



# City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management Quarterly Newsletter

## A Message from Rocky Vaz, Director

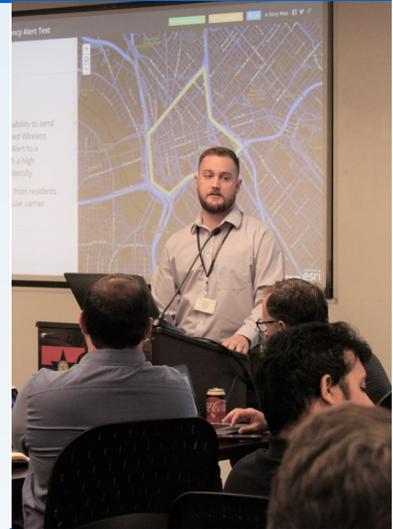
Spring 2019 has been extremely busy for the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Spring is often a time for severe weather, and June has been incredibly active for storms. We are still working with all our departments and partners to ensure our residents continue to recover from storm damage and remain safe throughout any future weather events.

But that’s not all we’ve been involved with. We’ve conducted three major exercises in the last few months. Our Family Assistance Center functional exercise led into a massive four-day exercise that allowed Dallas Police Department (DPD) and Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) to work together on several mass casualty scenarios that then led to family reunification and standing up a Family Assistance Center. Those were completed by the end of May and early June.

Then on June 13, we conducted the first component of a regional exercise that is part of the Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack grant program. This brought our region together to discuss a regional terrorist event scenario and how we would respond to it. This will lead into a bigger regional exercise.

We’ve also responded to the straight-line windstorm on July 9, that caused significant damage and power outages throughout the Dallas area and also toppled a construction crane onto an apartment building. We continue to work with departments to remove debris and repair or replace infrastructure vital to our city.

I’m proud of our staff’s efforts and accomplishments through these last several months.



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### Special points of interest

- Want to know more about what OEM does and who we are? This issue shows you more.
- See how we prepare to ensure the safety of Dallas residents.
- Publication FY18-19 #115

## CCTA Tabletop Exercise

The North Central Texas region is committed to public safety. OEM is currently working with a multi-year, regional grant designed to help our responders and agencies across the area prepare for, respond to, and recover from a Complex Coordinated Terror Attack (CCTA).

We conducted our first tabletop exercise for this program on Thursday, June 13. This discussion-based exercise introduced our regional partners to the scenario we'll be using throughout the grant and started discussions on regional strengths, capabilities, and areas for improvement. The discussion groups included operational personnel, senior leaders, emergency management, and hospitals.

The scenario and discussions in this exercise are the starting point for what will

become a full-scale exercise for the region and the beginnings of more coordinated efforts throughout the region. For more information on the CCTA program, contact Destiny Craft at [destiny.craft@dallascityhall.com](mailto:destiny.craft@dallascityhall.com).



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*“At the end of the day, the goals are simple: safety and security.”*  
*Jodi Rell, Former Governor of Connecticut*

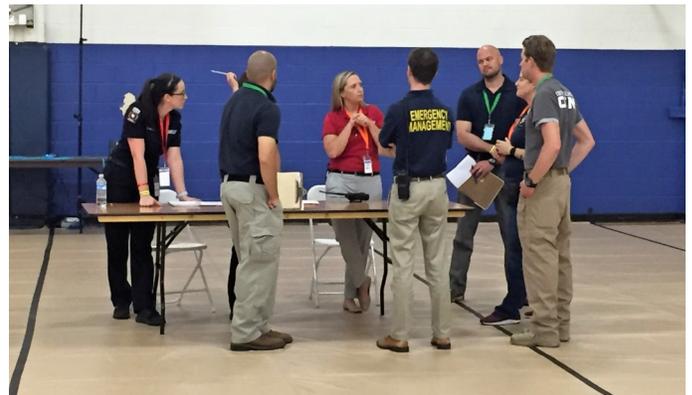
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## Final Bell Full-Scale Exercise

OEM conducted the largest full-scale exercise to date May 29—June 1. This four-day exercise tested the lifecycle of an active shooter scenario from initial incident through recovery. The exercise began with four different scenarios that tested DPD and DFR's capabilities and new Rescue Task Force capabilities on a closed school campus. The first two days of exercise also allowed our Public Information Officers to come together on how to create more unified messaging and how to work with other entities.

The exercise moved into the hospital patient tracking and family reunification component and allowed us to continue working with our Dallas County and medical partners on how to address issues following the incident. The final element was standing up a Family Assistance Center which is both part of the response and moves into recovery. Family Assistance Centers are vital to the recovery process after a traumatic incident and had never been exercised before.

We were able to simulate both family and victims through this four days of exercise with the tireless help of our volunteer and professional organizations, Dallas Independent School District Police, and Dallas Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. These participants help make our exercises as real as possible for our players. We couldn't do it without them.



