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# AMBUGLANCES

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## 2015 REGION 1 EMS AWARDS

Contributions are being solicited to sponsor door prizes and awards for the 2015 Region 1 EMS Awards Banquet to be held at Paulding Wellstar Hospital on March 12, 2015 in Dallas, Georgia. Monetary contributions may be made by check to Northwest Georgia EMS Systems Inc. and mailed to 500 Riverside Parkway NE Rome, GA 30161 or by paypal <http://donate.nwgaemsinc.org/>



### COURTNEY TAYLOR WINS GEORGIA HOSPITAL HEROES AWARD

Gordon Hospital Emergency Medical Services Director Courtney Taylor was awarded the prestigious Georgia Hospital Heroes Award at the Georgia Hospital Association's (GHA) Annual Meeting on Nov. 13. Taylor, who was one of only 10 individuals to receive the award, was recognized for his years of service to the hospital as well as his rescue efforts during the January 31, 2013 tornado event.

As the director of Gordon Hospital Emergency Medical Services, Taylor oversees all emergency personnel and the use of emergency vehicles and equipment for the hospital.

Under his leadership, the department has thrived and has been a previous recipient of the Region One EMS Service of the Year for maintaining a high performance level and spotless record.

Not only do Taylor and his team support the community through EMS services, but they also give back through their yearly Help Make a Kid Smile Christmas toy drive. Even during tough economic times. They raised more than \$18,000 last year to ensure that all children in the area have a toy on Christmas morning.

One event in particular illustrates the heroic qualities of Taylor. In January 2013, an EF3 tornado hit Gordon County, destroying nearly 300 homes in its path. When Taylor learned that the storm had traveled into the county, he drove straight into its path to see if anyone might need help. His instincts were right. He, along with off-duty firefighter Mike Young, came across what was left of a home. They heard bystanders yelling for help. Buried under the debris, along the edge of the highway, was a 79-year-old woman calling for her two-year-old great grandson. As the tornado had approached her home, she and her grandson had taken shelter in a closet. Moments later, they both lay along the major highway under what had been her home.

Within minutes, Taylor and Young found the little boy. Taylor determined that both victims were

in dire need of medical assistance and called for additional help. Another EMS truck arrived and Taylor and Young were able to lift the debris off the young boy and were able to rescue his great-grandmother. Both were transported to the hospital and, after spending some time there, recovered fully.

"Courtney Taylor is an example of a hero in more ways than one," said GHA President Earl V. Rogers. "Not only did he save lives in a disastrous event, but he also is an inspiration to everyone at his hospital and in his community. He is a most-deserving recipient of this award."

## EMS DIRECTORS MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The annual EMS Director and Management and Leadership Conference will be held on March 16-18, 2015 at Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands. You may make reservations by calling 1-800-840-5253. This conference provides an amazing educational opportunity for leadership and management positions, and focuses on cutting edge best practices in EMS. Attendees will be taught skills and given the information needed to lead, manage, supervise and succeed in today's ever changing field of emergency medical services. The conference will be taught by some of the top content experts on Leadership and Personal Development, Law, Human

Resources, Education, Operations, and Innovation. These presenters will share information that you need to succeed as an EMS Director or Manager in today's multifaceted healthcare environment.

### **MORE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR HONOR GUARD**

The Region 1 Honor Guard has been in existence for more than 5 years and has served at funerals, local and state events. The professionalism exhibited by the group honors the region. The group needs more representation from EMS Services in the Region and more members. If you are interested contact Marcus Desmond or Don Taylor.



### **MARY MCDANIEL FUNERAL**

Thank You to the Region 1 EMS Honor Guard, Angel EMS, Dade County EMS, Puckett EMS, Gordon County EMS, Whitfield EMS, Floyd EMS, and Life Force for your participation in the funeral for EMS Veteran Mary McDaniel at Wilson and Sons Funeral Home. Thanks also to Lana Duff, Paul Arnold and Dewayne Wilson for coordinating the EMS participation for the funeral. Thanks to Randy Pierson and David Loftin for representing EMS Region 1.

### **TIMES UP ON EMS PROVIDER LICENSE RENEWAL**

Individuals that did not renew their Georgia EMT or CT or Paramedic license prior to 6/30/2014 have licenses that are "Lapsed". However, rule allows the period from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> of each even year (renewal year) the opportunity to renew your license after paying a penalty.

511-9-2-.13 Licensure Renewal for EMS Personnel. (3) Late renewal is permitted during the six month period immediately following the expiration date for the last license renewal cycle. During this period, a penalty fee for late renewal applies. The penalty fee shall be double the established fee for the level of licensure. After that six month period, the individual must apply for licensure as a new applicant in accordance with Regulation 511-9-2-.12.

If you know someone that has a lapsed license – please share this information with them! On January 1, 2015, the license becomes expired and the individual will be required to re-apply for a new license requiring a new application, background check through Cogent, the license fee and current NREMT certification. More importantly, the NREMT no longer utilizes the EMT I/85 examination or certification and there will not be a mechanism of re-entry for EMT I/85's. Additionally, there is not a mechanism for Cardiac Technicians to re-enter if their license expires.

***So it is extremely important to RENEW now. The application can be downloaded at:***

[http://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/Fillable%20Instate%20License%20Request%20-%20revised%20August%202014\\_1.pdf](http://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/Fillable%20Instate%20License%20Request%20-%20revised%20August%202014_1.pdf)

### **2014 in Review**

It has been a very busy year again for Region 1 EMS. The year started out with two significant winter weather events which our EMS Services responded to with great resources in their respective communities. The preparation and response was commended by Dr O'Neal and the Commissioner.

We have also taken on a significant and unique EMS Disaster Response national and state pilot project plan development. The Disaster Response System, to be called the "Region 1 EMS Disaster Assistance Response Taskforce or EMS D.A.R.T is a system of 4 taskforces entailing participation from 21 of the 22 EMS Services in the Region. We obtained a \$24, 890 GEMA grant and are awaiting final approval of a \$102, 295 grant from the GA Trauma Commission. Once all funds as secured, we will be purchasing specialized SAR/Tactical bags and soft supplies for each unit, portable radio, SAR helmets, non-ballistic tactical vests, vehicle decals and then will develop the DART Course.

The RTAC worked on data collection procedures and rolling out their Education program. Both of these will be the main focus of the RTAC during the 2015 calendar year. The Region 1 EMS Education Committee has been revamped and new leadership appointed. They have requested a grant from the GA Trauma Commission for \$42,000 for a trailer, equipment and funding to provide 4 PHTLS and 4 EPC courses around the region during 2015. They should know on this funding after the commission meeting in January.

2015 looks to be just as busy, so hang on.... Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!  
David