



# EMS as an Essential Service...or Not

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# Essential

**Definition:** Absolutely necessary; Extremely important

**Synonym:** Crucial, necessary, key, vital, indispensable, critical, imparitive, mandatory

**Essential Services Definition:** Services, by whomever rendered, and rather rendered to the Government or to any other person, the interruption of which would endanger the life, health or personal safety of the whole or part of the population (related to the ability for workers to strike or lockout)

# What are Essential Services in Texas

C'mon...throw them out

# What would we gain by becoming an essential service

Fame?

Riches?

Glory?

Seriously, what would we gain?

Much more government regulation and oversight?

Higher costs of litigation to navigate the regulatory environment?

Potential of today's agencies being radically changed and/or shut down

# What about locally?

Counties do not have the ability to regulate EMS services without additional privileges being granted by the Legislature

But municipalities...

City charter and ordinances?

Sole source provider?

Franchise agreements to locally regulate non-emergency market?

How many of us have taken advantage of the power we do have to secure our position and improve our lot?

# Closing

1. Stop wishing on rainbows
2. The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence
3. Each of us go home and control our own destiny
4. Let's pick our battles