## Texas EMS Trauma News

Spring 2024
Volume 11 No. 2



## 2023 Texas National Registry Pass Rates

#### From this Side

EMS/Trauma Systems leadership team and staff share their experiences and perspectives to spark conversation on issues important to the EMS and trauma system in Texas.

#### **Updates**

The Office of EMS/Trauma Systems provides the latest regulatory changes, important programmatic data, and relevant funding information to keep you informed.

#### **News and Links**

Access current news, initiatives, and publications from national EMS and public health organizations, as well as links to GETAC, rules, and enforcement actions.

## Together We Grow: New Offering for Grant Seekers

DSHS offers free grant development services for the public through the Office of Practice and Learning.

#### **Heroes Helpline**

A look at how this valuable program has grown in the last four years and is reaching out for the future.

#### Online Pediatric Assesment Launches May 1

The National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project offers free tools and resources to help EMS and firerescue agencies become pediatric ready.



#### LETTER TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Dear EMS and Trauma Stakeholders,

This letter is to inform you that the Department of State Health Services is withdrawing the current Chapter 157 rule project that was first published in the *Texas Register* on January 19, 2024. DSHS will submit a new rule project on Chapter 157 soon.

This withdrawal and resubmission will allow DSHS to fully address the approximately 4,000 comments regarding the proposed rule.

DSHS has considered all the received comments and will make significant modifications to accommodate much of stakeholder feedback. When DSHS resubmits the rules project, the following changes will be included:

- Where the proposed rules exceeded American College of Surgeons (ACS) requirements, most provisions will be modified to a similar standard as ACS, with a couple of small exceptions.
- Where stakeholders noted that the provisions would create an undue burden on facilities, many provisions will be modified to be consistent with ACS criteria or removed.
- Related to the four categories of Level IV facilities, DSHS will modify the Level IV provisions to include just two categories: 100 patients or less and Over 100 patients. For the low volume facilities, there would be fewer requirements.
- Related to the effective date of the designation portion of the rules, DSHS will modify the proposal such that those provisions would be effective September 1, 2025.

Ultimately, there is a need to update the content and processes in rule with the advances, evidencebased practices, and system processes that have developed since the current rules were adopted in 2004. There also is a need to align with ACS standards and to include amendments that implement legislation passed since the rules were last adopted.

This effort is the culmination of years of work, interrupted by the pandemic, to bring the trauma rules up to the most current standards. Our staff spent hundreds of hours with individual stakeholders and stakeholder groups, including the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. We appreciate your time invested in these efforts. DSHS will continue to collaborate with stakeholders and GETAC to successfully bring trauma services requirements up to current national standards.

DSHS will provide updates through GETAC on the proposed rule timeline. Information will be sent hrough the email subscription system. If you would like to receive updates, please visit the DSHS EMS and Trauma Systems website and click on the "Sign Up for Updates" link at the bottom of the page. Important dates and information will be posted on the above EMS and Trauma Systems website.

Thank you for your support and interest. Sincerely,

Jorie Klei

Jorie Klein Jorie Klein, MSN, MHA, BSN, RN Director, EMS / Trauma Systems Section Texas Department of State Health Services We provide a complete list of Texas education program pass rates.

This report shows how Texas EMS programs did on their certification exams in 2023. It includes the percentage of students who passed within six tries, and how Texas compares to the national average. Keep in mind that a small program with a low pass rate might still be a good program.



#### PASS PERCENTAGES

These tables represent the Texas overall passing SCORE rate in comparison to the national average. The scores are based on data from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

Table 1. Education Program, State, Pass Rate by Level Cumulative Sixth Attempt

Texas				
Level	Pass Percent	Pass Count	<b>Total Attempted</b>	
ECA	64%	379	591	
EMT	77%	5,452	7,039	
AEMT	71%	321	452	
Paramedic	87%	2,211	2,555	

Table 2. Education Program, National, Pass Rate by Level Cumulative Sixth Attempt

US				
Level	Pass Percent	Pass Count	<b>Total Attempted</b>	
ECA	72%	4,990	6,903	
EMT	80%	69,424	87,122	
AEMT	74%	5,199	7,036	
Paramedic	87%	14,002	16,075	

#### **GET IN TOUCH**

Staff members are ready to discuss various ways to improve education programs for emergency medical personnel in Texas.

