



**EL PASO COUNTY
Office of the medical examiner
& forensic laboratory**

4505 Alberta ave.
El paso, texas 79905



**Fiscal year 2008-2009
3rd QUArter report**



SUMMARY

This 3rd quarter was a challenge meeting the 2% reduction in the department's budget along with the additional 1% for 2009-2010. Our department was able to meet the requested amount without impacting the employees with furlough hours.

The University of North Texas positively identified a deceased and we were able to give this young man's family the much needed closure with the release of their loved one, respectively.

Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation continues to serve the community with procuring tissue at our facility respectively.

Facilities Maintenance continues to send someone to check the building and carry out inspections as needed. Several issues were addressed with the cooling towers, ruptured sprinklers, overflow from restroom into morgue area and electrical work for workstations that were installed last quarter.

Non Medical-legal death investigations were slightly higher this quarter compared to same reporting period last year. Autopsies remained about the same and we saw an increase in external exams compared to same reporting period last year.

The digital x-ray machine was approved through the equipment committee and is currently out on bid.

Employees along with management attended the Age discrimination seminar this quarter.

Several presentations were done throughout the local middle and high schools to include a mock crime scene by our Forensic Photographer.



Mission Statement

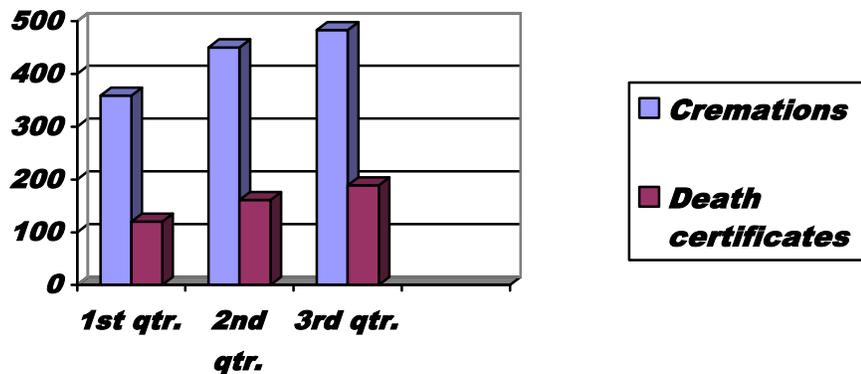
The Office of the Medical Examiner is committed to upholding the duty of investigating deaths as entrusted by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Ch. 49 and the El Paso County Commissioner's Court with the utmost of integrity. We will provide an unbiased investigation with the use of applied science in a timely and efficient manner in order to serve our community.

Departmental ACTIVITIES

The University of North Texas Forensic Anthropology Department continues to assist our office in identification and DNA samples entered into the Missing Persons database free of charge. The database is accessible by all law enforcement agencies throughout the country in attempts to identify the missing. Two cases were submitted this quarter for DNA and positive identification.

The Musculoskeletal Tissue Foundation continues to serve the deceased families with their loved ones wishes on tissue donation, respectively.

There were a total of 483 cremation authorization and 189 death certificates signed by the Medical Examiners this quarter compared to 423 cremations and 186 death certificates same reporting period last year.



Total # of cremations: 483 Total # of death certificates: 189
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Emergency Disaster preparedness and community involvement continues with the following committees.

- Extreme Weather Task Force- Kicked off their Fan drive in May
- Emergency Management
- Child Fatality Review

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Facilities Management continues to monitor our building for general maintenance and repairs. Inspections are scheduled accordingly. This quarter several issues were addressed promptly with the cooling towers, sprinklers, overflow in morgue area and some electrical work.

Statistics

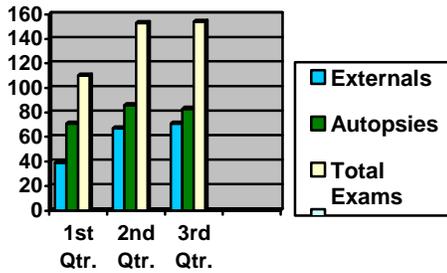
Death Investigations: Criminal Code of Procedures Article 49.25

This reporting period we had a total of 604 death calls with 453 calls being released to funeral homes and 151 being investigated compared to 530 released and 147 being investigated same time last year.

<p>Number of cases needing exams: 151 Number of cases processed and released: 453 Total numbers of deaths investigated: 604</p>
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Autopsies:

The post-mortem examinations are conducted by Dr. Paul W. Shrode, Chief Medical Examiner, and Dr. Juan U. Contin (contract pathologist). This reporting period we had a total of 83 autopsies and 71 external examinations compared to 87 autopsies and 60 external examinations same time last year.



Total # of external exams: 71
 Total # of autopsies: 83
 Total # of exams: 154
Autopsies/Exams per physician:
 Dr. Shrode 67
 Dr. Contin: 87

BUDGET

This quarter our department was able to meet the 2% budget reduction and the additional 1% for next fiscal year without impacting the employees with furlough hours. We continue to look for ways to minimize our expenditures.

REVENUE

The revenue generated by the Office of the Medical Examiner continues with the following agreement:

Lease of 2nd Floor:

City/County Health’s Bio-Terrorism Laboratory continues to occupy the 2nd floor. The County Auditor’s Office adjusts their budget with what would have been rental fees. (\$6250.00 monthly) This lease ends in August 09.

Tissue Recovery:

MTF Musculoskeletal Tissue Foundation continues to occupy a room in the morgue area and utilizes the isolation room at no cost.

Autopsy reports/other requests:

March 09	\$87.65
Apr. 09	\$89.60
May 09	\$125.60
 Total amount this quarter	 \$302.85

county vehicles



All vehicles are in good working condition. Preventive maintenance continues to be done by personnel with the Sheriff's Department Motor Pool. By using the motor pool, we are saving tax payer monies by not having to pay labor fees for repairs and oil changes.

We continue to keep our fuel costs to an average of \$300.00 a month. We respond to death scenes at any given location with the 1013.1 square miles of El Paso County.

equipment

The equipment committee approved the purchase of the much needed digital x-ray machine. The purchasing is currently out on bid. Workstations were put up by reusing partitions left over from the MDR building during the relocation of departments and ITD has transferred three computers in order to accommodate the new workstations. The building security system continues to be evaluated.

Training

Employees and Management attended the mandatory age discrimination seminar this quarter.

Community Presentations

Eight presentations were given during this quarter. One of which was a mock crime scene. We continue to go out to local middle and high schools with presentations made up of the different roles within the Office of the Medical Examiner and the functions of the office. The presentation is also tailored to an audience according to their area of study, i.e., anatomy or criminal justice courses.

A presentation was also given to William Beaumont Army Medical Center's grief support group by our Chief Investigator.