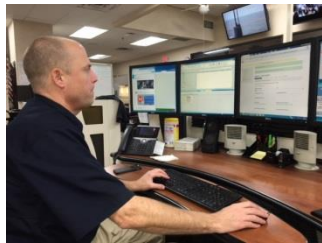




MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As another year begins, we look back on an eventful 2017. While Texans certainly had our hands full with various challenges in rural, urban, and coastal communities, we united to rebuild, and these efforts continue into the new year. As always, TDEM staff are ready to work alongside first responders and emergency managers across the state to continue innovating and improving our processes to better serve and protect Texans. We celebrate our efforts and look forward to continued collaboration throughout 2018.



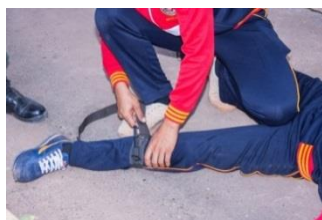
DPS Unveils New TxAlerts Flyer Program for Missing

When an official AMBER, Blue, Silver or Endangered Missing alert is issued, immediate and clear communication to the public is critical. After law enforcement, the public is the next most critical resource in finding missing individuals. To add another communication tool to the mix of local and state law enforcement efforts, the Texas Department of Public Safety has created a new electronic flyer program.



Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team (TEMAT) Response to Hurricane Harvey

The Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team (TEMAT) program was initiated in 2016 as part of Governor Abbott’s Texas Homeland Security 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan. TEMAT is the forward response and recovery team for the Texas Department of Public Safety. TEMAT is deployed as a force multiplier under the direction of the Texas Division of Emergency Management in order to support local entities during catastrophic incidents or events.



STOP THE BLEED: Management of the injured when seconds count

Have you ever thought about what you would do if you or a family member suffered a severe injury and had major bleeding? As reported by the American College of Surgeons, uncontrolled bleeding is the number one cause of trauma-related death. To increase the chance of survival when there is major bleeding, quick action is required.



TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BRIEFS, TIPS AND LINKS

Find more information on events and resources for the emergency management community.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

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As the holidays wind down and normal schedules resume, remember to make one of your New Year's resolutions **preparedness**. By maintaining regular updates to your family emergency plan, you can better ensure your family's safety no matter what the year holds.

Additionally, as efforts continue in the aftermath of wildfires, tornadoes, and Hurricane Harvey, consider starting your year by contributing to your community and showing your family the example of true Texas spirit – helping our neighbors. To find volunteer opportunities, check with local organizations. The [Central Texas VOAD](#) and [Texas Gulf Coast Regional VOAD](#) websites offer a variety of opportunities to give back.

SAVE THE DATE: 2018 Texas Emergency Management Conference

TDEM will host the 2018 Texas Emergency Management Conference Tuesday, May 15 through Friday, May 18 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. Join us at this premier event, learn about what's happening in emergency management both in your community and statewide, and network with your colleagues from across the state. Visit the [2018 Texas Emergency Management Conference website](#) and stay tuned for more information.

REMINDER: Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

Is your jurisdiction planning to submit an application for FY 2018 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds? If so, the deadline to submit a completed FY2018 EMPG application package is January 31, 2018.

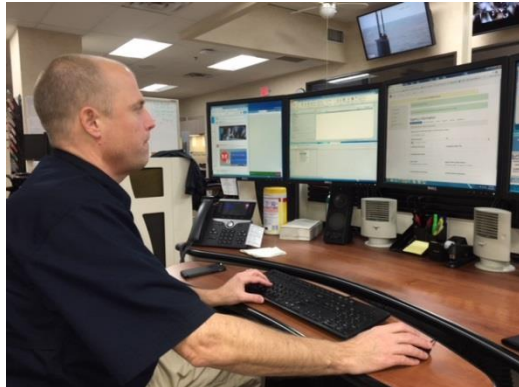
All jurisdictions are eligible as long as they meet the minimum requirements. States receive EMPG funding from the Department of Homeland Security and, in turn, pass it through to local governments to reimburse them for emergency management program expenses. States, including Texas, require local governments that wish to participate in the program to submit EMPG program applications that include a Statement of Work and a program budget. Download the [Local Emergency Management Guide](#) on TDEM's website for more information.

Chief W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM®, TEM®
Follow [@chiefkidd](#) on Twitter

DPS Unveils New TxAlerts Flyer Program for Missing

By Ben Patterson

When an official AMBER, Blue, Silver or Endangered Missing alert is issued, immediate and clear communication to the public is critical. After law enforcement, the public is the next most critical resource in finding missing individuals. In many cases, the public hears about an alert either from the media, by a notice on one of their own electronic devices or by seeing an electronic sign on the side of the highway.



