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About Us.

The Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council (CATRAC) is recognized by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) as the coordinating entity for Trauma Service Area O (TSA-O), encompassing an 11-county region. Our mission is to enhance regional health outcomes by reducing the incidence of trauma, acute illness, and injury. We achieve this through strategic initiatives in education, data collection and analysis, disaster preparedness, and performance improvement.

CATRAC brings together a diverse community of stakeholders, including hospitals, EMS agencies, fire departments, first responders, long-term care facilities, and other healthcare and emergency preparedness organizations. Together, we collaborate to develop and strengthen the regional trauma and emergency healthcare system, ensuring the highest standards of care and preparedness for our communities.

CATRAC

MISSION & VISION



MISSION

Advance health care and emergency preparedness within the counties of Trauma Service Area (TSA) O, as designated by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

This TSA includes the following counties: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, San Saba, Travis and Williamson.

VISION

- Coordinate regional medical assets during disasters and planned events
- Decrease morbidity and/or mortality that result from injury and illness
- Provide ongoing education regarding regional health care issues
- Assist member organizations in achieving the highest level of health care and emergency preparedness
- Improve public awareness of the methods of accessing the trauma and health care system and preventing injury



FROM THE CATRAC CHAIR

As Chairman of the Board of CATRAC, I am pleased to highlight the remarkable accomplishments and progress we've made in the region. I am continually inspired by the dedication and collaboration of our staff, stakeholders, and partner agencies who are dedicated to our mission.

This year has been one of transformation and growth for CATRAC. We embraced significant changes by restructuring operations, implementing innovative technologies, and enhancing data reporting strategies, all with the goal of better supporting our community, stakeholders and improving the emergency healthcare systems.

Operational Highlights



Performance Improvement Committee

A cornerstone of our efforts has been the establishment of the Performance Improvement Committee in 2025. This committee is focused on enhancing patient outcomes, implementing best practices, and driving continuous improvement across all service lines.



Coalition and Clinical Advisory Committee

To ensure alignment and informed decision-making, we launched the Coalition and Clinical Advisory Committee, which provides valuable guidance and helps shape the healthcare coalition's strategic priorities across the 29-county region.



Whole Blood Program

We advanced the Whole Blood Program by introducing hospital disposition data collection for patients who have received whole blood in the prehospital setting. We've expanded our reach by successfully onboarding new EMS agencies, further solidifying our network and our ability to serve the region.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our amazing team of dedicated employees, our volunteer board members, and stakeholders for their unwavering support and collaboration. Your efforts have been instrumental in the positive impact we've achieved across our communities.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on 2024, I am proud to highlight the significant strides we have made in advancing trauma and emergency healthcare services across our region as well as refining the healthcare emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Our collective efforts have been instrumental in enhancing the communities we serve.

Strategic Planning and Data-Driven Initiatives

Under the guidance of leadership and the Board of Directors, we implemented a comprehensive strategy focusing on key areas: optimizing clinical programs, data analysis, education & injury prevention, pre-hospital initiatives, and emergency preparedness & response capabilities. In 2025, our organization will continue to support these clinical priorities while expanding comprehensive data and performance improvement projects.

Financial Stewardship

Our commitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility remains unwavering. In 2024, we diversified revenue with new initiatives and expansion of programs. Through our prudent management of resources, we continue to explore new opportunities to sustain and expand programs and services, including partnerships with those we serve.

Community Engagement and Education

Recognizing the importance of community involvement, we have intensified our efforts in public education and awareness as well as hosted an Education Symposium for medics and nurses. These initiatives have empowered individuals with life-saving skills, while fostering a more resilient and informed public. CATRAC is excited to continue this new tradition by expanding public awareness and education programs and hosting a 2nd Annual CATRAC Education Symposium in the summer of 2025.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

In collaboration with regional stakeholders from twenty-nine countries, including hospitals, health systems, EMS providers, emergency management agencies, and public health offices, we have strengthened our emergency preparedness and response plans. This collective approach ensures a coordinated and efficient response to any crisis, safeguarding the health and safety of our communities. In 2025, we will review, exercise, and refine these multi-county regional plans.

As we welcome the new year, I am confident that we will build upon these achievements with our partnerships and collaborations. Together, we will strive for excellence in regional emergency healthcare system performance, setting new benchmarks for quality in our region.

