

# Texas EMS Trauma News

Fall 2021

Volume 8 No. 4

Office of EMS Trauma Systems  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
[dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/](https://dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/)



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"As your state EMS director, colleague, and friend, I know how exhausted everyone is from all the hard work..."

## From This Side

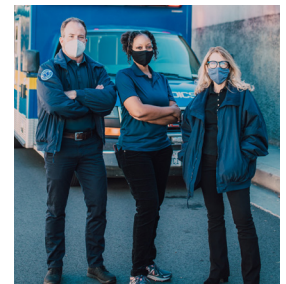
By Joe Schmider,  
State EMS Director



## YOU'VE GOT THIS!

The nation, State of Texas, and our employers, friends, and family are asking each one of us to put forth our very best effort into helping accomplish all the tasks needed to complete the COVID response.

**There have been unfortunate** challenges in completing this response due to unforeseen events, additional disasters, and their subsequent responses. While there may have been setbacks throughout the pandemic response, I know we can get through it. We must continue to follow the science and work together as a team and partners.



I am sorry to ask, but we need everyone to give just a little more. As your state EMS director, colleague, and friend, I know how exhausted everyone is from all the hard work, both professionally and personally, over the past 18 months - I want to encourage everyone to keep on doing their best. With just a little more strength as we push forward, we are sure to accomplish this enormous task set before us. Now, more than ever, we are putting faith in the superb teamwork everyone has been showing these past months.

Just a little more. Together, we will cross the finish line.  
We can do this!

Take care,  
Joe

[GET THE LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION >](#)

## Texercise Prevents: Malnutrition in Older Texans

By Chelsea Couch, Texercise Program Coordinator

**Malnutrition** occurs when a person gets too much or not enough nutrients from the foods they eat. It is a global health crisis that affects every country in the world. Older adults have a higher risk of malnutrition influenced by a variety of factors, including existing health issues, limited access to healthy foods, and limited or low income. The effects of malnutrition on older adults can be life threatening, putting them at a higher risk of falls from weakened bones and muscle loss and infections due to weakened immune system. This can be medically costly and can greatly diminish a person's quality of life.



According to Defeat Malnutrition Today — a coalition of national, state and local stakeholders — one out of two older adults is malnourished or at risk of becoming malnourished. Defeat Malnutrition Today works to raise awareness and address malnutrition in the aging population. Their website, [defeatmalnutrition.today](https://defeatmalnutrition.today), contains an array of resources including the "National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults," which outlines ways to improve older adults' health outcomes through malnutrition care.

Texas Health and Human Services is proud to announce the launch of the Texercise Prevents: Malnutrition in Older Texans awareness campaign. This campaign raises awareness of the risks of malnutrition in older Texans, educates people on the signs and symptoms, and connects them to services and resources available to help combat malnutrition. "Texercise is committed to assisting older Texans with healthy aging including supporting providers serving older adults with free resources on physical activity and nutrition. Texercise Prevents: Malnutrition in Older Texans campaign raises awareness on malnutrition, a major health issue facing older Texans, and educates providers on how to combat it" said Chelsea Couch, HHS Texercise Program Coordinator.

The Texercise Prevents: Malnutrition in Older Texans campaign provides resources for:

- Providers serving older Texans – information brief, fact sheet and postcard
- Older adults and their caregivers – fact sheet and postcard

Visit the [Texercise website](https://www.texercise.org) to learn more about the campaign and to download the materials. You can also contact Texercise ([texercise@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:texercise@hhs.texas.gov)) to order free copies of these resources.

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## GETAC COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS

Interested in serving on a GETAC committee? Submit your application by October 10.

**NOTE:** If your appointment to a committee expires in 2021, you **MUST** reapply to be considered for re-appointment to that committee.

