



City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management Quarterly Newsletter

A Message from Rocky Vaz, Director

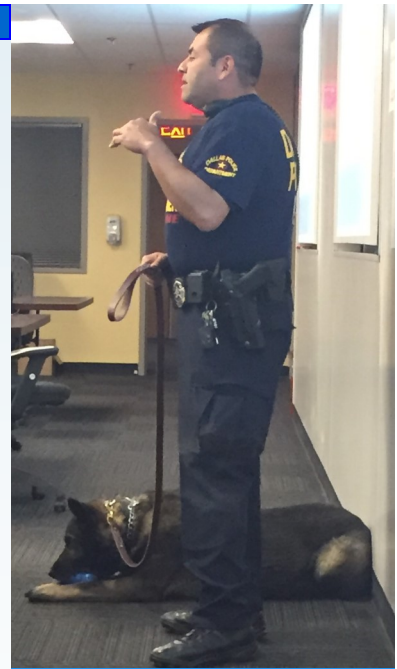
Dallas had a relatively quiet Severe Weather season, but we continually monitor the weather for any potential storm. We activated our first Heat Advisory protocol with summer heat beginning early. We also remained busy with planned events, trainings, and other responsibilities that fall under the Office of Emergency Management’s purview.

We worked with local, state, and Federal partners to ensure the safety of residents, guests, and dignitaries during the National Rifle Association’s annual convention at Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center. This event brought in thousands of guests, including the President and Vice President of the United States, as well as concerned residents protesting the event during a busy Cinco de Mayo weekend.

Our training and exercise program included school violence functional exercises bringing multiple agencies together to work through potential scenarios in an environment that promotes discussion of strengths, procedures, and capabilities as well as response tactics. We also conducted trauma kit trainings for employees and conducted a CPR training class.

With Hurricane Season beginning on June 1st, we’re updating and evaluating our Hurricane Sheltering plans and ensuring the City is ready for the next time the State asks us to shelter Texas residents evacuating from a hurricane. We are in the process of implementing changes to our plans from lessons learned from Hurricane Harvey.

OEM has also undergone some staffing shifts and changes that will continue to build out our capabilities to continue to serve the City of Dallas in the months and years to come.



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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.
- Summer Heat and Hurricane Season is here. Make sure you have your emergency kit and plans in place!

School Violence Functional Exercise

School violence is a hot issue in the news. We have been working with our partners in Dallas schools, Dallas Police, and Dallas Fire Rescue to conduct functional exercises around school violence scenarios.

These exercises are more than discussions. These exercises incorporate building blueprints, and pieces to represent available resources. Facilitators run groups through the scenario, place and move resources, and add challenges throughout the discussion of tactics.

These exercises are designed to develop working relationships between different agencies, identify strengths and areas for improvement. By having these functional exercises we can prepare better, devise other trainings, and continue to increase our abilities to respond to situations as they arise, no matter what the scenario or place.

We are working on expanding and evolving these scenarios, including developing a way to offer these trainings in other environments. To learn more about our training and exercise program, contact Tiffany Reid at tiffany.reid@dallascityhall.com.



“Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy.” Max Mayfield, Director National Hurricane Center

Hurricane Season

Hurricane Season for the Atlantic runs from June 1 to November 30, 2018. Though Dallas is not on a coast, we can be impacted by hurricanes. Hurricane weather bands can reach hundreds of miles inland with high winds and rain, which can impact Dallas. We can also be impacted by being asked to shelter those who may evacuate a storm area, as with Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

OEM is currently updating and evaluating our sheltering plans created and tested during Harvey. We are working with our sheltering partners to make sure lessons learned from Harvey are incorporated into current plans for standing up a shelter if needed. We held a seminar-style meeting on June 19, 2018, to discuss any plan or procedural changes that are currently being made to our sheltering plans.

OEM also watches storm patterns and systems closely with the National Weather Service to be aware in advance the potential for a hurricane impact and whether or not our partners need to start getting resources in place to be ready to shelter. Though we don't necessarily open a hurricane shelter unless tasked by the State, if the National Weather Service predicts a landfall that could impact our area, we do make those preparations.

We do all we can to ensure all necessary elements are in place and ready to respond at a moments notice. This includes physical resources, volunteers, and staff.



