

TAFEC

Texas Association of
FREESTANDING
Emergency Centers

MEDIA KIT



TAFEC MISSION AND VALUES

Mission

To advocate for fair regulation and to raise statewide awareness of freestanding emergency centers as a high-quality, accessible, emergency medical care option.

Vision

The Texas Association of Freestanding Emergency Centers (TAFEC) will be the expert association safeguarding, supporting, strengthening and serving as the voice for the freestanding emergency-center industry.

Benefits

The freestanding emergency care industry offers unique benefits when compared to other emergency and urgent care providers. TAFEC works with members to ensure the following standards are maintained:

:: Access to emergency medical care is provided for every patient who comes to us.

:: Quality of care is unsurpassed, fully equipped for all medical emergencies and closely regulated by the state. These licensed facilities are required to have an ER physician on hand 24/7.

:: Convenience is unparalleled. Freestanding emergency centers are frequently closer and wait time is consistently quicker than hospital ERs, and unlike urgent-care facilities, we are required to be open 24/7 to provide all levels of care.

:: Cost is equal to or less than hospital ER care.

:: Satisfaction is superior among all urgent- and emergency-care providers for everyone involved – patients, physicians and staff.



HISTORY OF TAFEC

In the 81st Texas Legislature, House Bill 1357, which proposed licensing and recognition of freestanding emergency medical care facilities as a legitimate provider of emergency care by the state, was carried by Rep. Carl Isett and Sen. Bob Deuell. After much debate, House Bill 1357 passed in the summer of 2009, effectively creating the freestanding emergency care industry in 2009.

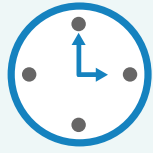
After the passage of House Bill 1357, legislators, regulators and freestanding facility operators were convened by the Texas Health Department for formal “rule making.” This process determined what criteria would be licensed and overseen by the state, including operational, architectural and service requirements.

At the time, a number of freestanding emergency care centers had existed in Texas and operated individually. Each had varying hours of operation and service levels. During the rule making process it became evident that there was a need for a unified voice. Following the creation of the fledgling industry, the Texas Association of Freestanding Emergency Centers (TAFEC) was formed to ensure its fair regulation, organize the individual facilities and ensure uniform standards.

In 2011, TAFEC entered the session recognized by legislators as the leading voice for freestanding emergency centers (FECs). The primary piece of legislation on TAFEC’s agenda was House Bill 3085, a “clean up” provision that changed the licensing duration from one to two years, thereby eliminating administrative costs. The bill passed and created the model under which FECs currently operate.

In 2013, the Texas Independent Emergency Room Association (TXIERA) merged with TAFEC, nearly doubling the amount of companies and facilities operating under the umbrella of TAFEC. The TXIERA group had also grown to become a legislative force promoting growth and fair regulation of the freestanding industry, so it was a natural progression that two associations become one.

TAFEC now has 20 member companies with 73 facilities across the state of Texas. As the organization continues to grow, the mission remains the same – provide a platform from which FECs can speak as a united group to promote the freestanding industry.



HOURS OF OPERATION

24
365



Open 24 hours, 365 days per year

LESS
WAIT



Patients are seen faster in FECs than in traditional ERs



EQUIPPED
for all EMERGENCIES

FECs offer an on-site pharmacy, in-house lab processing, and Xray, US, and CT scanning equipment



FREESTANDING EMERGENCY CENTERS



EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL

Emergency trained physician & RN on site 24/7



STRICT
LICENSING
REGULATION



All FECs are licensed and regulated by the state

CLEAN, COMFORTABLE
ATMOSPHERE

Friendly staff and modern facilities make your experience more enjoyable



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FACILITY COMPARISON TEXAS

REQUIREMENTS	URGENT CARE	HOSPITAL	FREESTANDING
OPEN 24 HRS	NO	YES	YES
OPEN 365	NO	YES	YES
XRAY	NO	YES	YES
US	NO	YES	YES
CT	NO	MAYBE	YES
LAB	NO	YES	YES
SEEN BY A PHYSICIAN	NO	MAYBE	YES
EMERGENCY TRAINED PHYSICIAN ON SITE 24/7	NO	NO – COULD BE PA OR NURSE PRACTITIONER	YES
RN ON SITE 24/7	NO	NO – COULD BE LVN	YES
PHYSICIAN TRAINED / EXPERIENCED IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE	NO	NO	YES
PHYSICIAN ACLS, ATLS, PALS REQUIRED	NO	NO	YES
RN ACLS, PALS REQUIRED	NO	NO	YES
PHARMACIST	NO	YES	YES
MEDICAL DIRECTOR	NO	YES	YES
FORMAL PEER REVIEW	NO	YES	YES
CNO	NO	YES	YES
EMTALA	NO	YES	YES
ARCHITECTURAL REQUIREMENTS	NO	YES (if on hospital campus) NO (if off-site campus acting as dept of hospital)	YES
GENERATOR	NO	YES (if on hospital campus) NO (if off-site campus acting as dept of hospital)	YES
POTABLE WATER	NO	YES (if on hospital campus) NO (if off-site campus acting as dept of hospital)	YES
INTEGRATED WITH LOCAL EMERGENCY / DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	NO	YES (if on hospital campus) NO (if off-site campus acting as dept of hospital)	YES
LICENSED / REGULATED BY STATE	NO	YES	YES
FORMAL QA, INFECTION CONTROL, SAFETY, ETC...	NO	YES	YES
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO STATE	NO	YES	YES

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