[VIEW APPLICATION DETAILS](#)





## TEXAS SHINES THE RE-START

### TEXAS EMS HALL OF HONOR AND TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF EMS

By Barbara Bowers, Brock Miller, and Jim Speier

The year was 2010. The president of the Texas Association of Air Medical Services (TAAMS) Mr. Steve Soliz was approached by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) EMS staff and asked if TAAMS would be willing to take on an annual fundraising event. The event was to raise money to allow Line of Duty Death (LODD) families to attend the Texas EMS Conference, where their family member was being honored and enshrined into the Texas EMS Hall of Honor.

Steve took his concept to fellow TAAMS members Mr. Tim Pickering and Mr. Brock Miller. Together they brought the request, along with their thoughts, to the TAAMS membership who all said, "YES! Let's do it."

#### THROUGH THE YEARS

Brock, Steve, and Tim went to work, and the golf ball for the First Annual Texas EMS Hall of Honor fundraising event began to roll! The entire TAAMS membership became involved in various ways by getting sponsors, signing up teams, obtaining silent auction items, and much more.

#### HERE'S A LOOK BACK, LEADING UP TO WHERE WE ARE NOW:

<b>2011</b>	Brock secured Onion Creek Country Club in Austin, TX. Steve drove the Sponsorship Committee, and Tim secured our top sponsor, Air Evac Lifeteam. Jim Speier drove the Silent Auction Committee. Barbara Bowers, TAAMS Executive Director, kept us all in line.
<b>2012</b>	We returned to Onion Creek Country Club for the second year.
<b>2013</b>	Our new venue was going to be the Texas Star Golf Course in Ft. Worth, TX, but it rained out at the last second. Brock went into panic mode, and in less than 12 hours, he had secured a contract with Topgolf in Dallas. He also secured two 12-passenger vans to bus the teams to Dallas in the rain (not fun as the bus driver), but thanks to Brock, the event was a success!
<b>2014 - 2016</b>	Events were held at Top Golf for the next three years—Ft. Worth (2014) and Dallas (2015 & 2016).
<b>2017</b>	A switch was made due to the rising cost for the Topgolf venue. We thought, <i>Let's try bowling</i> , and we moved to the City View Lanes in Ft. Worth. It turned out to be the best yet.
<b>2018 - 2019</b>	We were back at City View Lanes in Ft. Worth for even better times and bowling for two more years.
<b>2020</b>	COVID—Bust, as we are all aware.
<b>2021</b>	We are still planning whether an in-person event activity is a go or not, but the silent auction will occur for sure. (In addition to Texas EMS Hall of Honor event, TAAMS hosts the Silent Auction each year in the Exhibit Hall. Our primary sponsor is Sladak Convention Service, who has donated booth space for 9 years.)

## HALL OF HONOR FUNDS

Funds raised are held in a special account within TAAMS, with 100% of the funds going to the Texas EMS Hall of Honor. Each year we work with DSHS staff, who selects Hall of Honor inductees. TAAMS members ensure the families' expenses are paid and that there are no financial worries for attending the event. TAAMS also has a special scholarship fund to assist with the education of children of LODD inductees.

Truly, we would hope these dollars are never needed, but unfortunately over the last 11 years, we have provided funds for 18 families. This year, we will be making funds available to four LODD families, all having died due to work-related COVID-19. While we pray for no line of duty deaths, we will continue to work hard to support those in need and thank the ones who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

## SUPPORTING THE HALL OF HONOR

A big shout out to all who have supported this event over the years and made it a great success! Should you feel in your heart the need to support this worthy cause, please reach out to any TAAMS member or call Jim Speier at 903-571-5821 for information.

## Check Your AED: Is it FDA Approved?



The FDA published a final order in February 2015 requiring premarket approval (PMA) applications for new and existing AEDs and necessary AED accessories. According to the final order, manufacturers of all necessary AED accessories, such as batteries, pad electrodes, adapters and hardware keys for pedi-atric use, must file a premarket approval application (PMA) within 90 days of the date of the final order; however, the FDA did not intend to enforce compliance with the PMA submission requirement for these necessary AED accessories for 60 months following the date of the final order, which was February 3, 2020.

