



REM Meeting

March 1, 2019 at 9:30am

UNT Health Science Center-3400 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76107

❖ **Welcome and Introductions**

- TJ Manor, REM Chair
- Brandi Lara, UNT Health Science Center, Associate Director

❖ **Guest Speakers**

▪ CEM Study Group/Mentor Program

Shawna Lemley, Emergency Management Planner, City of Arlington

- Shawna is interested in starting a study group/mentorship program for the Certified Emergency Manager certification. This is a group where those interested in getting their CEM can talk to those who already have their CEM to better navigate through the process. There are only 3 mentors currently listed as regional IAEM mentors, of which 2 are still in the region, so there is a need for something like this.

- Goals:

- grow regional participation and increase professionalism by bringing experienced and unexperienced together
- Provide dedicated time for EMs to work on CEM
- Study and discuss the CEM process, essay, packet, and test
- Gain input and recommendations from EMs with CEM

- How it works:

- Meet once a month and discuss a decided topic for one year. Topics include work history, education, training hours, professional contributions, essay, packet review, testing practice, etc.
- Would request that the test be brought here to region

- Things to work out:

- Setting up test session in region
- Location and time of meeting
- Identify EMs with CEM willing to provide mentorship

- The REM group was very interested in participating. Shawna will email out information and a sign up to the region for those interested in getting their CEM and those willing to mentor.

▪ NAMUS Program Project

Lynley Dungan, UNT Health Science Center

- The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NAMUS.gov) is working on creating a free nationwide system to help manage and identify victims.
- System would be used by both the public and public safety agencies. Current idea is to create a portal that you can use to quickly disseminate information about a real



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time incident. You could share aid information with the public, public can report safe and well or missing or needing help. Public Safety could then see the information.

- Goal is for the system to allow for better communication of real time data from public to public safety.
 - Lynley and her team are surveying people now to gauge the need for a such a system.
 - Brandi will be sending out information on the survey and website for you to look through, if interested.
 - Link to the survey- namussci.squarespace.com
- **TDEM Leadership Update**
Josh Roberts, State Coordinator Region 1, TDEM
- REM was interested to hear the latest on TDEM moving to the A&M system.
 - For now, everyone at TDEM is still an employee of DPS. Chief Kidd is still TDEM chief, but also A&M Chancellor. He still serves the same role for State EM efforts.
 - House Bill 2794 was just introduced and has language to move TDEM to the A&M system. Per the bill, the plan is to move TDEM to the A&M system by January 2020. This bill still has to be discussed and decided on before any changes occur.
 - The SOC would stay in Austin.
 - Field staff and region staff shouldn't change. Nothing changes short term; normal local and state EM efforts will continue. No major service disruptions are anticipated by Josh.
 - Question was posed on House bill 34- Statewide emergency alert system. This is not a new bill to legislative discussion; it is brought up regularly. Josh was not aware of the State's stance on the bill.
 - Visit Texas Legislature Online to view bills at <https://capitol.texas.gov/>
 - Texas A&M Ag extension agents have been tasked to be more involved in the recovery process. During Harvey, they created a communication pathway with locals. Now the relationship is being built to be more supportive with the recovery process.
 - DR-4416 was just declared for Franklin, Hopkins, and Fannin county. Ellis county may be added. DCs are getting with judges and local EMs to discuss cost recovery. Ag extension agents are getting involved in this process to provide supportive customer care to jurisdictions through the tedious process.
- **BREAK**
- ❖ **Group Discussion**
- EOC Operations
 - To be continued at a future meeting.



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❖ Member Comments or Updates

- Travis Calendine, Little Elm. Update on Drones.
 - Appreciated feedback on the survey he sent out to the region to gauge programs on UAS.
 - Travis is working on statewide standards and qualifications for jurisdictions with a UAS program. Working with TDEX and the COG taskforce on this project.
 - Will be using survey data to build out the standards.

- Travis Houston, City of Dallas. City of Dallas WEA Update.
 - 3/4/19 at 10am the test will be issued in the Dallas downtown business district.
 - Not expecting bleed over to neighboring jurisdictions but please inform your dispatch on the test so they are aware and can field calls.
 - If a jurisdiction receives any information about their citizens receiving the alert, share with Travis.

- TJ Manor, City of Arlington. Academia and Practitioner Relationships.
 - We need to bridge the gap between academia and practitioners.
 - Had a meeting recently with EMs and University professors to discuss that gap and had a successful discussion.
 - Discussed need for academics to share their research and generate discussions. They can hear our concerns and tailor their research and studies. EMs can hear research that supports our planning efforts and projects. Researchers often want us to recommend research projects for them to do that would directly benefit us and our work.
 - Josh Roberts will email out a summary document of the meeting they had with academics once it is finalized.
 - Goal is to have a TCU academic present at our next REM meeting. Ideally we would have a research component in each REM meeting.

- Rick Esparza, Department of Health and Human Services
 - A Family Assistance Center course will be held in the region May 15-16 from 8-4:30pm. Registration will be on Preparing TX soon.
 - Department was awarded a Hurricane Public Health Crisis Response Grant. Funds will cover a newly hired employee's immunizations before their health benefits kick in. Grant is for March 2019 through June 2020. So far for Dallas county only.
 - Purchasing a volunteer portal and will be working with Lions Clubs on that.

- Lisa Tatum, Dallas County Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
 - A county meeting handout was available at the REM meeting.

- TDEM Updates
 - TDEM Conference: April 15-18 in San Antonio.
 - TDEM website is updated with all current information.



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- NCTCOG Updates
 - Special Events Data Call:
 - COG received feedback from DHS. Our metropolitan ranking is now 25 from 45.
 - If you have an event to add, please send it to the COG. If it is important to you, it's important to report. Due March 8th.
 - Continue to submit events throughout the year.
- Emergency Preparedness Summit and Fair
 - Saturday March 23, 2019 from 8am to noon
 - 1 Trophy Wood Drive, Trophy Club, TX 76262

- **Next Meeting:**
 - Next Meeting is April 5, 2019