State EMS Director, Joseph Schmider EMS Manager North, Valerie Phillips EMS Education Coordinator, Mattie Mendoza EMS Manager East, Joey Ancelet EMS Manager South, Jaime Vallejo National Registry Website

## Together We Grow: New Offering for Grant Seekers

by Betsy Cox, Grant Development Center Coordinator, Office of Practice and Learning



Did you know DSHS offers free grant development services for the public? We've been providing this new service since last fall!

We know that government agencies, nonprofits, and educational institutions are always searching for grants to support their work. Grant writing is a key component of public health practice and research. Grants can provide long-term, sustainable funding that enables organizations to grow and achieve their missions. But grant writing can be challenging. Also, since new people are entering the public health workforce every day, we decided to create a big way to help improve grant writing capabilities for us and our stakeholders.

In September of 2023, DSHS opened its new Grant Development Center. This new program provides grant education and health-related funding information for Texas residents.

#### The Price is Right

The new Grant Development Center offers the following resources for new and experienced grant seekers:

- Grantsmanship education: We provide tips and tools to help write compelling grant proposals.
- DSHS data resources: We share our data with grant seekers so grant applications include reliable statistics.
- Email updates: We use GovDelivery to announce funding opportunities, trainings, and other items of interest.
- Grant searches: We conduct on-demand research to identify prospective private and public funders for grant seekers.

All of these are free to anyone working in or curious about the grant process. Who doesn't love free stuff?

#### A State with High Standards

The DSHS Office of Practice and Learning fosters a culture of learning for both internal and external stakeholders.

DSHS is one of the only state health departments engaged in this important grant writing assistance work. That's because, whether from the public or the private sector, we are all interested in the same thing: creating a healthier Texas.

Subscribe to GDC email updates on funding opportunity announcements, trainings, and other items of interest





This year marks the 50th anniversary of National EMS Week, a time to honor the dedication of emergency medical services professionals who provide life-saving care across the country. The theme for 2024 is "Honoring Our Past, Forging Our Future," recognizing the proud history of EMS and looking ahead to continued innovation and support for this essential service.

**EMS Week Ideas and Resources** 

Across Texas and our nation, we all know that emergency medical services (EMS) are a vital public service. In Texas, 76,000 certified or licensed members of EMS teams are ready to provide life-saving care to Texans every 7.7 seconds. Access to timely, quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury.

Over the past 50 years, EMS has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out-of-hospital care, preventative medicine, and follow-up care.

The EMS system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), advanced EMTs, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, educated members of the public, and other out-of-hospital medical care providers. This team is made up of career and volunteer caregivers who engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their life-saving skills to be ready for the next dispatch.

We recognize the value and the accomplishments of the EMS system and its caregivers, as together, we take care of over 30 million Texans daily. Thank you for your dedicated service, but always remember to take care of yourself and your family!

#### Theme Days



Sunday	Health, Wellness and Resilience
Monday	EMS Education
Tuesday	Safety Tuesday
Wednesday	EMS for Children
Thursday	Save-A-Life Day (CPR & Stop the Bleed)
Friday	EMS Recognition
Saturday	EMS Remembrance

#### 2024 Grant Application Information \*NEMSIS



NEMSIS has created a resource to help EMS leaders apply for funding to adopt the new data standard, NEMSIS v3.5. This document includes ideas for other funding project applications for EMS.



The month of May is dedicated to our healthcare professionals who work dedicate themselves to the health and wellness of the people in their community. Please join us in thanking Texas healthcare personnel as we recognize them for their unfailing commitment to meet the needs of those placed in their care.

#### Nurses Week -May 6 - 12, 2024

The 2024 theme for Nurses Month is "Nurses Make the Difference." Nurses advocate for high-quality patient care, educate community members, and offer compassion and care to help ease pain and discomfort. They truly do make a difference and positively impact the health and wellbeing of our communities.



#### **Trauma Awareness Month**

In response to the rise in trauma-related injuries, the National Trauma Awareness Month (NTAM) campaign theme for 2024 is "Injury Prevention is Everyone's Business." The goal of this campaign is to reduce the incidence and mitigate the effects of injuries by engaging individuals, communities, and organizations.