## Family Assistance Center Functional Exercise

Leading up to the May Full-Scale Exercise, OEM conducted a functional exercise for our Family Assistance Center on April 11. This exercise was the first time the City and the County had come together to specifically look at this vital part of recovery following a major incident.

A family assistance center is designed to help those impacted, from a victim injured, to a witness, or the family of someone affected by an incident. Resources available can include information on loved ones, travel arrangements or counseling. These resources could be anything from status updates of a loved one, travel arrangements, or mental health services.

Family assistance centers are vital to recovery from these events and are often long-term needs. These centers have been used for other major events—like the Boston Marathon Bombing and the Route 95 Harvest Festival Shooting in Las Vegas. These centers are designed to run for as long as there is a need for assistance.

If a center is needed, the City of Dallas can request help in setting up a center through Dallas County or the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Victim Services.



## June Storm Impact

On June 9, a dangerous storm came out of Oklahoma and spun up with high straight-line winds, rain, and hail. This storm swept through North Texas quickly, leaving damage in its wake.

This storm toppled a construction crane in downtown Dallas that killed one, injured several more, and caused major damage to a Deep Ellum apartment complex. This storm damaged power stations, traffic signals, and knocked down trees. Over 300,000 residents across the area were without power—some for days.

OEM activated on June 9 and 10 to coordinate the initial response and damage assessment. City staff worked diligently with Oncor on power restoration and continue to work with the apartment complex to relocate residents who lost their homes. OEM is also working with other city departments to coordinate clean up of storm debris, repair and replacement of traffic signals, and other issues caused by this storm and another severe storm that occurred on Sunday, June 15.



OEM continues to monitor weather and coordinate resources so our departments have what they need to best serve our residents and guests as we recover from these storms.

### Sun Safety

Be sun safe when you're outside – whether on the job, at home, or on vacation – and don't forget to protect your eyes! Here are some tips to make sure you don't get burned during your fun in the sun:

- ◆ Apply sunscreen at SPF 15 every 4 hours for normal activity, every 2 hours if you're in or on the water.
- ◆ Wear protective clothes, hats, and sunglasses that protects UVA and UVB rays.
- ◆ Stay inside or shade (if possible) between peak sun hours – 10 am to 4 pm.
- ◆ Drink lots of water.

### PROTECT ALL THE SKIN YOU'RE IN

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States, but most skin cancers can be prevented!

Every year—

- ▶ Nearly 5 million people are treated for all skin cancers at a cost of more than \$8 billion.
- ▶ There are about 76,000 new cases of and 9,000 deaths from melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays—from the sun or from artificial sources like tanning beds—is the most common cause of skin cancer.

Anyone, no matter their skin tone, can get skin cancer.

### Enjoy the Outdoors!

Being physically active outside is healthy and can help prevent conditions like obesity. But it's important to be sun smart when playing and working outdoors.

### Use a Layered Approach for Sun Protection.

-  Seek shade, especially during midday hours.
-  Wear a hat, sunglasses, and protective clothing to shield skin.
-  Use broad spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 15 to protect exposed skin.
-  Sunscreen works best when used with shade or clothes, and it must be re-applied every 2 hours and after swimming, sweating, or toweling off.

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## Federal Building Incident

OEM ramped up monitoring during the June 17, shooting at the Earle Cabell Federal Building. We were available to DPD and DFR for assistance if needed during the event and assisted with pushing messages to our downtown partners and residents as DPD released information.

OEM remains available and aware of events that occur in the city in order to ramp up at a moment's notice if needed to provide support and coordinate resources when events like this happen.

## Migrant Welcome Centers

This spring, the United States saw a large influx of migrants through Texas border points. OEM was put on alert that Dallas may be a transfer point at any moment as border centers were quickly overburdened.

OEM worked with the Office of Welcoming Communities and Faith Forward, a faith-based coalition, to come up with a plan to help with the large numbers of migrants coming through El Paso border centers.

The team came up with informational messaging in English and Spanish for our visitors, potential resources, and respite areas for those who would be in the area for more than a few hours.

This was a complex and emotional project that showed the compassion of our community toward those in need and gives us much needed practice in how to set up centers that assist residents and visitors in times of stress and change.

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## Welcome Our Summer Interns

This summer, OEM welcomes three new interns to our program. Two began in June and one comes to us in July. OEM is committed to giving students hands-on, real-time experience in the field while still continuing their education.

Dylan Gomez is currently a junior at the George Washington University and a resident of Rowlett, TX. He is an International Affairs major with a concentration in Security Policy. After graduation, he intends to work in the State Department, Homeland Security, or an NGO. In 2015, a tornado struck his community of Rowlett, which led him to become heavily interested in disaster relief and recovery. Dylan hopes to gain hands-on experience with OEM in preparing and helping the city with any emergency that may occur.

Paul Brown is a senior at the University of North Texas, in the Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning program. He was born in Kansas and grew up in Texas. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 2008 to 2012. Following his service he worked with Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems Headquarters in console operations. Paul is dedicated to serving people in his community while working with the OEM.

