



TEXAS EMERGENCY **MANAGEMENT** **ONLINE**

2016 Vol. 63 No. 11

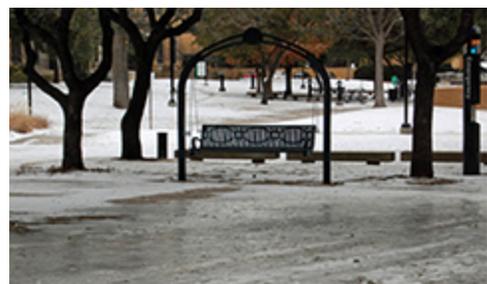
The Texas Division of Emergency Management is accepting article submissions for The Texas Emergency Management Online (TEMO) newsletter. If you have an idea for a topic or would like to submit an article, send an email to TDEM.WEB@dps.texas.gov.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Most of the state has experienced warm temperatures so far this fall. The cold fronts that have made it across the state have brought welcome short bouts of cooler temperatures and a break from the stifling summer heat and humidity.

Texas Winter Outlook

There has been a lot of talk about the potential return of La Niña and what that means for Texas. That is why the National Weather Service Austin/San Antonio provided an update in this month's online newsletter. Be sure to read Meteorologist Aaron Treadway's article for the long version and detailed description. The short version is that the return of La Niña typically indicates warmer and drier weather conditions for the Lone Star State.



I'm sure many of you reading this know the same thing I know – it doesn't take much for winter weather to create treacherous conditions.

Whether or not La Niña develops, we still need to prepare for winter weather. While many find it inconvenient, not preparing can be dangerous. It won't take long to peek inside your home

emergency kit and make sure you have winter supplies stocked. Many of the supplies are needed in any emergency, but there are a few additional items to add such as:

- Sand to keep sidewalks and steps clear of ice and improve traction while driving
- Windshield scraper for your vehicle
- Warm clothes and extra blankets

As long as we're talking about emergency supplies, make sure the basic supplies are stocked too. These include:

- One-week supply of non-perishable food, one gallon of bottled water per person per day, coolers for food and ice storage
- Credit cards and cash (banks and ATMs may not have power)
- Battery-operated radio, NOAA Weather Radio and extra batteries or hand crank radio, cell phones and chargers
- First-aid kit, seven-day supply of prescription medications, copies of prescriptions, special medical items, hearing aids and batteries, extra prescription or spare prescription eyeglasses
- Manual can opener, knife, tools, booster cables, fire extinguisher, duct tape, tarp, rope, flashlight with extra batteries
- Supplies for babies, the elderly, family members with special health care needs, and food and supplies for pets

If severe winter weather does threaten this winter you can monitor broadcast media outlets and NOAA Weather Radio for the latest information. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will provide up-to-date road conditions at [Drive Texas](#) or you can call 1-800-452-9292. Keep in mind that over half of fatalities related to winter weather occur in vehicles, so if you need to get out on the roads when there is ice or snow, take extra precautions and slow down.

It's also a good idea to become familiar with winter weather terminology. Visit [NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation](#) to learn the difference between what winter weather watches and warnings mean.



There is one last thing I want to touch on, and unfortunately, we see this every year – fires caused by space heaters. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) from 2009-2013, "Space heaters, whether portable or stationary accounted for two of every

five (40%) of home heating fires and four out of five (84%) of home heating deaths. For safety tips on how to properly use space heaters, visit the [NFPA website](#). Remember, fire isn't the only cause of preventable deaths from alternate heat sources. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says, "Every year, at least 430 people die in the U.S. from accidental carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning." For tips on how to prevent CO poisoning, visit the [CDC website](#).

Friendly Reminder...

It's still not too late to get your flu shot! This was the message last month! Don't forget that with few exceptions, the CDC recommends a flu shot for everyone over six months of age. Let's all do our part to help keep Texas healthy!

Links:

[Winter Weather Awareness](#)

[Build an Emergency Kit](#)

Chief W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM[®] TEM[®]

Follow [@chiefkidd](#) on Twitter

TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TEAM (TEMAT) PROGRAM

The Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team (TEMAT) program is an initiative of the Governors, Texas Homeland Security, 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan. Unlike many state projects, the TEMAT program is based on best practices shared from the local, proletarian level.