#### STOP THE BLEED® Day - May 23, 2024

Through hands-on training sessions and educational initiatives, Stop the Bleed® empowers participants to recognize and respond effectively to bleeding emergencies, ultimately saving lives. As communities come together to participate in this vital initiative, we reaffirm our collective resolve to ensure that no one succumbs to preventable bleeding injuries due to lack of knowledge or resources. Stop the Bleed® Day 2024 stands as a testament to our unwavering dedication to building a safer and more prepared society for all.





#### **Stroke Awareness Month**

Stroke is a leading cause of disability and death worldwide, but many strokes are preventable with lifestyle modifications and early intervention. National Stroke Awareness Month seeks to educate the public about stroke risk factors, symptoms, and the importance of timely treatment. By raising awareness about stroke prevention and recognition, this campaign aims to reduce the burden of stroke on individuals and communities.



#### **Texas Shines**

by Sabrina Lee Richardson, EMT, Investigator/Special Projects - EMS Trauma Systems



#### DSHS staff visits as Gonzales County ESD #1 EMS & Rescue move into their new facility

On March 1, 1974, Seydler-Hill Funeral Home parked its Oldsmobile ambulance outside Gonzales City Hall, leaving the keys with it. The potential lack of emergency medical services was averted due to Seydler-Hill's warning to the community months prior. In anticipation of this day, citizens formed the Gonzales County Volunteer Ambulance Corps, with Dr. Robert A. Williamson as a key leader.

Volunteers trained in first aid and CPR, as well as some certified EMTs, were ready for dispatch via pagers while serving 12-hour shifts. Over time, as demand grew, more ambulances were added to the fleet. Initially parked next to City Hall, they were later housed under a metal cover dubbed "the barn." The Gonzales Police Department dispatcher ensured ambulances were warmed up for volunteers when a call came in. The Ambulance Corps initially stored medical supplies in City Hall but later expanded with a portable building. In 1986, a small station was built on St. Francis Street, accommodating three ambulances and essential facilities. In 1989, facing increased training requirements and dwindling volunteers, the Gonzales County Emergency Services District (GCESD) was established with overwhelming support from voters.

The GCESD incorporated the Gonzales County Rescue & Recovery team into the Ambulance Corps, enhancing their capabilities. Eventually, the GCESD contracted solely with the Gonzales Volunteer Ambulance Corp, which later became Gonzales County EMS & Rescue. Transitioning to an ESD operation required separate offices for Medicare licensing. By the mid-1990s, the Ambulance Corps outgrew its facilities, leading to renovations at St. Joseph Street and later purchasing land for a metal building.

In March 2020, the GCESD seamlessly took over direct provision of EMS and rescue services and placed them under the leadership of EMS Chief Eddie Callender. Fifty years have passed since Seydler-Hill's hand-off, with the passage of time witnessing significant advancements in EMS sophistication and response efficiency. While focusing on improved facilities and continuous education and training, Chief Callender and Gonzales County ESD #1 EMS & Rescue look forward to the next half-century, ready to save more lives with enhanced prehospital emergency care.

If you have a story or event that you would like to share for the Texas Shines Series, email EMSTraumaNews@dshs.texas.gov.



Pictured left to right: GCESD Chief Eddie Callender, Sabrina Richardson-Lee, DSHS, GCESD Medical Director Leah Kernan, D. O., and Joe Schmider, DSHS State EMS Director.

### **Heroes Helpline**

A look at how this valuable program has grown in the last four years and is reaching out for the future.



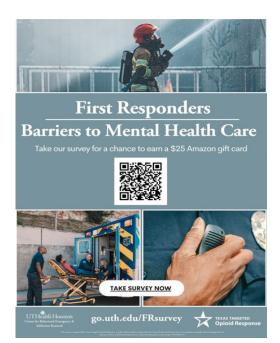
The EMS Peer Referral Program is available to those in the EMS field who need help with substance abuse or mental health. The program is completely anonymous, and the department will not be informed about who calls to receive help or treatment.

