



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Trauma system town hall meeting set for Feb. 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Interested persons are invited to attend a town hall meeting for the West Alabama Trauma Region at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at Hotel Capstone, 320 Paul W. Bryant Drive in Tuscaloosa. The meeting is for Trauma Region 4, which includes Bibb, Choctaw, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marengo, Marion, Perry, Pickens, Sumter and Tuscaloosa counties.

State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson will discuss the need for a statewide trauma system and Dr. William E. Crawford will speak on trauma legislation and the role of the Alabama Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma.

"We want the public's input in making decisions about the operation of the Trauma System," said Dr. John Campbell, Medical Director of the Office of EMS and Trauma. "Physicians and hospitals are also stakeholders in this important discussion."

Trauma is the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 45, and almost 80 percent of Alabama's trauma cases are caused by motor vehicle crashes. A trauma system is a coordinated system of care that includes emergency medical technicians, a trauma communications system, hospital emergency department staff, trauma surgeons and other physicians who provide needed surgical and other care. These providers work together to determine the best possible course of action for the injured persons reported through the 911 system.

In March 2007, Alabama established a statewide trauma system with the enactment of Act Number 07-299. This act requires the establishment of Regional Trauma Advisory Councils to work with and advise the State Trauma Advisory Council.

For more information contact Dr. John Campbell, EMS and Trauma Medical Director, at (334) 206-5383.