



SETTRAC News

October 2005

Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, Wharton Counties

RAC Quarterly Meeting Reminder

The next RAC Quarterly Meeting will be

Monday, October 17, 2005 at 7:00pm

The meeting will be held at Memorial Hermann Hospital. Please mark you calendar and try to attend this very important meeting.

This is the first meeting of the SETTRAC Fiscal Year.

RAC Quarterly Meeting Schedule

for Fiscal Year
Sept 1, 2005 – Aug. 31, 2006

October 17, 2005

January 23, 2006

April 17, 2006

July 17, 2006

SETTRAC

2260 West Holcombe Blvd.
BOX 221
Houston, TX 77030
www.SETTRAC.org
Fax: 713-704-6841

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary-Treasurer
Member-at-Large

James H. Duke, MD
Darrell L. Pile
Thelma Lemley
Allen Johnson
David Persse, MD

Memorial Hermann Hospital
Triumph Hospital Northwest
Greater Houston EMS Council
Montgomery County EMS
Houston Fire Department

Executive Director

David Rives

DRives@SETTRAC.org
713-704-6816

Program Manager

Marnie Krause

Marnie.Kraus@SETTRAC.org
713-704-3972

SETTRAC Quarterly Meeting

A quick reminder that the SETTRAC Quarterly Meeting is **Monday, October 17th** at 7:00pm at Memorial Hermann Hospital. This is the first meeting of Fiscal Year 2006. Parking will be validated at both the UT Garage (formerly Hermann Professional Building Garage) and TMC Garage 4. Please bring your parking ticket to the meeting and instructions will be given at that time for parking validation. The meeting will be held in the conference center of the Hermann Pavilion, located on the ground floor of the Hermann Pavilion. Please see the last page of the newsletter for a map.

A director cannot miss more than two Quarterly/Special Board Meetings each fiscal year. If a director misses more than two meetings in a fiscal year, he/she shall be deemed to have resigned his/her position effective immediately. Participation for FY 2005 Quarterly/Special Board Meetings is listed on page 2 of this newsletter and posted on the SETTRAC Web-Site.

Hurricanes

David Rives, Executive Director

Considering that we have not experienced a hurricane in this area, SETTRAC personnel have been very busy dealing with evacuees from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. While we gained valuable experience in dealing with Tropical Storm Allison, our response to Katrina was completely different and our response to Rita was different yet again.

During Katrina we had numerous personnel involved in the coordination and staffing of ambulances responding to various medical emergencies within the Reliant Park complex and transferring patients from the on-site medical clinic to hospitals when necessary. In addition to SETTRAC personnel, much appreciation must be expressed to our neighbors in TSA-R, the East Texas-Gulf Coast RAC, who volunteered several ambulances and sent personnel to staff many hours at the Incident Command Post. We even had 2 ambulances from Colorado that assisted with our efforts. Without their assistance, SETTRAC resources would have been stretched very thin. Much thanks to everyone who made the personal sacrifices that made that operation a success.

At the time this is being written, we are still in the midst of the Rita situation. In the initial phase, plans were made to prepare for the direct hit the Houston-Galveston area was predicted to receive. Once it was determined that Rita was going to make landfall to our east, approximately 150 ambulances from numerous states were staged at the Reliant Arena. Those ambulances were dispatched into the affected area to evacuate patients

...continued on page 4

SETTRAC ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Board Of Director's Attendance

A director cannot miss more than two Quarterly Meetings/Special Board Meetings each fiscal year. If a director misses more than two meetings in a fiscal year, he/she shall be deemed to have resigned his/her position effective immediately.

See below for a list of Quarterly Meetings attended by Board Members for FY05.

Board Position & Meetings Attended		Board Position & Meetings Attended		Board Position & Meetings Attended	
Austin Physician	0 J	Colorado Physician	0	Fort Bend Physician	1 O J
Austin Hospitals	2 O J A J	Colorado Hospitals	1 A	Fort Bend Hospitals	2 O J J
Austin EMS	3 O J A J	Colorado EMS	0 Vacant	Fort Bend EMS	3 O J A J
Harris Physician	2 O J A J	Matagorda Physician	0	Montgomery Physician	2 O J A J
Harris Hospitals	3 O J A J	Matagorda Hospitals	2 J A J	Montgomery Hospitals	2 O J A J
Harris EMS	3 O J A J	Matagorda EMS	1 A J	Montgomery EMS	3 O J A J
Walker Physician	3 O J A	Waller Physician	1 J	Wharton Physician	2 O J J
Walker Hospitals	3 O J A J	Waller EMS	3 O J A J	Wharton Hospitals	3 O J A J
Walker EMS	3 O J A			Wharton EMS	3 O J A
Hermann Lev I	3 O J A J	So Tx ACS, Comm or	3 O J A	Hou Chapter – ENA	2 O J A J
Ben Taub Lev I	3 O J A J	Gtr Houston EMS Cou	3 O J A J	Emerg Physicians Assn	2 O J A J
Ninth Dist Med Soc	3 O J A	Texas Pediatric Societ	0	Houston Fire Department	1 O J J
Tx Hosp Assn-Rehab	2 O J A J				

