

Quarterly Report El Paso County Commissioner's Court

Office of Emergency Management

June 14, 2010

Presented by:

Deputy Chief Ralph Johnson
Emergency Management Coordinator
El Paso City/County Emergency Management

Lieutenant Ricardo Gonzalez
Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator
El Paso City/County Emergency Management

It is the responsibility of the Office of Emergency Management to protect public health and safety and preserve property from the effects of hazardous events. We have the primary role in identifying and preventing hazards, preparing for and responding to, and managing the recovery efforts from emergency situations that affect our community.

This report will cover the accomplishments in public preparedness presentations, training, and planning for January 2010 thru March 2010.

OEM conducted three Intermediate and Advance Incident Command System courses to representatives from Police, Sheriff, Fire Department, Health Department, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 911 Communications and other members of the community. Over 100 students participated. Emergency Management conducted a presentation to ECO-VIDA on Emergency Management functions EPA, TCEQ and the local media were present. OEM also gave a presentation to train 211 personnel on how to register citizens when they call for assistance on the Reverse Notification System that was recently purchase to serve the County of El Paso.

Emergency Management participated in two emergency exercises this quarter. OEM participated in a Table-top exercise at the El Paso/Las Cruces Federal Coordinating Center (FCC). The Office of

Emergency Management also participated in another Table-top exercise sponsored by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

The Office of Emergency Management, in their commitment to the community, has continued to foster working relationships with our community/ regional partners. In particular, OEM has completed a Memorandum of Agreement for fire department response between the City of El Paso Fire Department and the Ft. Bliss Fire Department concerning automatic response on specified locations. A Memorandum of Understanding between the City of El Paso Fire Department and both Emergency Response District 1 and 2 for the County of El Paso, as well as, fire response for the Ysleta Pueblo Del Sur Tribe has also been finalized and approved by legal department. During the last quarterly report El Paso experienced four winter storms and one last winter storm on February 23rd of this quarter. During the storms the Office of Emergency Management worked rotating shifts at the Trans-Vista TXDOT facility and coordinated with other emergency responding agencies to include EPPD, EPCSO, TXDOT, City Street Dept, County Road and Bridges, as well as, the area Independent School Districts to mitigate the effects of the storms, facilitate road conditions and coordination efforts in delay openings for City, County and School facilities.

The Office of Emergency Management has met with representative from Freeman (Phelps Dodge) and reviewed action/ contingency plans in case of a pipeline incident. OEM along with TXDOT and local area first responders attended special meetings to address response responsibilities with newly developed roads such as Spur 601 and others roads that are in the incipient stages of construction.

The Office of Emergency Management met with multiple agencies as part of a Major Event Committee, to develop an Incident Action Plan for the Sun Bowl Game held at UTEP. The Incident Action Plan specifies agency responsibilities and emergency functions in case of emergency during the planned event.

The Office of Emergency Management, utilizing FY07 UASI funds, has purchased a Reverse Notification System that will alert citizens county-wide of an emergency situation and emergency actions to

take in case of such emergency, as well as, alert and dispatch emergency responders and government officials county-wide. OEM will be conducting training sessions on the Reverse Notification System to our local community partners. They have committed themselves to help assist in the registration of the special needs population that the agencies oversee.

Representatives from OEM and various agencies within the county attended the annual Texas Homeland Security Conference. Attendees received information on 2010 grant, training, and exercise requirements. Advanced Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness courses were offered and attendees will be presenting lessons learned to various school districts, committees and officials in future meetings. Representatives of OEM also attended required training at Texas Division of Emergency Management; training is required to fulfill grant requirements.

The Office of Emergency Management continues to meet monthly to plan and prepare for various types of emergencies that may affect the City and County of El Paso with:

- The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force
- Public Health Advisory Committee
- JOIC and Fusion Center Meetings
- Terrorism Committee
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Community Crisis Consortium
- El Paso Traffic Management Team
- Extreme Weather Task Force
- West Texas Safe Schools Coalition

If there are any questions please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 915-838-3260.