



City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management Quarterly Newsletter

A Message from Rocky Vaz, Director

The City of Dallas deals with potential hazards every day, but the most common threat comes from severe weather. Although spring has some of the most active weather patterns, storms can happen at any time. We've dealt with thunderstorms, tornadoes, wind, hail, and flooding in the last few months and are looking ahead to heat. We always monitor weather for severe conditions and encourage residents to have multiple ways to be informed during emergencies.

Weather events are just part of what we do. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) also provides training to public and private sector partners to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all disasters. These events are why we plan, train, and exercise.

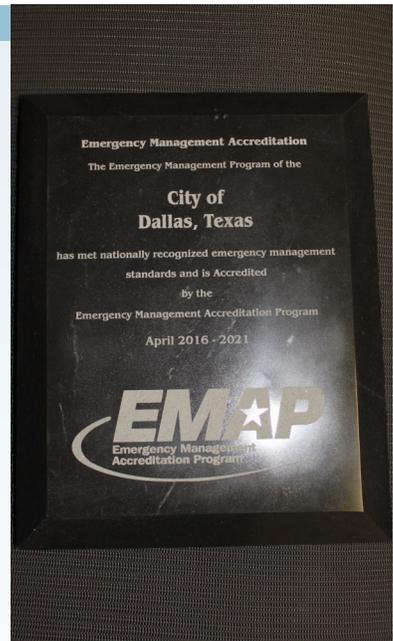
We also work with residents and communities to provide public education. In the past few months we've held classes and presentations on emergency preparedness to city employees, community groups, and citizen organizations. We are working to involve the whole community in building a safer Dallas.

And our efforts have not gone unnoticed. In April, we learned that the Emergency Management Accreditation Program certified our department as compliant in all 104 elements of their nationally recognized standards. The City of Dallas is now EMAP accredited and works hard to maintain that level of service to residents and businesses. We also received the Center for Performance Excellence's Rising Star Award. We look forward to what comes next.

MANY tools are used to warn the public of dangerous weather...
...but no ONE warning tool works in all situations.

WARNING TOOL	Intended Audience	Pros	Cons
Outdoor Warning System (OWS) sirens	Primarily intended for those outdoors and within sound range	Efficient. Common knowledge that siren sound means dangerous weather conditions.	May not reach those indoors. Requires manual activation.
Reverse Phone Notification Systems	Specific public at risk of a specific threat.	Areas at risk can be geo-targeted. Some systems allow for automation and user customization.	Contact data needs upkeep. Requires self-registration of mobile phones. Call concurrency limitations.
Television	Those who are indoors, and have their television sets turned on and tuned to a local station.	Specific and actionable information, real-time reporting. Combination of visual and audio.	Requires viewing of local TV, some may have internet- or satellite-based programming only. Does not wake you up.
Social Media	Those who are active on social media and monitor official sources.	Real-time information. Provides ability to "text seek" to establish trust in warning.	Not everyone uses social media. Susceptible to input from unofficial sources and false information.
Weather Radio	Those indoors, and who have properly setup and maintained their weather radio.	Automatic. Wakes you up at night.	Cost to user. User setup required. Potential power loss and weak radio signal issues.
Phone Apps	Those with smart phones.	Actionable info. Could wake you up if push-notification alert is set to audible tone. Free options are available.	Not everyone has smart phone. Requires user download and setup. Apps susceptible to malfunction.
Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs)	Those with WECA-capable and enabled mobile phones.	Automatic, no setup required. Wakes you up at night.	Not every smart phone is WECA-capable. Not as geographically targeted.

It's important to have **MULTIPLE** ways to receive weather warnings!
Be WEATHER Aware!

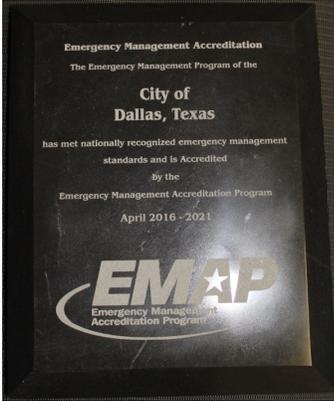


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Special points of interest

- Be safe in summer heat and around mosquitos. Know how to protect yourself.
- Are you ready? We can teach you how!



