

July 2015

City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management Quarterly Newsletter



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Message From the Director—Rocky Vaz, Office of Emergency Management

The City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management (DEM) experienced a very active Spring Quarter this year which allowed our staff to showcase their skills and training in real-time conditions.

With record rain in May and Tropical Depression Bill following an inland track across Dallas in June, we worked tirelessly with Streets, Trinity Watershed Management, DPD, and DFR—along with other partner agencies and organizations to monitor lake and river levels. Plans were in place to coordinate high water rescues, barricade and repair flooded roadways, and prepare for possible evacuation if needed. It’s been a long and exacting process, but Dallas has come through it all.

DEM is also working with USGS, SMU, and other partners and cities to investigate earthquakes that continue to affect our city and state. We will be hosting a meeting in July on how we proceed with those investigations.



City Officials study flood maps for potential evacuation plans with May Flooding.

Finally, after an area-wide exercise for an Active Shooter/Terrorism scenario, the City faced a real-time event on Saturday, June 13. DEM worked with multiple agencies to help coordinate Police and Fire response to the shooting focused on Jack Evans Dallas Police Headquarters. We coordinated information and resources to do our part to bring the situation to a swift conclusion.

Emergency Management Situational Awareness Meetings

The City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management held its first Emergency Management Situational Awareness coordination meeting. These meetings are held the first Monday of each month to allow DEM to meet with any and all departments involved in the Emergency Operations Center when it’s activated.

These meetings are designed to discuss current statuses, plans for training, and to spotlight potential hazards such as levee issues or wildfires. These spotlights help us stay informed of specific hazards and what plans are

in place to address those hazards.

We also use these meetings to give emergency response partners the opportunity to get to know each other and their capabilities, along with roles and responsibilities in the EOC. This allows us to promote greater understanding of what role DEM plays in coordinating city departments in events such as the recent flooding



1st Monday Situational Awareness Meeting with our partners.

Disaster Assistance for City of Dallas Residents & Business Owners

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted ongoing damage assessments of the City of Dallas and Dallas County. Dallas homeowners, renters, and business owners affected by the May floods may be eligible for state or federal grants or low-interest disaster loans for disaster-related needs not covered by flood insurance.

Qualifying residents and business owners can go online or call to see if they are eligible to receive Individual Assistance. The assistance is for those who suffered losses between May 5—June 4, 2015.

There are three ways to register for assistance:

- Online at www.DisasterAssistance.com
- Through the FEMA APP
- By Phone: 800-621-FEMA (3362)- TTY & 711-Relay Services are available.

For more information visit: www.txdps.state.tx.us or www.fema.gov/disaster/4223.

The deadline to apply for individual assistance is July 28, 2015.



The Trinity River in flood stages—May Flooding

Tropical Storm Bill

June 1st started Hurricane season around the country, and though Dallas isn't anywhere near a coast, we were working with the National Weather Service to promote Hurricane Awareness.

One of the facts promoted is that hurricane storm tracks can move hundreds of miles inland, which proved true of what began as Tropical Storm Bill and hit DFW as Tropical Depression Bill.

We activated our Emergency Operations Center to work with Police, Fire-Rescue,

Trinity Watershed Management, and Streets—along with external partners—to monitor lake and river levels for potential flooding after the May rains filled reservoirs past capacity.

The storm wasn't as bad as predicted, hitting just to the west, but our teams were ready and prepared with high water signs, barricades, and on standby for high water rescues, if needed.



Conference Call with the State and other Partners about TS Bill.

Jack Evans Police Headquarters Shooting

On March 20, OEM, along with City Departments and Federal Agency Partners gathered to conduct a tabletop exercise based on an Active Shooter scenario. On June 13, 2015, we put that training into use.

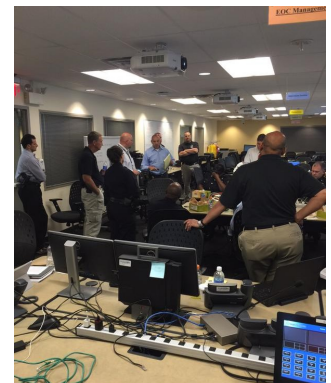
After midnight on June 13, 2015, a shooter opened fire on the Jack Evans Dallas Police Headquarters beginning a 12-hour event that made national news and shut down several roads.

OEM was called to activate the EOC to help coordinate communications and resources between local, state, and national agencies as

events unfolded—as we did in our tabletop exercise only a couple of months prior.