In response to feedback from stakeholders, the FDA stated it did not intend to enforce the PMA submission requirement for the necessary AED accessories until February 3, 2021. The FDA has since issued guidance to revise its compliance policy regarding the deadline for filing PMAs for these necessary AED accessories, announcing that the FDA does not intend to enforce compliance with the PMA submission requirement for these necessary accessories until February 3, 2022.

For more information: [FDA Automated External Defibrillators \(AEDs\)](#)

## STOP THE BLEED

Stop the Bleed Texas Coalition took a little time to allow members to address the recent high hospitalizations as well as COVID positive patients. Thanks to everyone for their continued support in the COVID response while still maintaining the Texas Trauma & Emergency Healthcare System.

Currently, the Coalition is working on logistics for the largest Stop the Bleed Training in the nation in May 2023. In October, the Coalition will be sending out two surveys:

- 1) Tourniquet Coding Survey and
- 2) a Texas Stop the Bleed Dashboard.

These surveys will help continue to provide bleeding control across the state and save lives.

Please take the time to answer them. We wanted to take this opportunity to share the 16 approved tourniquet codes that our state is using. Work with the Texas EMS/Trauma Registry is going great. We want to be able to run reports to guide our progression in this initiative. Please submit any questions to [creeves@hotrac.org](mailto:creeves@hotrac.org) or go to the Coalition website at [www.stopthebleedtx.org](http://www.stopthebleedtx.org).

## Texas Wristband Project

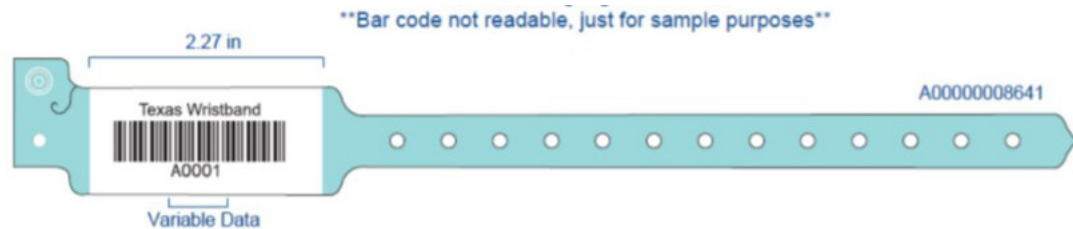


image 1

Texas Wristband Project is in full swing. More and more agencies and RACs are coming full circle with their implementation. They will be sending out a survey to the 22 RACs to help us gauge how far they are in this process.

### **Conversations are going well with the Texas EMS/Trauma Registry Team.**

The project is still on track for the Texas Wristband ID number to be a Texas required field by January 1, 2023. The RACs expect full implementation by December 2022 or sooner. If you have any questions reach out to your RAC or contact me at [creeves@hotrac.org](mailto:creeves@hotrac.org).



## EMS WAIVERS

Here are 5 things you should know about the updated suspended regulations to increase the number of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workers and first responders in Texas during the state's response to COVID-19 from April 2, 2020.

### STAFFING

1

**\*Waivers to remain in effect until the earlier of 12:01am on February 28, 2022 or when the March 13, 2020 disaster declaration is lifted or expires.**

Local medical directors for licensed EMS providers may permit individuals who are qualified, but not formally certified, to provide critical emergency response services for patients treated and transported by the EMS provider (Texas Health and Safety Code Section 773.050(a), 25 Texas Administrative Code Section 157.11(h)).

### FIRST RESPONDER ORGANIZATIONS

2

**\*Waiver withdrawn at 12:01am on September 1, 2021.**

First responder organizations may delay submission of renewal applications and certain completion requirements for licensure (25 Texas Administrative Code Section 157.14(f)(1) and (2)).

### CERTIFICATION EXPIRATIONS

3

**\*Waivers withdrawn at 12:01am on September 1, 2021.**

EMS personnel whose certification expired less than one year prior to the Governor's declaration on March 13, 2020, are not required to submit the required skills verification at this time (Texas Administrative Code Section 157.34(a)(3), 157.34(e)(2)-(3)).