City of Dallas Now EMAP Accredited

The City of Dallas became the second largest city in the United States to receive full accreditation in the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). This was a year-long process culminating with an on-site evaluation.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rocky Vaz and Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator Kevin Oden met with the EMAP Commission in April to discuss the evaluators' findings and accepted the accreditation on April 27, 2016.

EMAP is the only accreditation process for emergency management programs and is certified by the American National Standard Institute. The City of Dallas must reapply for accreditation in 2021.

EMAP revolutionizes emergency management programs, coordinating preparedness and response activities and bringing together personnel, resources, and communications with the ability to measure them.

"This is an impressive achievement," said Dallas City Manager AC Gonzalez. "But as impressive as it might be, it's not unexpected coming from the OEM team. They're a top notch group and are some of the best in the business."

For more information visit www.DallasEmergencyManagement.org.

EMAP is the only accreditation process for emergency management programs; certified by the American National Standard Institute and valid for five years.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE

The City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management understands the importance of training and exercise. Every year, we conduct or participate in more exercises than other comparable cities in Texas.

By emphasizing training and exercise, we are better prepared to respond and recover from emergencies when they happen.

We are also working with other partners in the region for a large-scale exercise in the Fall.

Contact Alicia Toombs, Training and Exercise Coordinator, at alicia.toombs@dallascityhall.com for more information on upcoming training and exercise opportunities.

JCTAWS

On April 21-22, 2016, Dallas OEM hosted the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (JCTAWS). Sponsored by the National Counterterrorism Center, Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, this nationwide initiative helps jurisdictions improve abilities to prepare for, protect against and respond to complex terror attacks.

Nearly 200 representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as medical and private sector partners participated in the workshop which focused on a wide variety of topics associated with terror incidents like San Bernardino, Paris, and Brussels. Breakout sessions let attendees discuss how they would deal with these situations.

Topics and discussion included how our jurisdiction would respond on multiple fronts and how to identify areas for improvements. Information sharing among our partners was encouraged, and discussion included tactical operations, medical response victim care and how the private sector would be part of the overall plan.

The workshop was conducted and evaluated by the presenting JCTAWS team. Though we are still waiting for their summary report of the findings, our partners came away from the exercise with vital information and resources to help the City of Dallas be better prepared in the event of a complex terror attack.



For more information visit www.DallasEmergencyManagement.org.



Community Outreach and Public Education are vital to Emergency Preparedness

Disaster Resilient Citizens and Employees

Dallas OEM is committed to conducting public education classes and community outreach presentations to residents, employees and businesses. Our staff has been active this quarter, participating in more than a dozen events across the city, with more scheduled into the summer.

OEM staff will have a table at the Mayor's Neighborhood Conference. We've also presented two Disaster Resilient Employee classes to City of Dallas Employees. We're not only preparing employees to be ready at their work stations for whatever might possibly happen, we're also helping them become preparedness ambassadors in their neighborhoods.

We've conducted our Disaster Resilient Citizens Program in Councilmember Greyson's District (12) during the month of June. We've spoken with citizens as part of the Dallas Police Department's Southeast Division's community engagement programs. We've even done basic preparedness talks for organizations like Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas and had information at health fairs for Gulfstream Aerospace and Community Council of Greater Texas.

Our department is finalizing the first video of our individual learning component for preparedness and will have it on the website soon for those who may not have the time to commit to a group meeting or presentation, or just want to have the information reinforced.

Please remember that we are available to work with council districts, faith-based groups, and other community groups on preparing the residents and businesses for emergencies. Prepared citizens are better able to respond and recover from emergencies which only makes Dallas stronger and safer.

Summer Heat

Texas weather is unpredictable and ever-changing. We've dealt with excessive rain and flooding one week and heat advisories the next. Now that we're facing Summer heat, here are some tips to protect you and your family.

