



Texas Department of Public Safety

April 2, 2012

NEWS RELEASE

Emergency Management Community Shares Best Practices At Annual State Conference

AUSTIN - The 2012 Texas Emergency Management Conference today convened in San Antonio as emergency management leaders from the public and private sector gathered to participate in a variety of workshops, presentations, training classes and exhibits. The annual conference will run from April 2-5, 2012, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

“Over the last year, our state faced severe drought conditions and devastating wildfires, and our emergency responders stepped up to the challenge during these disasters and worked together to protect our communities,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “With hurricane season just around the corner, this conference allows for the exchange of ideas and information critical to helping Texas prepare for and respond to the myriad threats we face in this state, both natural and manmade.”

Texas Gov. Rick Perry delivered the keynote address at the opening ceremony for the four-day conference, which brings together approximately 2,500 representatives from local, state, and federal emergency management communities to discuss best practices and lessons learned in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

“We gather this week to reflect on our response during the most recent wildfires, revisit our planning efforts for the upcoming hurricane season, and give thanks to those that give so much to keep Texas the most prepared state possible,” Texas Division of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd said. “This conference allows us to learn from the past, plan for the future and ensure we are all working together to protect our communities.”

Conference participants include representatives from local, state and federal level of law enforcement, border security and port security, transportation and cyber security, as well as firefighters, emergency medical personnel, Texas Military Forces, volunteer organizations and private sector partners. Attendees also include officials from higher education, public education, health and medical care, and public officials from local, state and federal government. Representatives of more than 30 state agencies on the Governor’s Emergency Management Council are also participating in the conference.

For more information on how Texans can prepare their homes and families for emergencies, please visit <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/PublicInfo.htm>.

Read about DPS online at www.txdps.state.tx.us

For more information about the Texas Division of Emergency Management or the Emergency Management Conference, please visit <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/>.

(HQ 2012-035)