



City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management Quarterly Newsletter



A Message from Rocky Vaz, Director

This quarter is defined by hashtag #DallasStrong. We, as a staff and a city, have shown great strength and resilience in the past few months and will continue to do so in the future. We've been pushed to our limits and have responded admirably in the face of unspeakable tragedy.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated after the Dallas Police Ambush and operated 24 hours a day between the July 7th events until the following Wednesday, July 13th at 10 am. We supported and coordinated efforts between Dallas Police, Dallas Fire-Rescue and our federal, state, and local partners. Through the initial response to the Interfaith Memorial with the President and on to the funerals we stayed #DallasStrong.

We dealt with subsequent protests, heat, rain, and the many other issues Dallas Office of Emergency Management (OEM) faces on a daily basis. We worked with Dallas Police and Fire-Rescue to install trauma kits in city facilities as the second phase of an initiative to improve our response to similar future situations and possibly help save lives.

We continue to provide education, training and exercises to improve our readiness for future crisis situations. We're currently working with the State Fair of Texas on preparing for any potential emergencies, and we'll soon be hosting our Third Annual Preparedness Extravaganza.

We look forward to rounding out our calendar year and addressing any challenges that may come our way.

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Special points of interest

- Are you ready? If you missed the Preparedness Fair, we can still help you get ready for emergencies.



Dallas CERT

The City of Dallas has an ever-growing and vibrant Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Our CERT teams are instrumental to many aspects of preparedness, response, and recovery.

We have upgraded our volunteer registration and contact system to an online portal system over the last several months to make becoming a CERT member easier. This online system also allows for easier scheduling and communications with our teams in case of planned and unplanned events throughout the city. We rely on these volunteers to assist when resources may be stretched thin, like with the Emergency Preparedness Extravaganza, the Dallas Marathon, or events like the Rowlett/Garland Tornadoes.

Our July class was capped with about 90 registrants. Our September class is going strong. Our next CERT training class will be held in October.

In the past year we've trained many new CERT members and look forward to our future volunteers. We need community members involved in preparedness and response.

To learn more about Dallas CERT, visit www.DallasCERT.com or contact Cassandra Wallace, Community Preparedness Program Manager, in the Office of Emergency Management by email at Cassandra.Wallace@dallascityhall.com.



The Office of Emergency Management, in partnership with Dallas Police and Dallas Fire-Rescue, has taken a phased approach in increasing response capabilities of traditional and non-traditional responders in mass shooting/mass casualty events.

SUMMER WEATHER

Weather is a big part of OEM's duties. This season has been unique. We expected the high heat that comes with typical Texas Summers. We pushed information about cooling stations and how to protect against heat-related illnesses.

What wasn't expected was over a week of scattered rain storms in the middle of August. We quickly switched gears to remind residents about flooding and to Turn Around. Don't Drown.

OEM constantly monitors weather conditions—including hurricane paths and potential. Even though Dallas is inland, we are still impacted by storm tracks that travel hundreds of miles inland. Hurricane Season lasts until October.

Trauma Kit Initiative

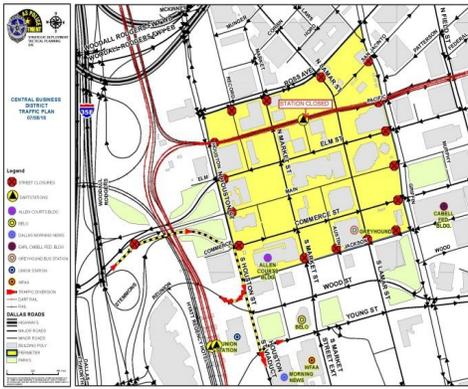
The Office of Emergency Management, in partnership with Dallas Police and Dallas Fire-Rescue, has taken a phased approach in increasing response capabilities of traditional and non-traditional responders in mass shooting/mass casualty events. The first phase equipped law enforcement with hemorrhage control kits to assist fellow officers and communities served.

The second phase includes installing wall-mounted trauma kits in city facilities such as City Hall, Dallas Police substations, Love Field, and other cultural affairs facilities. Many of these kits are mounted next to existing AED devices. Over time, we will equip additional facilities throughout the City of Dallas. We hope to also include non-City facilities such as American Airlines Center and area shopping mall like North Park Center in the future.

These kits allow non-medically trained personnel to use the contents by providing easy to follow instructions within the kits themselves. We will also be rolling out training to various points of contact that can then work with others to use the kits should they be need-ed.



