



Regional Emergency Managers Meeting

February 11th, 2022

9:30AM-11:00AM: Meeting

Microsoft Teams Meeting

❖ Welcome and Introductions

- Lauren Sanchez, REM Chair
 - REM Update: New REM Secretary
 - Clay Thomas stepped down as REM Secretary. Luke Parten, EM Specialist with Farmers Branch is new REM Secretary for 2022.

❖ Presentations

- Animal Sheltering during Disasters
 - Dr. Debra Zoran, Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team (VET)
 - State of Texas asset deployable through a STAR request to assist with animal needs during a disaster
 - A&M VET is only curriculum that has a requirement for students to do a rotation working with Search and Rescue canines at Disaster City.
 - 2020 deployments included Polk County Tornado, Hurricane Laura, and EMAC to California for North Complex Wildfires.
 - During the Polk County Tornado deployment, over 100 animals were treated in the 3-day deployment.
 - Can assist with planning efforts for City and County animals in disaster.
 - Contact information for Dr. Zoran is dzoran@cvm.tamu.edu
- Young Professionals Brief
 - Chance Huxtable, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, DART Police Department
 - Group is in the late stages planning and will soon open to the region
 - Will conduct monthly meetings that will provide training and professional development for young Emergency Managers in the field.
 - Aimed at folks with 5 years or less of full time EM experience
 - Any questions or interest in joining can be directed to Chance at chuxtable@dart.org
- Emergency Management Credentialing Update
 - Irish Hancock, Emergency Management Administrator, City of Arlington

- Irish and several others met with David Covington-the new division chief of the Emergency Management Academy in 2021
- There are still more unknowns than knowns at this time
- REM Leadership will see if David Covington would like to speak at a future REM meeting
- Chief Starbuck advised the credentialing process may be different than attending the academy. He also advised the location at Fort Worth would provide more research, training and development aimed at communications and would not be the location of the academy.

❖ **Group Discussion**

- Give Back Program/Team Building Volunteer Opportunity
 - Samantha Pickett, Emergency Management Coordinator, Ellis County
 - Giving Back program would team with non-profits to allow REM professionals a chance to volunteer while networking
 - Those interested in participating should complete this survey to help with gauging interest and building program:
<https://forms.gle/rfTrkU1KEd5Y3Lr49>

❖ **Member Updates**

- NWS Updates
 - Kudos to everyone on the winter weather last week
 - Working on a Fall IWT for new graphics that NWS is making
 - If you have anyone that needs to be added to Listserv or Chat, do so now by reaching out to Jennifer Dunn
- NCTCOG Updates
 - Updates provided in email
- TDEM Updates
 - TDEM is shifting from the normal SITREP to an excel sheet. Keep an eye out for that.
 - Each State region is building IMT teams
 - Vaccination Teams are still available, but demob may be in March
 - Can now order 14-day supply of test kits via STAR Request
 - All STARs must demonstrate that tests cannot be obtained on open market
 - County Liaisons with TDEM are in the planning process
 - They will be like a mini district coordinator for each county

❖ **Next Meeting**

- April 1st, 2022