MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF
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NEWS BRIEFS
TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RELATED BRIEFS, TIPS AND LINKS
Additional information on events and resources for the emergency management community.
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Welcome to 2019! Last year presented us with an amazing array of challenges but as Texans, we have a knack for picking ourselves up, brushing ourselves off, and carrying on. After all, history has shown that it’s only a matter of time before the next incident springs up. Texas leads the nation in disaster declarations, therefore we must continually ask: “Are we ready? Am I ready?” Opportunities and challenges are around every corner; let’s rise to the occasion and be prepared for them. Check out the links below and throughout this month’s TEMO for more ways to do just that.

One of the ways Texas is improving its preparedness is with the unification of response and recovery elements within the state, or “future-proofing” it. A press conference with Governor Greg Abbott and Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp was held December 13, 2018 at which recommendations for a safer Texas were unveiled in the “Eye of The Storm” report, produced by the Commission to Rebuild Texas. A major component within the report is the consolidation of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the Texas A&M University System. Integrating or co-locating processes, procedures and other activities could help reduce issues such as fragmentation among emergency programs. Although it’s only one of many recommendations, it will help better prepare Texas in all aspects of emergency management.

Speaking of being prepared, the 86th Texas Legislature convenes in January and political hot potatoes are yet to be revealed. One thing is certain, concerns from last year and previous years are still fresh in most people’s minds: Harvey recovery, border issues, water scarcity (and flooding), school safety, and severe weather in general. As always, the TDEM staff and I look forward to working with the new legislature, local officials and emergency managers across the state to ensure that Texas is prepared to respond to any threat it faces in the coming year.

TDEM is already busy with a slate of projects for 2019. Here are just a few that are in the works:
2019 Texas Emergency Management Conference

TDEM will host the 2019 Texas Emergency Management Conference Monday, April 15 through Thursday, April 18 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. Join us at this comprehensive event to learn what’s happening in emergency management in your community and statewide, and to network with your colleagues from across the state. Visit the 2019 Texas Emergency Management Conference website and stay tuned for more information.

Additional Opportunities

Is your jurisdiction planning to submit an application for FY 2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds? If so, the deadline to submit a completed FY2019 EMPG application package is January 31, 2019.

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 current Local Emergency Management Guide on TDEM’s website for more information.

Chief W. Nim Kidd, CEM®
Follow @chiefkidd on Twitter

TDEM SUPPORTS MULTI-DAY TRIBUTE FOR FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) worked alongside local, state and federal partners during funeral processions for former President George H.W. Bush in Texas on Thursday, December 6, 2018. State and district coordinators from the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) were activated December 5 and 6 to level III (increased readiness) at the State Operations Center (SOC) and Level II (high readiness) at
emergency operations centers (EOC) in Harris County and surrounding areas. TDEM began planning for former President Bush’s funeral in 2010.

DPS and TDEM collaborated with partners from Brazos County, Harris County, the city of Houston, the city of College Station, Texas A&M University, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Defense (DOD) national guardsmen, the Secret Service and many other agencies. TDEM assisted in the logistics of the multi-day tribute in addition to monitoring potential threats that could impede the funeral procession. Potential threats identified ahead of the funeral procession included severe weather, airborne hazardous and weaponized materials meant to harm the public, and other unseen developments that would otherwise cause concern.

The multi-day tribute was organized into three phases which took place between December 3-6 in Washington D.C., and various areas of Texas. Throughout the cities of Houston, Spring and College Station, approximately 150 DPS troopers provided support in ways of motorcades, honor guard, funeral escort and crowd control. At the conclusion of former President Bush’s funeral at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston, he was transported from Spring by train to the George Bush Presidential Library & Museum at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, where he was laid to rest.

THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS) STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC) ENTERS 2019 WITH 57 YEARS OF SERVICE

In 1962, a plot of land at the DPS Headquarters in Austin, Texas was excavated for the construction of a $630,000 underground state emergency operations center capable of withstanding a 20-megaton nuclear bomb blast from three or four miles away. Now known as the State Operations Center (SOC), the facility opened in February 1964, operated on a 24-hour schedule, and provided the
state with standby readiness for full activation when an emergency or natural disaster was evident. Carved from limestone and caliche lying 26 feet below the DPS Headquarters complex, the structure could accommodate 120 persons with dormitory facilities, kitchen, infirmary, and office space for members of the State Civil Defense Council. The SOC was designed to be a self-sustaining facility. An independent water well and fuel supply, auxiliary power for utilities, and a decontamination area at the entrance for persons or equipment exposed to hazardous contaminants, were all components of the original structure. 2,500lb lead-encased, blast-proof steel doors still remain at entrance and emergency exits, including a single door at the rear service entrance weighing 10,000 lbs. for emergency shut-off of the facility.

Fax machines and ham radios are antiques by today’s standards, but SOC communications were equipped with what was considered cutting-edge radio and teletype equipment. Utilizing modern technology was considered a priority, but the main purpose of the facility was as a council room to function as the state’s nerve center during disaster operations.

In 1973, the Disaster Control Center was renamed the State Emergency Operating Center and in June 1991, renovations to the SOC began. The renovations provided twice as much space as originally planned. The new design retained many original features, like the blast-proof doors and self-sustaining utilities, but as renovations continued, much of the 28 year-old equipment was replaced with enhanced weather monitoring, computer mapping, and resource tracking programs. The former council room expanded into a 2,500 square foot operations/council room and upgrades included automated data and graphics displays, new telephones, along with a local area network computer system.
Today, the SOC operates under one of four level conditions, 24/7, 365 days a year. Level IV (Normal Conditions), Level III (Increased Readiness), Level II (Escalated Response Conditions), and Level I (Emergency Conditions). Depending on the activation level, many or few jurisdictional, state, and federal agency representatives gather at the SOC to monitor, plan for and respond to events. By applying the standards of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the SOC continues to unify Texas’ emergency management community, resulting in more efficient and successful responses.

MINUTEMAN DISASTER RESPONSE AND THE OCTOBER 2018 FLOODING IN KINGSLAND, TX

Minuteman Disaster Response (MDR) is a charitable nonprofit that provides trained and equipped search and rescue (SAR) responders to emergency managers in Texas (as well as those in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, and others as needed). MDR has responded to numerous disasters since its inception in 2011, with assignments ranging from search and rescue (SAR) missions to missing person searches. Minuteman has assisted with disasters in Texas in Rowlett, Van, Granbury, Forney, Lancaster, and most recently Canton and Fruitvale, not to mention disasters in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

MDR's team is trained in wide area search, SARTECH II & III, emergency first aid, disaster scene management, NIMS/ICS (100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800), breaching and debris clearing, and other emergency management and support roles. MDR is a self-contained unit ready with gear, transport, fuel, power, shelter, and communications. It is important to know that MDR is a no-cost, no-liability partner. It is privately funded and insured, and it operates fully within Incident Command Structure protocol and, therefore, under local jurisdictional authority.
MDR’s readiness is noteworthy. It sends its Storm Warn Unit in advance of threatening weather systems to provide eyes-on intelligence to team directors and to area emergency managers whose jurisdictions may be affected by such systems. When called upon, the MDR Rapid Response Team is already geared up for potential deployment, ready to arrive within hours of the disaster. In the immediate aftermath of disasters, its lead deployment team makes contact with local authorities to learn what resources may be needed.

Kingsland, TX is a community that revolves around water activity: boating, waterskiing, fishing, swimming, etc. Its geography includes the Colorado River, the Llano River, and Lake LBJ. In mid-October, 2018, everything changed in a matter of hours for this small community of around 6,000 people. The waterfront lifestyle that seemed so peaceful and calm quickly became dangerous and destructive. Flood waters with their great speed and power are not selective as far as damage, they will take out anything and anyone in their path and that’s exactly what happened here.

