



## **TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ONLINE**

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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, contact [Mike Jones](#) at 512-424-7050.

### **Message from the Chief – February 2015**

Although Texas is famous for its sunny weather, no other state has experienced more deadly and costly severe weather events. Each year, the Texas Division of Emergency Management along with the National Weather Service, local officials and emergency managers across the state join together in a public awareness campaign to encourage all Texans to prepare for severe weather events.

**This year Severe Weather Awareness Week in Texas is March 1-7, 2015.** Most long-time Texans are aware that severe weather events can happen anywhere and at any time in the state. But, tragically, too many people are also unprepared when it happens to them.

The population of the state is ever-changing. More and more people are moving here from around the country and the world. Newcomers to the state may not be aware just how fast a tornado can form or how fast our rivers and streams can rise during a flash flood. This is why it is important to keep reminding our communities about the potential dangers and threats they face and how to ensure they are prepared for them.

[Severe Weather Awareness Week materials are available on our website](#) for you to use to help get the message out in your community. There are materials providing tips on conducting your own local awareness campaigns, as well as working with Texas media, civic groups and organizations, business leaders and the education community.

Because of your continued support of these statewide efforts, our communities are more aware of and prepared for the dangers of severe weather events. Thank you for your dedicated support of this key initiative and everything you do for our state.

Chief W. Nim Kidd, CEM<sup>®</sup> TEM

### Texas Horseback Emergency Response Team

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is the state's lead agency for all animal issues in disasters, whether natural or man-made. The TAHC is also the primary response agency for foreign and emerging diseases in livestock and poultry. Prior to a disease or disaster event, the TAHC conducts planning, coordinates trainings, and works to ensure the state's preparedness to protect the livestock and poultry industry, as well as household pets.



**Dr. Ellis with Chief Kidd**

In 2012, the Executive Director of the Texas Animal Health Commission, Dr. Dee Ellis, created the newest addition to Texas' animal response capabilities by forming the Texas Horseback Emergency Response Team (HERT). The team is comprised of TAHC and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) staff who volunteer to assist in emergency response in the aftermath of a disaster. The TAHC/USDA mounted response team

is the only one of its kind in the United States. The team is well versed in performing damage

assessments, identifying stray and loose livestock, rounding up and transporting identified animals to secure locations or back to their owners.



The response team also assists in capturing animals which pose disease threats that have strayed into Texas from Mexico. They provide public safety protection and are prepared to assist other states upon request.

In the spring and summer of 2014, the team performed multiple roundups to catch displaced Mexican-origin free ranging cattle on the Texas side of the river. These cattle continually pose a

threat to the health of Texas livestock by potentially spreading diseases such as tuberculosis and brucellosis, which are commonly found in Mexico.

The HERT recently received the Emergency Management Association of Texas award for excellence in Emergency Management. The TAHC and USDA look forward to blazing the trail for similar type response teams around the country.



The HERT has become a tremendously prepared team, providing many capabilities for the state of Texas and is proud to serve as a strong template for other agencies with similar responsibilities.



# **TERC HORSEBACK EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**



**COMBINED HEAT AND POWER FOR IMPROVED RESILIENCY:  
APPLY FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

A Texas law passed in 2013 ([HB 1864](#)) requires all critical facilities to evaluate

installing a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) or cogeneration system before any new construction or major renovation, as a way to boost resiliency during major storms or other grid outages. In support of this requirement, technical and financial CHP screenings are being offered at no cost here in Texas by the U.S. Department of Energy's (U.S. DOE) [Southwest CHP Technical Assistance Partnership](#) (CHP TAP), with support from South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource ([SPEER](#)).

CHP strengthens reliability and resiliency by generating necessary back up power during blackouts caused by storms or other adverse events and continues to generate electricity and thermal energy efficiently the rest of the year as well. Properly designed CHP systems can provide power, hot water, space heating, and cooling more reliably, efficiently, sustainably, and at lower costs than traditional supply systems. In addition a CHP system can be a good compliment to intermittent renewables such as photovoltaics.

When designed to operate either alongside or independent from the grid, CHP systems meet specific reliability needs and address risk profiles required by different facility types, and in many cases can be used in place of diesel backup generators.

