

# DPS Chaparral



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June 2011

## Do you have a personal preparedness plan? If not, make one. Now.

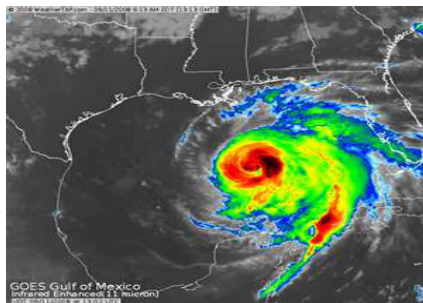
By **W. Nim Kidd, CEM®**  
Assistant Director, TDEM

Hurricane season begins on June 1 and already there have been conflicting predictions on the potential number of Atlantic storms, any one of which may affect Texas. The key phrase I like to emphasize is this: It only takes one.

The same thing is true whether you work at an area office, a district office, regional headquarters or here in Austin. All it takes is one tornado, one wildfire, one plane crash—or one hurricane evacuation—and you find yourself working very long hours in difficult conditions—probably with little, if any, advance warning.

That's why I would like to challenge all of you—my DPS colleagues—to review your own preparedness plans for your home and your family.

Those of us who work in law enforcement, fire fighting (as I did for many years) and emergency response, tend to focus on the task at hand. That is equally true for our fellow employees who work in areas supporting these critical functions.



I have found that we might not be as focused on making sure we have emergency supplies ready and back-up plans in place for our families when we are called to duty. We may lose sight of the fact that fires, floods, wind storms and other disasters can strike anywhere—including our own neighborhoods, home towns or farms and ranches.

An emergency plan means our family members know they have a place to call outside the area to let others know they are safe, and a place to meet if they can't go home.

A plan means ensuring family members with access and functional needs have the medications, supplies and personnel support they need. It means ensuring we have set aside extra food, water, medicine and other needed supplies for our children,

and that we know who can take care of them when we are called away.

It means ensuring we have set aside extra food, water and other needed supplies for our pets and livestock—along with neighbors willing to lend a hand to help take care of them until we come home.

I challenge you to build a supply kit, make a plan and take the needed steps now to finalize your backup plan, including knowing who you can turn to if your backup isn't be able to help you. I guarantee you will work more efficiently and effectively if you are certain those back home have everything they need to take care of themselves while you are gone.

Here's where you can find more information about making your own emergency plan:

<http://www.texasprepares.org/>

<http://www.ready.gov/>

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/211texas.htm>

Thank you for all that you do to help make Texas a safer place to live and work.

## Mile Markers

### Promotions

#### Rangers

**Kirby W. Dendy**, Maj., Rangers Waco to Dep. Asst. Director, Rangers Austin.

### Criminal Investigations Division

**Mark L. Carder**, Lt., CID Lub-



*On the mend...*

Tr. **Ramon Farias**, CVE Laredo, injured during a narcotics seizure;

Agent **Christopher Earnest**, CID Garland, injured during an investigation;

Tr. **Robert Mendez**, HP Terrell, attempting to arrest suspect;

Tr. **Justin Duck**, HP Houston, injured in a traffic crash;

Sgt. **David Cramer**, CVE Garland, injured in a traffic crash;

Tr. **Germaine Gaspard**, CVE Garland, injured in a traffic crash;

Tr. **Billy D. Wallace**, HP Carthage, injured in a traffic crash;

Tr. **Raymond Sanders**, HP Liberty, injured in a traffic crash; and

Tr. **Chadrick A. Walker**, HP Cedar Hill, injured in a traffic crash.

Good news! Tr. **Jonathan Lawrence**, HP Atlanta, and Tr. **Joel Callaway**, HP Merton, have returned to work.

bock to Capt., CID Lubbock.

### Regulatory Services Division

**Lance K. Amos**, T. III, RSD to Agent, RSD Garland; **Alex Benavides**, Tr. IV, RSD to Agent RSD Corpus Christi; **Edith D. Biggs**, Tr. II, RSD to Agent RSD Hurst;

**Richard C. Brown**, Sen. Tr., RSD to Agent RSD Tyler; **Valentin Cenicerros, Jr.**, Tr. IV, RSD to Agent, RSD El Paso; **Kristi A. Davis**, T. IV, RSD to Agent, RSD Woodlands; **Taft S. Green, Jr.**, Sen. Tr., RSD to Agent, RSD Hurst;