A team of over 40 MDR volunteers led the charge and stood by this community from the beginning. Team members went door to door assessing the damage and prioritizing needs. They worked long, hard days making sure that needs were met for the families that were impacted. They rose to the occasion and lent a hand to those that were hurting. Why has MDR put forth the effort to provide such resources to Texans for free? The answer is simple: compassion for people who are victimized by disaster and gratefulness for courageous emergency responders who risk themselves to save others. Many people offer support from afar, but MDR believes in putting it into action where the need is greatest and most immediate. Its founders and board carry this belief forward as they grow to connect with and support more communities in Texas and beyond.

How can an emergency manager learn more about the value of MDR to his/her community? Simply contact MDR at 214-585-2411 or send an email to info@minutemanresponse.org to set up a visit with one of their directors.

TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BRIEFS, TIPS AND LINKS

Rebuilding Commission Calls Hurricane Harvey a "Wakeup Call" for Texas
Published by Carlos Anchondo Dec13, 2018, The Texas Tribune

AUSTIN — A commission convened by Gov. Greg Abbott to focus on rebuilding after Hurricane Harvey issued a report Thursday saying the state should take a series of steps to prepare for the next big storm, including hardening utilities against natural
disasters, improving the debris removal processes and expanding a council devoted to emergency management.

The 175-page report, which Abbott called a "roadmap" for the Texas Legislature and local communities moving forward, came more than a year after Harvey inundated parts of the Houston area with more than 60 inches of rain. It was compiled by the Commission to Rebuild Texas, which was overseen by Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp.

"We knew when the hurricane hit, that Hurricane Harvey would deserve a Texas size response," Abbott said. "By following the recommendations in the report, Texas will be better prepared to deal with future disasters."

The report praised Texas' response to Harvey, saying that "Texas is a national leader in responding to disasters." But it also said that "Hurricane Harvey was a warning that we should heed."

"The enormous toll on individuals, businesses and public infrastructure should provide a wakeup call underlining the urgent need to 'future-proof' the Gulf Coast — and indeed all of Texas — against future disasters," the report said in its executive summary.

The plan identified more than 4,000 potential projects geared toward that future-proofing. One recommendation is to consider “buy-outs” of properties that are consistently or severely damaged, while underscoring that homeowners would need to request or volunteer for a buy-out. The report points to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which has already spent $555 million in Texas to acquire or elevate more than 4,000 properties.

Another possible strategy the report identifies is the prevention of home building in “vulnerable locations in the first place.” In April, the Houston City Council approved changes to floodplain regulations to reduce future damage. The report also discusses the benefits of building a “coastal spine” to protect the greater Houston area from a hurricane’s storm surge. Depending on a given storm’s
strength, the report identified savings of “$400 million to $7 billion” per storm if a coastal spine system was built. And it called for placing public infrastructure such as sewer and water lines in "the least flood-prone areas within a community." But the report didn't go into details for how to pay for each individual project, many of which would require federal or local funds.

Sitting next to Abbott, Sharp talked about the importance of making sure someone in every county in the state was trained in disaster management. He also talked about institutionalizing the use of extension agents from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to better support the Texas Division of Emergency Management. Harvey made landfall in August 2017. It left more than 90 people dead and caused extreme flooding in Houston and other areas near the coast. The storm was the costliest U.S. disaster in 2017.

In November, an interim report from the Texas Senate’s budget-writing panel estimated that state government has already spent $2.7 billion on Harvey recovery. More than 80 percent of that came from federal sources.

(Source: https://www.texastribune.org/2018/12/13/rebuilding-commission-calls-hurricane-harvey-wakeup-call-texas/ )

**How long do cold and flu viruses stay contagious on public surfaces?**

Published Dec 17, 2018 by Julia Griffin & Nsikan Akpan, PBS NewsHour

‘Tis the season for gathering with friends and family to share latkes and gingerbread, but also for those dreaded colds and bouts of the flu.

As temperatures drop, both illnesses start to tick up, as does the risk of taking you, your co-workers and loved ones down one-by-one. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate the average person gets two to three colds per year — mostly in the winter and spring. The country as a whole sees 9.3 to 49 million cases of the flu annually.