National Rifle Association Annual Convention

From May 3-6, 2018, the Office of Emergency Management activated to help coordinate agencies and resources for the National Rifle Association Annual Convention held at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center. This convention brought tens of thousands of guests and vendors from around the world to attend, as well as high profile speakers like the President and Vice President of the United States.



We worked with local, state, and Federal partners to monitor and enhance security not only for the attendees, but the planned and potentially unplanned protests that were scheduled around this event. We also had the added issues of a busy Cinco de Mayo weekend with events throughout downtown and the city overlapping with the convention.



Coordination between agencies and resources resulting from building solid relationships with our partners helped create a collaborative and productive event. We worked with all available tools to ensure public safety including cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor and assess the area for hazards.

CPR Can Save Lives

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillators are known to save lives. In a cardiac event having someone close by certified to perform CPR or use an AED increases a person's chance of survival by 60%.



OEM trained several staff members not only in CPR but as instructors through American Red Cross. We've conducted a few classes already and have discovered there are other departments also teaching their staff as instructors.

Having basic CPR and AED training through a American Red Cross instructor provides a level of protection and skill that makes it easier to help someone in need. If you want to know more about classes contact the American Red Cross or watch for classes offered through the City of Dallas. More information at:



<https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/cpr>

Extreme Heat Safety

We've already experienced Summer Heat. The end of May saw our first Heat Advisory of 2018. Heat-related illnesses are preventable with some care.

- ◆ Drink plenty of non-caffeinated, non-alcoholic fluids.
- ◆ Find shade or stay indoors during the heat of the day.
- ◆ Take plenty of breaks if outside.
- ◆ Wear loose, light layers.
- ◆ If you need relief from the heat, go to a public place like a library or recreation center during regular business hours.

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, avoid sugary beverages, Stay cool in an air conditioned area, Wear light-weight, light colored, loose fitting clothes

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

Outside Temperature 80°	Inside 109°	Inside 118°	Inside 123°
	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	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.

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

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

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/>



Staff Changes

OEM had staffing changes this quarter. Our Grants Team saw our coordinator, Bridgette Smith leave the city and a new coordinator step into the role. Benjamin Kellogg is our new Grants Coordinator.

Benjamin joined OEM as an intern working with the Grants Team in January 2018 while finishing his last semester at the University of North Texas. Now with his bachelor's degree in Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning, Benjamin joins OEM full time with a background in emergency management and business. He has hit the ground running to continue managing the City of Dallas OEM grants.

O-305—All Hazards Incident Management

OEM hosted a week-long class, All Hazards Incident Management, in early June. This class brought representatives from all over to Dallas's Emergency Operations Center to learn more about Incident Command Structure, critical decision making, policy and other vital skills when it comes to dealing with a major event.

This training class is just one of many opportunities OEM facilitates and participates in to better prepare ourselves and our partners to work together in a common operating structure that crosses all functions necessary to respond to any size or type of emergency. This class gave practical information and exercises to participants to work through a hazard in a group. The groups assigned roles, worked through a scenario, and presented their conclusions.

To learn more about training classes being hosted by Dallas OEM, contact Tiffany Reid at tiffany.reid@dallascityhall.com.



Dallas OEM

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Outdoor Warning System

The region has revised the criteria for activating the Outdoor Warning System (OWS). The OWS is a first line of defense for emergency notification and is a key service OEM offers to residents, guests, and businesses to alert those outdoors to go inside and seek more information. OEM works to make sure the system is maintained and updated to cover the most area possible.

Criteria for Siren Activation

1. The National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning for areas in and around the City of Dallas.
2. The National Weather Service issues a Severe Thunderstorm Warning with destructive winds greater than 70 mph in and around the City of Dallas.
3. Trained storm spotters have reported a tornado in the City of Dallas, or in a neighboring jurisdiction with the potential to affect the City of Dallas.
4. Reported hail of 1.5" in diameter or greater (this may be adjusted for areas or events where large numbers of people are outdoors).

Remember if you hear the sirens, go indoors and seek shelter and more information. Learn more at:

[http://dallascityhall.com/departments/officeemergencymanagement/Pages/Outdoor%](http://dallascityhall.com/departments/officeemergencymanagement/Pages/Outdoor%20Warning%20System.aspx)