Key Emergency Management Applications for CHP:

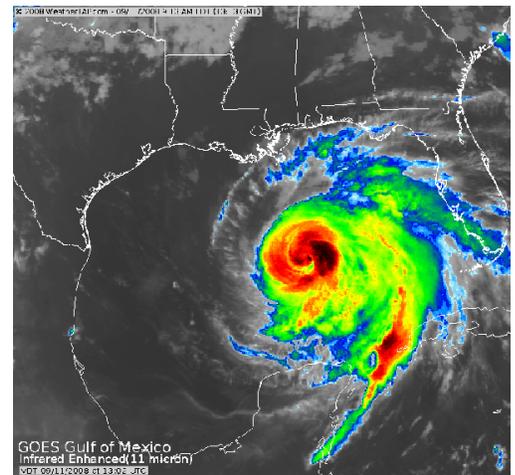
- Hospitals and Healthcare Centers
- Water/Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Police, Fire, and Public Safety
- Centers of Refuge (Often Schools Or Universities)
- Military/National Security
- Food Distribution Facilities
- Telecommunication and Data Centers
- Correctional Facilities

Comparison to Diesel Backup Generators

CHP not only provides electricity and thermal energy during power outages, but also provides continuous benefits to host facilities year-round. CHP can provide daily operating cost savings, offsetting the capital costs of traditional backup generators. A comparison of each system is provided in the table below:



Texas A&M's CHP system is designed to remain fully functional during a power outage, ensuring that critical operations can continue without interruption. The University has provided emergency housing for people endangered or displaced by storms including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



CHP provides power during grid outages caused by storms or other adverse events, and continues to generate electricity and thermal energy efficiently the rest of the year as well.

**CHP versus Backup Generators**

	<b>CHP</b>	<b>Backup Generators</b>
<b>System Performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed and maintained to run continuously</li> <li>• Improved performance reliability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires regular maintenance to ensure continued viability</li> <li>• Typically only used during emergencies</li> </ul>
<b>Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saves money on energy bills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incur costs</li> </ul>
<b>Fuel Supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural gas infrastructure typically not impacted by severe weather</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited by on-site storage</li> </ul>
<b>Energy Produced</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity</li> <li>• Thermal (heating, cooling, hot/chilled water, steam)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity only</li> </ul>
<b>Transition from Grid Power</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be configured for “flicker-free” transfer from grid connection to “island mode”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lag time may impact critical system performance</li> </ul>
<b>Emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically natural gas fueled, with lower emissions than diesel</li> <li>• Can run continuously year-round</li> <li>• High energy efficiency and sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonly diesel-fueled, with higher emissions than natural gas</li> <li>• Non-emergency run-time-hours limited by emissions</li> </ul>

**Is CHP Right for Your Facility?**

CHP can provide enormous benefits to large energy users, utilities, communities, and other stakeholders, but it is not the right fit for every application. Our CHP experts can help you determine if CHP is worth a closer look for your facility, both technically and financially. The first step is talking through a series of screening questions, combined with a first-cut qualification assessment of the economic and technical viability of CHP at your site, using basic site information. We help you evaluate if energy costs, thermal loads, site operating hours, and other key site characteristics show potential for a good, cost-effective CHP project. If the screening and site qualification suggests good CHP potential and you are interested in pursuing the CHP opportunity, we can provide support for a more detailed analysis.



**Your Facility is a Good Candidate for CHP if...**

- You are concerned about power reliability, your facility operates for more than 3,000 hours/year, and the facility has thermal loads throughout the year (such as steam, hot water, chilled water, hot air, etc.).

- Your facility has an existing central plant, and/or you expect to replace, upgrade, or retrofit central plant equipment within the next three to five years.
- You anticipate a facility expansion or new construction project within the next three to five years.

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### The Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team

The Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team (Texas A&M VET) is the only state-level veterinary medical care provider in Texas' Emergency Response Plan. In addition to being the nation's largest in terms of daily patient capacity and equipment cache, the team also is the most sophisticated in terms of the depth and breadth of veterinary medical care provided in a disaster situation—a powerful combination of personnel and equipment that personifies the prowess of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) throughout the state of Texas and beyond during times of disaster. The mission of the Veterinary Emergency Team has multiple facets, including:

- Robust but scalable response capabilities to meet the needs of the state from the smallest search and rescue mission to the largest manmade or natural disaster.
- Critical educational and outreach efforts developed to improve emergency preparedness and response capabilities across the state.
- Commitment to discovery and development of new knowledge in the field of preparedness and response.
- Devotion to service of our state, our college, our students, and our team.



*Above: Capacity - The Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team maintains one of the largest and most sophisticated caches of equipment dedicated to veterinary medical response in the country. The equipment is truck and trailer based with medical, surgical, laboratory, and command/control platforms available to deploy depending on the size of the deployment.*



In the fulfillment of our response missions, the Texas A&M VET has deployed to a variety of disasters, including the Bastrop Complex Wildfires, the West TX fertilizer plant explosion, 2014 Ebola response and has supported multiple canine search teams deployed to assist in missing persons searches.

The Texas A&M VET has also maintained an aggressive education and outreach program aimed at transferring emergency preparedness and response knowledge gained through our deployment experience to the citizens, veterinarians, and emergency response officials of the state of Texas.