To add another communication tool to the mix of local and state law enforcement efforts, the Texas Department of Public Safety has created a new electronic flyer program. For the most part, the flyer is a single page PDF document created by any Texas law enforcement or communications personnel to provide media and subscribers information on the victim, suspect and vehicle.

Distribution is based on both a public subscription database and a database of news organizations and other stakeholders. Once the flyer is created, the distance of distribution is set based on whether the missing person(s) is suspected to be on foot or traveling in an automobile and is then distributed to the relevant ZIP codes in the alert area.

“This new tool greatly enhances the state’s capabilities in locating missing persons,” says Chief Nim Kidd of the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

In addition to the document itself, the document can also be shared electronically or manually by sharing them online or posting physical copies of the flyers in high traffic areas, such as grocery stores, public transportation stops and churches.

The flyer also utilizes a Quick Response (QR) code in the top right corner, with which the public can quickly scan the code and share the flyer via social media or other electronic means.

Adding the electronic flyer concept to the existing tools of local and state law enforcement personnel will help ensure families are reunited faster, and hopefully, more safely.





Found – July 19, 2017 2:34 AM

Issued by Austin Police Department

LOCAL AMBER ALERT

Call (512)555-5555 (to report information to Austin Police Department)

Last Seen: Corner of Rundberg Ln. and Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX at 11:39 AM on Jul 18, 2017

Abducted Child/Children:	
	Adam Smith Age: 4 Year(s) Hair: Red or Auburn Height: 5'4" Race: White Weight: (Lbs): 149 Gender: Male Eyes: Hazel Date of Birth: 07-09-2013 Additional Information: Wearing a red back pack Blue Shirt and Blue Pants
	Regina Smith Age: 10 month(s) Hair: Black Height: 2'3" Race: Black Weight: (Lbs): 22 Gender: Female Eyes: Brown Date of Birth: 01-01-2015 Additional Information: Wearing a pink polka dotted one-piece pajama
Suspect:	
	Smith John Age: 1 Week(s) Hair: Bald Height: 3'2" Race: White Weight: (Lbs): 200 Gender: Male Eyes: Brown Date of Birth: 07-12-2017 Additional Information: Scar on left cheek. Wearing faded blue jeans and gray t-shirt with Looney Tunes, Marvin the Martian
Vehicle:	
	Make: Dodge Model: Ram License Number: GB4 4N8 License State: California Color: Red Additional Information: Dent on right side

Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team (TEMAT) Response to Hurricane Harvey

By Russell Marshall

Hurricane Harvey made landfall on August 25, 2017 at 10:00 p.m. as a Category 4 Hurricane. Over the next several days, Harvey would eventually transition to a tropical storm, continuing to release an unprecedented amount of rainfall on south and southeast Texas. As a result, Texas received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for 53 Counties and a Governor's Disaster Proclamation for 60 Counties. An estimated 8,861,831 people were impacted by Harvey's wrath.

The Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team (TEMAT) program was initiated in 2016 as part of Governor Abbott's Texas Homeland Security 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan. TEMAT is the forward response and recovery team for the Texas Department of Public Safety. TEMAT is deployed as a force multiplier under the direction of the Texas Division of Emergency Management in order to support local entities during catastrophic incidents or events. The program serves as a state resource with multi-disciplined, multi-talented, and highly qualified members who are subject matter experts in the various phases of emergency management. The response teams are recruited from various disciplines at the local level, and coordinated with other State agencies.

Additionally, the Public Works Response Team (PWRT) was brought under the TEMAT umbrella in June 2017. Similar to TEMAT, PWRT personnel are subject matter experts that address problems with electrical services, gas, water, wastewater, storm water, debris clearance, structural safety, transportation systems, traffic engineering, and fleet services.



*Utility Poles, Taft, Texas, August 26, 2017
Eric Gay, AP*

Through no fault of their own, the majority of the counties impacted by Harvey had limited emergency management staff or resources to repair affected public works systems. Multiple requests for TEMAT personnel and PWRT personnel were processed at the State Operations Center (SOC) during Harvey and well into October 2017. Sixty TEMAT personnel were deployed to sixteen different emergency operations centers and/or disaster district (DDC) locations across Texas. The destructive forces of Harvey disrupted forty wastewater facilities and sixty-one public water systems, making them inoperable. Consequently, the SOC deployed one hundred eighty-eight PWRT personnel to twenty-eight locations.

While TEMAT and PWRT were actively involved in the response and transition phases, TEMAT's importance and relevance was validated in the shared responsibilities of active recovery initiatives. Lessons learned over the years have demonstrated the need to have recovery efforts established early on in the wake of a disaster. TEMAT personnel assisted local jurisdictions with documentation,

understanding eligible expenses, and information about competitive bidding processes and management of debris.

