Trauma Capitol Day

Date: February 23, 2009  Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Location: The Georgia Railroad Freight Depot and the Capitol

What to expect: Guests are invited to attend a half day event in support of legislation for the funding of a statewide trauma system. The event will consist of:
- A briefing on the issues, frequently asked questions and suggestions on how to approach your legislators;
- A brief panel discussion of trauma speakers;
- A visit to the Capitol to leave a flower at a memorial for trauma victims; and
- A visit with your legislators inside the Capitol.

Agenda:
10:00   Registration Begins
10:45   Event Briefing
11:00   Trauma Supporters Speak
11:30   Media interviews offered with speakers, trauma survivors, guests
11:45   Guests walk one block to Capitol to leave flowers at memorial and speak with legislators
12-2:30 Depot area remains open for guests returning post- Capitol interaction to meet with traveling groups/use facilities prior to departure

Legislators and media will be invited to the event at the Depot.

Contact Info:
The Georgia Railroad Freight Depot: 404.656.3850
Pre-Event: Michelle Fry 770.522.8855 / questions@GeorgiaItsAboutTime.com
Day of the Event: Michelle Fry 678.637.9136

Refreshments: Limited complimentary snacks and beverages will be available from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. A full meal will not be served. There are many nearby restaurants within walking distance.

Restrooms: Are available on site at the Depot directly adjoining the meeting space.

Capitol Entry: Pre-cleared visitors badges will not be provided for entry to the Capitol. Please bring your state id/drivers license if you intend to enter the Capitol and visit with your legislator during the designated time. You will also have to pass through a metal detector.

MARTA: Take the MARTA Train to the Georgia State Station on the N/S line. And walk one block S on Piedmont Ave. (out of station and a left onto Piedmont) then W/right onto MLK , Jr. Dr. for 1.5 blocks. Cut through Steve Polk Parking and walk W to SW corner of Depot to entrance. See map on next page, large star indicates station location.

Parking:
Steve Polk on MLK, Jr. Drive: (access to Depot through back of lot) $5
90 Central Avenue: (access to Depot by exiting from Garage onto Central Ave. Make a left on Central to a set of stairs (small star on map) leading down to the Depot and front entrance) $5
Underground Atlanta: (access to Depot by crossing Central Ave. and walking N to front entrance) Hourly
Directions:

From N of Atlanta: Take I-75/I-85 S into Atlanta. Exit at 248A MLK, Jr. Dr./State Capitol. Go straight through three lights, pass the Capitol on your left. Go through intersection with Washington/Courtland St., Steve Polk Parking is directly on your right with the Depot also on your right, underneath the large mural of whales. If you are parking at Central Ave., pass Steve Polk Parking and make a right onto Central Ave. The Central Ave. parking garage will be on the right.

From S of Atlanta: Take I-75/I-85 N into Atlanta. Exit at 246 Central Ave./Fulton St. Take a right at first light. Take a left at next light, onto Capitol Ave. Take a left onto MLK Jr. Dr., pass the Capitol on your left. Go through intersection with Washington/Courtland St., Steve Polk Parking is directly on your right with the Depot also on your right, underneath the large mural of whales. If you are parking at Central Ave., pass Steve Polk Parking and make a right onto Central Ave. The Central Ave. parking garage will be on the right.

From E of Atlanta: Take I-20 W to Exit 58A, take ramp right for Capitol Ave. toward Memorial Dr. Turn right onto Capitol Ave. Turn left onto MLK, Jr. Dr., pass the Capitol on your left. Go through intersection with Washington/Courtland St., Steve Polk Parking is directly on your right with the Depot also on your right, underneath the large mural of whales. If you are parking at Central Ave., pass Steve Polk Parking and make a right onto Central Ave. The Central Ave. parking garage will be on the right.

From W of Atlanta: Take I-20 East to Exit 56B (Windsor St./Spring St./Stadium). At the third light, turn left onto Central Avenue. If parking at 90 Central Ave. lot, continue past Mitchell St. and MLK, Jr. Dr. the lot will be on the right OR if parking at Steve Polk Parking make a right onto Mitchell, and a left onto Capitol Ave. Turn left onto MLK, Jr. Dr., pass the Capitol on your left. Go through intersection with Washington/Courtland St., Steve Polk Parking is directly on your right with the Depot also on your right, underneath the large mural of whales.
Frequently Asked Questions:

What is trauma? Trauma is a serious injury or shock to the body from an accident or violence. It is the number one killer of Americans between the ages of one and 44, and the number three cause of death across all age groups.

What is “the golden hour?” A trauma patient's chances of survival increase dramatically if he or she receives care within the “golden hour” immediately following injury. Rapid response by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) technicians in ground and air ambulances is critical. So is the distance to the nearest trauma center - a special hospital facility.