### OUT-OF-STATE ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

4

**\*Waiver withdrawn at 12:01am on September 1, 2021.**

Out-of-state Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians who are qualified, but currently unable to take the skills test, can provide essential EMS services (25 Texas Administrative Code Section 157.33(i)(2)(B)).

### EMS PROVIDERS

5

**\*Waiver withdrawn at 12:01am on September 1, 2021.**

EMS providers whose license expires after March 13, 2020 may temporarily delay submission of their renewal application and completion of the licensure requirements until the end of the waiver period (25 Texas Administrative Code Section 157.11(o)(2)(A)-(E)).



## GROUND AMBULANCE SURVEY COMING TO EMS PROVIDERS THIS FALL

Senate Bill 790, passed in the 87th regular session, requires the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to conduct a study on the balance billing practices of ground ambulance service providers, variations in prices, proportions of services that are in-network, trends in network inclusion, and factors contributing to the network status of ground ambulances. TDI must submit a report on the study to the legislature by Dec. 1, 2022. TDI will require survey responses from licensed EMS providers for this study.

You will receive more information soon, so be on the lookout for emails about this legislatively required study.

## RENEWAL APPLICANTS

When reviewing your account at renewal time, please **do not withdraw your application**. Your open application will show up under "Check Application Status". If you withdraw the renewal application, it closes the application, and you will need to contact us to open another application. The submission date that displays is the date the EMS office opened the application. Applications are opened six months before your expiration date. You may renew up to one year before your expiration date. If your application has not been opened, you may contact us to open your application. Please email as [emscert@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:emscert@dshs.texas.gov).

Application Status Inquiry

Below is a list of outstanding/pending applications.  
Press "Back" to return to the main menu.

Submission Date	Application Name	Application Number	Status	Deficiencies	Notes
09/16/2021	<a href="#">Renewal EMS Personnel</a>		Open		

[Previous](#)

Submission Date	09/16/2021
Application Name	Renewal EMS Personnel
Application Number	
Status	Open
Deficiencies	
Notes	

[Withdraw Application](#) [Submit Document\(s\)](#) [Done](#)

## FUNDING

### Uncompensated Trauma Care (UCC)

Information: [Funding Sources - Texas Department of State Health Services, EMS & Trauma Systems](#)

- FY 2019 UCC payments were released the week of August 16, 2021. The disbursement served two purposes: 1) Ensure that any hospital that received the Medicaid SDA "Trauma Add-On" did not receive less than the amount calculated for the DSHS FY 2019 Uncompensated Trauma Care disbursement; and 2) Distribute funds in the Comptroller Account # 5111 to all hospitals that were eligible for the FY 2019 Uncompensated Trauma Care disbursement.
- FY 2020 UCC application deadline has been extended until October 20, 2021. The UCC application is a 3-part application process. All 3 parts of the application must be completed and submitted on or before the deadline to be considered for hospital allocation funding eligibility. More details can be found here: [Uncompensated Trauma Care Funding Application \(texas.gov\)](#).



### EMS Allotment Funding

Information: [EMS Allotment/Allocation Eligibility \(texas.gov\)](#) [Governor's Extraordinary Emergency Fund \(EEF\)](#)

- A licensed EMS Provider that provides 911 and/or emergency transfers may be eligible for funding (EMS/County) by meeting the following requirements:
  - ▷ maintain provider licensure as described in §157.11 and provide emergency medical services and/or emergency transfers;
  - ▷ demonstrate utilization of the RAC regional protocols regarding patient destination and transport in all TSAs in which they operate; and
  - ▷ demonstrate active participation in the regional system performance improvement (PI) program in all TSAs in which they operate.
- As referenced in the Texas Administrative Codes [157.130](#) & [157.131](#), an EMS provider serving any county beyond its county of licensure must provide to the department evidence of a contract or letter of agreement with each additional county which service is provided on or before August 31st.