The After-Action Review of TEMAT's response to Hurricane Harvey was held in early December during a two-day session. Lessons learned were numerous and will be utilized to develop and enhance the TEMAT program. The success of the program rests with the TEMAT personnel who deployed. ***After all, it's about Texans helping fellow Texans, and that's just what they did.***

STOP THE BLEED: Management of the injured when seconds count

Have you ever thought about what you would do if you or a family member suffered a severe injury and had major bleeding? As reported by the American College of Surgeons, uncontrolled bleeding is the number one cause of trauma-related death. To increase the chance of survival when there is major bleeding, quick action is required. The four methods you can implement immediately that require little effort – yet offer a quick and effective response to stop major bleeding – are as follows:

- Apply immediate pressure points
- Apply a tourniquet to the effected leg or arm
- Apply a pressure dressing
- Pack the open wound with gauze and apply pressure

Each of these techniques is easily done in the appropriate manner and location:

- *Major Pressure Points:*
 - Applied to the brachial artery (upper arm area), femoral artery (groin area), carotid artery (neck area) and other affected areas NOT near a major pressure point.
 - To be applied with hands in all locations OR knee on arms and legs if needed.
 - It only takes 2.3 pounds of pressure to block off the major arteries and veins at the pressure point locations.
- *Tourniquet:*
 - To be applied high on the arms and high on the legs.
 - Tourniquet replaces direct pressure on the pressure points for arms and legs.
- *Pressure Dressing:*
 - Wrap the area of the wound as tight as you can to maintain blockage of the major vessels to stop bleeding.
 - Can be used like a tourniquet and wrapped around the arm or leg in the same location you would put a tourniquet. The key to success is wrapping very tightly (you should NOT be able to slide your finger under the dressing; if you can, it's too loose).
- *Wound packing:*
 - Pack the open wound with gauze or clean cloth.
 - After you have packed the wound and filled it with gauze or a cloth, apply direct pressure over the wound.
 - Wound packing is done when you have exhausted all other efforts with direct pressure and tourniquets or when a tourniquet is not available.



The odds are high that each of us will eventually come across someone who is injured and in need of assistance before EMS arrives on scene. The human body can bleed out (5-6 liters of blood) in less than two minutes during a major bleeding

event. Types of incidents that can cause severe bleeding include some of the following:

- Motor vehicle accidents
- Shootings/stabbings
- Industrial accidents
- Puncture wounds
- Open and closed fractures of large bones (arms and legs)
- Auto pedestrian accidents
- Blast injuries



The keys to success in managing a severe injury with bleeding are to be prepared and willing to help. With the simple applications of bleeding control techniques, lives can easily be saved. Of the large number of survivors during mass shootings over the last few years, we see that a large portion of the injured received tourniquets and/or pressure dressings prior to the arrival of EMS. These were administered by law enforcement and civilians alike who had minimal training and were able to save lives.

To find more information on classes and training material, please visit:

www.bleedingcontrol.org

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TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BRIEFS, TIPS AND LINKS

Experts predict a bad flu season for Texas

By Stephanie Whitfield, December 26, 2017, KHOU

The CDC is reporting the influenza virus is widespread across Texas. To make matters worse, this year's flu vaccine is only 10% effective against the strain going around.



"The flu vaccine has to be formulated months in advance in order to have it ready. It's already been used in Australia, because they're on a different season. It's already been flu season there. What we found in Australia was the vaccine was only around ten percent effective," said Catherine Troisi, PhD, infectious disease epidemiologist with UTHealth School of Public Health.

Experts say getting a flu shot is still a good idea, since flu season could last several more months.

"There's still a benefit to getting vaccinated because if you do get the flu, your symptoms will be milder," Troisi said. "Last year we saw in the United States 110 pediatric deaths from flu. That's 110 deaths that really could have been prevented."

Fever, chills, congestion, cough, sore throat, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue are common symptoms of the influenza virus.

From [KHOU](#)

What Texas learned in the wake of Hurricane Harvey

By Justin Dehn, December 27, 2017, Texas Tribune

Hurricane Harvey devastated the Texas Coast, dumping more than 50 inches of rain in parts of the Houston area. Texas Tribune reporters Kiah Collier and Morgan Smith discuss what Texans learned in the wake of Harvey, the state's rebuilding efforts, the government's response and what Texas is doing to prepare for future storms.

Read related Tribune coverage:

- Between the federal government, the Red Cross and private charities, billions of dollars will be spent to help Texans rebuild and recover after Hurricane Harvey in Texas. The Tribune is tracking how it's spent. [[Full story](#)]
- As state officials vie for limited federal disaster dollars, housing advocates fear Texans with destroyed homes may fall through a patchwork of government agencies. [[Full story](#)]
- State officials want as few parameters as possible on federal disaster relief funds, but housing advocates say that could lead to public works projects getting federal funds over Texans who lost everything. [[Full story](#)]

From the [Texas Tribune](#)

Two Years Later: Progress Report on Tornado Recovery in North Texas **By Diana Zoga, December 26, 2017, NBC DFW**

In nearby Garland, city officials report most of the damaged structures have been repaired or rebuilt. After the storm, Garland noted more than 1,100 structures that were affected by the tornado. Of those structures, 527 were considered uninhabitable immediately after the tornadoes.

