

# Students at A&M practice ways to rescue victims of accidents

## Trainees prepare in emergency medical-technique drills

By Marie L. McLeod  
Reporter

Sixteen Texas A&M students arrived at the Brayton Firemen Training Field at 8 a.m. Saturday with one thing on their minds, "disaster."

The students were there to learn about extrication, the removing of injured victims from accident wreckage or natural barriers.

They were prepared for a challenging and eventful day that was sure to be disastrous.

The students were emergency medical technician (EMT) trainees enrolled in Health Education 319, Emergency Medical Techniques, taught by Laura Kitzmiller, associate professor of the health and physical education department.

After getting through some minor paperwork, the trainees were split into two groups. One group remained in the classroom and the other went outside to an area with abandoned cars and buses to perform extrication drills.

Later the two groups would switch areas.

After watching a demonstration with the Kendrick's Extrication Device (KEDS), the students split into teams and practiced using the KEDS to remove victims from wrecked cars. The device wraps around a victim with possible neck and spinal injuries, stabilizing the neck and spine to prevent further injury when a victim is moved from an accident or disaster scene.

When it finished, the class went to lunch. As the students ate, they talked with anticipation of calamitous events to come.

After lunch, the activities grew more challenging and students needed to use their newly acquired skills.

One group went to a fourth-story balcony where they learned to secure a victim in a Stoke's basket, a wire basket about 7 feet long and 1 foot deep used to safely lower victims over balcony railings to the ground using ropes.

Next, the group went to a fourth-story window on another side of the building and learned how to rappel.

Meanwhile, students from Kitzmiller's Health Education 218 class, Emergency Care and Treatment, arrived at the fire school to become volunteer victims for the student trainees.

Kitzmiller, with some assistance, transformed the supposed sufferers into victims for the final calamity. It was Halloween revisited as the students were covered with artificial wounds and syrup with red food coloring to make the drill more realistic for the trainees.

After preparations were completed, the victims were ready to assume positions for the final calamity.

The area has a semicircle-shaped creek, which is about 75 feet wide with steep embankments, running through it. A barbed wire stretches across the right side of the creek and up through the woods opposite the training areas.

It was divided into three areas, each with two pretend patients.

After finishing at the rappelling tower, the students reconvened for briefings and procedures concerning their final drill, the "disaster."

They were split into three groups, one for each area. A team captain



A&M students prepare for disasters with emergency medical training.

Photo by Marie L. McLeod

maintained control over each team and manned the two-way radio at the command station.

The scene was set for the long awaited drill to begin.

Suddenly, a tone came over the radios. A severe thunderstorm had swept through the town with damaging tornadoes. "EMS call. Respond to the Brayton Firemen Training School near the creek. The number of injured is unknown at this time."

Shortly after, two of the rescue teams were at the bank of the creek. With the use of a rope, one by one, they went down the steep wall, crossed the creek and began searching the heavily-wooded area for victims. They found severely wounded victims and required the use of a traverse line, a system used to transport victims across the creek and to get equipment into the area.

Finding four of the victims, the trainees began working, making do with the limited supplies available to them.

After securing their patients to backboards, they carried them

through thick brush, down inclines and some through the barbed wire fence to get to the traverse line.

Secured to an equipment truck on the bank, the traverse line was two ropes with pulleys that spanned about 75 feet down into the creek, where it was tied to a tree.

After arriving below the command point, the trainees strapped the volunteer victims in a Stoke's basket and other trainees slowly pulled each victim up to safety for further treatment.

The victims were then transported to a covered area so an instructor could assess the treatment rendered by the trainees.

Two other volunteer victims were trapped in a car that was stuck halfway down a slope to the creek. They had to be extricated from the car and then lifted up the wall in a basket.

After all of the victims were removed from the scene, the drill was over.

Then, to end the day's activities, everyone met for a critique session.