**Johnny C. Jackson**, Sen. Tr., RSD to Agent, RSD Garland; **Jorge Martinez**, Tr. IV, RSD to Agent, RSD Brownsville; **Cleo May**, Sen. Tr., RSD to Agent, RSD Austin;

**Ismael M. Orosco**, Tr. IV, RSD to Agent, RSD Midland; **Gaylon L. Paul**, Tr. V, RSD to Agent, RSD Lubbock; **Ronald C. Richey**, Sen. Tr., RSD to Agent, RSD Garland;

**Allius Stewart**, Tr. IV, RSD to Agent, RSD Houston; **Nathaniel M. Taylor**, Tr. IV, RSD to Agent, RSD Baytown; **James B. Bishop**, Tr. IV, HP Lubbock to Agent, RSD Lubbock;

**Jose E. Izeta**, Tr. III, CVE Brownsville to Agent, RSD McAllen; **Amy B. King**, Tr. IV, HP Austin to Agent, RSD Houston; **John M. Kopacz**, Tr. II, HP Edna to Agent, RSD Corpus Christi.

### Highway Patrol

**Joel D. Kite**, Tr. IV, HP San

Antonio to Sgt., CVE Pearsall.

### Law Enforcement Support

**Heather N. Crustner**, Comm. Officer V, LES Lufkin to Comm. Supervisor, LES Lukfin.

### Retirements

**Suzanne Marie Nightengale**, Specialist IV, Administration Austin, 26 years; **John W. Ramsey**, HP Georgetown, 20 years; **Rolando Castañeda**, Lt., Rangers McAllen, 33 years; **Enrique Espinoza, Jr.**, Capt., CID McAllen, 33 years;

**Faye Cecilia Hogue**, Operator III, MCB Austin, 30 years; **Steven Blane Talkington**, Sgt., CID Amarillo, 30 years; **David Lamar Martin**, Tr., HP Nacogdoches, 28 years; **Howard Malone**, Cpl., HP Lufkin, 27 years; **David Michael Rice**, Tr., HP Henderson, 27 years;

**Eduardo A. Ibarra**, Inspector IV, Regulatory Services Laredo, 25 years; **Wesley Allen Hutson**, Specialist II, LES San Antonio, 24 years; **Donald Lee Smith**, Cpl., HP Beaumont, 24 years; **Sybil Harbour**, Admin. Asst. III, IT Houston, 17 years;

**Pete Garcia**, Specialist III, IT Austin, 15 years; **Milton E. Cocke**, Admin. Asst. I, DL Austin, 11 years; **Shrley Jeannette Madden**, Admin. Asst. II, DL Cedar Hill, 11 years; **Mary Swartz Freeman**, Investigator I, Regulatory Services Austin, 10 years;

**Dolores Gaulding**, Accoun-

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tant I, EMD Austin, 6 years; **Re-nee Elaine Zeller**, Admin. Asst. II, DL Plainview, 6 years.

*(Editor's Note: last month's Chaparral incorrectly listed Lt. Doug Whitworth, Regulatory Crimes Bureau Garland, as a retiree. He's still here. Sorry for the error.)*

## Deaths

**Cora Gorbet**, ret. Security Officer, Capitol Austin (June 1998 – July 2010) died March 28, 2011; **Billy Scott**, ret. Sgt., HP Hereford (April 1959 – September 1993) died April 1, 2011;

**Martha Francis Crone**, ret. Admin. Asst., CVE Tyler (December 1967 – September 1993) died April 3, 2011; **Jan Bruckler**, ret. CES, Regulatory Svc. Houston (June 2003 – February 2010) died April 22, 2011.

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## Briefs

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### Speir Scholarship Deadline

**Wilson E. Speir** Scholarship applications will be accepted through August 5. Students must be classified as full-time criminal justice majors and enrolled in Texas universities. Two scholarships will be awarded for \$500 per semester for up to two semesters. Applicants should submit resumes and transcripts of completed college work to: DPS, Director's Office, P.O. Box 4087, Austin TX 78773-0110, Attn: **Connie Wolridge**.

### DPS receives award

The DPS is receiving a "Spe-

cial Achievement in GIS" award from the 2011 Esri International User Conference. The award recognizes the DPS TXMAP program, which allows law enforcement to show, visually, the locations of all incidents and criminal activities in Texas. (You can also see--in real time--the locations of all DPS patrol vehicles and how fast they're traveling.)