Two years later, the number has fallen to 22 buildings that have not been rebuilt, though the sites have been cleared to either a vacant lot or slab. Twelve buildings are still under construction. One house is damaged with no repairs made. The city expects it will be demolished early next year.

“For those individual families and those individual households, normal is probably a long ways away,” said Dorothy White with the City of Garland. “There’s an emotional recovery that’s a different discussion. From the standpoint of the neighborhood itself coming back together and things being in place and becoming more normal, yes, we really have made remarkable progress.”

From [NBC DFW](#)

Texas hotline for reporting child, elder abuse wins praise but could use more help **By Robert T. Garrett, December 19, 2017, Dallas News**

One of the few bright spots in Texas' protective services bureaucracy may be a victim of its own success.

The Texas Abuse Hotline, which gathers and evaluates the public's tips about suspected maltreatment of very vulnerable residents, has won awards in competitions among call centers and as a pioneer of online training for telecommuters.

But while lawmakers have faced recurring crises at sister agencies Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services in the past 12 years, they ignored this year's pleas by the Statewide Intake division for more call center operators.

Statewide Intake, a division of the Department of Family and Protective Services, requested money to hire 44 "intake specialists" — in addition to more than 300 already on the state payroll.



Each year, they process more than 820,000 calls, online reports, faxes, letters and text messages describing alleged abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of children and the elderly.

From the [Dallas News](#)

Texas bullet train clears hurdle with environmental impact statement **By Nick Powell, December 18, 2017, San Antonio Express-News**

The long-awaited Texas “bullet train” has cleared an important hurdle with the Federal Rail Administration releasing a draft environmental impact statement identifying a preferred route between Dallas and Houston as well as potential passenger station locations.

The FRA analysis, which took roughly four years to complete, kicks off a consultation and land acquisition process that could eventually link the state’s two largest urban and economic centers with a travel time less than 90 minutes at more than 200 mph, with a midway stop in the Brazos Valley near College Station.

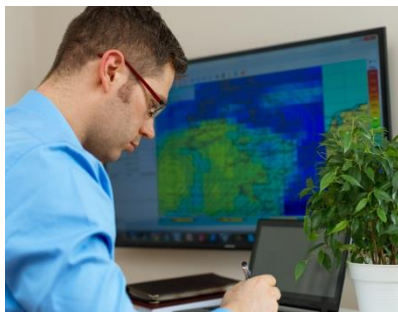
“This is the biggest milestone to date that we’ve crossed so far,” said Tim Keith, president of Texas Central Partners, the company developing the project. “This is actually the beginning of a document that will allow us to build the bullet train.”

The completion of the draft environmental impact statement last week opens a public comment period that runs through late February. Texas Central and the FRA will take those comments into consideration in moving toward a final statement.

From The [San Antonio Express-News](#)

University of Houston to lead new hurricane research center **By Lindsay Ellis, December 13, 2017, Houston Chronicle**

The University of Houston will lead a new Gulf Coast hurricane research institute to examine flood mitigation, hurricane modeling and public policy as part of a multi-state effort to respond to damages wrought this year by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.



Seven universities in Texas, Florida and Louisiana — including Rice University — will contribute a combined \$1.87 million to finance collaborative projects, with additional funding expected from external grants.

The institute puts Houston at the center of hurricane research, which had been scattered across the state and region after storms killed dozens of people, disrupted local economies and caused billions of dollars in property damage.

From the [Houston Chronicle](#)

New Animal Model for Zika Developed at Texas Biomed Useful for Testing Vaccines and Treatments

By Charles Y. Chiu, December 11, 2017, Texas Biomedical Research Institute

An alternative animal model that mimics key features of the Zika virus infection, including its lingering presence in bodily fluids, has been developed at Texas Biomedical Research Institute in San Antonio. Acute infections in male marmosets, a New World monkey, resemble the human illness the Zika virus creates in people, including the presence of the virus in semen, saliva and urine up to two weeks after the initial infection.

The research is featured in a December 7, 2017 article in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The primary mode of transmission of the Zika virus is through mosquito bites. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the disease can be spread through sexual contact.

Like 80% of humans infected with the Zika virus, most of the non-human primates used in this study lacked any apparent clinical symptoms.

“Given the key similarities to human infections, a marmoset model of Zika may be useful for testing of new drug and vaccines,” said Texas Biomedical Research Institute virologist Jean Patterson, Ph.D. “Having an animal model of Zika infection to study may help us identify places where we might be able to block transmission.”

From [Texas Biomedical Research Institute](#)