



TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ONLINE

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The Texas Division of Emergency Management is accepting article submissions for The Texas Emergency Management Online (TEMO) newsletter. If you have an idea for a topic or would like to submit an article, contact [Mike Jones](#) at 512-424-7050.

Message from the Chief – March 2015

Register for the 2015 Texas Emergency Management Conference!

TEXAS★2015
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The 2015 Texas Emergency Management Conference will be held **Tuesday**, May 12 through Friday, May 15, 2015, at the Henry B. Gonzalez

Convention Center in San Antonio.

Each year TDEM hosts this premier event, which brings together thousands of emergency management and law enforcement professionals, local elected officials, private sector partners, first responders, voluntary organizations and many others from across the state. The conference provides a full spectrum of emergency management-related workshops and trainings, as well as exhibits from a wide array of vendors.

Emergency preparedness is a dynamic process. Lessons learned, new techniques and procedures and emerging technology are being developed to help ensure that Texas' communities are prepared to meet the challenges and risks we face every day.

No community is immune to disaster, and all of Texas is at risk to a wide array of potential manmade and weather-related severe events. Having the right tools and training are how solutions are found, adopted and implemented. The Texas Emergency Management Conference provides a unique opportunity where we can exchange knowledge and build on the progress that can be made. Leaders like you can take advantage of this opportunity to meet face to face and talk about important issues such as water conservation, severe drought and wild land fire response, disaster preparedness, mitigation, recovery and more.

More information about the conference, including registration, workshops and exhibit opportunities can be found by visiting the 2015 Texas Emergency Management Conference webpage.

Take the time to invest in you and the future of your community. Register today. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

[2015 Texas Emergency Management Conference!](#)

Team Rubicon – Bridge the Gap

Team Rubicon unites the skills and services of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy disaster response teams. Founded in January 2010, the concept of



Team Rubicon and veteran-focused disaster response came about as a result of the Haiti earthquake. Two Marines, who had a vision of using skills they acquired while in service, realized they could develop a program to provide aid and assistance

to communities during disasters. They recognized that situations facing military personnel, such as unstable populations, limited resources and uncertain information, mirrored circumstances communities face during disasters. The skills cultivated on the battlefields—applying emergency medicine, risk assessment and mitigation, teamwork as well as decisive leadership—are invaluable during times of disasters.

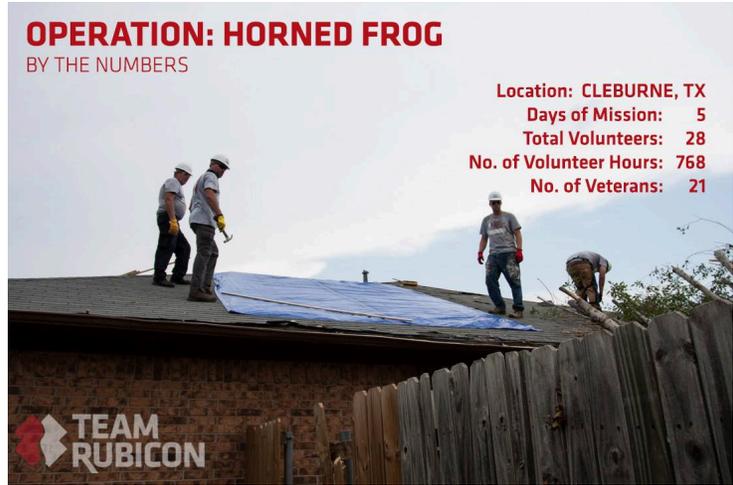
The mission of Team Rubicon is both disaster relief and veteran focused; we like to say, “Disasters are our business. Veterans are our passion.” For many veterans, having the ability to serve in a new capacity along with a sense of purpose and the ability to work side-by-side with those who *get it*, is what makes Team Rubicon work for them and their reintegration. It is also imperative to have civilians working beside veterans, because you can’t talk about reintegration for veterans without having civilians in the mix. This is where our first responders are so important. They enhance Team Rubicon by bringing the skills and knowledge of disasters, incident management and response coordination.

Since its inception in January 2010, Team Rubicon has responded to domestic and international operations, coordinating volunteer and donations management during major incidents, such as the West fertilizer plant explosion, devastating tornados in Lancaster and Cleburne Texas; Adairsville Georgia; Moore, Oklahoma; and Faulkner County Arizona, and with medical and disaster aid in the Philippine Islands. Recently, Team Rubicon was asked to assist in the management of volunteers related to the wildfire in Pateros, Washington.