Executive Director/CEO

Board of Directors

Executive Committee



Ben Oakley, MPA, LP Chair *Blanco County EMS*



Josh Vandever, BAAS, LP Vice Chair- Prehospital *Fayette County EMS*



Ira Wood, MD
Vice Chair- Hospital
CPRMC



John Hamilton, LP, FP-CSecretary

CareFlite



Mike Knipstein, EMT-PTreasurer
Williamson *County EMS*

Jim Persons, LPBurnet / Williamson Counties

James Green, FP-C Caldwell / Bastrop Counties

Ken Strange, EMT-PHays / Blanco Counties

Rodney Mersiovsky, EMT-P Lee / Fayette Counties

Wes Alexander, EMT-PSan Saba / Llano Counties

Robert Luckritz, LPTravis County

Samson Jesudass, MD Ascension Seton

Ken Mitchell, MD HCA St. David's

Sally Gillam, DNPBaylor Scott & White

Dawn Handley M.Ed., LPCIndependent Facilities

Mark Escott, MD
HPP Coalition Chair

Justin Soulier, MHA, RNAir Medical Providers

Preparedness & Response Division

CENTRAL TEXAS HEALTHCARE COALITION (TSA-L)

Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, and Mills

Chair: Zac Glowczwski

HEART OF TEXAS HEALTHCARE COALITION (TSA-M)

Bosque, Falls, Hill, McLennan, and Limestone

Chair: Kris Parker

BRAZOS VALLEY TEXAS HEALTHCARE COALITION (TSA-N)

Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison, Leon, Robertson, and Washington

Chair: Bryan Ruemke

CAPITAL AREA TEXAS HEALTHCARE COALITION (TSA-O)

Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, San Saba, Travis, and Williamson

Chair: Shandel Milburn

Regional Medical Operations Center (RMOC)

Preparedness & Response Division

Known as 7-RMOC Austin/Central Texas, the RMOC serves as the healthcare coordination center during disasters or catastrophic incidents. The RMOC can be activated by any local jurisdiction or the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to assist hospitals, healthcare systems, public health, and emergency medical services with healthcare response and coordination.

2024 RMOC Activations

- Cyber Attacks
- Hospital Water Intrusion
- CMA / Solar Eclipse
- Mass Casuality Incidents
- Civil Unrest

- Crowdstrike Downtime
- Hurricane Beryl
- Water Outages
- Presidential Election

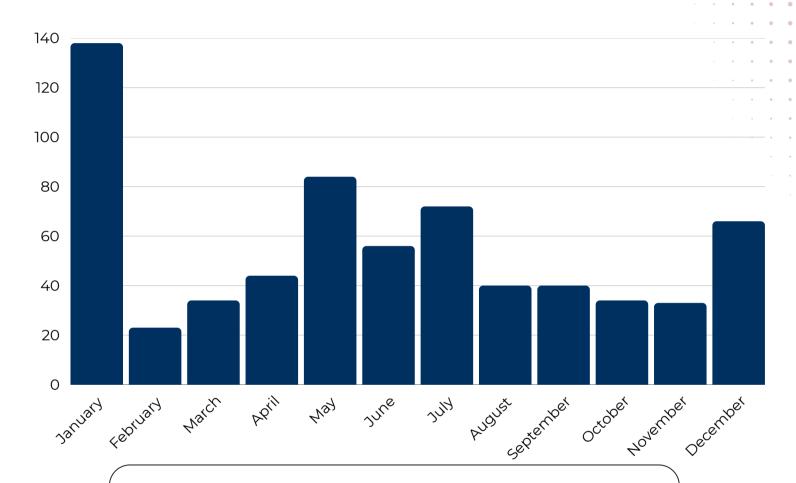


The RMOC also provides a single source for local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), Emergency Managers (EMs), TDEM, and other entities to coordinate planning and response activities with area ESF-8 partners, such as mental health, dialysis, and home health agencies.

DUTY OFFICER

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE DIVISION

Inbound Duty Officer Calls
By Month



Duty Officer (On-Call 24/7)

The Duty Officer (DO) serves as the principal point of contact for CATRAC after-hours. The DO is responsible for the following:

- Monitors and answers the On-Call Duty Officer phone for the receipt and dissemination of emergency information and warnings.
- Conducts and coordinates initial assessment and notification of threats that may have direct or indirect impacts to the emergency healthcare system in the TSA L, M, N, and O regions.
- Serves as the 24-hour point of contact for EMTF-7 mobilization requests.