Before you isolate yourself inside your home and scrub every surface in sight, you should know that these pathogens don’t actually last for days or weeks outside the body, as commercials for some cleaning products might suggest. That’s because cold and flu viruses, despite their ferocity inside our warm bodies, are structurally wimpy and cannot bear the harsh conditions of the dry, outside world. Here’s what you should know about how long these pesky viruses persist and how you can protect yourself.
What is the cold? What is the flu?

Most colds are caused by rhinoviruses, though other pathogens like coronavirus, parainfluenza and respiratory syncytial virus are sources, too. All can lead to serious complications like bronchitis and pneumonia, especially in individuals with respiratory conditions like asthma, and in those with compromised immune systems.

Influenza A is the main family of viruses behind the flu in humans. The CDC estimates 12,000 to 56,000 American deaths are attributable to the flu each year, while the World Health Organization estimates the virus kills up to 650,000 people worldwide.

Viruses are nonliving pieces of genetic code — DNA or RNA — covered in protein coats known as capsids. Flu viruses and many cold viruses also have a viral envelope, meaning the capsid is covered by two layers of lipids similar to the cell membranes found on organisms.

Viruses can’t on their own — they must infect the cells of a living creature. Because they aren’t actually living entities, using terms like “live” or “survive” to describe viruses outside the body can cause confusion, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease.

“People say, ‘Well [a virus] can live on a doorknob for four days,’” Fauci said. “Well, maybe you can isolate it and grow it in culture by swabbing a doorknob, but that doesn’t mean that it’s infectable for four days.”

Viruses outside the body can be better described as either infectious or identifiable — meaning the genetic material that was once inside the virus can be detected via a lab technique like polymerase chain reaction, or PCR. This is usually what advertisements for cleaning products are referring to when they say flu viruses can survive on surfaces for days on end.
Let’s say you had an influenza virus on top of a clean desk, said Dr. Paul Auwaerter, the clinical director for the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

“Five days later, if you take a swab, put it into a molecular machine like a PCR machine and you still find DNA remnants there, that doesn’t mean you have an intact virus,” Auwaerter said. “It just means you’ve found the DNA.”

An intact virus is necessary for an infection, but this propensity reduces over time as its capsid and viral envelope begin to degrade. Once weakened, the virus is less able to attach to cells and spread its genetic material.

How long are cold and flu viruses infectious?
There’s not a lot of rigorous data on this question, which is probably why there’s also a lot of confusion.

Prior to this decade, only a handful of studies looked at how long flu viruses retain their infectiousness on common surfaces. A 1982 study found influenza A remained contagious up to 48 hours on hard plastic or stainless steel, while a 2008 publication found these viruses stayed infectious for up to three days on Swiss bank notes.

Influenza viruses may actually have a much shorter infectious lifespan, based on more recent work by virologist Dr. Jane Greatorex at Public Health England. In a 2011 study, her team took two strains of influenza A and analyzed how long they remained infectiousness on a variety of common surfaces. After nine hours, viable viruses were no longer found on most non-porous metal and plastic surfaces, such as aluminum and computer keyboards. On porous items, like soft toys, clothes and wooden surfaces, viable viruses disappeared after four hours.

Because common colds are caused by a plethora of viruses, research on surface infectious rates are harder to nail down. In general, most are no longer dangerous after 24 hours, and their ability to infect dissipates faster on porous materials like facial tissues.
What’s the best surface for killing viruses? Our skin. In the cases of both flu and cold-causing viruses, infectious particles on our hands are usually gone after 20 minutes.

Between its pH and its porous nature, our body’s natural barrier to the word does a great job at killing viruses, Greatorex explained. “Our hands are quite antimicrobial themselves,” she said. “They have their own bacteria that live on them — no matter how clean you are — and they don’t actually harbour viruses that well.” That said, any open wounds on our skin would be an easy gateway for viral infection, so remember to use those bandages. (Full story available online here.)

Why don’t cold and flu viruses live forever?
Cold and flu viruses’ rapid decrease in viability outside the body is thanks to three main factors: their enveloped structure, environmental conditions and how much our mucus surrounds it after a sneeze.