The programs origin actually began several years ago with the Bastrop wildfires of 2011, the 2015 Central Texas flooding, and culminating with the December 2015 tornadoes in the Dallas/Fort Worth region.

Texans have always assisted their neighbors in times of need. It is one of the defining characteristics of this great state that speaks to our distant heritage. The magnitude of these significant events highlighted the need to support and augment local emergency management efforts. In particular was the urgent and daunting requisite to begin the long-term recovery process.

The city of San Marcos, Bastrop County, and Hays County rallied around one another to bring resolve to overwhelming circumstances in Central Texas. Comparably, Dallas/Fort Worth experienced similar challenges in North Texas with the impact of several jurisdictions.

Kenneth Bell (2016), Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) for the city of San Marcos states that, "Many jurisdictions are stretched beyond capacity in large scale events and need trained, seasoned emergency managers to provide aid in the daily emergency management activities that will eventually translate to long-term recovery operations that can go into months, and even years, after the disaster."

Collectively, Josh Roberts (2016), EMC for the city of Lewisville provides a vision stating, "An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Support Team offers the framework for a professional emergency management team that can be quickly mobilized to support their fellow emergency managers and EOCs during response, relief, and immediate recovery efforts."

The lessons learned and shared from these local entities provided a spring board to launch the new TEMAT program for the state of Texas. TEMAT is the forward response and recovery team for the Texas Department of Public Safety. The program serves as a state resource with multi-disciplined, multi-talented, and highly qualified members. A TEMAT member is a subject matter expert with a mastery of all phases of emergency management. TEMAT is deployed under the direction of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, as required to support local entities in the event of a catastrophic incident or event. The response teams are recruited from various disciplines at the local level, and coordinated with other state agencies.

The purpose of the program is to deploy an experienced, cohesive team to an event, incident, or threatened venue with an effective and coordinated response in support of a local EOC or Disaster District. The type of team deployed will be appropriate to the size, scope, and complexity of the situation.

The flexibility of TEMAT offers adaptability for a wide range of scenarios. During the response phase of a disaster, TEMAT can assist a region in defining the area of operations, impacts, and in determining the potential resources needed to support the incident or event. Disasters are fluid and dynamic events requiring a common operating picture for situational awareness. TEMAT can objectively evaluate the overall situation and provide guidance to local officials.

Obviously disasters require large amounts of varied resources requiring logistical support. TEMAT will work behind the scenes to ensure resources and their operational objectives are achieved. The environment created by disasters necessitates the proper collection, sharing, and flow of information. TEMAT facilitates this exchange of information in a timely and organized manner.

Anyone with experience in emergency management will tell you that one of the biggest challenges during disasters is the financial element. TEMAT will establish financial tracking processes to assure that the cost of an event can be compiled into daily cost tracking reports and used to support the completion of [Disaster Summary Outlines](#). Reporting correct financial information is imperative for the overall future health of the impacted area.

The planning component of disaster response also presents unique encounters. Planning consists of three rudiments; identifying exactly what happened, what is currently happening, and what will happen in the future. TEMAT can support planning and aid with enhanced and measured decisions.

One of the most overwhelming responsibilities of disaster response is donations and material management. The general population has good intentions and wants to provide assistance for their communities or neighbors. Experience has demonstrated time and time again that if the correct attention is not directed toward proper organization, it will only contribute to the overall disaster. Similar constraints are found with the need to manage and organize volunteers. TEMAT has the experience and resources to mitigate anticipated difficulties with donations and volunteers.

Texas leads the nation in disaster responses. In fact, records indicate that on average, Texas experiences a major disaster every eight months. Our state is diverse with a varied population, geography, and weather. Even the ways city and county governments operate are distinct among themselves. While Texas certainly has its share of large cities, the majority of Texas is rural. Many times, jurisdictions find themselves understaffed with limited resources.

For example, an EF-4 tornado touches down in a rural area with a population of 4,500. This town has a volunteer fire department of 20, a police department of 6, a sheriff's office of 6, an EMS agency of 4, and a public works department of 4. There is no doubt that first responders from the region will emerge for the response. However, when the lights and sirens cease, search and rescue is complete, and the proverbial fires are extinguished, most of these agencies will return home. Unfortunately, the impacted jurisdiction is left to pick of the pieces.

