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TIM News

2025

**TSMO Summit
September 9th-11th**

6230 E Stassney Ln.
Austin, TX 78744

Join us at the Texas Department of Transportation's 2025 Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Summit. This exciting three-day event will be hosted at the TxDOT Stassney Campus in Austin, Texas.

At the TSMO Summit, we will be *Connecting People and Possibilities*. Traffic operations, safety, and other transportation professionals will come together to discuss the latest trends, success stories, and best practices in TSMO and Traffic Incident Management.

For information and to register, [CLICK HERE](#)



Saving Lives Before the Sirens Stop: The Case for Blood in the Field

By Jim Comfort, AECOM

When seconds count and lives hang in the balance, being able to deliver blood at the point of injury can mean the difference between life and death. Picture a paramedic kneeling beside a crash victim on a rain-slicked highway, not only administering fluids or oxygen but also life-saving blood right there on the asphalt. This is no longer a vision of the future. Across the country and throughout Texas, EMS agencies are pioneering pre-hospital blood administration, transforming the front lines of trauma care, and reshaping the rules of patient survival. For first responders, this evolution isn't merely about new protocols—it's about empowering medics to bring the emergency room to the roadside.

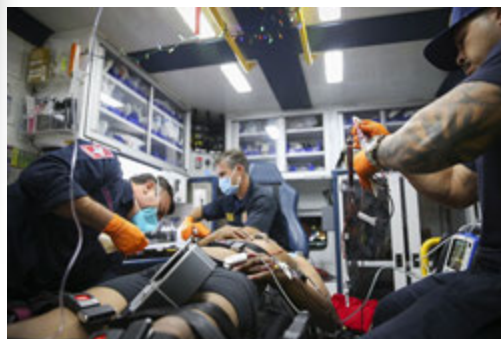
According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), in 2022, there were 42,514 traffic fatalities. Of those numbers, 17,856 (42%) were alive when responders first arrived. Uncontrolled hemorrhaging (bleeding) is the leading cause of death in traffic crash trauma victims¹. The sooner life-saving measures can be administered, the greater the chance of survival for a trauma victim.

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) found that earlier whole blood transfusion was associated with a 60% reduction in 24-hour mortality and a 68% reduction in 30-day mortality, compared to delayed or no transfusion². A 2024 study analyzing data from the American College of Surgeons Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) found that for every 10% increase in the ratio of whole blood to total transfusion volume, there was a 13% reduction in the odds of 4-hour mortality³.

Why is Blood So Important?

Paramedics have always been able to administer intravenous (IV) fluids such as Lactated Ringer's and normal saline. These fluids help bolster blood pressure, increasing circulation of existing red blood cells and allowing oxygen to reach the heart, lungs, and bodily tissues. However, these fluids cannot replace blood: they cannot carry oxygen in the body. Severe uncontrolled bleeding can lead to exsanguination (a state where there is not enough blood in the body to sustain life) and, ultimately, death, due to hypovolemic shock and cardiac arrest. The only solution is to replace the lost blood and restore the body's oxygen-carrying capacity as quickly as possible. Early blood administration by EMS to patients suffering from hemorrhagic shock improves survivability and leads to increased recovery⁴.

Whole blood transfusions were associated with a 60% reduction in 24-hour mortality and a 68% reduction in 30-day mortality.



Source: Jerry Lara / San Antonio Express-News

In October of 2018, the San Antonio Fire Department (the EMS provider for the area) was the first system in the United States to carry low-titer O-positive whole blood (LTOWB) transfusions. Between 2018 and 2022, they administered more than 900 units. The system carries single units (approximately 520 ml) of LTOWB on EMS physician response vehicles, EMS medical officer (MOF) supervisor vehicles, and special operations mobile intensive care ambulances⁵.

All SAFD dispatchers alert blood-carrying vehicles for calls with a high probability of requiring pre-hospital blood transfusions. The dispatch algorithm allows paramedic discretion when dispatching pre-hospital whole blood units for patients in hemorrhagic shock. [Continued on the next page.](#)

Saving Lives Before the Sirens Stop: The Case for Blood in the Field (Cont.)