A enveloped virus — like influenza A and most cold-causing viruses — are by nature set up for destruction, Greatorex said. While these enveloped viruses are typically neutralized within 48 hours, a non-enveloped one — like norovirus, an intestinal disease which has caused multiple mass outbreaks on cruise ships — can be viable on surfaces for weeks.

“Anything that disrupts the proteins on the virus surface pretty much kills these enveloped viruses,” Greatorex said. “They are not particularly resistant.” Temperature, ultraviolet radiation from sunlight, pH changes and salt can play a role in weakening a viral envelope. But one of the main factors is moisture. “Viruses tend to be more stable in environments for which they’re known to reproduce,” Auwaerter said. “If they live in warm, moist environments — for example, in your nostrils, in your throat, in your bronchial tree — they’re more stable. But when they’re exposed to a different material or to a non-moist environment, they can break down.”

This is why cold and flu viruses remain infectious on non-porous surfaces like light switches and countertops longer than porous surfaces like fabric and tissues. Porous surfaces suck moisture away from the viruses, causing the structures to collapse.

Cold and flu viruses remain viable in moist, warm environments and infect new human hosts when they land in similar places like throats and nasal passageways. Photo by David Jones/PA Images/Getty Images
Not all non-porous surfaces serve as ideal havens for these viruses. Greatorex’s work found flu viruses could remain contagious for nine hours on stainless steel, and other research has suggested they can be infectious on the metal for up to seven days. But on copper surfaces, the virus stops being infectious after six hours. Mucus from a sneeze can protect a virus from the damaging influences of a dry environment and make the virus maintain infectiousness longer. But on the plus side, Greatorex said, the more mucus a friend or co-worker sneezes, the shorter distance it will travel because of its increased weight and size.

All the same, if someone in your office is ill, tell them to take a sick day. “Just pack ‘em off,” Greatorex said. “Fewer people will get sick if you send them home.”

How best to protect yourself

Because flu viruses don’t often last beyond nine hours, Greatorex’s work suggests public spaces like classrooms, offices and kitchens that are not populated at night will usually free of contagious flu viruses the next morning. But for those who want to be more proactive, Auwaerter recommends sanitizing surfaces periodically with wipes or other chemicals.

“Chlorine, hydrogen peroxide, soaps, detergents or alcohol-based gels all disrupt the capsules of the viruses, and they’re no longer capable of being infectious,” Auwaerter said.


Urban Flooding Is Worryingly Widespread in the U.S., But Under-Studied
Published by Linda Poon Dec 13, 2018, CITYLAB

When a major city like Houston or Detroit floods, the nation pays attention. The president may declare a state of emergency, and agencies at all levels of the government begin recovery efforts while monitoring the event. When flooding happens in a small town or only a small part of a city, though, the event may not be closely examined for its economic and social damages.

That dearth of data is why researchers behind the first-ever nationwide assessment of urban flooding call the issue the country’s “hidden challenge.”

Researchers at the University of Maryland and Texas A&M University surveyed professionals involved in public and private flood management from more than 350 municipalities in 48 states. Eighty-three percent of respondents said they’d
experienced urban flooding in their communities. Over half said their communities were affected by moderate or larger urban floods. While major hurricanes like Florence and Michael command our attention, the researchers’ review of online news alerts found that multiple flooding events happen almost daily. Searches of reports from the National Weather Service for the terms “urban flooding” and “street flooding” resulted in more than 3,600 entries between 1993 and 2017 from all regions of the country.

“IT gnaws away in so many places, and it doesn’t [always] rise to the level of a big Mississippi River flood or a [Hurricane] Harvey in downtown Houston,” said Gerry Galloway of the University of Maryland, who co-authored the report. Yet there isn’t nearly enough information to help government officials understand the extent of these floods. Part of the problem, the authors note, is that there is no single federal agency that collects and evaluates urban flooding as it occurs or over time. And because the threat of coastal floods often overshadows that of urban floods, there has been little effort to distinguish between the two kinds of events.