### Governor's Extraordinary Emergency Fund (EEF)

Information: [Governor's Extraordinary Emergency Fund](#)

- Funding is set aside each fiscal year to support the emergent, unexpected needs of EMS providers or DSHS-approved organizations. Proposals are evaluated based on impact to the regional or statewide EMS/trauma system.
- Eligible applicants include:
  - ▷ licensed EMS providers;
  - ▷ registered first responder organizations; and
  - ▷ licensed hospitals
- Submissions can be emailed to: [fundingapp@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:fundingapp@dshs.texas.gov) or by fax: 512-834-6736



## FUNDING CONT.

### Emergency Care Attendant Training (ECA) Fund

Information: [Training Funding](#)

- Funds have been allocated to DSHS for the purpose of providing training grants to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Training Programs, Coordinators, and/or Instructors to conduct the ECA classes in or near communities that lack local EMS training resources.
- To be considered for this funding opportunity:
  - Eligible organizations (department-licensed EMS providers and registered first responder organizations) should be located in a rural or underserved areas.
  - You must have at least three people who are interested in taking the training and are willing to commit a year of service to your organization after achieving ECA certification.

For more information on EMS/Trauma Systems Grants & Funding, please visit our website: [Funding Sources - Texas Department of State Health Services, EMS & Trauma Systems](#)

## RULES

<a href="#">§157.122</a>	Trauma Service Areas
<a href="#">§157.123</a>	Regional Emergency Medical Services/Trauma Systems
<a href="#">§157.125</a>	Requirements for Trauma Facility Designation
<a href="#">§157.128</a>	Denial, Suspension, and Revocation of Trauma Facility Designation
<a href="#">§157.130</a>	Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care System Account and Emergency Medical Services, Trauma Facilities, and Trauma Care System Fund
<a href="#">§157.131</a>	Designated Trauma Facility and Emergency Medical Services Account
<a href="#">§157.132</a>	Regional Trauma Account
<a href="#">§157.133</a>	Requirements for Stroke Facility Designation

### Texas Administrative Code Revisions

The department continues to move forward with updating the current Texas Administrative Codes Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 157, Subchapter G. The effective dates for these current rules range from 2004 to 2006. The exceptions are Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 157.131 which was effective in 2007 and 157.133 Stroke Facility Designation Requirements which were effective in 2009. The department requested to appeal and replace rules 157.122, 157.123, 157.125, 157.128, 157.130, and 157.131. A request to repeal 157.132 Regional Trauma Account was also submitted.

The rule revisions are currently coordinated through the GETAC Committees and final rule proposed revisions are forwarded to the Council for final review and recommendations. The Stroke Rules TAC 157.133 were approved by the GETAC Council in November of 2020 and moved forward to the department. The Stroke Rules are currently in the Rules Coordination Office and with the Executive Commissioner. The Stroke Rules and 157.122 Trauma Service Area Rules are expected to move to the Executive Committee in November. After this process, they will have thirty-day public comment period. The recommendations or questions submitted during this public comment period will be reviewed by the department for potential rule language modifications. The GETAC stakeholders will be notified of the public comment period.

## RULES CONT.

The Trauma System Committee reviewed 157.125 on the following dates and provided opportunities for public comment.

- November 10, 2020
- February 9, 2021
- February 11, 2021
- March 9, 2021
- April 12, 2021
- June 15, 2021
- August 10, 2021
- September 2, 2021



The Regional Advisory Council TAC 157.123 was reviewed on July 29th, August 6th and, August 8th

On September 17th, the GETAC Council approved The TAC 157.122, 157.125, 157.128, 157.130, and 157.131. These rules are being prepared for the Rules Coordination Office. The deadline to submit these proposed rules is December 19, 2021. It is anticipated that the Rule Coordination Office will complete the rule process in the fall of 2022. The anticipated effective date of these new rules is Spring of 2023. This may change if delays occur with the rule review process.