*Left: Ebola - Two members of the Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team leadership, Dr. Wesley Bissett and Dr. Deb Zoran, were part of the response to the dog exposed to Ebola in Dallas, TX. Working collaboratively with other response organizations, Drs. Bissett and Zoran developed the nation's first standard operating guidelines for responding to animals exposed to Ebola (and other infectious diseases).*

Through collaborative partnerships with counties and communities around the state, the team engages in the following activities:

- Working with county officials to develop emergency response standard operating guidelines;
- Providing web-based templates for standard operating guideline development;
- Presenting cross-discipline, continuing education presentations; and
- Assisting other Texas A&M System schools with development of animal related emergency response plans and guidelines.

Beyond invaluable statewide service, the Texas A&M VET provides one-of-a-kind educational experiences for fourth-year veterinary medical students, whose training includes working side-by-side with emergency managers, animal issues committees, Texas Animal Health Commission personnel, agricultural extension specialists, and veterinarians to help develop standard operating guidelines for animal sheltering, evacuation and veterinary medical operations. In addition to more robust preparation, this Texas A&M VET-piloted program has helped initiate new policy—the nation’s first required clinical experience in veterinary medical emergency preparedness and response.

Cutting edge simulation techniques are used to create an exceptional educational environment for students learning how to navigate and work in a disaster environment. The simulations and partnerships with county officials provide the opportunity to teach students essential life skills such as leadership, teamwork, communications, and an appreciation for diversity.



*Above: Radiation - The members of the Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team are committed to holding regular training exercises to hone important response skills. For the past two years, this has involved working through difficult scenarios involving both working dogs and companion animals impacted by a radiation hazard. This training has provided the opportunity for the team to participate on a national stage in developing response protocols for the decontamination of animals involved in a radiation event.*

Currently, the team is exploring the feasibility of exporting the curriculum for the rotation, making it accessible to students at other institutions. These efforts will ensure that future generations of veterinarians are equipped to address the issues that arise when animals are impacted by disaster.

Through innovative educational experiences, engaging outreach efforts, and deploying a highly-trained and equipped team of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and support personnel, the Texas A&M VET is the leader in ensuring that animal issues are addressed in times of disaster.

**America's PrepareAthon!**

- National PrepareAthon! Day is April 30, 2015 and will revolve around taking the actions to prepare for these six specific hazards:
- [Earthquake](#)
- [Flood](#)
- [Hurricane](#)
- [Tornado](#)
- [Wildfire](#)
- [Winter Storm](#)

**Campaign Goals**

- The goal of this campaign is to increase the number of individuals who:
- Understand which disasters could happen in their community
- Know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage
- Take action to increase their preparedness
- Participate in community resilience planning

**What can I do?**

- Register to participate in America's PrepareAthon! and provide details about the activities you're planning.
- Plan your own local community or organizational preparedness event
- Participate in discussion forums online with like-minded community members
- Learn the actions to take for disaster preparedness and practice them!

**Where can I find more information?**

For more information about disasters, preparedness, and ways to get involved in America's PrepareAthon!, [click here](#) to access the America's PrepareAthon! Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions.

**Energy Department Launches Mobile App for Energy Emergencies**

Lantern Live to Help Users Find Critical Information during Power Disruptions  
WASHINGTON – The Department of Energy launched a mobile app called Lantern Live that helps consumers quickly find and share critical information about nearby gas stations and power outages during energy emergencies. The app builds on the Obama Administration's commitment to improve national energy preparedness in the face of extreme weather and other events that can result in power disruptions. "The Energy Department is committed to the continued advancement of innovative technologies that will help our communities become more resilient and recover more quickly from emergencies," said Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. "Lantern Live has the potential to be a convenient tool for people during and after severe weather events."

Lantern Live allows users to report the operational status of local gas stations, find fuel, and look up power outage maps from local utilities, while also accessing useful tips and guidelines. With the launch of this app, the Energy Department is testing the power of crowdsourcing and open data in disaster and recovery.

Future releases of Lantern Live will likely include the ability to crowdsource information on the status of gas stations via standardized hashtags for social media. Lantern Live's code will also be open source, allowing technology innovators and

entrepreneurs to reuse the code in their own apps, explore new opportunities for other sectors and applications, and further leverage the power of open data. Built in response to lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy, Lantern Live also builds on the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's Disaster Response and Recovery Initiative, which is designed to accelerate the development of open data for power outages. This app also helps lay the groundwork for emerging best practices of mobile app development across the federal government.

[Lantern Live](#) is currently available free for Android devices through Google Play. For information on additional Administration resiliency efforts announced today through the President's State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, please click [HERE](#).

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**February 2015: Credits**

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