

# Florida's Trauma System: Together We Save Lives

## Unified.

Florida's trauma system is made up of a continuum of care that spans planning, preparedness and quality assurance and ensures that residents and visitors of Florida receive quality trauma care. Florida's nationally-recognized trauma system works together to save the lives of those injured—from the “golden hour” to rehabilitation—and serves all of Florida by being prepared for disasters and providing prevention education and research.

## Accountable.

The Office of Trauma is the entity within the Division of Emergency Medical Operations, Department of Health that has primary responsibility for the administration and implementation of ALL matters involving trauma care within the state. The leadership of the Office of Trauma ensures accountability, as it provides regulation of trauma transport protocols, trauma and burn centers, and trauma agencies. Its role in registry, research and quality improvement is to improve operations and outcomes for Florida's trauma system and trauma survivors.

## Prepared.

Florida's trauma system is prepared to help save lives at the time of individual accidents and during disasters and mass casualty events. Timely emergency medical and trauma services are provided at our 20 verified trauma centers, four burn-care centers, 266 ground and air EMS provider agencies and 212 acute care hospitals. Disaster experts, statewide planning, professional training, and maintenance of emergency supplies and equipment are part of a continuum that helps save lives.

**"The purpose of the Office of Trauma is to develop and maintain a continuous, statewide system of care for all injured patients, to increase system preparedness, and to decrease morbidity and mortality due to traumatic injury."**

## Florida's Trauma System

Traumatic injury is recognized as one of the most pressing public health issues of our time. Providing rapid, accessible and appropriate trauma care to the people of this state is a public health priority.

- Trauma is the leading cause of death for individuals in Florida ages 1 to 44.
- In 2007, Florida's trauma mortality rate was 5 percent, which represents a 1.8 percent decrease since 2004.
- Each year, Florida's trauma centers treat more than 40,000 injured patients, who are most likely to be males and young adults 16-29.
- Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of injury, followed by falls. Firearms are the second leading cause of injury for persons ages 16-29.
- Traumatic injuries cause more childhood deaths than all other causes and account for one-half of all deaths among adolescents in the U.S. every year.

Studies show that critically-injured patients have a better chance of survival if they are rapidly transported to and treated in a verified trauma center within the “golden hour.” Trauma centers are just one vital part of Florida's trauma system. Florida's trauma system provides a continuum of care that includes:

Leadership

Injury Prevention and Control

Disaster Preparedness and Response

Pre-Hospital Care: Trauma Transport

Definitive Care: Trauma Centers

Rehabilitation

Registry, Research and Quality Improvement

Regional System Evaluation: Trauma Agencies

Florida has a mature trauma system with initiatives that have been recognized and duplicated nationally.

Florida Governor Crist has honored Florida's trauma system for its accomplishments and contributions, and for “demonstrating that an effective trauma system saves lives,” by signing a Proclamation for Trauma Awareness Day to be recognized on May 20, 2009.



For information contact:  
Susan McDevitt, Director  
Office of Trauma, Department of Health  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-18  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1738  
Ph: (850)245-4444, Ext 2760

# Florida's Trauma System

Together We Save Lives...

Unified. Accountable. Prepared.

## What Is Florida's Trauma System?

Florida's trauma system works together to save the lives of those injured—from the “golden hour” to rehabilitation—and serves all Florida residents and visitors by being prepared for disasters, providing prevention education and research, and being accountable for all trauma matters in the state.

### Injury Prevention and Control

A primary focus of Florida's trauma system, there are currently 180 injury prevention programs being conducted throughout the state, including “Prom-Night,” “Prom Promise” and “Walk Safe.”

### Disaster Preparedness and Response

Disaster readiness based on statewide planning, training, education, emergency supplies and equipment and experienced disaster experts is key to Florida's trauma system.

### Pre-Hospital Care: Trauma Transport

Timely emergency medical services are available 24/7 via 266 ground and air EMS provider agencies and 212 acute care hospitals, and quality assurance of trauma transport protocols of emergency services provider and trauma agencies.

## Continuum of Care

### Leadership

The Office of Trauma has statutory and rule authority to administer and implement all matters involving trauma care in the state, including the responsibility of planning, implementing and evaluating an inclusive trauma system for Florida.

### Regional System Evaluation — Trauma Agencies

Trauma agencies establish five-year strategic plans that are approved and monitored by the Office of Trauma and provide reports to the state on regional system evaluation, quality management and performance improvement activities.

### Registry, Research and Quality Improvement

The Florida Trauma Registry captures data on each trauma patient treated in Florida's trauma centers to identify trends and best practices, enabling quality improvement of services and to support the trauma center's 120 ongoing research projects.

### Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation includes coordinated post-acute care for trauma victims, and successful research and programs, such as the Pediatric Rehabilitation Study, the Ventilator-Dependent Rehabilitation Project, and the Diaphragmatic Pacing Project.

### Definitive Care: Trauma Centers

Florida's statewide network of trauma centers meets the American College of Surgeon's standards for operation and provision of quality care through ongoing quality assurance monitoring and evaluation.