When you look at the Incident Command System (ICS) or the National Incident Management System (NIMS), it is an operations based structure. While ICS or NIMS is beneficial and adds incredible organization for an incident, it has failed to address the immediate needs of recovery initiation. The experiences of San Marcos, Hays County, Bastrop County, and the D/FW Metroplex have demonstrated that early recovery efforts need to run simultaneous with response.

D/FW EOC Support Team working at the Command Post for the Multi-Agency Resource Center in Garland 2015. (Photo courtesy of Josh Roberts, EMC for city of Lewisville)



The TEMAT program is a grassroots program that exists today because of the foresight and vision of several local emergency managers with the fortitude to pursue excellence in customer service for the people of this great state. Furthermore, the North Central Texas Council of Governments has been diligently supporting the EOC Support Team concept in the D/FW area as a regional project. With this mindset, they understand that our constituents are more than customers; they are our friends, co-workers, and more importantly our families. Some will ask, "What is the mission of TEMAT?" Quite simply stated, it is to *leave a jurisdiction better than when we arrived.*

TEMAT strives to provide a consistent and professional approach to emergency management, while at the same time, assisting our emergency management partners across the state with experienced coaches and mentors.

"No one gets an iron-clad guarantee of success. Certainly, factors like opportunity, luck and timing are important. But the backbone of success is usually found in old-fashioned, basic concepts like hard work, determination, good planning and perseverance."

-Mia Hamm

Retired American professional soccer player, two-time Olympic gold medalist and FIFA Women's World Cup Winner

LA NINA UPDATE AND TEXAS WINTER OUTLOOK

Meteorologist Aaron Treadway, National Weather Service Austin/San Antonio

La Niña Update

What is La Niña?

La Niña occurs when there are unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific and off of the South American west coast. This usually occurs during the fall and winter months and has impacts across the Northern Hemisphere.

What does La Niña mean for Texas?

La Niña for Texas usually translates into both warmer and drier than normal conditions. When La Niña (part of El Niño-Southern Oscillation, or ENSO) is coupled with two other global Oscillations, the Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation (AMO) and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), there is an even clearer picture of what to expect across Texas. For most of Texas when there is a negative PDO and positive AMO (the current conditions), this is associated with drier than normal and drought conditions about 45% of the time. There are obvious exceptions to this; for example, parts of Central Texas saw massive amounts of rainfall from October to December in 1998, although we were in La Niña during that time.

For more information on the Pacific Decadal Oscillation visit the [Climate Data Guide/PDO](#).

For more information on the Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation visit the [Climate Data Guide/AMO](#).

What does the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) say about the current La Niña?

While the Northern Hemisphere is currently in ENSO-Neutral conditions, as of September there are negative sea surface temperature anomalies expanding across the Equatorial Pacific. This has prompted the CPC to issue a La Niña watch with a 70% chance of La Niña developing over the Northern Hemisphere during the fall of 2016. In addition, there is about a 55% chance that it will persist into the winter of 2016-2017. Most of the climate models show that the sea surface temperatures will continue to cool through December and possibly into January before beginning to warm again. This is the reason for the issuance of the La Niña Watch by the CPC.

To read the Weekly ENSO Updates or the full ENSO Diagnostic Discussion visit the [Climate Prediction Center](#).

Winter Outlook

Based on the current ENSO and other global conditions, the forecast from the CPC for the Meteorological Winter months of December through February are greater chances of above normal temperatures and greater chances of below normal precipitation. The graphical forecasts

TEXAS INTRASTATE FIRE MUTUAL SYSTEM

The Texas A&M Forest Service helps support the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual System (TIFMAS) in many ways. Grant funding is available to local fire departments and recently three were selected to receive more than \$ 700,000 in grants to purchase new wildland firefighting vehicles.

"We are honored to provide the grant awards today. TIFMAS is and has proven to be a tremendously valuable asset in times of crisis. As an agency, it's our goal to continue building partnerships with fire departments throughout the state, so that we may effectively accomplish our shared mission to protect life and property," said Jason Keiningham Texas A&M Forest Service Capacity Building department head.