EMTF

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE DIVISION





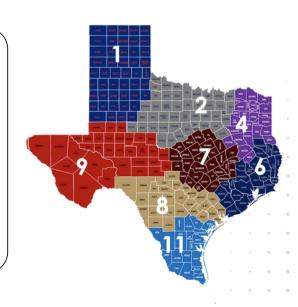
The Emergency Medical Task Force was developed to create a statewide network of regionally based, rapid response medical teams.

The goal is to provide a well-coordinated, rapid, professional medical response to large regional or state incidents. EMTF-7 is supported by the stakeholders throughout TSAs L, M, N, & O.

Components

Ambulance Staging Management Team (ASM	IT) Mobile Medical Unit (MMU)
Ambulance Strike Teams (AST)	Registered Nurse Strike Teams (RNST)
Air Medical Strike Teams (AMST)	Tactical Medical Unit Support
AMBUS	Texas Mass Fatality Operations Response Team
Infectious Disease Response Unit (IDRU)	Wildland Fire Medical Support Team
Medical Incident Support Teams (MIST)	Radiological Response Unit (In Development)

There are eight EMTF regions that strategically colocated with the HPP regions. These regional teams are capable of activating prepostiioned regional resources on a state mission to support impacted jurisdictions with emergency medical infrastructure support.



OPERATIONS

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE DIVISION

279
DAYS

of 2024 RMOC Status:

Elevated Posture

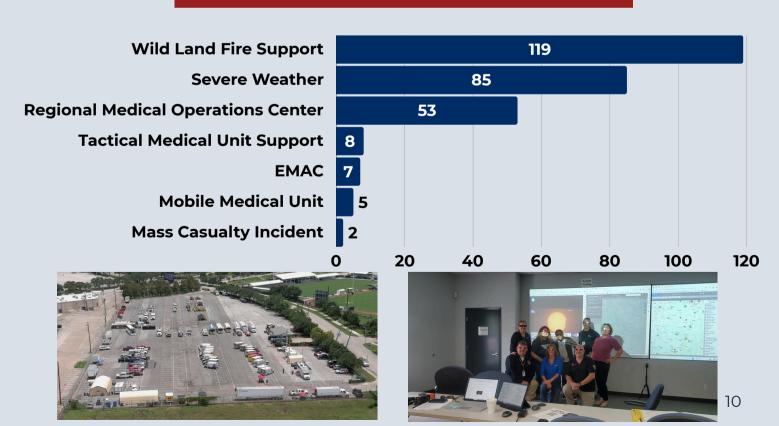


of 2024 RMOC Status:

Activated



EMTF Deployment Days by Component



Ambulance Staging at NRG Stadium for Hurricane Beryl

RMOC Activation for Solar Eclipse

HEALTHCARE COALITION

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE DIVISION

Purpose of HCC

- Strategic planning
- Identification of gaps and mitigation strategies
- Operational planning and response
- Information sharing for improved situational awareness
- Resource coordination and management

Hazards Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)

CATRAC is responsible for developing a regional Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) analysis for TSAs L, M, N, and O. The HVA provides the region with a common understanding about hazard risks to prioritize issues.



Top Hazards and Vulnerabilities Identified in 2024:

- TORNADO
- 2 EPIDEMIC
- 3 INFORMATION SYSTEMS FAILURE
- 4 MASS CASUALITY INCIDENT (MEDICAL)
- 5 ICE STORM

HEALTHCARE COALITION ACTIVITIES

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE DIVISION

MCI Trailers

As part of our commitment to emergency readiness, Regional Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) and Medical Facility (MF) Trailers have been strategically deployed across TSA Regions L, M, N, and O. These trailers are stocked with essential equipment and supplies, ensuring preparedness for various emergency scenarios.

Hydration and Cooling Resources

Traffic and Scene Management Tools

Command and Communication Tools

Medical Supplies

Evacuation and Patient Transport Resources

Training/Drills/Exercises

regional healthcare systems through ongoing training and exercises. Our staff develops training to support the region's preparedness, response, and recovery goals. These activities assess emergency readiness and enhance the knowledge and skills of the HCC workforce.

