DPS refers people who answer yes to any of the medical questions on a driver's license application. Physicians, especially emergency room physicians, may tell MAB about drivers who've had seizures and other problems. And police officers may refer people they stop for driving violations if they suspect a medical problem.

MAB's board of physicians reviews medical forms completed by the driver's physicians and recommends action ranging from approval to issue a driver's license to revocation.

"What we give is only an opinion," says Charles. "The decision on what to do about the license rests solely with DPS."

About one third of the 1,200 cases a month MAB reviews are alcohol related. Other medical conditions such as diabetes and epilepsy make up the remainder of the caseload.

"We're interested in anything that would cause an altering of consciousness or an inability to function," says Charles.

Charles also serves on the Texas-based Task Force for Older Drivers, which created a plan for evaluating and testing the older driver. The plan includes recommendations for making signs easier to read for the older driver and will be presented to the governor this year.

Originally from Stephenville, Charles now lives southwest of Austin in Bastrop. Charles, who teaches flying, recently sent his sixteen-year-old grandson up for his first solo flight. Charles and his wife Janet have three sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren.

For information about the Medical Advisory Board, call Charles at (512) 458-7550.

Bureau of Emergency Management  
Texas Department of Health  
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