Since San Antonio initiated the program, other metropolitan area EMS services have also started pre-hospital blood administration programs. The Austin-Travis County EMS Division Chief, Joshua Todd, recently presented on the Statewide Texas TIM Bi-Monthly webinar on their blood administration program. He said Austin has approximately forty-five (45) transport ambulances on duty daily. There are eight (8) supervisor vehicles on duty daily, carrying blood products. The supervisor vehicles are dispatched to medical and trauma incidents where patients will most likely need blood, such as crashes involving major trauma, gunshot wounds, or obstetric emergencies. Their program began in 2021 and since its inception has administered 680 units of whole blood. He also said that all EMS providers in the Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Committee (CATRAC) will eventually carry whole blood products.

Rural areas often suffer from what experts call “blood deserts”—regions where access to blood transfusions is severely limited due to distance from trauma centers⁶. In Parker County, located west of Fort Worth, the Parker County Hospital District (PCHD) EMS service has had a blood administration program since 2022. “The service covers 910 square miles of rural countryside, and travel to the nearest medical facility can take up to forty minutes,” said Deputy EMS Director Chris Briggs. “There are north, south, and east rapid response supervisor vehicles that carry blood. Specially trained Critical Care Paramedics are responsible for the administration in the field. They respond to calls that may have a likelihood for blood administration.” Since the program’s inception, approximately one hundred whole blood units have been administered in the field, saving countless lives.



Paramedics Restocking Blood Supply
Source: AustinTexas.gov

The blood is collected at local blood donor centers. On the April 2025 Statewide Texas TIM Bi-Monthly webinar, Ms. Justine Graza, Vice President of Business Development for We Are Blood, the company that supplies the blood and helps manage the CATRAC EMS program, said, “Blood donations are only accepted from low-titer male donors. They are all type O, and they have low titers for anti-A and anti-B antibodies. This means that it is more compatible with type AB or AB patients. The anticoagulant in the unit currently gives it a 35-day expiration date.” The blood is then returned to the center or hospital, where it is received before expiration to reduce waste and lower costs.

Funding such a program can be costly. “The system that Austin-Travis County EMS uses to store the blood before transfusion costs \$10,000-\$12,000 to set up,” said Chief Todd. “The warming equipment used before the infusion is another \$1,000. Training paramedics and supervisors is an additional cost that must be considered.” Austin-Travis County utilized a US DOT program called “Safe Streets and Roadways for All (SS4A),” which provided funding grants over five years to support regional, local and Tribal initiatives aimed at preventing roadway deaths and serious injuries.

As first responders, we are the critical link between injury and survival, especially in rural communities where every mile to the hospital can cost a life. EMS blood administration is not just a medical advancement; it’s an imperative. It enables EMS to deliver lifesaving care when and where it’s needed most. Now is the time to advocate for this capability in our agencies and to seek out training, funding, and partnerships that make it possible. Let’s not wait for another preventable death to remind us of what’s at stake. Let’s lead the charge—because when we bring blood to the field, we bring hope, we bring strength, and most importantly, we bring life.



Source: EMSBlood.com

Here are some resources that will answer questions and assist your agency in establishing an pre-hospital blood administration program.

EMS Blood Consultants- EMS Blood Consultants help bring whole blood programs to EMS agencies. They consult on local blood bank interaction, logistics, storage and transfusion equipment, education, protocols, costs, reimbursement, and data collection.[CLICK HERE](#)

Handtevy Whole Blood Resource Page -A resource hub for EMS and fire departments looking to start or expand a whole blood program.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (AABB) - Standards and best practices for blood handling and transfusion, including pre-hospital settings.[CLICK HERE](#)

National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) -Provides clinical guidelines, position statements, and educational resources on EMS medical direction and advanced care.[CLICK HERE](#)

(Note: TxDOT does not endorse or promote any company or service mentioned in this article. The companies mentioned are for information purposes only)

¹ FARS 2022 Annual Report File (ARF). Report generated 4/15/2024, Version 7.2 released 4/1/2024.

