



**ADVANCING
MEDICINE
THROUGH EDUCATION**

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**Fort Bend County Hosts 7th Annual Three-Day EMS Symposium: “Advancing Medicine through Education,”
Featuring Life-Saving Simulation Games, Mental Health Keynote and Blood Drive**

ROSENBERG, Texas — Emergency medical professionals from across the region will convene **March 9–11, 2026**, at the Fort Bend County Epicenter, located at 28505 Southwest Freeway, Rosenberg, TX 77471, for the **7th Annual Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Symposium, themed “Advancing Medicine through Education,”** a three-day event focused on advancing training, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing emergency response readiness. Sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Hosted by Fort Bend County Emergency Medical Services, the symposium provides continuing education, expert-led instruction, and professional development opportunities designed to support the EMS workforce and improve patient care outcomes. The symposium is **RN CE approved** and packed with valuable education to advance patient care.

The symposium was founded with a strong emphasis on regional collaboration and education. **Deputy Chief Kathleen Hartley** was a passionate advocate for ensuring high-quality training was accessible to partner agencies across the region. Following her passing after the inaugural 2019 symposium, **First Responder Mental Health became a permanent and integral focus of the event**, reinforcing the County’s commitment to supporting those who serve on the front lines.

Highlighting that commitment, Tuesday morning’s keynote speaker, **Ashley Brockman**, is a leading expert in **First Responder Mental Health**. She works closely with Fort Bend County EMS Chaplain Curtiss Lanham, who leads the department’s Peer Support Program, further strengthening resources available to first responders in Fort Bend County and throughout the region.

The event will feature the **Emergency Health Services (EHS) Competition Simulation Games**, which bring high-energy, real-world clinical scenarios to the symposium, allowing EMS teams to test and enhance their life-saving skills in a dynamic, hands-on environment.

Families and community members are also invited to enjoy the **Touch-a-Truck** event, including county emergency vehicles and the Fort Bend County Animal Services (**FBCAS**) **mobile adoption unit, filled with adoptable pets looking for their forever homes**.

In addition to educational sessions, simulation games, daily exhibitors and Touch-a-Truck, **a community blood drive hosted in partnership with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center** will take place all three days of the symposium. The donation process takes about one hour, and a single blood donation may help save up to three lives. Donors are critically needed to help maintain a safe and reliable blood supply for patients across the region.

“Fort Bend County is committed to supporting the men and women who serve on the front lines of emergency response,” said **Fort Bend County EMS Medical Director, Dr. Joseph Gill**. “This symposium strengthens preparedness, promotes collaboration and reinforces our dedication to protecting the health and safety of our community.”

Sessions will cover emerging best practices, operational coordination, and evolving challenges in emergency medical care. The event also serves as a platform for regional collaboration among EMS agencies, healthcare providers, public safety partners and trained volunteers. Members of the **Fort Bend Medical Reserve Corps (Unit 1266)**, all dedicated volunteers, will play a key role in the symposium, assisting with event operations and enhancing the County’s coordinated emergency preparedness initiatives.

“Continuing education and regional coordination are essential to delivering high-quality emergency medical care,” said **Fort Bend County EMS Chief, Dudley Wait**. “The EMS Symposium ensures our professionals remain equipped with the knowledge, skills and partnerships needed to respond effectively when seconds matter most.”

EMS professionals and participants may register for the symposium at:

<https://26FBCEHSymposium.rsvpify.com>

Individuals interested in volunteering to support the event may sign up here:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C0449AFA82EABFAC25-62196952-healthcare>

The annual symposium underscores Fort Bend County’s dedication to public health, safety and emergency preparedness while offering the community an opportunity to directly support lifesaving efforts through blood donation and to enjoy family-friendly activities like Touch-a-Truck and visit with adoptable pets.

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About Fort Bend County Health and Human Services

Fort Bend County Health & Human Services (FBCHHS) is committed to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of Fort Bend County residents. Through disease prevention and intervention, public health emergency preparedness and response, community engagement, and efforts to ensure the equitable provision of basic human needs, FBCHHS works to build healthier communities. Our vision is healthy neighbors living, learning, working and playing together in vibrant, thriving communities.

About Fort Bend County EMS

Fort Bend County EMS provides high-quality, life-saving emergency medical care to the residents and visitors of Fort Bend County. With a mission to enhance survival and recovery, our team continues to lead innovative efforts that improve patient outcomes and public health. We respond to over 45,000 requests per year, with a strong team of highly qualified and professional paramedics. With over 50 years of pre-hospital EMS experience, FBCEMS is committed to providing our patients, our citizens and our staff with Compassion, Empathy, Teamwork, Innovation, Professionalism and Safety. These core values provide the foundation of the department while supporting the FBCEMS motto: Enhancing Lives Through our Commitment to Excellence.