

# The Pony Express

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas



Vol. 5, Issue 3, November/December 2013



## Headline News

### NEW EMSC LOGO DRAWING CONTEST



Current Logo

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EMS for Children Program is in 2014. To help celebrate this anniversary, the EMS for Children Texas State Partnership is holding a contest to draw a new logo. The contest will take place from November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 through February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The start of the contest is coordinated with the beginning of the [Texas EMS Conference](#).

The winner will be chosen by the EMS for Children Advisory Committee at their February meeting. The winner will be announced publicly on EMS for Children Day 2014, which is Wednesday, May 21, 2014 during EMS Week. The winner will be awarded a \$100 gift card, a framed copy of their drawing, and will have their logo displayed on the Texas EMS for Children website, letterhead, and anywhere else that the logo is displayed statewide and nationwide.

Anyone who is a resident of the State of Texas is eligible to participate. The EMSC Texas State Partnership would like to encourage the participation of not only our EMS and hospital colleagues, but our state's elementary and secondary school students as well. Please feel free to pass this information on to your local school districts.

All drawings submitted must have a minimum of the following:

- The word "Texas" and/or a picture of the State of Texas
- A picture of the EMSC Teddy Bear in some form
- Must include the acronym "EMSC" or have spelled out "EMS for Children" or "Emergency Medical Services for Children"

Beginning November 25<sup>th</sup>, you may obtain a copy of the contest entry form and rules by visiting the EMS for Children State Partnership, Texas website at: [www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc](http://www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc) or contact EMSC Program Manager Sam Vance at:

Program Manager  
EMSC State Partnership, Texas  
1102 Bates Ave., Suite 1850  
Houston, TX 77030  
Office: 832-824-6028  
Email: Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu

## Best Practices



### All In A Day's Work: How Pediatric Simulation Center Helps First Responders

Larry Batiste, Captain Houston Fire Department (Reprinted with permission)

July 16, 2013 started like any other day. Our area of the city responds to many medical emergencies, trauma and calls for service. In District 68 where we are located, we responded to more than 17,000 calls in 2012 alone. We have 5 Advanced Life Support Units and 9 Basic Life Support Units along with each Engine and Ladder serving as a first responder.

On that day, we had a scheduled public relations event where four Houston Texans players and cheerleaders presented awards to our District Station. The event was short-lived as Ladder Co. 68 responded to a choking call. While the awards were being admired, a cardiac arrest at the same location came in over the station speakers for Ambulance 68, Squad 68 and Supervisor 82.....

Click on the link to read the rest of the story.

<http://www.texaschildrensblog.org/2013/09/all-in-a-days-work-how-pediatric-simulation-center-helps-first-responders/>

Captain Larry Batiste, 32-year veteran firefighter, paramedic and the A-Shift EMS Supervisor at Station 82 in Southwest Houston, the busiest quadrant in the city.



Mail Pouch

## EMSC State Partnership, TX

Check out the EMSC State Partnership website at

[www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc](http://www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

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## EMSC Crew of the Year Award Nominations Being Accepted

National EMS Week 2014 is May 18 thru May 24, and Wednesday, May 21, is set aside for National Emergency Medical Services for Children day. National EMS Week is an annual celebration of the dedication and commitment of EMS providers all over the country making differences in the lives of millions of Americans every day. It also provides us with an opportunity to bring together EMS agencies and their local communities to focus attention on illness and injury prevention and raise awareness about issues important to the continued development and improvement of EMS and Trauma systems.

National EMSC Day places a spotlight on the delivery of high-quality emergency medical care for children, focusing on the unique needs of critically ill or injured pediatric patients and the challenges faced by EMS professionals in meeting those needs. As 2014 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EMS for Children program, hundreds of communities around the nation are planning special events to honor the men and women who provide emergency care to our children. This is also an opportunity to raise awareness about safety and prevention and the ongoing need to improve and expand specialized care for children in the prehospital setting.

In honor of EMSC Day 2014 and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EMS for Children Program, the Texas EMSC State Partnership is now accepting nominations for the sixth annual EMSC Crew of the Year Award. This award is granted to an EMS crew or station who has displayed outstanding care for a child in an emergency medical or trauma event, demonstrated exceptional effort in the development of pediatric training or quality improvement programs, or was instrumental in planning and conducting creative injury prevention programs.

Recipients will receive a special lunch celebration, individual certificates of appreciation, and a plaque for their station or crew quarters recognizing them as champions in the emergency care for children in Texas. This celebration will take place during EMS Week.

To submit a nomination for the EMSC Crew of the Year, please send the following information to EMSC Program Manager Sam Vance by February 7, 2014 at [Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu](mailto:Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu)

- (1) Names and titles of crew members
- (2) Agency or organization with contact information
- (3) A brief (500 words or less) description of the event or program and why you feel this crew deserves special honor and recognition
- (4) Your contact information (will not be disclosed without your permission)

## EMS Reassessment Update

On October 1, 2013 the EMS for Children statewide reassessment began. This is an assessment of EMS agencies and First Responder Organizations regarding their capacity to treat ill or injured children. This assessment is based on the 2009 American Academy of Pediatrics' nationally recommended list of equipment for ambulances, as well as the availability of on and off line medical direction when treating a child.