- **21** Communication Drills
- 6 MCI Drills
- **3** Functional Medical Surge Exercises
- 3 Amateur Radio Drills
- Pediatric/Burn Surge Tabletop Exercises

New Partnerships



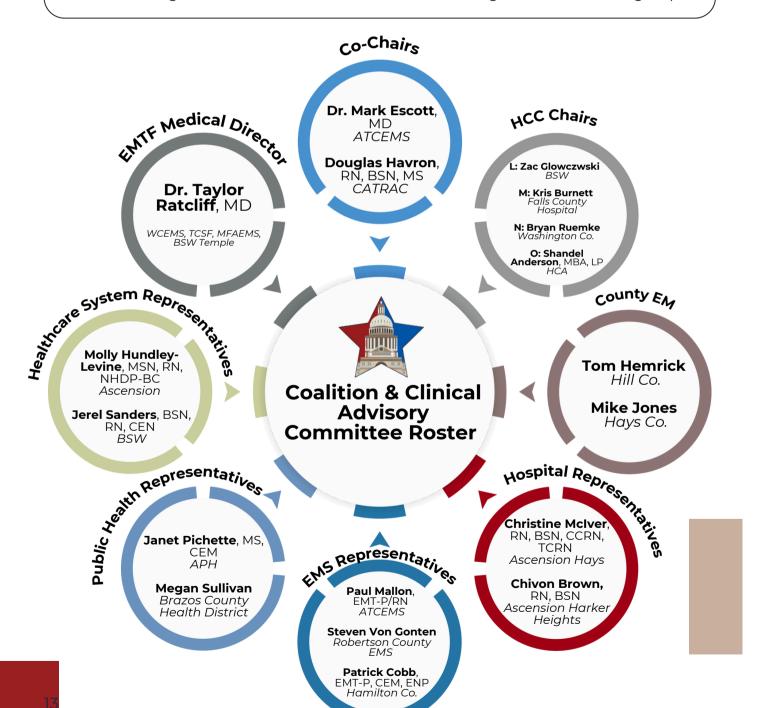




COALITION & CLINICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE DIVISION

CATRAC has formalized a Coalition & Clinical Advisory Committee, expanding beyond contract deliverables of the healthcare preparedness program and previous structure provided by the clinical advisory council. This enhanced structure will include designated members from across the multi-regional stakeholder group.



Emergency Healthcare Systems (EHS) Committee

Chair: Dr. Taylor Ratcliff

CARDIAC WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Robert Schutt

PEDIATRIC WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Kate Remick

Vice Chair: Dr. Sanya Desai

PERINATAL WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. John Loyd

Vice Chair: Dr. Charlie Jaynes

STROKE WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Gaurang Shah

TRAUMA WORKGROUP

Chair: Tara Neeley

EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

CATRAC is dedicated to the provision of quality healthcare for the community and the surrounding region. It provides accessible, comprehensive, compassionate, high-quality healthcare to all disaster and emergency healthcare patients regardless of age, race, religion, sex, nationality, ability to pay, diagnosis or prognosis, to assure that all patients receive the optimal level of care.

Trauma Designated Centers	23
Stroke Designated Centers	20
Maternal Designated Centers	17
Neonatal Designated Centers	17

77	5	4	47	8
Prehospital Agencies	Air Medical Agencies	Pediatric Hospitals	Hospitals	Rehab Centers

WORKGROUP PROJECTS

EHS COMMITTEE

PERINATAL WORKGROUP

- Incorporation of midwives and birthing centers
- Updated Perinatal system plan
- Creation of Dot map
- OB/GYN considerations for Emergent transfers
- TETAF and ACOG Q/A sessions



PEDIATRIC WORKGROUP

- NPRP assessments, PPN survey
- Pediatric Readiness Initiative
- Pediatric Photo Guidelines for Pulsara
- 5-Year Goal for Pediatric Readiness with Board Endorsement
- Endorsement of the W.H.A.L.E Project



WORKGROUP PROJECTS

EHS COMMITTEE

CARDIAC WORKGROUP

- Development of STEMI Receiving Center Criteria
- Updated Cardiac EMResource View



STROKE WORKGROUP

 Updated Prehospital Stroke Transport Guidelines with Pediatric and Population Density considerations



TRAUMA WORKGROUP

- High/Moderate Risk Criteria
- Emergent Transfer criteria
- Updated Trauma system plan
- Regional Hospital Capabilities Matrix



