



REM Meeting

October 4, 2019

9:00am-9:30am: Networking

9:30am-11:30am: Meeting

Fort Worth Office of Emergency Management

275 W. 13th Street, Fort Worth 76102. JEOC Coordination Room.

❖ **Welcome and Introductions**

- TJ Manor, REM Chair

- The December meeting will be the last meeting with TJ serving president. The current board will move up in positions, which creates an opening for Secretary. Please email any of the current board members to make a nomination. We will be electing a new secretary at the December meeting.

❖ **Presentation**

- **EM Response to Dallas Crane Collapse**
 - Travis Houston, City of Dallas

- On Sunday June 9th at 2pm a storm came through the area with wind in excess of 70mph lasting about 15 minutes.
- In downtown, skyscrapers under construction lost debris, there was a lot of tree debris, broken windows, downed billboards, downed and nonfunctional traffic signs, etc. There was a high call volume and reports of collapsed buildings. Since the storm was on Sunday, not many people were downtown so no injuries.
- Primary 911 communications went down and had to relocate to backup facility they had in place. This was the first time to test/use the backup site.
- Travis watched videos on Twitter for quick situational awareness and responded to EOC.
- Crane collapse downtown hit an apartment complex which killed one and injured 5. There were 500 units in the complex and 200 units were destroyed or structurally unfit.
- Dallas Fire Rescue (DFR) declared the event as an MCI which brought in a lot of resources. UAS response team helped the FD with the scope of crane collapse. Drone footage gave great footage of the roof/parking garage impact which was unclear at first.
- Many people were home in impacted apartments. Population were young, single professionals who would likely not stay in a shelter. Residents were directed to the City owned Latino Cultural Center across the street from the complex which was set up as a respite center. Center operated for 5 days; people came and signed in and the center helped them find hotels for the night paid for by apartment management. The focus was finding new apartments for displaced people and apartment management paid deposit, app fee, and first month rent. Residents could grab essentials from certain apartments with a PD escort.
- The crane collapse was an OSHA lead investigation. Much of the building was in an exclusion zone for the investigation. Contractors were hired to inventory and package apartment belongings and store them in a warehouse for residents. They ran into issues with taking guns out of apartments and finding narcotics. Dallas City attorney did not allow



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Dallas PD to remove guns, so a contractor come in to remove them.

- Crane removal took place in nine steps. When removed, more units became accessible but had no power for 3 months. Work was completed on Sept. 25. One main street was closed down for entire operation.
- There are still 297 cars in the damaged parking garage. Plan is to bring in a crane to remove the cars which will take a long time. Big insurance companies paid out for the cars, however, some smaller companies did not pay out.
- 41% of traffic signals had no power. 1000 temporary stop signs were purchased. The work cost over \$2.8 million.
- 650,000 cubic yards of storm debris were generated. It will take years to get the trees back that they lost; the White Rock area lost 1/3 of all trees which is estimated to cause an average 5-degree temp increase. City bulk pickup was suspended for two months. This operation required 35 contractors which is the most contractors the city has ever had to hire at one time. The City scrambled to find property to use as debris staging; asked TXDOT for assistance with space
- Takeaways:
 - The relation between lifelines like transportation and communications and deciding what needs to be brought back up first.
 - The crane fell in a spot that had access to more resources which made recovery go more smoothly.
 - High turnover makes the administrative process hard; Dallas is still working to get internal documentation done.
 - Training and exercise and experience played a major role. The response went well because everyone already trains and works well together. Dallas wishes they had done debris management tabletops to formulate a debris management plan.

❖ Member Updates

- TDEM Updates
 - On Sept 1, TDEM transitioned to stand alone agency under A&M. The new structure that was emailed to the region by Josh Roberts.
 - TDEM sent an email to with updated email addresses and contact info for new region hires.
- NCTCOG Updates
 - Updates attached in email.
- CEM Mentorship Program
 - If you are interested in attending the CEM Mentorship meetings, contact Shawna Lemley.
- EM Credentialing Update
 - Irish Hancock, City of Arlington OEM
 - Passed legislation authorized a working group from people around state to come up with credentialing and training for EM's in the state. Our region is well represented.
 - The group has met 4 times. They are trying to work through if its licensing or credentialing and what it will look like.
 - Goal is to have recommendations ready by April of 2020 and put up to public comment.
 - They are meeting in November again and will give more detailed update at December REM meeting.



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❖ Break

❖ Presentation

- **American Red Cross: Incident Response and Expectations**
 - Jen Edwards, American Red Cross

- The American Red Cross (ARC) is designed to help people in times of need. This presentation is to clearly outline what the red cross response can do.
- ARC has a disaster action team always on call. Typically respond to house fires, but can respond to isolated event damage (lightning strike for example). The responding Fire Department or resident calls the ARC dispatch to request aid. A team gets deployed and on scene within 2 hours is goal. Financial assistance is given on scene so recovery begins quickly.
- The ARC also has a disaster relief operation for larger events like the widespread June storm. They got many calls for assistance, so the operation becomes disaster relief. Large apartment fires also fall here. Response starts with opening mass care shelters to provide shelter and food while an ARC damage assessment is done. Assessments can take a few days. Case work then begins after that, so it's a slower process.
- Everyone qualifies who has verifiable disaster caused loss. Maintenance issues do not count like power outage, clogged pipes, burst pipe flooding, etc. People must provide proof of identity and residence (apartment management often help with this). This is to prevent fraud and has nothing to do with citizenship.
- The ARC provides financial assistance on a card for clients to use on what they deem they need. They are in charge of their own recovery. ARC can provide comfort kits.
- Other services:
 - Health services to help replace medications, medical equipment, eyeglasses, etc.
 - Disaster mental health to help with coping after disaster which is often initiated days or weeks after the incident.
 - Disaster spiritual care to help reconnecting with the clients own faith after disaster.
- ARC provides follow up casework within 1-2 days after incident to see if there any unmet needs. ARC links them with other supporting agencies. Caseworkers help advocate with clients if needed.
- ARC is eager to partner with local support agencies. If you have any in your area, get them in touch with the ARC.
- National dispatch number is 866-505-4801. CAD is an option for Fire Departments. If you call dispatch for an event, call or text your DPM to give them a heads up for large events.

❖ Panel

- **Recovery-Addison Plane Crash Family Assistance Center**
 - On June 30th, a twin engine plane crashed at the Addison Airport killing all 10 passengers. The first FAC in Dallas County operated for 2 days and served 30 family members and friends.

❖ Next Meeting:

- Next Meeting is December 6, 2019