

Texas Emergency Tracking Network (ETN) Advisory Group-
Communications Subcommittee Meeting

April 14, 2011

In Attendance:

Chris Moore
Jorge Jalomo
Jay Hall
Jeff Newbold
Lesia Dickson
Rachel Jordan-Schuss
Christopher Perkins

Topics Discussed:

1. What information is needed from local jurisdictions with regard to Texas ETN?

-Identify the primary and secondary systems that each jurisdiction uses to interface ETN (WebEOC, EvacCenter, SNCA, or EMTrack).

-Identify each jurisdiction's primary ETN users (points of contact).

-Identify compatibility issues that jurisdictions have encountered between TxETN Interfaces:

Example: Users of EvacCenter, SNCA and WebEOC cannot get vehicle information from EMTrack. The Rio Grande Valley uses EvacCenter as the primary interface, but Hospitals in the region use EMTrack, which renders users unable to recognize vehicles as moving locations, because the data field is not available. As a result, manifests cannot be generated.

--Determine additional functions that ETN could perform that would be useful to local jurisdictions and/or increase emergency response capabilities.

2. What are the best means and/or tools to collect information from local jurisdictions?

Spreadsheet questionnaire to be distributed to local jurisdictions by TDEM RLOs

TWIRP.ORG

Tasking: Jeff and Lesia will collaborate to generate a spreadsheet questionnaire and distribute it to TDEM RLOs. The RLOs, will distribute the spreadsheets to local jurisdictions in their areas to gather information on points of contact, systems used, etc.

3. What information or messages about ETN should the State make available to local jurisdictions?

Training that addresses basic, fundamental knowledge necessary to use ETN.

Example: Inform users that an internet-connected computer is the only piece of equipment necessary to track banded evacuees and resources with ETN.

Increase awareness of existing ETN (TXSNETS) training videos, hosted at TWIRP (twirp.org) and on Youtube.

Inform users of recent improvements to system capabilities, such as FNSS data fields and HIPPA-compliant tracking trails.

Secured patient HIPPA information can now be utilized in the system. Private medical information may be tied to a unique patient identification number and will be accessible, as necessary, only to individual patient care-givers.

Encourage users to determine their ETN equipment requirements in advance of incidents.

Inform jurisdictions about potential additional uses or system enhancements -

Incident response resource check-in and tracking, (Personnel, Commodities, and Equipment)

Non-evacuation hazard applications

Inoculation stockpile distribution

Operation Lonestar-Vaccination Tracking

Medical Screening/Treatment tracking for incidents

Potential for other RFID tracking devices besides wristbands: labels, stickers, etc.

GPS units able to locate resources at any time during an incident

4. What are the best means and tools to disseminate that information?

Communicate with PIOs from other State Agencies and Regional Advisory Councils

TWIRP information, distributed to local EMC's by TDEM RLOs

TDEM Website and Newsletter

Texas Emergency Management Conference

TDEM Training Courses

DPS Facebook Account

5. What initiatives could be useful to foster two-way communications between the State and jurisdictions using ETN during an incident?

Statewide Significant Event boards on WebEOC (one way communication to jurisdictions)

Create an ETN message/significant events board that combines all systems, and is viewable by all users

Potential Issue: Who will maintain message oversight or act as Controller?

RACs-DSHS Austin notifications through EM System

E-mail distribution lists

Social media/networking websites and applications that will enable users and the State to post information in real-time.

Potential Issue: Who should establish the account and take ownership of an ETN Facebook and Twitter account, and oversee comment posting.