EMS/Hospital Participation Requirements

- (1) Must attend at least two of the Quarterly meetings – attend 50%
- (2) Hospitals should attend 50% of at least 1 committee's meetings
- (3) EMS must attend 50% of at least 1 committee's meetings
- (4) EMS must attend 50% of EMS SQI Committee Meetings
- (5) Must Pay Annual Dues

See below for a list of Hospitals and EMS Agencies that have attended at least one Quarterly Meeting for FY05.

Hospitals							
- # of Meetings Attended -		- # of Meetings Attended -		- # of Meetings Attended -		- # of Meetings Attended -	
Bellville General	4	Gulf Coast Medical Center	4	Mem Hermann - Katy	3	Rice Medical Center	2
Ben Taub General	4	Houston Community Hosp	1	Mem Herm - Mem City	4	Riverside General Hospital	4
Colorado Fayette	3	Huntsville Memorial Hosp	3	Mem Hermann NW	3	San Jacinto Methodist	1
Columbus Community	3	Lyndon B Johnson	4	Mem Hermann SE	4	Spring Branch	2
Conroe Regional	3	Matagorda General Hospital	4	Mem Hermann SW	3	St Joseph Hospital	2
Doctors - Parkway	2	Mem Hermann Children's	4	Mem Herm - Woodlands	3	Texas Children's Hospital	3
Doctors - Tidwell	2	Mem Hermann Hospital	4	Methodist Sugarland	1	Tomball Regional Hospital	3
East Houston Med	4	Mem Hermann - Ft Bend	4	Northeast Medical Cente	3	Twelve Oaks (North)	3
				Polly Ryon	3	West Houston Medical Cen	2
EMS Agencies							
A+ Ambulance	1	Correctional Managed	2	Huntsville Walker	2	North Star EMS	4
ACE	1	Cypress Creek EMS	1	Jacinto City Fire	4	Northwest Rural	2
AMR	3	Deer Park Fire	2	Jersey Village	3	Pearland EMS	4
Atascocita EMS	4	El Campo EMS	3	Katy Fire Dept	2	Phoenix EMS	1
Austin Co EMS	4	Fort Bend Co EMS	4	LaPorte EMS	2	Rice Univ EMS	1
Baytown, City of	4	Friendswood	2	League City Vol	4	Sargent VFD & EMS	3
Bellaire Fire	3	Galena Park EMS	3	Matagorda EMS	4	SKYMED	3
Brookshire-Pattiso	4	Gulf Coast Bay City EMS	1	Manvel EMS	1	South Houston EMS	2
Channelview EMS	4	Harris Co ESD #1	1	Mem Hermann Life	3	Texas Medical Tran	3
Clear Lake Emerg	1	Harris Co ESD #5	2	Montgomery Co EMS	4	Village Fire Dept	3
Colorado Co EMS	3	Houston Fire Dept	2	Nassau Bay EMS	3	Waller Co EMS	4
Community VFD	2	Humble Fire Dept	4	North Channel EMS	1	West University FD	2
						Wharton EMS	2

Public Information & Education

Date: **Monday, October 18th** at 5:00pm

Location: Memorial Hermann Hospital
Hermann Pavilion Conference Center

Please contact Molly Wilkins for more information

***Upcoming
Committee /
Sub-
Committee
Meetings***

**Disaster, EMS SQI, and
Pre-Hospital Care &
Transportation**

Date: **Friday, November 4th**

Location: Cypress Creek EMS

10:00 am Disaster
EMS SQI
Pre-Hospital Care &
Transport

Please call Daniel Kosler for more information.