Galloway says the social costs, in particular, are neglected. Researchers know that urban floods disproportionately hurt lower-income communities that have the least resources, but it’s difficult to put a firm number to the problem. According to the report, they’re more likely to live in high-risk flood zones but less likely to have flood insurance.

They’re also more badly hurt by what the researchers call “secondary effects,” such as the loss of hourly wages when a flood prevents them for getting to work, or the hours lost to traffic rerouting. Galloway uses an analogy: “If you have one pair of shoes and they get soaked, you don’t go to school that day,” he said. “You may not get the meals you normally get for breakfast and lunch.” These effects might seem minor, but they add up.

When the consequences of urban flooding are written off, it often means that communities are not proactive about it. One thing is for sure: Urban floods are largely a result of the human-built environment (both CityLab and The Atlantic have previously reported on this). In the survey, 70 percent of respondents reported that
aging and inadequate drainage systems were their main problems when it comes to flooding. Of those respondents, more than half said their communities failed make proper infrastructure improvements to withstand increasing levels of rainfall—which has on average risen roughly 4 percent across the U.S. since 1901, with the Northeastern and Midwestern regions experiencing the largest hikes.

Not surprisingly, the inability to secure funding accounts for much of that failure. In one anonymous comment submitted, the respondent noted that while their city has proper protection against coastal flooding, getting funding to retrofit drainage systems has been a challenge. “The non Glamorous infrastructure needs to compete with more visible public enhancement efforts for the limited dollars available and unfortunately more often than not fail to get funded,” the respondent wrote. Researchers also note that low building standards in some communities and the lack of code enforcement in others further exacerbate the problem.

The report calls on governments at all levels to review their responsibilities when it comes to evaluating and mitigating the consequences of urban floods. Municipalities need to thoroughly study where exactly floods happen, since urban flooding often occurs outside of FEMA-designated floodplains. As a result, developers continue to build in flood-prone areas, leaving residents blindsided. (As the authors note, approximately 25 percent of all claims submitted to the National Flood Insurance Program involve property outside of the 100-year flood zone.)

The report’s co-author Sam Brody, director of the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores at Texas A&M, is building on this assessment and preparing for a two-year, $3-million project to better map urban flooding, funded by FEMA, the National Academy of Sciences, and Texas. “We’re going to really nail down who’s at risk and what to do about it, by collecting not just claims and federal assistance [data] but looking at crowdsourcing data, human surveys, and then going into communities with a map and [asking,] ‘Why is this wrong?’” Brody said. “The local knowledge is going to feed back into our statistical spatial models and recalibrate them.” Although the project’s location hasn’t been finalized, Brody said his team will likely look at neighborhoods south and southeast of Houston.


Save The Date
Save the date(s) for the following emergency management–related events scheduled for 2019. For more information or to add an event, please see the Texas Emergency Management Conference Calendar.
**TEEX Leadership Development Symposium**
January 7-9, 2019
Embassy Suites, Frisco, Texas
The Symposium is an annual conference hosted by Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) that offers general and breakout sessions designed to enhance the leadership skills of the emergency response community of Texas. Attendees have the opportunity to grow their leadership skills, network with colleagues, reacquaint with old friends and make new ones. (No admission fee for Texas emergency response personnel)

**Water For Texas Conference 2019**
January 23-25, 2019
AT&T Education and Conference Center, Austin, Texas
The story of Texas water is the story of Texas. Water has always defined our state, and it will continue to shape our future. It’s a story that affects all of us. At the Water for Texas 2019 conference, speakers, panels, and exhibits will examine the state's water narrative—past, present, and future.

**Twelfth Annual EMAT Symposium**
February 17 – 20, 2019
Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center, San Marcos, Texas

**West Central Texas Emergency Preparedness Conference**
February 20, 2019
Abilene Convention Center, Abilene, Texas
The West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) along with State and Local Emergency & Preparedness organizations are planning the first annual West Central Texas Emergency Preparedness Conference. This event is being hosted by the City of Abilene and will take place at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at the Abilene Convention Center.

**2019 Texas Emergency Management Conference**
April 15 – 18, 2019
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas
Registration opens SOON

Call for Presentations now closed!