Prehospital Committee

Chair: Dr. Heidi Abraham

WHOLE BLOOD WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Emily Kidd

EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS WORKGROUP

Chair: Dr. Andrew Chou

WORKGROUP PROJECTS

PREHOSPITAL COMMITTEE

TASK FORCES

- Wall Times Escalation Process
- EMS County Pass Through
- Transport of Decedents
- Bloodborne Pathogen First Responder Process
- Updated Prehospital System Plan



WHOLE BLOOD WORKGROUP

- Standardizing Whole Blood Reporting
- Starting Whole Blood Patient Outcomes
- Whole Blood Data Presentation



EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS

- Regional Hospital Capabilities Matrix
- EMS and Air Medical CCT Capabilities Matrix



WHOLE BLOOD PROGRAM

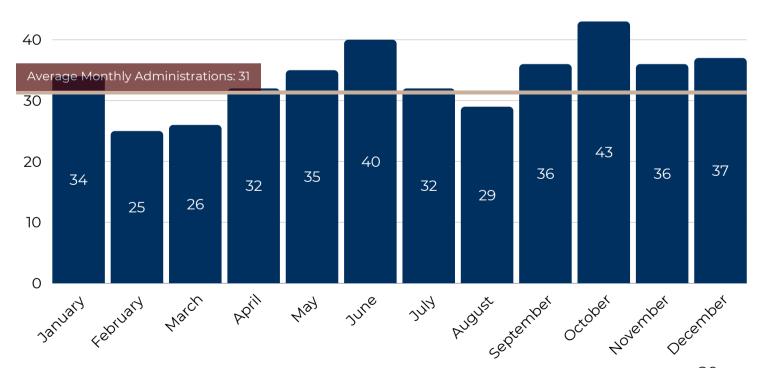
PREHOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Outcomes

In 2024, the Whole Blood Workgroup began collecting hospital disposition data for EMS patients receiving whole blood in the field, including outcomes such as survival, rehabilitation, and discharge home. This work is showcasing the impacts of whole blood administration patient survival and recovery. Data collection was also expanded to categorize the types of emergencies requiring whole blood, including medical, trauma, obstetric, and other cases. These efforts aim to optimize the use of whole blood in pre-hospital care. CATRAC has 6 participating prehospital agencies in 2024.



50



Education & Injury Prevention Committee

Chair: Rhonda Manor-Coombes

EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

EDUCATION AND INJURY PREVENTION



The Education and Injury Prevention Committee had a busy year planning the 2024 Educational Symposium on July 26. Our speakers shared insights on burn management, acute aortic dissections. prehospital of ketamine. use tracheostomy problem-solving, and more. Continuina Education credits administered by Blanco County EMS and TETAF. Special thanks to Williamson County EMS for generously hosting the event!

Thank you to our presenters!

Continuing Education Credits:

Nursing Attendees

36 EMS Attendees

Frank Stokes



Dr. Taylor Ratcliff



Dr. George Arnaotakis



Sarah Andrews



Mike Knipstein



Dr. Farzan Ghodsianzadeh



Julia Ruth



Dr. Rama Heyratifar











EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

EDUCATION AND INJURY PREVENTION



Gold Sponsors







Silver Sponsors









Bronze Sponsors







Symposium Volunteer Team

- Rhonda Manor-Coombes
- Jenna Price
- Erin Henderson
- Gay Kurtz

- Christan Davis
- Jim Persons
- Jessica Toothman



COMMUNITY TRAINING



EDUCATION AND INJURY PREVENTION

CATRAC facilitates a variety of community-based trainings, including Stop the Bleed (STB) and Take10, to equip any individual with simple techniques to save lives.

The "Stop the Bleed" campaign was launched during an event at the White House to provide bystanders of emergency situations with the tools and knowledge to stop life threatening bleeding. The goal of this initiative is to build national resilience by empowering the general public to be aware of the simple steps that can be taken to stop or slow life threatening bleeding, and to promote the general public's access to Bleeding Control Kits in public spaces, while they travel, and in the home.

Take10 training is a community-based program that teaches individuals how to perform compression-only CPR (chest compressions) in a quick, 10-minute session, essentially training them to be bystanders who can potentially save a life during a cardiac arrest by immediately starting chest compressions when needed.

244+
STB STUDENTS TRAINED

44+
STB INTSTRUCTORS TRAINED

27+
TAKEIO STUDENTS TRAINED

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

After completing Stop the Bleed training, students reported:

Higher confidence

99%

Willingness to respond to future emergencies

95%

Successful skill preparation

97%









Firework Safety

Firework safety is no joke in Texas where we love any excuse to celebrate like July 4th or New Years! Did you know that the sparklers you hold in your hand can get up to 2000°F?



