



DPS Chaparral

Produced by DPS Public Information, (512) 424-2080

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DPS adds sixth division

There's a new division in town: The Emergency Management Service (commonly called Governor's Division of Emergency Management) is now the Emergency Management Division. The change was approved during last month's Public Safety Commission meeting.

"It is with tremendous pride that I announce that the Emergency Management Service is now the Emergency Management Division of one of the most honored organizations in this state – the Texas Department of Public Safety," said Jack Colley, the new chief of the new Division. "The employees of the Emergency Management Division have earned this very special honor with their demonstrated accomplishments as a team of teams."

Emergency Management had been part of the Administration Division. The other divisions of DPS are the Texas Highway Patrol, Criminal Law Enforcement, Driver License and the Texas Rangers. (The remainder of the agency falls under the Director's Staff.)

"Elevating Emergency Management to division status will only enhance the coordination with other divisions within the agency during times of crisis," said DPS Director Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr.

The Division is home to the State Operations Center, located underground in DPS Headquarters in Austin. The SOC serves as the focal point for the state of Texas response to man-made and natural crises, including hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires and terrorism. It is staffed 24 hours a day.

The SOC also is home to the Emergency Management Council, which includes 32 Texas state agencies and the Red Cross and Salvation Army when fully activated to respond to various threats.

The Division has grown considerably in recent years. For example, the number of Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs) has increased from nine to 27. The Division has an authorized strength of 177 personnel involved in preparing for, responding to and recovery from any hazards that threaten Texas.

Integral in the state's Homeland Security mission, their responsibilities include preparedness and planning activities, such as training and exercises.

The Division works extensively with cities, counties and other state agencies in carrying out this mission. They also activate the State Amber Alert Network for missing children, in conjunction with the DPS Criminal Intelligence Service and various other agencies.

DPS online: www.txdps.state.tx.us

DPS "on the air": 512-424-7777

Dear Fellow Employee,

It's hard to believe that another year is almost complete. We've had an eventful year here at DPS, including the day-to-day duties our agency performs, a Legislative session, two special sessions, two hurricanes, one almost-hurricane and several other natural and man-made disasters. No wonder many of us are tired! Thanks for all your hard work this year. You can be sure that next year will be just as busy.

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As I write this, we have 41 employees who are deployed with the military. Please keep them—and their families in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 150 DPS employees have been deployed in service to our nation. Thank you for the sacrifices you have made.

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And, as the holidays draw nearer, I wish for you and your family the happiest of holiday seasons. Please make sure that you and yours drive safely and buckle up.



askthecolonel@txdps.state.tx.us

Short Shots

GPD needs you

The Texas Highway Patrol Division is presently accepting applications for sergeant positions on the Governor Protective Detail. All commissioned department personnel not currently on disciplinary probation are eligible to apply. Applicants should have at least 24 calendar months service as a commissioned Texas peace officer when appointed to a position on the Governor Protective Detail. Contact **Capt. Dale L. Avant** at 512-936-2299 for instructions on the application process.

SWAT Team goes statewide

Tryouts for the DPS SWAT Team will be held mid-January 2006. DPS commissioned personnel statewide are eligible to apply. Applicants must contact Lt. **David Franklin** at 512-424-2200 or 512-497-2471 by Dec. 15 for instructions on the application process.

Task force studies evacuation

Public Safety Commissioner **Carlos Cascos** is serving on a task force studying the evacuations surrounding Hurricane Rita. Gov. Rick Perry appointed the task force, which is meeting in various cities that either evacuated residents or accepted evacuees. The task force wraps up its hearings in mid-December and should submit its report in mid-February.

Feeling historical?

The history of the DPS is featured in a Capitol Visitors Center exhibit from November to February 2006. The displays include artifacts from the Texas Department of Public Safety Historical Museum, including a motorcycle from the agency's earliest

days. The Capitol Visitors Center is located at 112 East 11th St. (southeast corner of the Capitol grounds) in the old General Land Office building. The center's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

Concerns of Police Survivors

Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) will host a "Trauma of Law Enforcement Death" training Jan. 9 to 11 in Dallas. This three-day session provides law enforcement agencies with the tools needed to develop general orders addressing traumatic issues affecting officers and to sensitize them to emotional support needs of a fallen officer's surviving families. Information on how to obtain continuing education units for the class will be available at the site.

There is no charge for the training, however you must register. For more information on this training and the COPS organization go to www.nationalcops.org.

Mile Markers

Promotions

Kevin David Wright, Tr. II, HP Webster to Sgt., Narcotics Svc. Beaumont; **Stephen K. Robertson**, Criminalist VII, Crime Lab Austin to Asst. Manager Field Lab Austin; **Cody Allen Mitcham**, Tr. II, HP Tyler to Sgt., HP Weatherford-North.

Retirements

Linda Gail Hoff, Secretary, Staff Supp. Svc. Austin HQ, 12 yrs., 3 mos., 17 days; **Elsie Mae McCutcheon**, Secretary, OAI Austin HQ, 4 yrs., 7 mos.; **K.B. Hallmark, III**, Prog. Supervisor I, Comm. Svc. Victoria, 29 yrs., 7 mos.; **Andrew Fee Carter**, Sgt., Rangers Houston, 17 yrs., 13 days;

Arnoldo Robert Cano, Sgt., Narcotics Svc., 25 yrs., 6 mos., 9 days; **Donna Ruth Lynch**, Admin. Asst. II, Reg. Licensing Svc. Austin HQ, 21 yrs., 4 mos., 8 days; **Lila Lee Freelen**, Examiner, DL Paris, 20 yrs., 11 mos., 14 days.

Deaths

George A. Rosenkrans, Mechanic, Bldg. Programs Austin (April 1990 – Oct. 2005) died Oct. 1, 2005; **Marjorie Elizabeth Wright**, Operator I, HP Midland (May 2005 – Oct. 2005) died Oct. 22, 2005; **Lois A. Morgan**, ret. Clerk V, Crime Records Austin (Feb. 1975 – Sep. 2004) died Oct. 23, 2005; **Angelina Brewer**, Admin. Asst., DL Houston (Aug. 1, 1978 - Oct. 7, 2005) died Nov. 7, 2005.



On the mend...

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

- Tr. **Robert Villafranca**, HP Austin, injured during traffic stop;
- Tr. **Steven Oliver**, HP Denton, shot in leg by a suspect;
- Tr. **Darryle D. Sparks**, HP Austin, injured during Hurricane Rita;
- Tr. **Moncion Riddick**, HP, Laredo, injured during K-9 training;
- Tr. **Keith Preusse**, HP, Austin, injured during Hurricane Rita;
- Sgt. **Sal Abreo**, Texas Rangers Austin, injured during firearms training;
- Tr. **Michael Windham Jr.**, HP Gainesville, injured during pursuit; and,
- Tr. **Thomas Matthew McGinnis**, HP Corsicana, shot in wrist by suspect.

Good news! Sgt. **Angel Amoles**, Narcotics Corpus Christi, has returned to work full duty.