Team Rubicon strives to serve the community in whatever capacity they are needed and has worked alongside other nongovernmental organizations, including the Texas Conservation Corps in West and with All Hands Volunteers and the Dream Center in Faulkner County.

Team Rubicon is organized according to FEMA regions. The Texas State Planning Coordinator is John Patrick. You can contact John at: john.patrick@teamrubiconusa.org or 214-529-0477. The Texas State Operations Coordinator is Chance Karshens Her contact information is: karshens@teamrubiconusa.org and 512-986-0619. Both John and Chance are available at any time to speak about Team Rubicon’s capabilities and areas where Team Rubicon is available to provide disaster and emergency assistance.



Using Drones for Search & Rescue

They are in the parks. They are in the media. They are on the front lawn of the Whitehouse. Drones! And why shouldn't there be one in your toolkit as a public service professional?



Technically and officially these "unmanned aircraft" or UA offer many advantages right down to the individual level in many agencies. These advantages are starting to be realized as civilian use of UA for aerial photography and other data collection are being proven on a daily basis.

Consider that the Department of Homeland Security has determined the cost savings at a ratio of 10 to 1 over manned aircraft operations. Does this signal the end of the beloved Jet Ranger helicopter as a first response asset? Not even a little.

To be certain, the military is looking at full-scale assets that can be converted to "unmanned" status and have successfully used them to ferry cargo. It will be some time before a drone will have the capability to pluck a victim from a mountain top or flooded river. That responsibility will rest squarely on the shoulders of a human pilot at the controls of a machine that has the capability to perform that time honored feat.

The one thing a UA can do, however, is provide the ability to locate and assess the situation quickly, with little risk to another human, reducing the exposure and liability of sending a full-scale aircraft on the tedious and dangerous task of flying a grid pattern of a search, often in conditions that are hazardous to both machine and aircrew. Unmanned aircraft are unique in that they can provide the power of aerial assets to smaller agencies that have had to rely on larger municipalities and organizations that can and would provide them with mutual aid during disasters.

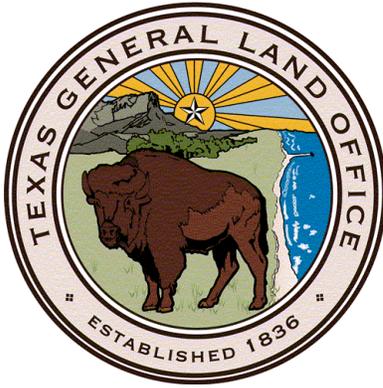
This technology has been described as a *disruptive technology*. Similarities can be drawn to the advent of the personal computer back in the 80s, cell phones in the 90s and smart phones with cameras and video in the new millennium. All of these were considered disruptive technologies in their advent. The predictions of lost jobs, privacy intrusion and other mistrusts have either not come to pass, have been proven incorrect or have been adapted to quite readily.

There will always be legalities to be challenged as any disruptive technology is initially introduced initially, and we are in that phase now—trying to figure out just what is the most acceptable use of these *new-fangled* flying machines. Emerging now is the widespread acceptance of unmanned aircraft use for tasks such as search and rescue, brown cloud assessment, hazmat containment and other duties that directly affect the health and safety of not only citizens but those who serve them.



The future of this technology is going to quite literally take off and become a true force multiplier for a broad range of clients. And we will all benefit from its use.

Follow this [link](#) for an excerpt from Gene Robinson's book, *Tijuana Kidnap and Ransom – Mexican Department of Public Safety*.

Partner Agency: Texas General Land Office

Founded after the Texas Revolution in 1836, the Texas General Land Office is the oldest agency in the state. It is constitutionally charged with the responsibility of managing our state resources for the benefit of public education. It is the only state agency that makes more than it spends – earning hundreds of millions of dollars for the Permanent School Fund on a budget of \$46 million.

Mission Statement

The GLO serves the schoolchildren, veterans and all people of Texas by preserving their history, protecting their environment, expanding economic opportunity, helping communities rebuild after disasters and maximizing state revenue through innovative administration and prudent stewardship of state lands and resources.

Disaster Recovery

The GLO is the lead state agency for managing disaster recovery grants through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Highly experienced in disaster recovery, the GLO coordinated the cleanup of the Texas coast after hurricanes Dolly and Ike, and is the administrator for long-term recovery efforts for these hurricanes as well as for the 2011 wildfires. The agency's management of disaster recovery grants gives local communities a single contact, cuts red tape and reduces administrative costs.

Hurricanes

During natural disasters, the GLO assists with its unique, prepositioned assets along the Texas coast. General Land Office staff supports the State Emergency Operation Center as well as supporting our personnel in the field. During a disaster, the Land Office employees, equipment, and knowledge from GLO field offices are joined with Texas Task Force 1, Texas's leading urban search and rescue team.