**Medical Audit,
SQI, and HCM
Committees**

Date: **Monday, October 18th**

Location: Memorial Hermann Hospital

5:30 pm Medical Audit
SQI
Hospital Care &
Management

Please call Marjorie Lygas or Mary Frost for more information.

SETTRAC Committees and Sub-Committees

EMS Medical Directors Committee

David Persse, MD (713)495-4231
David.Persse@CityofHouston.net

Grants Review Committee

Madelyn Jurek (713)704-6160
Madelyn_Jurek@mhhs.org

Public Information & Education Committee

Molly Wilkins (713) 873-3500
Molly_Wilkins@hchd.tmc.edu

Trauma Care & Management Committee

Daniel Kosler / Marjorie Lygas

Sub-Committees

Hospital Care & Management
Pre-Hospital Care & Transport
EMS SQI
Disaster
System Quality Improvement

Marjorie Lygas
Daniel Kosler
Allen Sims
Lon Squyres
Mary Frost

713-704-5297
281-633-7077
281-440-9650
713-674-8424
832-824-5541

Marjorie_Lygas@mhhs.org
kosledan@co.fort-bend.tx.us
asims@ccems.com
jcchief@pdq.net
mhfrost@TexasChildrensHospital.org

SETTRAC Quarterly Meeting Tentative Agenda

I.	CALL TO ORDER	James Duke, MD
II.	ROLL CALL	Allen Johnson
III.	READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Allen Johnson
IV.	PUBLIC COMMENT	James Duke, MD
V.	EXECUTIVE REPORTS	
	<u>A. Chairman's Report</u>	James Duke, MD
	• General Remarks	
	<u>B. Vice Chairman's Report</u>	Darrell Pile
	• Membership Issues	
	<u>C. Vice Chairman's Report</u>	Thelma Lemley
	• GETAC/RAC Chairs Meetings Update	
	<u>D. Secretary-Treasurer's Report</u>	Allen Johnson
	• October Quarterly Financial Report	
	<u>E. Officer at Large Report</u>	David Perse, MD
V.	COMMITTEE REPORTS	
	<u>A. Trauma Care & Management</u>	Daniel Kosler
	<u>B. Public Information & Education</u>	Molly Wilkins
	<u>C. Grants Review</u>	Madelyn Jurek
	<u>D. EMS Medical Directors</u>	David Perse, MD
VII.	DIRECTOR'S REPORT	David Rives
	• See Attached Report	
VIII.	UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
IX.	NEW BUSINESS	
X.	ANNOUNCEMENTS	James Duke, MD

Next Quarterly meeting: **January 23, 2006** at 7:00pm.

Backboards

We recently ordered 1062 backboards. They should be received in the next couple of months. The delivery dates and locations will be announced when delivery of the backboards is imminent.

This purchase brings the total over the last 5 years to 4001 backboards. While we are making a significant difference there are still numerous non-translucent backboards being used in our area. Part of the problem is that backboards are very mobile. During the past year we have had calls from several agencies throughout the state that have one or more of our backboards. We have even had one agency ship some backboards to us at their expense. Slowly, but surely, we are making a difference.

after landfall. The biggest challenge was immediately after landfall when Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont, which had evacuated 180 patients prior to the storm, lost drinking water and began to experience water flooding the facility. All available ground ambulances were immediately dispatched and helicopters were staged to respond, as soon as the weather permitted, to evacuate the 130 patients that remained in that facility. A few days into the operation, the dispatch center of Montgomery County Hospital District EMS assumed responsibility for coordinating the movement of ambulances. In some cases ambulances were sent to relieve 9-1-1 responders in various areas to give those personnel a break. The ambulances have recently been moved to a staging area in Beaumont but are still being dispatched by MCHD EMS. Many of those ambulances are being used to provide further relief to the 9-1-1 responders. The next stage will be the repatriation of hundreds of patients back to the hospitals and nursing homes in the affected area.

In both situations a very integral part of the operations was the Disaster Unified Medical Command (DUMC). DUMC personnel, using information obtained from EMS system screens developed specifically for each event, determined which hospital was appropriate for each patient, advised the ambulance crew of their destination, and notified the receiving hospital. At the peak times up to 45 patients per hour were distributed to hospitals in the Houston area. The people that volunteered their time to staff the DUMC, should be commended.

Further complicating the efforts of DUMC personnel during Rita was the fact that 14 hospitals in the SETTRAC region evacuated, further limiting hospital bed availability and putting an extraordinarily heavy load on the hospitals that did not evacuate. Much thanks to the hospital personnel that worked hard to keep their doors open during this time of distress.

