



# First Responder Advisory Council (FRAC)

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Wednesday, May 13, 2015 Meeting Notes

<b>Attendance</b>		
<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NAME</b>
City of Round Rock	Fire Chief	David Coatney
State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas	Executive Director	Chris Barron
City of Austin	Wireless Communications Manager	Chuck Brotherton
Tarrant County	Fire Marshal	Randy Renois
City of San Marcos	Emergency Management Coordinator	Ken Bell
City of San Antonio	Emergency Management Coordinator	Lawrence Trevino
Texas Division of Emergency Management	TDEM Chief of Staff	Lauren Maher
Texas Division of Emergency Management	State Coordinator, Regional Disaster Finance Program	Shari Ramirez-MacKay
City of Beaumont	Emergency Management Coordinator	Tim Ocnaschek
Hardin County	Emergency Management Coordinator	Teresa Wigley
<b>WELCOME</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introductions</li> <li>▪ Agenda review</li> </ul>		
<b>POST INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (BELL)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Met w/TDEM twice to discuss concept and program evolution.</li> <li>▪ Continue to develop concept and potential beta test, focusing on DPS Region 6. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concentrate on challenges encountered during previous disaster response (e.g., declaration, disaster summary outlines, reimbursement, donations management, economic recovery/community resiliency, environment, tourism).</li> <li>○ Identify triggers for deployment.</li> <li>○ Identify multidisciplinary team member composition (including subject matter expertise, previous disaster experience, credentials).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Determine next steps/timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Notify Texas Association of Counties, Texas Municipal League, and other organizations to help identify personnel.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>TRAINING NEEDS (OCNASCHEK)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Per regional meetings at the Texas Emergency Management Conference, TDEM Preparedness will reshape how training classes and calendars are composed (move to a rolling calendar).</li> </ul>		

- TDEM is only releasing six-month calendars despite EMPG requirements for local jurisdictions to have a three-year calendar.
- Consistent, last-minute schedule changes result in additional constraints.
  - Schedules are not released in preparingtexas until after local jurisdictions have developed their scenarios (which results in potential conflict with the three-year calendar).
  - Internal TDEM promotions resulted in cancelled classes because there was no continuity or succession for qualified instructors.
  - Jurisdictions are experiencing challenges with cancelled courses because of the 15 day notice requirement.
- Decentralizing course offerings to across the state has been extremely beneficial.
- Need TDEM to provide standards detailing requisite instructor qualifications to teach courses locally (e.g., Senior Officials Workshop). Review instructor depth/experience to ensure value added to course deliveries. Consider team teaching (instructor of record w/SME support).
- The EMPG requirement of 30 hours of outreach is difficult for emergency management staff that is only one deep.
- TCOLE issues — TCOLE approved classes were not being reported despite having submitted all requisite documentation, so personnel across several courses were at risk of losing their credentials.

### **EMERGENCY RESPONDER DEFINITION (COATNEY)**

- Current proposed definition: “Emergency responder means federal, state, local, nongovernmental, emergency public safety, fire, law enforcement, emergency response, public works, utility, emergency medical (including hospital) and related personnel, agencies and authorities or personnel specifically activated to address the emergency.”
- Proposed revision: “Emergency responder means any fire, health, law enforcement, medical, public works, utility, and related personnel, as well as agencies, authorities or other technical specialists specifically activated to provide initial response to an emergency.”

### **INFORMATION SHARING/COUNCIL COMMUNICATION/CONNECTIVITY (COATNEY)**

- Coatney communicated with Chief Kidd on the need for direction and communication.
- Committee members were reminded to include Susan Vessell, TDEM facilitator for FRAC, on the committee’s communication (e.g., email correspondence).
- Consider having committee chairs present on each of their respective committee’s activities at each committee meeting as well as a brief from Chief Kidd.
  - FRAC recommendation
    - At either the first meeting or the last meeting of the year, all committees meet collectively with Chief Kidd.
    - Committee chairs will provide an overview on behalf of their respective committee’s scope of responsibility, current programs or projects and future challenges being considered.
    - Request Chief Kidd to present key issues TDEM is working on and possibly

identify which challenges could be addressed by various committees with potential assigning of tasks to committees.

- Consider doodle poll for meeting schedule (i.e., first versus third week of month).
- Continue to identify opportunities for collaboration w/other committees (e.g., mutual aid working group).

### **RDF PROGRAM UPDATE (RAMIREZ-MACKAY)**

- Regional disaster finance coordinators have deployed to Van Zandt County to assist w/cost tracking (retroactive), daily burn rates, and formulas and process for cost calculations, understanding the need to keep emergency measures and public assistance costs separate.
- The program will also concentrate on development of a recovery finance annex/appendix.
- Future program concentrations will include some of local jurisdictions' most frequent or persistent audit findings.
- When local jurisdictions request a class delivery, program staff work through TDEM district coordinators, who bring in local emergency management.

### **OPEN FORUM**

- Crude oil/railroad communications (for further discussion at next meeting)

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Susan Vessell to request Jeff Newbold to attend or provide brief on TDEM Critical Information Systems activities/updates.
- Susan Vessell to request Chuck Phinney to attend next meeting and address training questions/concerns detailed above.
- Susan Vessell to request Todd Early to provide written summary of FirstNet updates.
- Coatney to provide additional information on crude oil and timely railroad communications, specifically prior to or following a derailment.
  - FRAC to assist with identification of available training for first responders and examine if training to manage events is adequate; discuss if current national model used to address risk is sufficient.

### **NEXT MEETING**

- September 8, 2015
- 1000-1400
- TDEM, Governor's Conference Room