

WELCOME TO HURRICANE SEASON 2011

IS THE RESPONDER
COMMUNITY PREPARED

Presented by George Garrett EMC

Planning is the Key to an Effective Response

- Refresh your knowledge of the Incident Command System and its structure.
- Read and understand yours and your departments role in emergency preparation and response as outlined in the Emergency Management Plan .
- Understand the role of your department as outlined in the specific annexes that your department is responsible for.
- Have a personal and family emergency plan,

Do You Know What these Mean?

- **ICS?** Incident Command System (a management tool).
- **EMC?** Emergency Management Coordinator (Acts as the Mayor or County Judges Representative to Coordinate the Response to, Recovery From and the Mitigation of a natural or man made Disaster).
- **DDC?** Disaster District Committee (Chair) DPS District Highway Patrol Captain. The person who can activate State resources.

Do You Know What these Mean?

- **RLO?** Regional Liaison Officer (Is the conduit to the DDC through the Local and County EMC's)
- **IC?** Incident Commander (person in charge of the response to the emergency and all resources that respond)
- **NGO?** Non-governmental organization (such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, Baptist Men's group)

Do You Know What these Mean?

- **H – hour?** Time to tropical force winds (39 mph) reach the coast line, this time frame is used to plan for and deploy necessary resources to the valley and to plan for evacuation of the Valley. Time line begins at H -120 hours (5 days out)

Preparation

- Preparation begins at H -120 hrs with conference calls between the State of Texas, National Weather Service and Local Jurisdictions and involves a limited number of people at the local level. Usually these calls are attended by the local and county EMC's who intern brief their superiors and make recommendations based on the threat.

- At H -96 hrs preparation begins in earnest with greater planning detail and preparation to begin preparing the community for a possible hurricane strike. This would include briefings of elected and senior city officials as to the actual threat and explanation of the action time line and its implementation.
- H -72 Action Plan is put into effect such as sand bagging operations for distribution to Weslaco residents and business. Public Service Messages go out encouraging residents to prepare for hurricane strike.

Responsibilities of Department Heads

- Once an action plan is put into effect it is incumbent on all department heads to track man hours and resources used in the preparation for the hurricane. This is a must so that the City can be reimbursed by FEMA should there be a disaster declaration. An employee who works an 8 hour day regularly is not reimbursable labor, but if that employee works 4 hours of regular time and is assigned 4 hours to hurricane preparation then those 4 hours are reimbursable but must be separated on the time sheet.

- The same holds true for any supplies used in preparation for the hurricane along with resources. Example if a vehicle is used in the normal course of business for an 8 hour day that is not reimbursable. If on the other hand it is used to haul sand for 4 hours to fill sand bags then the drivers time and use of the truck are reimbursable but you must use the FEMA vehicle description for the truck such type 2 truck dumb.
- Each department must keep accurate and complete records with date, time, resources and personnel by name and title who are involved in preparation, response to and recovery from a declared disaster.
- Finance Department must review and keep all records relating to potential reimbursement by FEMA for any actions taken to prepare for, respond to and recovery from a declared natural disaster.

Things We Should Do Now

- Pre-fill, Palletize and Store Sand Bags
- Pre-determine Sand Bag Distribution locations.
- Clean Drainage Ditches
- Begin Citizen Education for Hurricane Season 2011
- Take pre-hurricane photos of known flood areas to record current condition of infrastructure.
- Designate Damage Assessment Teams and assign area of responsibility (AOR) by city quadrants

- Inspect all City Vehicles for condition and serviceability
- Inspect and begin service cycle on all City Emergency Generators
- Implement a Social Media Warning System and inform the Citizens of its existence and how to use it.
- Create Hurricane Information site on City Web Site.
- Complete basic Web ICS training of City Employees who have not received this training
- <http://training.fema.gov/IS> then go to NIMS Courses.
- Trim trees on city property to reduce potential damage to structures and power lines.
- Brief your employos about hurricane season and keep them informed.

Take Care of Your Own

- Make sure that you and your family have a “Family Emergency Plan”
- Plan whether or not your family will stay in the area or go to stay with friends or family out of the area. Remember you will more than likely have to work.
- Insure that your family has adequate food and water to last at least five (5) days without assistance from the outside.
- Insure that all medications that are required or desired be included in your family emergency kit.
- Make sure your vehicle's full of fuel power may be disrupted and there will be no way to pump gas.
- Have contact numbers for family and friends so that you can contact them to let them know you and your family are ok.
- Plan for your pets, they need food water and shelter also, don't just turn them loose

- **Readiness and taking care of people are the foundation upon which everything is built. The rest is secondary.**