INJURY PREVENTION

OUTREACH

The Education and Injury Prevention
Committee prioritizes empowering the
community with knowledge and
awareness on public safety issues. This
can be done by attending public events
or creation of creation of public safety
flyers to disperse in our neighborhoods,
schools, and local coffee shops!



Carbon Monoxide Safety

The committee caters to all parts of the community by offering bilingual versions of flyers and surveys to capture the thoughts of our diverse region. We want to ensure everyone is aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide especially in the colder months when people might use generators or alternative heat sources.

EMS SCHOLARSHIPS

EDUCATION & IP

Senate Bill 8 provided for the allocation of funds for EMS scholarships. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) provided financial support for EMS scholarships through grants, aimed at increasing the workforce of qualified emergency medical technicians and paramedics by covering educational costs for training and certification.



157

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



131

PARAMEDICS SPONSORED



3

AEMTS SPONSORED



23

EMTS SPONSORED

Fund Distrubution

N a m e	Sum of Amount
Williamson County EMS	\$99,199
Buda Fire Department	\$87,998
Travis County ESD #1	\$82,029
Travis County ESD #2- Pflugerville Fire	\$72,000
Acadian	\$46,849
Allegiance Mobile Health	\$16,000
Lee County EMS	\$16,000
San Marcos-Hays County	\$16,000
Hamilton County Hospital District EMS	\$8,000
Blanco County ESD2	\$8,000
North Blanco County-EMS	\$8,000
Luling- EMS	\$3,999
Travis County Fire Rescue ESD 11	\$3,200

Data Committee

Chair: Diana Norris

DATA COMMITTEE

CATRAC made remarkable has progress in advancing data-driven decision-making to enhance regional healthcare policies. A key milestone has been the establishment of an agreement with ESO as our vendor for both the EMS Repository and Trauma Registry. This collaboration spans the entire continuum of care from prehospital EMS services to hospital outcomes—ensuring comprehensive approach to improving patient care.



On the Horizon



CATRAC will focus on defining and incorporating datasets for additional service lines beyond trauma and prehospital care, such as stroke, cardiac care, and maternal health. This will allow for a more holistic approach to improving patient outcomes across the region.



By leveraging ESO and Tableau, CATRAC will develop advanced analytics dashboards to provide stakeholders with actionable insights. These tools will empower decision-makers to identify trends, address gaps, and implement targeted improvements in patient care.



CATRAC plans to deepen partnerships with regional members through committees and workgroups to maximize actionable insights using data. This increased engagement will ensure alignment across the region and foster collective innovation in healthcare delivery.

2024 REQUESTS

In 2024, we fully implemented a request form on our website to simplify and centralize the submission process for various inquiries. Stakeholders can now easily request distribution list memberships, access to resources, training opportunities, media materials, and participation letters.

The form has proven to be a valuable tool in improving efficiency and accessibility. By streamlining these processes, we have reduced manual follow-ups, improved response times, and ensured a more organized approach to managing requests.

258 Requests

95% Fulfilled

- 135 DISTRIBUTION LIST MANAGEMENT REQUESTS
- **58** PARTICIPATION LETTER REQUESTS
- **17** TRAININGS REQUESTS
- 13 RESOURCE REQUESTS
- 10 EQUIPMENT REQUESTS





Douglas Havron RN, BSN, MS Executive Director / CEO



Tony Serpe
MBA-HA, NRP
Healthcare Preparedness
Program Manager



Kat Ruiz
BSHA
Emergency Healthcare Systems
(EHS) Program Manager



Daniel SturdevantBS, AAS, LP, EMS-I **EMTF-7 Coordinator**



Alesia Palmer MBA, MAcc Financial Controller



Jasmine Castañeda de Morales Data Analyst



Sangeetha Dattam

Emergency Healthcare
Systems (EHS) Program
Administrator



Nancy Roller
Program Coordinator



Branden Thorpe
Emergency Operations
Specialist



Jake McDonald

Emergency Operations

Specialist



Lindsay UpsonStaff Accountant



Adam Stocking
HCC-L Coordinator



Herman Iles
HCC-N Coordinator



Briana Pizarro

MBA

HCC-M Coordinator





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