UT Health offers the Heroes Helpline in conjunction with their Heroes First Responders Program. For immediate help with substance use or mental health, call the Heroes Helpline at **1-833-EMS-inTX (1-833-367-4689)**.

The Heroes Helpline went live on April 1, 2020. Callers include EMS, fire personnel, healthcare workers, and law enforcement officers. Over the past four years there have been a total of 351 calls. 101 callers have entered treatment (counseling/therapy, support groups, peer recovery support services, or inpatient) during the program. In March 2024 there were nine callers, and three entered treatment.

The First Responders Educational Campaign is a free learning service providing first responders across Texas with information regarding substance use and mental health disorders.

The table on the right side shows how many people went to each type of training offered.



#### **Education Campaign**

Title	Attendance
Online module 1 (Substance Use)	896
Online module 2 (Coping with Anxiety)	371
Online module 3 (Cultural Competence)	178
Online module 4 (MOUD)	171
Online module 5 (COVID)	181
Online module 6 (Narcan)	127
Online module 7 (OD for FRs)	130
Online module 8 (Understanding Suicide)	125
Online Module 9 (Opioid Crisis in Today's Youth)	77
Online Module 10 (Leadership)	72
Online Module 11 (Alcohol Use Disorder)	50
Online Module 12 (Distress Tolerance)	80
Online Module 13 (Substances 101)	14
Online Module 14 (Intimate Partner Violence and Substance Use)	4
Misc/Live (in-person or virtual)	1059
Total	3535

## **Questions From** the Field

Here are answers to some of the burning questions we have received from EMS providers and personnel.



#### Question:

What authority does an EMS Provider Medical Director have over personnel that are on prescription medications?

#### Answer:

EMS Provider Medical Director is outlined in the following Texas Administrative Code (TAC) rules.

#### TAC 157.11

- (n) Responsibilities of the EMS provider. During the license period, the EMS provider's responsibilities shall include:
- (1) assuring that all response-ready and in-service vehicles are available 24 hours a day and seven days a week, maintained, operated, equipped and staffed in accordance with the requirements of the provider's license, to include staffing, equipment, supplies, required insurance and additional requirements per the current EMS provider's medical director approved protocols and policies;
- (A) the standard of patient care as directed by the medical director's protocols and medical director input into the provider's policies and standard operating procedures;
- TAC 197.3 Off- line Medical Director
- 4) actively involved in:
- (B) the medical audit, review, and critique of the performance of EMS personnel under his or her direct supervision;
  - (b) The off-line medical director shall be required to:
- (1) approve the level of prehospital care which may be rendered locally by each of the EMS personnel employed by and/or volunteering with the EMS under the medical director's supervision, regardless of the level of state certification or licensure, before the certificant or licensee is permitted to provide such care to the public;

#### TAC: 197.4 On-line medical direction

e) A physician providing or delegating on-line medical direction for particular patients assumes responsibility for the appropriateness of prehospital care provided under his or her direction by EMS personnel.

Based on the applicable rules the medical director is responsible to ensure that EMS personnel are educated, prepared, and capable to render emergency medical care based on approved protocols and policies. DSHS cannot advise on potential liability and recommends medical directors consult legal counsel concerning current protocols, policies, and possible exposure.

Continued on the next page

#### Question:

How many straps are required on a stretcher?

#### Answer:

Ambulance stretcher manufacturers are clear in their instructions that all safety/security straps should be used when a patient is on the stretcher. These straps include one across the chest, one across the waist, one across the lower legs, and two over the shoulders of the patient to prevent movement of the patient off the stretcher. The over the shoulder straps secure the patient to the stretcher in the event the ambulance is involved in a frontal collision, or sudden hard braking. These straps prevent the patient from being ejected forward into the captain's chair of the patient compartment. Additionally, these shoulder straps aid in keeping the patient midline on the stretcher in the event the stretcher is tipped over while being rolled. See TAC 157.11 (1),(2), (13), (28).

We also received a question regarding Senate Bill 8 funding that we want to share.

#### Question:

Once I receive a Senate Bill 8 scholarship and I become certified and start my required 96 hours a month for an EMS Provider in an ambulance, can I change EMS Providers to meet this requirement with an agency other than with my initial EMS Provider?