TAC 157.132 will be repealed and will not be replaced due to the repeal of the red-light camera rules. This funding was directly linked to the red-light camera funding.

The department is continuing to work with the regional advisory council chairs, executive directors, GETAC Council Chair, Chair of the Trauma System Committee, Chair of the EMS Medical Directors Committee, and Chair of the EMS Committee to review the RAC criteria and self-assessment. These calls are scheduled for Tuesdays from 4 pm to 5:30 pm.

## PERINATAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC) has focused on the rules and implementation process for HB 1164 (87R). This bill was introduced by Representative Oliverson. The bill focuses on the patient safety practices regarding placenta accrete spectrum disorder. Placenta accrete spectrum disorder refers to placenta accrete, placenta increta, and placenta percreta. The bill integrates the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, and management of placenta accrete spectrum disorder into the maternal levels of care. The PAC, led by Dr. Emily Briggs, created a subcommittee to address HB 1164. Dr. Patrick Ramsey chaired the subcommittee.

Members of the subcommittee included Dr. Emily Briggs, Dr. Eugene Toy, Dr. David Nelson, Dr. Michael Stanley, and Ms. Dara Langford. The department created a workgroup to assist Dr. Patrick. The workgroup included representatives from Government Affairs, the Designation Unit staff, the DSHS legal team, and the Community Health Improvement Division. The subcommittee and the workgroup worked collaboratively to ensure that the proposed rules were completed within the required timeline. The proposed rules were presented at the September 22nd PAC Meeting. The rule recommendations were moved forward to the department. The subcommittee is continuing to hear public comments. The PAC meeting scheduled for [October 6th](#) will provide additional opportunities for the public comment.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2021. This meeting will include the discussion of the "Waiver Guidelines," "Appeal Guidelines," and proposed neonatal rule revisions found on the [Rules in Revision page](#).

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## NEWS

**NHTSA's EMS Update:** Learn more about current projects and efforts in EMS from NHTSA and its Federal partners.

**CDC Newsroom:** View the latest CDC public health news and press releases.

**Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons:** *The Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons* is published monthly by the American College of Surgeons.

**Washington Update:** *The Washington Update* is produced bi-monthly by the National Association of State EMS Officials in cooperation with NHTSA OEMS, with funds also provided by HHS EMSC.

**NACo County News:** The voice of American counties.

**EMSC Pulse:** The EMSC Pulse Newsletter is a digest of program news and activities. Each issue includes a wealth of information about the pediatric emergency medical care community.

**Integrated Healthcare Delivery:** Integrated Healthcare Delivery focuses on improving the patient experience of care through inter-professional collaborations.

External links to other sites are intended to be informational and do not have the endorsement of the Texas Department of State Health Services. These sites may also not be accessible to persons with disabilities.

## Links

**GETAC:** Visit the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council web page to view council, committees, and meeting information.

**PAC:** Visit the Perinatal Advisory Council web page to view council and meeting information.

**Rules:** This page contains links to the Texas Administrative Code rules pertaining to EMS/Trauma Systems.

**Disciplinary actions:** This page provides public notice of disciplinary action by the Department of State Health Services and the Consumer Protection Division, Consumer Safety Unit.

**Staff Contacts:** This page provides contact information for the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems staff and programs.

**Preparedness:** The Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response is to provide public health leadership and improve health and well-being in Texas.

**Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program:** The program, spearheaded by the Texas legislature, provides a 30-year fixed rate home loan to Texas EMS personnel, firefighters, peace officers, and others. In addition, this program offers down payment and closing cost assistance of up to 5% of the mortgage loan amount, in the form of a grant.



The Code  
Green  
Campaign

Anxiety, depression, increased use of drugs and/or alcohol?  
You are not alone.  
Call us for free, confidential support for you and your loved ones

**FIRST RESPONDER  
HELPLINE  
833-367-4689**

These services are provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

EMSC | Helping with EMS | go.uth.edu/helpline | UTH | Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**Texas Department of State  
Health Services**

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