

EMPG Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 14, 2012
1000-1415

TDEM Preparedness Conference Room, 1033 La Posada, Ste 230, Austin

In Attendance

- Members: Joe Ferro (Chairman/City of Webster); Pat McMacken (Co-Chair City of Irving); Tim Ocnaschek (Secretary/City of Beaumont); Sarah Somers (Grayson County); Chuck Frazier (Brazos County); Frank Patterson (City of Waco; Larry Trevino (City of San Antonio); Billy Ted Smith (Jasper/Newton/Sabine Counties); Patrice Reisen (Travis County); Jeff Kelley (Orange County);
- Liaisons: Miles Tollison (TDEM-State Preparedness Administrator); Lisa Resendez (TDEM- Grant Coordinator); Doris Grisham (TDEM- EMPG Auditor); Heather Baxter (TDEM- Grant Technician); James Kelley (TDEM-Exercise Officer); Greg Pekar (TDEM- Mitigation Section Administrator); Chuck Phinney (TDEM-State Preparedness Coordinator); Vera Hughes (TDEM- Training Officer)

Meeting Recap

Overview of discussion topics:

- General update- Recent FEMA audit showed two best practices from Texas, one being the use of a representative committee addressing EMPG allocations. Future funding may be competitive. 2009 and 2010 EMPG years were closed out. 2012 funding still hasn't been released and no ETA is available. Texas expects to get about \$5.9M for 2012 which is slightly more than originally expected. About nine jurisdictions have already withdrawn from the program due to increasing requirements. Monitoring visits have begun with goal of completing all EMPG programs by 2014. Monitoring focuses on the application itself. Success is gauged by demonstrating compliance with submitted task performances. New forms are being released by TDEM for 2013 EMPG financials reports, so check the website for updates.
- Exercise Report- (James Kelley) Discussed impending policy allowing exercise credit for real world events. Criterion to be distributed once it is approved. Exercise and training should be focused on risks and THIRA.
- Mitigation- (Greg Pekar) Discussion reference mandating an approved hazard mitigation plan, 1. For approval of Annex P (which is required for EMPG eligibility), and/or 2. For EMPG approval since many jurisdictions don't have one. The goal is to encourage hazard planning. Also, No PDM funds were allocated for 2013, and since no major disasters have generated HMGP funding, there are no hazard mitigation planning grants anticipated right now.
- THIRA update- (Chuck Phinney) Only the State and UASI jurisdictions receiving 2011 funding were required to do this risk assessment. Other cities may step up

and do one though. Goal is to identify capability targets, the maximum of maximums, and target that with the POETE cycle. SAA has backed off on attaching THIRA to funding allocations for now as the process is implemented. The COGs are required to submit a State Preparedness Report though, and THIRA is the 1st part of that report. It should be sent out in the next week or so by the SAA.

- 2013 EMPG funding formula- An internal Department audit suggested looking at the high weight given to population. Committee discussed using the next meeting to look at factors, weights of each factor, federal guidance and other factors.
- Training- (Vera Hughes) G610 EM workshop required regardless of education level or experience to provide the Texas eccentricities and help with knowing who does what in Texas. New Advanced PDS courses coming out. A pilot program late 2012 and then spring 2013 will offer all courses in one week in Austin. Then other courses will be provided around the state. 2013 training schedule should be out in next week or so.
- Membership- Discussed need to review past committee decisions. Two new membership requests were presented. Discussed desire to keep committee: a. at or below 20 members, b. representative of all 7 DPS districts; representative of small medium and large size jurisdictions without overloading the committee with large size agencies; attendance requirements; membership should be by individual, not jurisdiction; adjusting position assignments; the good working relationship of the current membership.

Key concerns included:

- EMPG jurisdictions should have an idea of what monitors are focusing on to help agencies prepare for visit and make the visit more efficient

Decisions made: (Recommendations)

- Request for periodic situation/status reports from TDEM to keep committee apprised as appropriate between meetings
- Recommend that annual events cannot be used two years in a row as for exercise credit. Additionally, the committee supported the proposed criteria for real-world credit.
- Recommend adding a sentence in pending EMPG award letters noting that the 2012 allocations were adjusted based on a funding formula, noting the basic factors addressed and keeping it simple. That will help agency administrators understand the funding changes since 2011 and may reduce questions to TDEM.
- Request that TDEM provide a monitoring checklist to help EMPG jurisdictions prepare for visits
- The committee felt EMPG performance should not be affected by whether or not a jurisdiction has an approved hazard Mitigation Plan, and that the funding implications of not having a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation plan was sufficient incentive. Existing Intermediate requirements and requirements for Annex P are sufficient at this time.
- Recommended against adding more members at this time, particularly members from large jurisdictions who already have a number of representatives.

- Recommended having two year terms for special positions and make changes at the meeting held during the State Emergency Management Conference.

Issues requiring further discussion at next meeting:

- Membership and committee charter
- Review of changes needed for 2013

Assignments

Item	Assigned to:	Date due:
Review Committee Charter/guidelines and be prepared to discuss updates needed	All members	Next meeting (October 17)

Next Meeting

Date/time:

- October 17, 2012/ 1000-1500

Location:

- (TDEM Preparedness Conference Room) 1033 La Posada, Ste 230, Austin, Texas

Past Membership Decisions:

June 27, 2011

- Committee rules and guidance approved
 - Decisions made: (Recommendations)
 - • Approval of committee guidelines with:
 - ○ Membership capped with current designees to provide continuity at advanced stage of discussions
 - ○ Remove attendance parameters since members lose a voice if they are not present at voting time. Additionally, there may not need to be many more meetings to accomplish current obligations.

July 2011 committee guidance posted as a separate document (attached)