Yes, as long as you continue to complete the required 96 hours per month for the required time as stated in the type of scholarship you received. Please coordinate this change with your Regional Advisory Council that processed your initial scholarship.



## NEW AEMT CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION & PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

The NREMT will be changing the national exam process for AEMTs and Paramedics starting July 1, 2024.

#### **Important Information**

- The current AEMT and Paramedic cognitive and psychomotor examinations end on June 30, 2024.
- The new AEMT Certification Examination starts on July 1, 2024 with the new fee of \$159.00. One examination no psychomotor examination required.
- The new Paramedic Certification Examination starts on July 1, 2024 with the new fee of \$175.00. One examination no psychomotor examination required.

#### From the NREMT

Certification examinations are updated periodically to ensure alignment as professional roles evolve. These changes allow the certification examination to incorporate new advances in clinical practice, research, science, and available new technology.

The test plans for the new AEMT Certification Examination and the new Paramedic Certification Examination, as determined through the 2019 National EMS Practice Analysis and the 2021 National EMS Practice Analysis Addendum, are found here:

AEMT Certification Examination Test Plan Paramedic Certification Examination Test Plan

Please go to National Registry <u>website</u> for the latest news, process, sample questions and valuable information on the process.





From the National Pediatric Readiness Project

### Making Sure Emergency Medical Services Are Ready for Children: The Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project Enables True Pediatric Readiness

The majority of emergency medical services (EMS) and fire-rescue agencies provide emergency care for children, but pediatric calls are rare. In fact, most EMS and fire-rescue agencies see fewer than eight pediatric patients per month. Many EMS clinicians don't feel comfortable or confident when caring for children. But being "pediatric ready," or trained, equipped, and prepared for children in accordance with national recommendations, can help reduce anxiety, increase confidence, and potentially improve outcomes on pediatric calls.

The National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project offers free tools and resources to help EMS and fire-rescue agencies become pediatric ready, including a national online assessment opportunity launching Wednesday, May 1. The assessment includes seven categories of in-depth questions designed to provide every EMS and fire-rescue agency with a picture of their current pediatric readiness and identify areas for improvement. After completing the assessment, which takes approximately 30 minutes, all respondents will receive a detailed report describing any gaps and benchmarking information. EMS and fire-rescue agencies will have until July 31 to complete the assessment.

#### Access a checklist and toolkit to help you prepare

Contact the Texas EMS for Children Program Manager Sam Vance to see what local resources may be available to support you, including workshops, trainings, and other assistance.

#### **About the Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project**

The National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project is a federally funded initiative of the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program in collaboration with 30 national organizations, federal partners, and experts. It empowers EMS and fire-rescue agencies that respond to public 9-1-1 calls to improve their "pediatric readiness" or capability to care for acutely ill and injured children. The PPRP provides EMS and fire-rescue agencies with free and open-access tools and resources for improvement. Learn more at https://bit.ly/prehospitalpedsready.

#### **Texas Pediatric Readiness Education Series**

The Texas Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project is a collaborative effort endorsed by the Governor's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC), This is a program to improve how hospitals care for children in emergencies, especially in rural areas. The program offers free online sessions. These sessions will cover things emergency departments can do to give kids the best care, along with practice scenarios and ways to keep improving how they treat young patients.

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#### **TEEXS - Support That Saves**

There is a 3-day training course offered by TEEX to teach first responders how to help each other deal with mental health challenges. The course is in Eagle Pass from May 13-15. It's designed to teach them how to give culturally appropriate and trauma-informed support to their peers. By the end of the course, first responders will be prepared to create a network to look out for each other's mental wellbeing.

VIEW REGISTRATION DETAILS

#### **NEMSIS Heat-Related EMS Activation Surveillance Dashboard**

There's a new online tool to track heatstroke and other heat-related emergencies that ambulance crews respond to. This website, put together by the government agencies that handle health and transportation safety, uses data from all over the country to see where heat emergencies are happening.

VIEW DASHBOARD

#### **HHS - Key Cybersecurity Measures for Health Organizations**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released voluntary cybersecurity guidelines to help healthcare organizations improve their computer security posture. These guidelines are designed to be easy to implement and come with resources to help healthcare organizations get started.