It was an open discussion. The victims told of both good and bad aspects of their experiences as patients. Then the team captains assessed overall team performance. Lastly, the instructors who observed the different areas of the drill offered constructive criticism.

Kitzmiller said in addition to 100 classroom hours, 20 hours of in-hospital time and three patient-care ambulance runs, students must spend eight hours learning extrication before they are eligible to take the state exam and skills test to become a certified EMT in Texas.

"It (extrication day) is one of the most valuable experiences for them because it's hands-on experience," she said. "It makes it more realistic."

"They get the basic knowledge from books and out here they are able to adapt with that knowledge."

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### Entry Form

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Louis Pierce Pavillion - Jersey Street  
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(2 men, 2 women)	_____	_____
Women's (4)	_____	_____
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### -Rules-

1. May enter each division only once
  2. Limited to the first 100 teams
  3. Turn in entry forms to Vet school foyer between 12:00-1:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
  4. Last day to enter will be Friday, Nov. 13th, 4:00 p.m.
  5. Prizes will be awarded for first three places in each division
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I hereby release the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University and all persons involved with the 1987 All University Greased Pig Chase from responsibilities due to injuries or accidents that may occur during said event to be held on Nov. 13th, 1987.

Signatures of all participants \_\_\_\_\_

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## Park rangers begin collecting admission fees

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Park rangers this weekend made waves when they began collecting admission fees at Padre Island National Seashore.

"We turned around at first," Bob Heady said from the back of a pickup full of friends. "We had to go get some money. This is cutting into our Cheetos budget."

His friend, Tom, who asked that his last name not be used, said, "I think \$1 per person — that's kind of outrageous, don't you think? It will turn people who live here away."

The fees are the first ever collected at the park since it opened in 1968, and are part of a Reagan administration plan to generate additional revenues for the national parks.

Ranger Fred Cochran said, "We've been pretty busy. There have been a few gripes, but almost everyone else goes in. I started at six in the morning and there's been a steady stream of people ever since."

"Many of them weren't aware of it. There have been a few turn around — probably five or six cars — since this morning. But most people have figured they are already out here, so they just pay."

Under the new fee structure a seven-day pass is \$1 per person up to a maximum of \$3 per car or truck; a one-calendar-year pass is \$10; a Golden Eagle pass that admits bearers to any national park goes for \$25 and there's a \$1-per-person

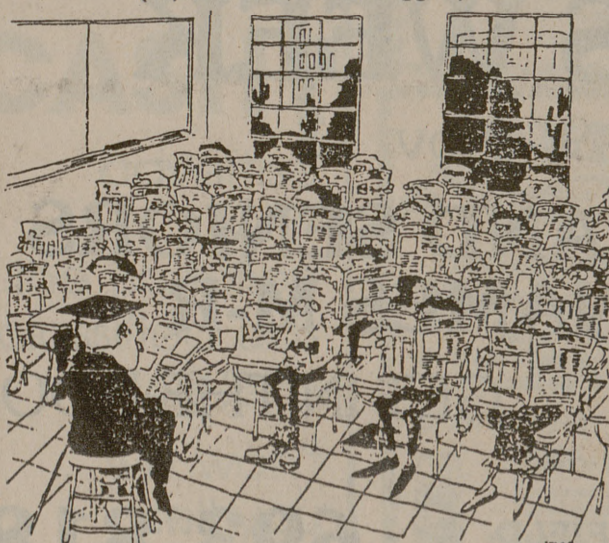
day charge for bus riders, walkers or bicyclists.

Kent Hubert of Corpus Christi echoed what many beach-goers said. "It all depends on how the money is utilized," he said. "If they can start some legislation to stop the offshore dumping, I'm all for it."

Acting Superintendent Max Hancock said last week that a bill pending before Congress would return half of the local entrance fees to the national seashore for projects like dune restoration. The remaining revenue would help fund other parks maintained by the National Parks Service, including those that do not charge admission.

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