- ◆ Stay indoors with AC or fans if possible.
- ◆ If you have to be outside, take frequent breaks and find shade.
- ◆ Drink plenty of non-alcoholic and non-caffeinated beverages to stay hydrated.
- ◆ Don't leave kids or pets in the car unattended.
- ◆ Check on neighbors who are older or have access or functional needs.

BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat
Heat related deaths are preventable

WHAT: Extreme heat or heat waves occur when the temperature reaches extremely high levels or when the combination of heat and humidity causes the air to become oppressive.

WHO: More males than females are affected. Children, Older adults, Outside workers.

WHERE: Houses with little to no AC, Construction work sites, Cars.

HOW TO AVOID: Stay hydrated with water. Stay cool in an air conditioned area. Avoid sugary beverages. Wear light-weight, light colored, loose fitting clothes.

During extreme heat the temperature in your car could be deadly!

Outside Temperature 80°	Inside 100°	Inside 110°	Inside 120°
Time Elapsed: 20 minutes	Time Elapsed: 40 minutes	Time Elapsed: 60 minutes	

HEAT ALERTS: Know the difference.

HEAT OUTLOOK	HEAT WATCHES	HEAT WARNING/ADVISORY
Minor Excessive heat event in 3 to 7 days	Excessive heat event in 12 to 48 hours	Major Excessive heat event in next 36 hours

DID YOU KNOW?

Those living in **urban areas** may be at a greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than those living in rural areas.

Sunburn can significantly slow the skin's ability to release excess heat.

Most **heat-related illnesses** occur because of overexposure to heat or over-exercising.

206 people died in the US as a result of extreme heat in 2011.

\$30 BILLION estimated total cost of the 2012 US drought and heatwave.

For more information on ways to beat the heat please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/extremeheat/>

CDC **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

Dallas OEM

The Dallas Office of Emergency Management (OEM) works before, during and after emergencies to minimize impacts on the community. Our work depends upon coordination with others in government, the private sector, and community stakeholders to advocate for planning, response, recovery and mitigation.

The goal of OEM is to be a resilient community that withstands all hazards, adapts quickly to disruptions, and returns to normal day-to-day life as soon as possible.

Zika Virus and Mosquito-Borne Illness

One of the big issues to spring up in the past few months is the threat of the Zika Virus. With all the rain in the past few months, we need to be concerned not only with Zika, but all mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile and Dengue Fever. Conditions are right for mosquito breeding and the City of Dallas take mosquito abatement and prevention of illness seriously.

If you see standing water, report it by calling 311 or (214) 670-3111 or at www.DallasCityHall.com. Take precautions by wearing mosquito repellent; long, loose clothes; and if possible, don't be outdoors at dusk and dawn.

The Dallas OEM works with all our partners to ensure that you have all the information you need to protect yourself and your family.



Dallas OEM

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Turn Around Don't Drown

The month of May again saw near record rain, resulting in flash floods and flooding from rain runoff. OEM staff monitored the weather constantly and worked with all our partners, including the National Weather Service, to encourage citizens to be safe.

Turn Around Don't Drown is a federal campaign to educate citizens to avoid driving into water across roads, trails and sidewalks. We promoted this message and reminded residents about our Flooded Roadway Warning System. These automated gates and lights are indicators of high water and unsafe conditions.

Although this is an ongoing campaign, we continually see people ignoring these warnings and ending up in dangerous situations. Remember, only a few inches of water can sweep adults and even vehicles away.

Turn around. Don't Drown.

FLASH FLOODS

Fact
6 in. of swiftly flowing water can knock a person over.

Fact
2 ft. of water will make most vehicles float.

Fact
Flooding is the #1 cause of death associated with thunderstorms...more than 140 fatalities each year.

What you should know!

- Flash Flood **Watch** means it is possible that weather conditions will cause flash flooding in the specified area. Be alert and prepared for a flood emergency.
- Flash Flood **Warning** means flash flooding is occurring or is imminent in the specified area. Move to higher ground immediately.
- Serious flooding can occur when heavy rains fall onto recently burned areas. Residents in these areas should take precautions and have a plan!

