



The Pony Express

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas



Special Edition, EMS Week 2014

Headline News



National EMS Week 2014 was May 18 thru May 24, and Wednesday, May 21, was 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 EMS for Children 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.

The EMS for Children program is a federally funded program through a grant from the [Health Resources Service Administration \(HRSA\)](#) and is the only federally funded program solely focused on improving the quality of pediatric emergency care. The program funds and supports pediatric emergency care initiatives and projects in all 50 states and U.S. Territories.

The mission of the EMS for Children program is to ensure that all children and adolescents receive appropriate emergency health care when it is needed regardless of where they live, attend school, or travel. Also, part of the mission is to ensure that pediatric services and resources are well integrated into both EMS systems and hospital emergency departments.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the [national EMS for Children program](#). For the last three decades, the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program has successfully raised awareness among healthcare professionals, EMS and trauma system planners, and the general public that children respond differently - physically, emotionally, and psychologically - to illness or injury than adults do.

Efforts have primarily focused on addressing the gaps in the quality of pediatric care in both the prehospital and acute care setting. In the 1980s and 90s, work centered on EMS training, child sized equipment lists, and the development of pediatric guidelines. In 2001, the program funded a pivotal grant to support the infrastructure for the [Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network \(PECARN\)](#), and for the first time made it possible to develop evidence-based practices based on large, multi-institutional studies. For the last 10 years, the Program has focused on national performance measures, a set of goals for states to develop more consistency in the EMS and trauma system of care for children across the nation.

Looking toward the future, EMS for Children aims to ensure that all emergency departments are ready to care for children through the implementation of the [National Pediatric Readiness Project](#), a national quality improvement initiative. A heightened focus will also be placed on pediatric regionalized systems of care and pediatric emergency care research in the prehospital setting.

EMS Week and specifically EMS for Children Day is a time to honor those of you who take care of our children in an emergency. The [Texas EMS for Children Program](#) would like to thank the thousands of health care professionals - EMT's, Paramedics, nurses and physicians - who for the last 30 years have worked with the Program at the state and national levels to improve the care provided to children in the emergency setting. We honor you for your continued dedication to the children of Texas and the nation!

In this special edition, you will see that the Texas EMS for Children Program had a very busy EMS week. We began the week by unveiling our new logo, followed by the Governor's Proclamation on EMSC Day, and ended the week by honoring our EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award recipients.

Portions Adapted from, "EMS Dedicated For Life: EMS Week 2014. May 18-24," *American College of Emergency Physicians*, p.20



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EMSC State Partnership, TX

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



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New EMS for Children Logo Unveiled



To help celebrate the 30th anniversary of the national EMS for Children Program, the EMS for Children (EMSC) State Partnership, Texas held a contest to draw a new logo for the program to help personalize it to the State of Texas. The contest was open to any resident within the State of Texas.

The [EMS for Children Advisory Council](#) was amazed at the variety and quality of all of the entries and would like to thank all of the artists who submitted a design for their time and effort. Because it was so difficult to choose a winner, we decided to send the submissions to our listserv for a vote on their favorite.

After an overwhelming response, we are pleased to announce that the winner is

Reagan Olsen of the [Hunt County/American Medical Response Emergency Medical Services](#).

As the winner, Reagan received a \$100 gift card as well as a framed copy of the logo. She will also have the recognition of having this logo displayed on all of our letter head, business cards, email and anywhere else that you would see a logo. This logo is not only statewide, but will be viewed nationwide.

The presentation of this award took place on Monday, May 19th at a community event to help celebrate EMS Week and was held at the Hunt County/AMR EMS headquarters in Greenville, Texas. This celebration included food, games, a helicopter from [Air Evac Lifeteam](#), and Champ, the mascot of the [Dallas Mavericks](#). The Dallas Mavericks also provided a DJ, and their [Mavericks ambulance](#).

You can see above that Reagan did a fantastic job of personalizing the logo to the State of Texas! Congratulations to Reagan, and thank you for the new logo!



Reagan Olsen with her award for the the winning drawing.

Did you know? In 1984, Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Lowell Weicker (R-CT) joined Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) in sponsoring the first EMS for Children legislation. C. Everett Koop, MD, then Surgeon General of the United States, strongly supported this measure, as did the American Academy of Pediatrics. The 1984 legislation led to the establishment of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program.



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Pictured from left to right are: Sam Vance, Program Manager, EMS for Children, Texas and State Representative Donna Howard (D-TX)

Governor Perry Proclaims May 21, 2014 as EMS for Children Day in Texas

On May 21, 2014 the EMS for Children State Partnership, Texas gathered on the South Steps of the State Capitol in Austin to celebrate EMS for Children Day and 30 years of the EMS for Children Program. To help celebrate this day was State Representative Donna Howard. Donna Howard is a Democratic member of the Texas House of Representatives, representing the 48th District since her election in 2006. She currently serves as vice chairman of the House Administration Committee and also serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Higher Education Committee, and the Appropriations Sub-Committees on Article

III and on Budget Transparency and Reform. Representative Howard was on hand to present a proclamation from Governor Rick Perry proclaiming May 21, 2014 as EMS for Children Day in Texas. The proclamation reads as follows:

As our next generation of leaders, children are our brightest rays of hope for the future, and we should have no higher priority than ensuring their health and safety. Although we cannot prevent all emergencies, fortunately, children and their families can rely on EMS providers and trauma care center staff in all corners of our great state to provide the fastest and best critical care available anywhere.

