



THE TEXAS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ALLIANCE

www.txemsa.com

Support for EMS & 9-1-1 in All Texas Communities: Fuel Tax Relief for Texas EMS Agencies: HB 1332

School districts and volunteer fire departments are currently exempt from the state’s fuel tax. However, with limited exceptions, EMS agencies that provide 9-1-1 services to Texas communities are not exempt from the fuel tax.

The Texas EMS Alliance strongly supports HB 1332 (Representatives Tan Parker and Richard Raymond), which would provide fuel tax relief to EMS agencies that provide 9-1-1 services.

Action in the 84th Texas Legislature

The 84th Texas Legislature provided fuel tax relief to non-profit EMS agencies (HB 2731) by amending it to another bill that was signed into law. TEMSA encourages the 85th Legislature to go one step further and offer fuel tax relief to all ambulance entities that provide 9-1-1 services to Texas communities.

HB 2731 only affected a small number of EMS providers. Fire department-based EMS providers, city- and county-owned third service EMS agencies, hospital-based EMS agencies, and entities that are selected by cities and counties to provide 9-1-1 services to their communities did not benefit from HB 2731.

The Cost of Readiness – Unique Financial Challenges for EMS Agencies

EMS agencies are expected to be ready at all times and respond to every emergency within desired response time goals. To meet these goals, EMS agencies must have ambulances available when other ambulances are on calls. An EMS agency does not create revenue for “being ready.” Most insurance plans do not pay for ambulance service if the patient is not transported. As a result, EMS agencies refer to the non-revenue generating scenario as “the cost of readiness.”

By creating fuel tax relief for EMS agencies that provide 9-1-1 services to Texas communities, HB 1332 would help alleviate the costs associated with being ready to meet emergencies at all times.

Contact

For more information, please contact TEMSA’s advocacy consultant – Craig Holzhauser – at Craig@thewoodhousegrouptexas.com. Visit TEMSA at www.txemsa.com.

About the Texas EMS Alliance

EMS leaders from across the state of Texas joined together in 2013 to create a collaborative public policy voice for Texas EMS agencies that demonstrated their commitment to serving Texas communities.

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