What is a trauma center? A trauma center is a specialized hospital with appropriate professional staff and equipment available immediately to care for patients who have been severely injured in vehicle crashes, falls, shootings and other incidents.

Is there any difference between a trauma center and a hospital emergency department or emergency room? Yes. Most hospitals with an emergency room are not trauma centers. In Georgia today, only 15 of the state's 152 hospitals have designated trauma centers. A trauma center has the professional medical staff and equipment available immediately to care for severely injured patients. In Georgia, hospitals voluntarily meet guidelines established by the state and the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma to become a "designated" trauma center.

What are the benefits of a trauma system? Fewer deaths caused by trauma. Studies in the United States show that an organized system of trauma care can reduce the risk of death significantly - in the range of 10-30%. Also, the potential "return on investment" is productive lives and dollars saved. With fewer and less severe disabilities caused by trauma, victims are likely to have a much better outcome if high-quality trauma care is rapidly available, allowing for more productive working years and a lower cost of initial treatment and continued rehabilitation. Patients treated in trauma centers typically have shorter hospital stays, resulting in reduced uncompensated care burden for communities and hospitals.

Does Georgia have a trauma system? Georgia does not have a comprehensive statewide trauma system. Rather, Georgia has a few components of a trauma system.

How does trauma care in Georgia compare with the rest of the country? Not well. Georgia's trauma death rate is significantly higher than the national average: 63 of every 100,000 people compared to the national average of 56 per 100,000. If Georgia's death rate improved to the national average, it would mean a difference of as many as 700 more lives saved every year.

How many trauma centers does Georgia need? Georgia should have approximately 25-30 designated trauma centers in strategic locations to adequately address trauma and emergency preparedness needs, according to state health officials.

The 15 current centers are dispersed among 10 counties and large areas are not adequately served. Millions of Georgians live and work at least two hours away from timely trauma care, even in urban and suburban areas. Of the estimated 40,000 cases of major trauma each year in Georgia, only about 10,000 are treated in designated trauma centers.

What is my role at the Trauma event? You will be there to help demonstrate public support for creating and funding a genuine statewide trauma system. You can do that in two ways – first, by being part of a large group of Georgians to show up in support of this cause, and second by speaking directly to your state representative and state senator.
Solutions:
There are several major challenges involved in building a Georgia trauma system:

Funding. Hospitals, physicians and EMS providers today are losing an estimated $275 million a year in trauma-related charges that are not covered by insurance or paid by patients. Georgia's hospitals and overall health care system are already fiscally fragile and in danger of collapse.

Staffing. Georgia faces a critical shortage of medical personnel, and the unique stress, workload, growing uncompensated care burden and liability concerns associated with trauma care drives clinicians and out-of-hospital personnel away from that discipline. Meanwhile, small rural communities find it hard to recruit and retain volunteer and paid EMS personnel, who often work with inadequate tools and equipment in a job that involves time away from home on nights, weekends, and holidays.

Medical oversight and coordination. Because of shortages of physicians - particularly physicians trained in emergency medicine - and the resulting lack of oversight, emergency and trauma care in Georgia is often not uniformly coordinated.

Pre-hospital communications. Georgia also needs a pre-hospital communications network that is fully integrated with the EMS and emergency disaster preparedness systems.

Explaining the solutions, in detail, would take a 40-page report. But generally, the most immediate and important courses of action include:

Legislation. In 2006, the legislature began a study of the infrastructure and funding mechanisms needed. In 2007 lawmakers passed Senate Bill 60 and created the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission to continue the work. And, in 2008, Gov. Sonny Perdue and the General Assembly approved a one-time $58.9 million appropriation which the Commission later distributed to trauma care providers. However, efforts to establish a permanent funding mechanism for a trauma system collapsed at the end of the 2008 General Assembly.

Funding. A number of funding options are being discussed by the General Assembly. The Georgia State Trauma Action Team campaign does not support any one funding option over another. Rather, our purpose is to demonstrate public support for a solution to the problem, regardless of what that solution might be.

Workforce development and training. Recruit and train enough competent first responders, EMTs, cardiac technicians, paramedics, trauma physicians and nurses to meet Georgia's needs.

Development of a pre-hospital communications network that is fully integrated with the EMS and emergency disaster preparedness systems. The first step is the development of 911 systems in every Georgia county. The network should provide for EMS system response and coordination.

Enhanced EMS medical direction that provides for all medical aspects of pre-hospital care and professional medical accountability. Each EMS service in counties with a population of 12,000 or greater should have a medical director and each EMS medical director should be a physician licensed to practice medicine in Georgia and experienced in emergency management of patients.

Creation of triage and transport system designed to get the right patients to the right facilities in the right time.

Minimizing the practice of hospital’s going on diversion to expedite care for trauma patients.