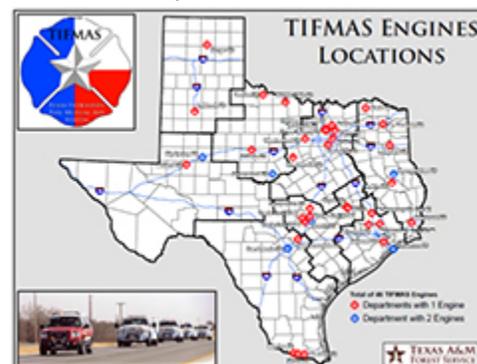
The three fire departments receiving new firefighting vehicles from the grants are Amarillo, McKinney and Round Rock. Notice of the awards have been sent to each department. After official acceptance from the cities, the fire departments will be able to receive the vehicles.

These three fire departments will agree to house and keep these wildland firefighting vehicles (officially described as Type 3 and Type 6 engines, and tactical water tenders) and send staffing to the emergency in the state of Texas. The normal response is for wildfires that have escaped initial attack, however, these units have been used for floods and wind events as well.

"The Round Rock Fire Department prides itself in being able to help others in the community and those throughout the state of Texas. At times when the call for help comes out in the state, we have multiple trained and qualified personnel ready to assist, but we have to look at our resources (apparatus) and decide if we are in a position to send needed equipment. By acquiring a TIFMAS Type 6, this guarantees that we have the equipment needed and ready to respond when the request comes out," said Shane Glaiser, a Round Rock Training Battalion Chief.

The TIFMAS program benefits participating career fire departments by providing firefighting equipment, training and vehicles since its inception in 2011. The fire departments maintain and mobilize this equipment to support statewide and local emergency response to incidents when called to respond by the state.

"TIFMAS is a great program. I have had the chance to work with TIFMAS resources on wildfires and have seen firsthand the impact they have in the control of wildfires," said Phillip Truitt, Texas A&M Forest Service Communications Specialist.



The Texas A&M Forest Service also supports volunteer fire department (VFD) programs as well. Through numerous programs that provided assistance for equipment and training as well as excess property (fire apparatus) the agency encourages VFDs to consider each of these programs and apply when eligible.

More on [TIFMAS](#)

More on [VFDs](#)

TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BRIEFS, TIPS AND LINKS

THE ONE AND ONLY TEXAS WIND BOOM

Richard Martin, Staff Writer, October 3, 2016, MIT Technology Review

With nearly 18,000 megawatts of capacity, Texas, if it were a country, would be the sixth-largest generator of wind power in the world, right behind Spain. Now Texas is preparing to add several thousand megawatts more—roughly equal to the wind capacity that can be found in all of California. Most of these turbines are in west Texas, one of the most desolate and windy regions in the continental United States. Fifteen years ago, when the groundwork for this boom was being set, this area had little but cotton and grain farms, oil fields, scrub and dry riverbeds, and small towns that were mostly withering.



[From the MIT Technology Review](#)

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DIDN'T EVACUATE BEFORE HURRICANE MATTHEW. WHY NOT?

Jennifer Horney, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Texas A&M University, The Conversation, October, 16, 2016



As Hurricane Matthew approached the Atlantic coast earlier this month, more than 2.5 million people were told to evacuate in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. Further orders were issued last week in eastern North Carolina, where devastating floods have killed 26 people.

Many residents followed these orders, but others stayed in place. In South Carolina, for example, estimates indicate that about 35 percent of residents under evacuation orders actually left their homes

[From The Conversation](#)

WILL TETHERED DRONE TECHNOLOGY CHANGE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Andrea Rumbaugh, Houston Chronicle, October 18, 2016

On October 17 was the first time Intuitive Machines demonstrated its new tethered drone technology. The company is marketing the drones for a variety of uses, such as monitoring security at public events, surveying refineries for damage, helping firefighters assess a burning house, and providing Wi-Fi and cellphone service after a major disaster.

The demonstration was given from its new location at the Houston Spaceport, where Intuitive Machines is the first tenant in a building that, ideally, will help develop a cluster of aerospace companies near the spaceport.

From Emergency Management



October 2016 Credits

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/CHIEF

W. Nim Kidd

DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Paula Logan

Tom Polonis

Sandra Fulenwider

EDITORS

Suzannah Jones

Susan Vessell

WEBSITE

DPS Web Team

CONTRIBUTORS

Aaron Treadway

National Weather Service Austin/San Antonio

Jim Linardos

Texas A&M Forest Service

Russell (Russ) Marshall

Texas Division of Emergency Management

Tim Loveland

Texas Division of Emergency Management

Cedric Scott

Texas Division of Emergency Management