Though no one wants to think events like this can happen, we have to train as if they will. So when the unthinkable happens, like someone planting explosives and firing on police, damage is as light as possible.

In this case, only the suspect was killed. No officers or civilians were lost in the intense, 12-hour situation. We continue to train and exercise to keep skills and lines of communication open for coordinated responses.



EOC Activated for the Jack Evans Shooting

Emergencies Happen Any Time—Are You Ready?

As we discovered in the last few months, emergencies can happen at any time, whether we're ready or not.

In late February, we experienced three rounds of ice and snow in a short period of time. In May we had record rainfall. June gave us a tropical depression. Were you ready? Are you ready in case of another event?

Now is the time to replace any items you used during any of the last several events. Check your batteries in flashlights and radios. Pick up a NOAA All-Hazard radio if you don't have one. Restock bottled water and/or non-perishable food supplies.

If you don't have a kit ready, it's time to make one. If you don't have a plan with your family or support network, it's time to make one. Involve your children, they can help. Preparedness is important for

all ages and walks of life. Don't forget to plan for your pets. They need plans, too.

We have lists of what you need to be prepared on our website and through www.KnoWhat2Do.com. Build A Kit. Make A Plan.

If having a plan and kit aren't enough, you can do more to be ready for emergencies. Get trained to be part of the **Dallas Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**. Classes are available for teens and adults in emergency response skills. These skills allow volunteers to make a difference in their neighborhoods when other resources may be stretched thin or available. Information on how to get involved or what classes DallasCERT has available is on www.DallasCERT.com.



KnoWhat2Do
Think. Prepare. Act.



Training and Exercises Are Vital to Preparedness

Continual training and exercise is a vital part of being prepared for any emergency. The Office of Emergency Management is committed to facilitating quality training and exercises for our staff and partner agencies throughout the city.

We are developing a multi-year training calendar to ensure city departments and partners meet the requirements for working in the EOC during activations and have the skills needed to provide timely and effective service during emergencies as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

OEM is also working with our partners to create a range of training and exercise materials—such as

Thunderbolts and Tabletop exercises to apply to a range of identified hazards. The hazards are determined from threat and risk analysis. The size and scope of exercise is determined through our training workgroup and current needs facing the city.

We are also developing packaged exercises that can be used by businesses or organizations to educate their employees or members on how to respond to some common hazards to the area, such as tornado safety.

For more information on training and exercise, contact Alicia Toombs at Alicia.Toombs@dallascityhall.com.



Mayor Rawlings addresses the Active Shooter Exercise earlier this year.

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

ICS 300	July 28 & 29	8-5 Mon & Tues. 8-12 Wed.
WMD Standard Awareness Training	Sept 22 & 23	8 HR Course
ICS 400	Sept 29 & 30	2 Day Course
Infrastructure Damage Assessment	Nov (tentative)	4 Hour Course

Quarterly Exercise is currently planned for August 21st with the topic being Chemical Release

The Dallas Emergency Preparedness Extravaganza

The City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management will hold a City-wide preparedness fair on Saturday September 12, 2015 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The Fair will be held at Dallas' most popular park - Klyde Warren Park.

We invite organizations to participate. The Preparedness Fair is intended to both showcase area agencies and educate the public about the importance of being prepared in emergency situations.

The event will include booths from a variety of

public, private and volunteer partners in preparedness showcasing agency procedures and equipment. The event will be family focused and include activities for both adults and children. There will be music, interactive games, and food truck vendors.

Feel free to share this information with your colleagues, family, and friends to ensure our Preparedness Fair is a huge success. For more information contact Emergency Management Specialist, Adam Traylor at 214-670-5549 or adam.traylor@dallascityhall.com.



Earthquakes in Dallas Continue

Lest we forget, the Balcones Fault reminds us from time to time that it's still here by setting off another earthquake or moving the around. Though they have not been as frequent as in the earlier months to this year, they are still occurring.

We continue to monitor quakes and work with SMU and other partners to study the quakes for cause and effect. We have fliers and information on our website on Earthquake safety.

You can also help with the efforts by reporting any earthquake you feel to "Did You Feel It?" on the US Geological society website. These reports help conduct ongoing research.

To report an earthquake, go to : <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/dyfi/>



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You can also follow us on social media for up-to-date information on events, safety tips, and more.

Find us:
Facebook—www.facebook.com/DEMDallas
Twitter—www.twitter.com/DallasDEM