Analyzing the information from TXMAP has enabled law enforcement entities to better address criminal activity along the border, gangs and trafficking.

### Woodall receives FBI award

**J. Frank Woodall**, deputy assistant director for the Education, Training and Research Bureau, has received an award from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Trilogy Award recognizes individuals who have successfully completed the FBI-LEEDA leadership training series. The three courses in the leadership training program add up to 112 hours of leadership training.

### Lesko named to federal council

**Mike Lesko**, deputy assistant director for the Crime Records Service, has been named to the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council. The council is responsible for developing "sound policy direction for the nationwide exchange of criminal history record information for noncriminal justice purposes," the nomination says.

### Fitness Stars step up

With the program now agency wide, non-commissioned personnel have joined their commissioned counterparts in earning Fitness Stars for meeting certain standards on the physical readiness test.

The standards vary based on age and gender, and timed results in push-ups, sit-ups and the 1.5 mile run. Those who qualify are rewarded 32 hours of administrative leave and can wear the Fitness Star on their uniform or lapel.

The following individuals met the Fitness Star standards:

Attorney **Steve Moninger**, Legal Operations Austin

Sgt. **Cory Ledbetter**, THP Victoria

Cpl. **Patrick Davis**, THP Gonzales

Tr. **Chad Fritz**, THP Gonzales

Cpl. **John Larocque**, Executive Protection Bureau Austin

Sgt. **Chris Barclay**, Rangers/SWAT Austin

Sgt. **William Lemmon**, Rangers/SWAT Austin

Sgt. **Travis Ballew**, Rangers/SWAT Austin

Sgt. **Dennis Miller**, Rangers/SWAT Austin

Sgt. **Donald Bolton**, Rangers/SWAT Austin

Sgt. **Gregg Castillo**, Rangers/SWAT Austin.

Sgt. **Donald Jackson**, Rangers/SWAT Austin

## Details of the DRP Indigency Program announced

The Texas Department of Public Safety is now offering an Indigency Program for surcharges owed under the Driver Responsibility Program. The Texas Legislature authorized an Indigency program to provide low-income drivers the ability to pay surcharges, bringing them into compliance with the surcharge law and allowing them to become licensed and insured drivers.

The Indigency Program applies only to individuals living at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (see chart below). The Indigency Program reduction does not apply to any other fees besides surcharges that a driver may owe DPS.

Those qualifying for the Indigency Program will pay 10 percent of the original amount owed for all surcharges combined, for a maximum amount of \$250. (Service fees will still apply.)

Any payments already made will be applied to the reduced amount. If prior payments are more than the reduced amount owed, no payment will be required. There will be no refunds for payments that exceed the indigency maximum.

To request a reduction, drivers must complete the application in full, and the application must be notarized. The completed, notarized application should be mailed to the Municipal Services Bureau (PO Box 16733, Austin,

125% of the 2011 HHS Poverty Guidelines	
Persons in Family	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$ 13,612.50
2	\$ 18,387.50
3	\$ 23,162.50
4	\$ 27,937.50
5	\$ 32,712.50
6	\$ 37,487.50
7	\$ 42,262.50
8	\$ 47,037.50
For each additional person, add	\$ 4,775.00

Texas 78761-6733) for processing.

The Indigency Program application is available online by visiting [www.txsurchargeonline.com](http://www.txsurchargeonline.com) or calling the toll-free number 1-800-688-6882 and selecting option 7. Easy-to-read instructions are also included with the application. Note: the online application requires 'Adobe Reader' to open the document, which can be downloaded at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

Once the application is approved, any surcharge suspensions will be cleared on the applicant's driving record within three business days. Applicants will be mailed a notice with the reduced amount to pay and the due date. Payment of the reduced amount and other fees that are owed must be received within 180 days from the date of the notice. If payment of the reduced amount is

not received by the due date, the suspension of driving privileges will be reinstated. However, the reduced amount will still apply until it is paid in full.

The Driver Responsibility Program, which assesses fees for a variety of driving-related offenses, was passed by the Legislature in 2003 and directed the Department to administer the program. Traffic offenses that carry an automatic surcharge for three years include DWI-related offenses, driving with no insurance, driving while license suspended, driving without a license and accumulating too many points because of tickets. (For example, the fee for a first-time DWI offender is \$1,000 per year for three years.) The revenue generated by DRP goes to trauma centers, emergency medical services and the General Revenue Fund.