



For Immediate Release

CATRAC and HOTRAC Expand Access to Lifesaving Whole Blood Program Across Central Texas

[Austin, TX] — [Aug, 12, 2026] — The Capital Area of Texas Regional Advisory Council (CATRAC) and Heart of Texas Regional Advisory Council (HOTRAC) announced today that 19 air and ground Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies across their combined 16-county region have received equipment to safely store and administer prehospital whole blood. Prehospital whole blood has been an established lifesaving capability within the CATRAC region since 2021. In 2025 alone, 417 critically ill and injured patients received whole blood before reaching the hospital—417 lives touched by having lifesaving blood available when and where it was needed most. This investment builds on that success by expanding access to the equipment and technology needed to strengthen and sustain prehospital whole blood programs across the region.

Whole blood plays a vital role in emergency care, dramatically improving survival rates for critically ill and injured patients. As part of this initiative, CATRAC and HOTRAC have distributed 17 Delta Developmental Autonomous Portable Refrigeration Units (APRUs), along with 4 Delta Ice Coolers and advanced blood management and temperature-tracking software for all 19 EMS agencies. Both the APRUs and the Delta Ice Coolers are FDA-approved and AABB-certified, specialized medical coolers capable of maintaining strict temperature requirements, even in the Texas heat. The accompanying software enables GPS tracking and real-time data sharing of temperature logs with oversight and regulatory personnel.

This equipment allows EMS partners across CATRAC and HOTRAC to expand access to this lifesaving procedure, streamline the administration process, and reduce administrative burden after patient care is complete. Bringing prehospital whole blood within our community means more lives will be saved.

The success of this program depends on the generosity of dedicated blood donors, along with the regional blood providers, hospitals, and prehospital partners who made this capability possible. CATRAC and HOTRAC also recognize the advocates and state officials who secured grant funding through the State of Texas to improve access to prehospital whole blood — support that will directly save lives across the region.

About CATRAC:

CATRAC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, strengthens emergency healthcare systems across 11 Central Texas counties through data-driven improvements, training, and collaboration. Dedicated to enhancing patient care and emergency preparedness, CATRAC works to build a more effective and coordinated healthcare system.

About HOTRAC:

HOTRAC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is one of the administrative bodies responsible for trauma system oversight within the bounds of a given service area in Texas. HOTRAC is the administrative body in Trauma Service Area M (TSA M).