A day in May has been designated for an awareness campaign to educate the public about the need for specialized emergency care for children.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to support the dedicated pediatric and emergency medical professionals who work to ensure a bright future for our next generation of leaders.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 21, 2014, to be

EMS for Children Day

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 31st day of March, 2014.

Rick Perry

Thank You for Helping Us Provide the Best Care Possible to Children



EMS for Children Day
Wednesday, May 21





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Congratulations to Marble Falls Area EMS, Horseshoe Bay Fire Department, and Dell Children's Medical Center: 2014 EMS for Children Crew of the Year

Each year to help celebrate EMS for Children Day, the EMS for Children State Partnership asks for nominations for an EMS crew in Texas who has demonstrated outstanding care for a child in an emergency medical or trauma event, displayed exceptional effort in the development of pediatric training or quality improvement programs, or was instrumental in the planning or conducting pediatric injury or illness prevention projects. These nominations are then voted on by the EMS for Children Advisory Committee to determine who the winner is.

We are proud to announce that a crew from [Marble Falls Area EMS](#) and the [Horseshoe Bay Fire Department](#) was nominated by Diana Kraus, Director of the Trauma Clinical Service Line at [Dell Children's Medical Center](#) in Austin, and has received the EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award for outstanding care of a child in a trauma event. Crew members include: from Horseshoe Bay Fire Department - Captain Jeff Isom, Firefighter Josh Nail, and Firefighter Kyle Schmidt. From Marble Falls Area EMS - Michelle Tennison and Pam Gower.

Following is the nomination from Diana Kraus:

Crews from Horseshoe Bay and Marble Falls were dispatched to the scene of a 3 year old with a gunshot wound (GSW) to the chest. Upon arrival they found the father carrying the patient supine across his forearms, appearing flaccid, as he was running haphazardly and hysterical from an SUV in the middle of the roadway. The patient was immediately placed into the ambulance where he was noted to be pale, responsive to pain, and verbal stimulus. A GSW entrance wound noted approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch right of midline, just below the clavicle, approximately dime size in diameter. They immediately requested air support, but unfortunately, all aircraft were grounded due to weather. The patient was immediately placed on high flow O₂, IO inserted with NS infusing. They departed the scene enroute to Dell Children's Medical Center (DCMC). The transport time for Marble Falls EMS was just over an hour.

In the ED, he was noted to have initial vital signs of HR 126, RR 36, BP 112/92, O₂ sat of 98%, cap refill was 4 seconds, and GCS 10.

He was pale and was noted to have decreased breath sounds on the right. IO was in place. Four minutes after arrival, the patient had a Left central line placed and quickly decompensated to cardiopulmonary arrest. He was immediately intubated, and had an emergency thoracotomy performed, blood given, and had return of vital signs 12 minutes after arrival to the ED. He was subsequently transported to the OR where he was noted to have the following injuries: R subclavian vein laceration; R upper lung lobe penetrating injury, chest hematoma, occipital abrasion, and L fourth rib fracture. In the OR he had a repair of his injuries, was taken to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit where he was subsequently stabilized. The patient eventually was transitioned to the neuro rehabilitation unit and subsequently discharged to foster parents after nearly one month in the hospital. At the time of discharge, he was meeting all of his developmental milestones and had no adverse effects related to his injury.

What makes this case so amazing is that the first responders had minimal time to prepare physically and mentally to care for this patient, but they were able to deliver incredible care while facing a very difficult and lengthy transport. They communicated quickly, and often with the ED staff at DCMC. This allowed for the care providers at Dell to mobilize additional resources in order to meet the very challenging needs of this patient. The transition in care was seamless between pre-hospital and the Trauma Team, which allowed for us to be prepared for his immediate resuscitation and operative intervention. The crew at Marble Falls not only provided amazing clinical care, but more importantly, they kept the patient calm by talking to him, keeping him warm, and ever vigilant to a change in status.



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This crew did an amazing job as did the emergency department staff and trauma team at Dell Children's Medical Center. This is a perfect example of how the trauma system is supposed to work...from first responders, to the ambulance crew, to the Level I pediatric trauma center. It is all a team that has to work together for maximum outcomes. For this reason, the emergency department staff and trauma team at Dell Children's Medical Center was included on the award.

EMS for Children Texas and all of our partners wish to express our sincere gratitude to the 2014 EMS for Children Crew of the Year for their outstanding dedication and commitment to providing excellent pediatric emergency medical care in Texas.



Pictured from left to right are: Diana Kraus, Dell Children's Medical Center trauma service line director; Pam Gower, Marble Falls Area EMS paramedic; Mike Hastings, Dell Children's Medical Center trauma program manager; Michelle Tennison, Marble Falls Area EMS paramedic; Fire Captain Jeff Isom, Horseshoe Bay Fire Department; Dr. Kate Remick of Dell Children's Medical Center; Firefighter Josh Nail of Horseshoe Bay Fire Department; and Kyle Schmidt of Horseshoe Bay Fire Department.

Final Thought

Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.

Mattie Stepanek