In preparation for hurricanes that impact Texas, GLO employees travel into the projected impact areas to assist Texas Task Force 1. As the storm impacts Texas, the GLO assists in setting priority search locations, generating digital area maps, as well as general communications.

Once the storm has passed, the GLO can provide vessels to access flooded areas and assist in rescue operations that are called into Texas Task Force 1. When the search and rescue missions are complete, GLO employees continue to protect human life and safety working with the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in assessing the impacted area for oil and chemical spills.

The GLO and the U.S. Coast Guard then take the lead cleaning up and removing the oil spills that pose a threat to human life and safety as well as the environment.

Natural Resource Restoration

Environmental damage caused by oil or hazardous material spills can devastate an area. After an oil spill or hazardous substance release, response agencies clean up the substance and work to reduce or eliminate the damage to human health and the environment. But sometimes these efforts do not fully restore injured natural resources or address their lost uses by the public.

The Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program (NRDA) is the legal and technical process designed to restore the damaged area and ensure that those responsible—and not taxpayers—pay for restoring the affected area.

The General Land Office NRDA trustees act on behalf of the public to identify the affected natural resources and determine the extent of the impact. They also recover damages from the responsible party to plan and carry out restoration activities. In Texas, three state agencies are designated as NRDA trustees: the GLO, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

On the federal level in Texas, the NRDA trustees are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Department of the Interior with authority delegated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Oil Spills

In 1991 the Texas Legislature created the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program at the Texas General Land Office after the tanker Mega Borg spilled 5.1 million gallons of oil 57 miles southeast of Galveston. With more than 1.2 billion barrels of oil passing near Texas wetlands, bays and beaches along the Texas Gulf Coast each year, the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program (OSPR) has the responsibility of making sure that oil stays out of Texas waters.

Accomplishing that task requires cooperation with the ports, industrial plants and petroleum refineries as well as commercial shrimpers, fishermen and others who work and play on the water. The program is funded by a one and one-third cents-per-barrel fee on crude oil loaded or off-loaded in Texas ports. Five Oil Spill field offices are located along the Texas coast to serve as resources to the public and monitor the gulf waters along our Texas shore.

BUILD A 7-DAY EMERGENCY KIT

A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

[Emergency Supply List \(pdf\)](#)

[Emergency Supply List \(text\)](#)

**National Weather Service Seeking Severe Weather Spotters!
Spotter Training Available Across South Texas February through April!**

The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN with partner organizations. SKYWARN is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters across the country. These volunteers learn to identify potentially tornadic storms and other severe weather conditions before they occur. SKYWARN volunteer spotters help to protect the lives and property of the citizens of South Texas by relaying critical life-saving information in a timely manner to the NWS.

Before each severe weather season, the NWS in Corpus Christi conducts SKYWARN training classes. These classes begin in February and continue through April. The classes are free and open to the public! The NWS in Corpus Christi will be conducting both on-line training and in-person training this year. Here is a list of the classes scheduled so far:

Laredo – February 19, 2015
Ingleside – February 24, 2015
2015
Robstown – February 25, 2015
Orange Grove – February 26, 2015
Beeville – March 12, 2015
Victoria – March 19, 2015
3rd, 4th, & 8th

Kingsville – March 25, 2015
Corpus Christi – March 26,
2015
Port Lavaca – April 6, 2015
Fulton – April 6, 2015
Laredo: April 11, 2015
Online Classes: March

For more details, including times and locations, please visit:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/crp/?n=skywarn>

Follow us on the Web:

www.weather.gov/corpuschristi

FAA gives law enforcement organizations ways to help agency investigate unauthorized use of UAS.

Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are inherently different from manned aircraft. Introducing UAS into the nation's airspace is challenging for both the Federal Aviation Administration and aviation community, because the U.S. has the busiest, most complex airspace in the world. The FAA is taking an incremental approach to safe UAS integration.

[What Can I Do with my Model Aircraft?](#)

UAS come in a variety of shapes and sizes and serve diverse purposes. Regardless of size, the responsibility to fly safely applies equally to manned and unmanned aircraft operations. The FAA is partnering with several industry associations to promote safe and responsible use of unmanned aircraft. Read more about the [Know Before You Fly](#) educational campaign.

Different types of UAS operations

- [Public Operations](#) (Governmental)
- [Civil Operations](#) (Non-Governmental)
- [Model Aircraft](#) (Hobby or Recreation Only)

March 2015: Credits

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