Since Texas has so many EMS and First Responder Organizations we are being allowed to do a sample survey of 479 departments. These were chosen at random by a computer at the National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC) in Salt Lake City, Utah. Some may remember the original assessment in 2010 however, not all departments that participated in 2010 have been selected to participate in the reassessment. To see a list of departments involved, please visit our website at [www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc](http://www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc)

In 2010 EMS agencies in the State of Texas had a response rate of 80 percent. We would like to meet or exceed that rate this year. The success of this assessment depends directly upon these agencies participation and support. The Texas EMSC State Partnership will have a computer set up at their booth at the Texas EMS Conference to help accommodate those who would like to fill their survey out at that time. (Story continued on page 3)



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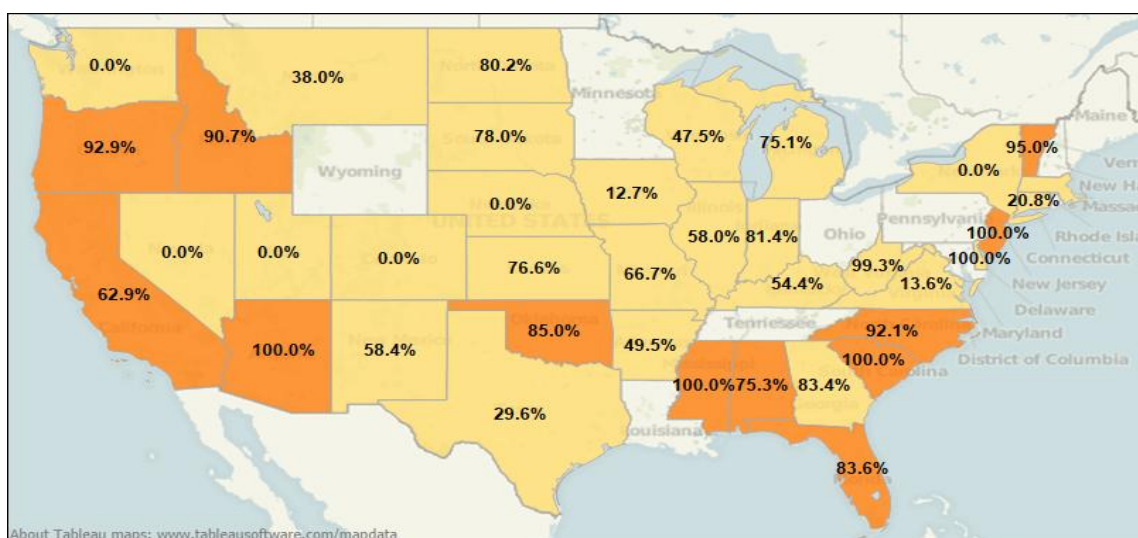
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## EMS Reassessment Update (cont.)

The effort put forth by these participating departments is greatly appreciated by the EMSC Texas State Partnership. The EMSC Texas State Partnership would also like to thank the DSHS Office of EMS and Trauma Systems and the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) Chairs and Directors for their help in contacting participating departments.

Texas is in cohort 5, which closes on January 8, 2014. As of October 31<sup>st</sup>, Texas has a response rate of 29.6%. These numbers are updated daily. To see how states are currently doing, please visit the EMSC Survey page at <http://emscsurveys.org>. The states colored in orange are ones whose cohorts have already closed.



## Final Thought

It is hard to imagine that 2013 is almost over. For me, this year has flown by and has brought about many changes for me and my family. For the EMSC State Partnership, the year has also brought about change. In February Tony Gilchrest accepted the position of Program Manager at the EMSC National Resource Center in Washington, D.C. I took over for Tony as EMSC Program Manager in Texas and moved here from Missouri at the end of March.

When I arrived, Texas was just finishing their part of the National Pediatric Readiness Project. This is the largest nation wide survey of hospitals ever conducted with an amazing response rate of 82.7%, or over 4,100 hospitals participating. This is the first step in an ongoing nation wide quality improvement program to ensure that our hospital emergency departments have the proper resources to take care of children in an emergency.

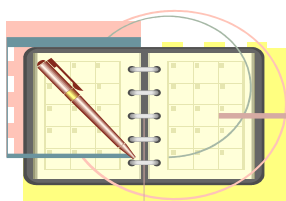
The Pediatric Protocol Resource Toolkit that Program Director Manish Shah, MD has been working on for over two years was made public in June. This is a resource for EMS agencies and their medical directors. Tools in the PPR Tool Kit include Evidence-Based prehospital pediatric protocols, EB-summaries, and model protocols. Dr. Shah recently received another Targeted Issues grant to develop four more guidelines that will be published in the future.

The last major project of 2013 is the EMSC Reassessment of EMS agencies, Fire Department EMS, and First Responder Organizations to determine if they have the proper equipment and online and offline medical direction to take care of children. Many of you may remember the original assessment in 2010. The 2010 assessment created a benchmark for us to determine if we are doing any better, any worse, or have stayed the same with the current reassessment.

As 2014 approaches, we have many new things to look forward to with the EMSC State Partnership, Texas. I will elaborate on those in the January issue.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome to Texas. It has been greatly appreciated. It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving and Christmas are already upon us. I wish you and your family a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! ~Sam

## Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar



- EMSC Advisory Committee Meeting: Nov. 22 via teleconference.
- [Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council Meeting \(GETAC\)](#): Nov. 23-25 in Fort Worth, TX
- [Texas EMS Conference](#): November 24 - 27 in Fort Worth, TX