² Torres CM, Kenzik KM, et al. *Timing to First Whole Blood Transfusion and Survival Following Severe Hemorrhage in Trauma Patients*. JAMA Surg. 2024;159(4):374–381. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2023.7178

³ Newman, MPH, M.S. (03/05/2025). *Improving access to prehospital blood may save approximately 10,000 lives annually*. ACS. <https://www.facs.org/for-medical-professionals/news-publications/news-and-articles/bulletin/2025/march-2025-volume-110-issue-3/improving-access-to-prehospital-blood-may-save-10-000-lives-a-year>

⁴ Levy MJ, Garfinkel EM, et al (2024). *Implementation of a prehospital whole blood program: Lessons learned*. Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians; 5(2):e13142. doi: 10.1002/emp2.13142. PMID: 38524357; PMCID: PMC10958095.

⁵ Winckler, MD, C., Miramontes, MD, D., & Bullock, EMT-P, W. (08/22/22). *System Report: The San Antonio Fire Department Blood Delivery Program*. <https://www.hmpgloballearningnetwork.com/site/emsworld/original-contribution/systemreport-san-antonio-fire-department-blood-delivery>

⁶ Varner, M. (02/13/25). *Whole blood programs aim to combat “blood deserts” in rural and urban areas*. EMS1. <https://www.ems1.com/whole-blood/whole-blood-programs-aim-to-combat-blood-deserts-in-rural-and-urban-areas>

Lubbock Honors Fallen First Responders in Solemn Memorial Ceremony



On May 8, 2025, the Lubbock community gathered at the Lubbock Regional Public Safety Memorial to honor the lives of local, state, and federal first responders who died in the line of duty. Hosted by the Lubbock Police Department, Lubbock Fire Rescue, and Texas DPS, the ceremony featured a roll call of over 40 fallen heroes, each symbolized by a white rose placed in their memory.

The event included heartfelt speeches from local leaders, including Lubbock County Judge Curtis Parrish and Police Chief Seth Herman, who emphasized the enduring sacrifice of first responders and the families they leave behind. A new plaque was unveiled in honor of firefighter and paramedic Matthew "Matt" Dawson, who succumbed to injuries sustained in 2020.



Source: Mateo Rosiles/Avalanche-Journal

The ceremony concluded with a 21-gun salute, the playing of Taps, and a wreath-laying, underscoring the community's unwavering gratitude and commitment to never forget those who gave their lives in the line of duty.

First Awarded Medal of Sacrifice for Fallen First Responders



Medal of Sacrifice: Source UPI

The new U.S. Medal of Sacrifice for first responders was recently introduced and awarded for the first time on May 19, 2025, by President Donald Trump during a ceremony at the White House. This medal honors law enforcement officers and first responders who have died in the line of duty. The medal ceremony, coinciding with National Police Week, marked a significant milestone in recognizing the sacrifices made by first responders across the nation.

The three deputies honored were Corporal Luiz Paez Jr., Deputy Ralph "Butch" Waller Jr. and Deputy Ignacio "Dan" Diaz of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office in Florida. One of the deputies had completed a routine traffic stop when his patrol motorcycle would not start. Two motorcycle deputies came to his assistance. While there, a driver switched lanes to pass a slower vehicle, overcompensated, and struck the deputies at high speed.

The medal was designed by Tiffany & Co., the same company that crafts the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award for valor in combat. It is made of silver and 24-carat gold, featuring the coat of arms of the United States. It institutionalizes a national-level recognition for fallen first responders, similar in stature to military honors, and symbolizes their ultimate sacrifice and the nation's gratitude. Going forward, the Medal of Sacrifice will be awarded to any law enforcement or first responder who makes the "ultimate sacrifice."



Do You Have a Topic or Article to Contribute to the Newsletter?

If you have a topic you would like to see covered, an article on a TIM topic that would be helpful to other programs, or if you would like to recognize someone for their outstanding work in the TIM field, then we want to hear from you!