VIEW WEBSITE FOR DETAILS



## FUNDING

## **Uncompensated Trauma Care Application Period Extended**

The 2024 Uncompensated Trauma Care (UCC) funding application period has been extended until May 15, 2024, for eligible trauma designated and "in active pursuit of trauma designation" facilities.

The UCC application is a 3-part application process. A completed application must be received by the department no later than **midnight**, **May 15**, **2024**, to be considered for hospital allocation funding eligibility.

For questions or additional information regarding the application process, please email FundingApp@dshs.texas.gov.

#### 2024 GETAC Strategic Plan

The Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) finalized the 2024 Strategic Plan for the Texas Emergency Healthcare System at the council retreat in February 2024. The plan was approved by GETAC members at the 2024 first quarter meeting on March 8. The prior revision occurred during COVID, so there was plenty of opportunity to update goals and strategies based on the challenges and lessons learned from the pandemic.

The 2024 plan includes a fresh, new message from GETAC chair Dr. Alan H. Tyroch, and updates to the history section include the legislative response to EMS staffing shortages, worsened by COVID, through Senate Bill 8.

A new section, "Emergency Medical Services", was added with relevant objectives and strategies addressing the coordinated approach to offering comprehensive emergency medical care to Texans. The original sections received a critical review by council members and committee chairs to ensure that all language was updated to be relevant and appropriate to providing emergency medical services based on current data and best practice.

The entire document was given a makeover as well, to include new graphs, maps, and pictures of Texas EMS personnel.

The GETAC Strategic Plan is intended to be a living document that provides a guide for improving emergency healthcare for individuals of all ages in all areas of Texas.





# FACILITIES

#### **Statewide Designation Meetings**

The designation team is holding informational meetings for stakeholders in the Texas designation process. You can sign up on our website to attend, and there are multiple session dates available.

#### **Links for trauma facilities**

Trauma Level I & II
Trauma Level III & Non-Rural Level IV
Rural Level IV

Links for maternal & neonatal facilities
Perinatal Level I & II
Perinatal Level III & IV



#### **EMS Policy 2024-A**

A new policy has been posted on the EMS and Trauma Systems website.

#### Recognized EMS Instructor Acceptable Course

In Texas, to become a certified EMS Instructor, you can take a special instructor training course approved by the state health department. This course needs to be at least 40 hours long. You'll have one year from finishing the course to complete all the requirements to become an instructor.

#### **Rule Reference**

25TAC, §157.44(b)(4)

#### **Policy**

The following EMS Instructor courses are recognized by the department as per Texas Administrative Code. After successful completion, an EMS Instructor candidate must complete the application process as stated in Texas Administrative Code 157.44, EMS Instructor Certification.

- EMS Success, Inc
- National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE)

#### Any level I, II, III for the following:

- Texas Commission on Fire Protection Instructor
- United States Military Instructor Training Course
- Pro Board Fire Instructor
- Texas State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association Instructor



#### **NHTSA's EMS Update**

Learn more about current projects and efforts in EMS from NHTSA and its Federal partners.

Learn more

#### **Washington Update**

Bi-monthly newsletter of the National Association of State EMS Officials.

Learn more

View the latest CDC public health news and press releases.

Learn more

#### **EMSC Pulse**

A digest of information about the pediatric emergency medical

care community.

Learn more

#### **EMS/Trauma Systems Links**

Visit the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council web page to view council, committee, and meeting information.

#### Rules

Links to the Texas Administrative Code rules pertaining to EMS/Trauma Systems.

#### Disciplinary actions

Public notice of disciplinary action by the Department of State Health Services and the Consumer Protection Division, Consumer Safety Unit.

#### Staff Contacts

Contact information for the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems staff and programs.



**Texas Department of St Health Services** 

#### The Bulletin **CDC Newsroom**

The Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons.

Learn more

#### **Integrated Healthcare**

Focuses on improving the patient experience of care through interprofessional collaborations.

Learn more







Questions, comments, or suggestions about Texas EMS Trauma News? Contact us at EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us.

External links to other sites are intended to be informational and do not have the endorsement of the Texas Department of State Health Services.