In the midst of the Katrina response, someone mentioned that Allison was a good dress rehearsal for Katrina. Before we could even sit down to discuss the problems encountered and lessons learned from Katrina here came Rita. Soon a debriefing will be planned to review the events of the 2 hurricanes. Hopefully the experiences will better prepare us for any disaster that may occur in the future.

SETTRAC Injury Prevention - Geriatric Trauma: Falls

This page is sponsored by the SETTRAC Public Education and Information Committee

People over the age of 65 are the fastest growing segment of our population. They represent 20% of all trauma patients and account for 28% of all trauma related deaths. Falls are the leading cause of injury in the elderly and the second most frequent cause of death in this patient group. Most falls are single level falls (from standing, chairs, beds, etc.) and most elderly who fall have done so multiple times. About half of all elderly patients who have a fall requiring hospitalization will die within one year and 88% of survivors will require nursing home placement or full-time, in-home assistance. Medical costs for geriatric hip fractures alone totaled \$179 million dollars for fatal and \$19 billion dollars for nonfatal injuries in 2000.

Predisposing Factors:

- Slower response time
- Decreased coordination
- Diminished visual acuity/hearing
- Orthostatic hypotension
- Decreased muscle strength
- Impaired proprioception
- Osteoarthritis
- Medications (especially if taking more than 4 meds)
- Cardiac dysrhythmias
- Hypoglycemia

Environmental Hazards:

- Tripping hazards (throw rugs, clutter on floor)
- Lack of stair railings or grab bars
- Slippery surfaces
- Unstable furniture
- Poor lighting

Common Injuries with Falls:

- Fractures (most common- hip, vertebrae, forearm, leg, ankle, pelvis, upper arm, hand)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Soft tissue injury- lacerations, contusions, abrasions

Assessment:

- Initial Assessment
- Secondary Assessment
- History
- Medications
 - Blood thinners (will inhibit blood clotting thus increasing blood loss)
 - Beta Blockers (will inhibit the heart's ability to increase the rate in response to hypovolemia)
 - Calcium channel blockers (prevents reflex vasoconstriction thereby contributing to hypovolemia)
 - ASA, NSAIDS (inhibit platelet function thus increasing bleeding)
- Past medical history
- Allergies

***Always ask the patient WHY they fell!**

General Management:

- Airway & ventilatory support- geriatric trauma patients should receive oxygen to ensure saturation per pulse ox of 97%
- Spinal Immobilization- provide additional padding over bony prominences. If patient has kyphosis (extreme curvature of the upper back) you may be unable to immobilize them in the supine position. Lateral recumbent position may be used.
- Communication- Patients may be hard of hearing, speak clearly and be respectful.
- Temperature control- assess for hypo- or hyperthermia. Maintain normal body temperature.
- Splinting
- Wound Care
- Pain management

According to the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (2001), advanced patient age should lower the threshold for field triage directly to a designated trauma center.

Car Seat Safety

Car Seat Safety is a growing part of Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital's public education and outreach.

Public car seat safety checks are held regularly at the hospital. Having four certified child passenger safety technicians helps. These four girls, all of whom work in the Neonatal ICU, find themselves quite busy at times.

Parents and caregivers make appointments (preventing long waiting lines) to have the installation of their child safety seat checked. If the seat is on the recall list, outdated, or defective, a new one is given to the child free of charge. Educational handouts are given to the parents with the instruction and guidance also offered by the technicians. Parents are taught how to safely install the seat and to place their child into it. Hospital Junior Volunteers are on hand to give fun, activity booklets and balloon animals to the children. Child fingerprinting is also offered by certified hospital security officers.

SETTRAC funding has been a great help in underwriting the cost of the seats. The parents are amazed and thankful at what they learn about the correct use of child safety seats.

At every event at the hospital beginning April, 2002, every seat/child was secured incorrectly.

Word continues to spread, especially through the clients in the hospital's Prepared Child-Birth, Pediatric CPR, Pediatric First Aid, Infant Massage and Car Seat Safety Classes.

These events are coordinated by Sandy Hill, RNC, CPST-NICU. Information can be obtained by calling Perinatal Education at 281-364-5896 or by calling Sandy at 281-466-4366.



Map For Quarterly Meeting Location

Parking will be validated – Park in **Hermann Professional Building Garage or TMC Parking Garage 4** and bring ticket with you to the meeting