Submit your article in an MS Word document and the statewide team will consider placing your article in one of the upcoming newsletters. Please keep the article under 500 words, include any photos (with photo credits) and the reason why you feel the topic is important to the TIM community, Send your article and contact information to: TIM@txdot.gov

Texas TIM Regional Meetings

Statewide TIM Meeting (Location Varies)Bi-Monthly - Next Meeting, August 20
Austin Incident Management (AIM) TeamBi-Monthly
Childress TIM TeamBi-Monthly
El Paso Metro TIM TeamQuarterly
Big Bend TIM Team (Rural El Paso District)Quarterly
Houston TranStar TIM TeamSecond Thursday of the Month
Northeast San Antonio (NESA) TIM TeamQuarterly
San Antonio TIM Team.....Second Tuesday of the Month

Fort Worth District TIM Meetings

Tarrant County.....Quarterly
Parker/Palo Pinto.....Quarterly
Hood/Erath/Somervell.....Quarterly
Johnson County.....Quarterly
Jack/Wise County.....Quarterly

Five Teams, One Mission: Fort Worth's TIM Program Leads the Way in Roadway Safety

By Jim Comfort, AECOM

In the heart of North Texas, five dedicated Traffic Incident Management (TIM) teams are transforming how roadway emergencies are handled across the TxDOT Fort Worth District. Covering a vast and diverse region—including Tarrant, Wise/Jack, Johnson, Parker/Palo Pinto, and Hood/Erath/Somervell counties—these teams are on the front lines of keeping both motorists and first responders safe.

Anthony White, the Fort Worth District TIM Coordinator since 2019, organized the different teams based on corridor location and the geography of the surrounding area. The district covers 6,952 square miles with both urban and rural areas. Tarrant County (Fort Worth) has several major interstate highways (I-30, I-20, and I-35) whereas Jack county has no interstate connections. "Each team is organized for the specific needs of the area in which they service," said Mr. White. "Tarrant County is focused on urban TIM procedures with full-time first responders, while teams like Jack/Wise County are focused on rural TIM operations that are comprised of mostly volunteers. There is a big difference in response to traffic incidents."



TxDOT Fort Worth District

Since becoming the TIM Coordinator, Mr. White has endeavored to create a TIM program that will have continuity when he retires from TxDOT. Mr. White said, "The TIM program belongs to the responders. TxDOT is the organizer and facilitator. We want to be the resource that responders can utilize to make traffic incident clearance quicker and easier for everyone." Mr. White has organized a Fort Worth District TIM Steering Committee, comprised of executive-level personnel from agencies throughout all nine counties. The purpose of the committee is to create TIM policies and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for safe quick clearance on TxDOT roadways that are uniform across county borders. Based on the FHWA National Unified Goals, they will focus on a ninety-minute roadway clearance time and inter agency communication on incident scenes. Mr. White said, "The committee is comprised of fire and police chiefs, TxDOT personnel and other disciplines; but strictly policy-decision makers. This allows changes in TIM policy and procedure to become effective sooner rather than later."

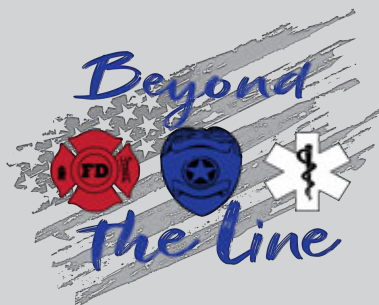
As the district's TIM program continues to evolve its strength lies in the unity and dedication of its five distinct teams. Each program is tailored to meet the unique demands of their communities, yet all driven by a shared mission: to protect lives and keep Texas roadways moving safely. Through strategic leadership, inter-agency collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to innovation, the Fort Worth District is setting a powerful example for TIM programs statewide. With every cleared incident and every life safeguarded, these teams prove that when we work together—five teams, one mission—Fort Worth leads the way in roadway safety.

FACES OF THE FALLEN – REMEMBERING OUR COMRADES

Our hearts and prayers go out to the family, friends, and colleagues of the fallen responders. Thank you for your selfless service to the people of Texas. May you rest in eternal peace. Stand easy, brothers, we have the watch...



Dawson Co. Sheriff's Deputy Jessie Perez
End of Watch: 04/23/2025



Angleton PD Sgt. JD White
End of Watch: 06/01/2025

Killed when hit with flying debris from the roadway on a traffic stop on Hwy 180 in Lamesa.

Struck by a vehicle while escorting a funeral procession.