We unveiled the trauma kits to press and employees on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 as part of National Preparedness Month. For more information on the trauma kits, contact Bridgette Smith at Bridgette.Smith@dallascityhall.com.



DALLAS POLICE AMBUSH

On July 7th, 2016, a tragic and unprecedented event thrust our city into the international spotlight and created a new normal for Dallas. OEM played an important role in our response and recovery. This is one many types of events OEM trains for, and though we never wanted to test this training, we responded well and remained #DallasStrong.

Dallas OEM is often tasked with activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during large, planned events like parades and protests to be prepared for any emergency situation. Although we did not activate for the Black Lives Matter/Next Generation Action Network protest march, we ramped up quickly when shots rang out about 8:58 p.m.

The EOC remained active through the incident that took the lives of four Dallas Police officers and one DART officer and wounded nine officers and civilians before being brought under control. The incident didn't end there, nor did OEM's work.

The EOC remained activated until 10 a.m. Wednesday July 13, supporting local, state, and federal law enforcement partners and other agencies. We coordinated resources around downtown and we remained active through the Inter-Faith Memorial, when President Obama visited, and through the funerals.



State Fair of Texas

The State Fair of Texas is the largest state fair in the country. With an estimated 3 million overall attendance, this year's fair runs from September 30 through October 23, 2016. Dallas OEM works with Fair staff as well as local, state, and other partners to keep residents and visitors safe.

Dallas OEM designed and hosted exercises to develop strategies for emergencies that could impact the State Fair. We continually monitor and work with the Fair, Dallas Police, and Dallas Fire-Rescue to ensure public safety during this major event.

The State Fair is only one of several major public events OEM works with each year to support public safety.

These exercises give us the opportunity to review, revise, and update plans to meet current needs and address potential areas for improvement.



Dallas OEM Welcomes Rafael Ferreira

The Dallas Office of Emergency Management (OEM) welcomes Rafael Ferreira as our newest team member. Rafael joins the Community Preparedness Team as a Community Outreach Specialist.

Rafael brings a wealth of experience in working with communities, plus the added benefit of extensive linguistic skills. We look forward to using his skills to help us reach more residents and learn how to be better prepared for any future emergency situations.

Third Annual Preparedness Extravaganza



On Sept. 24, 2016, Dallas OEM hosted our third Annual Emergency Preparedness Extravaganza on the Ronald Kirk Bridge and Felix H. Lozada Gateway. We partnered with Trinity Watershed Management, CBS Radio, and Dallas CERT, Inc. to put on this amazing, family-friendly event celebrating National Preparedness Month.

September is National Preparedness Month. Our event joins forces with other events across the country to encourage residents and businesses thinking about what to do before disaster strikes. Being prepared means reduced impact and quicker recovery in the face of an emergency.

We brought together our corporate sponsors—Target, Home Depot, and Motorola—with area emergency preparedness agencies and vendors to provide information and activities for residents to learn what it means to be prepared. For those who visited booths and had a punch card checked, we provided the basic items for an emergency preparedness kit ensuring those residents answered the question, “Are You Ready?”

OEM thanks all our vendors, agency sponsors and partners for their part in this event, but preparedness doesn't end here. Public education and community outreach is something we do all year round. To learn more about preparedness for your family, community or organization, visit www.DallasEmergencyManagement.com or contact Cassandra Wallace, Community Preparedness Program Manager, at cassandra.wallace@dallascityhall.com.



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Big X 2016 is Coming

Dallas OEM, the North Central Texas Council of Governments and other DFW jurisdictions, will participate in a region-wide exercise Nov. 11-13 called Big X 2016.

Dallas OEM is proud to be part of this event, bringing multiple jurisdictions and disciplines together in large-scale scenarios that they might not normally exercise locally, in a situation that spans across the area.

The exercise will highlight our first responders' top-of-the line skills when it comes to a variety of emergency situations. A variety of response capabilities will be evaluated with a strong community element. We'll be working with EOCs, Communications, SWAT, HazMat, EOD, and USAR and CERT teams from the region and with our public health partners.

For more information about the event, contact Alicia Toombs, OEM Training and Exercise Coordinator and deputy director of the exercise at Alicia.Toombs@dallascityhall.com. Also check out www.BigTX2016.org and BigX2016 on Facebook and Twitter.

