REM Meeting Notes

August 5th, 2022
9:00AM-9:30AM: In Person Networking
9:30AM-11:00AM: Meeting

Plano EOC, 4125 West Parker Road, Plano TX, 75093
OR
Microsoft Teams Meeting

❖ Welcome and Introductions
  ▪ Lauren Sanchez, REM Chair

❖ Presentations
  ▪ It’s Time for Emergency Managers to Prepare for the Fragility of Electric Power Grids - Michael Lambert, Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments
    ▪ Pathways to Disaster
      ▪ Failure of imagination
      ▪ Inability to suspend disbelief
      ▪ “Whistling past the graveyard”
      ▪ Misplaced confidence
      ▪ “Someone else’s problem”
    ▪ Electricity is the bedrock of our modern society
    ▪ The grid that brings us our electricity is FRAGILE
    ▪ We need to recognize, embrace, plan and prepare for that fragility
    ▪ Review of the 2021 winter storm and the impact it had on the grid, timeline of what happened.
      ▪ Key takeaways:
        ▪ The grid did NOT collapse
        ▪ It was a generation problem
        ▪ The intermittents did not cause the problem but they did not help
        ▪ Once the incident began, there was nothing grid operators could do to stop it
    ▪ Basic stuff to know:
      ▪ Electricity supply and demand MUST be balanced
      ▪ Electricity cannot be easily stored in utility-scale quantities
      ▪ It is a system of systems
      ▪ The grid is inherently unstable
    ▪ Overview of how the grid works:
      ▪ Generation, transmission and distribution
    ▪ Threats to the grid:
      ▪ Nature
      ▪ Cyberattack/sabotage
      ▪ Physical attack
      ▪ Electromagnetics
      ▪ Its own structural challenges
    ▪ Things to think about:
      ▪ Is a long-duration, wide-spread power outage part of your
THIRA
- Do you have specific plans or annexes to deal with one
- Have you done an impact assessment of your AOR in the event of catastrophic power outage
- Does your leadership have a working relationship with your utility providers and regulators
- Are your critical response partners familiar with the concept of the “Critical Load” list … do they know how to become part of it
- Have you set up a supply chain working group

Special Event Data Call - Candice Forsyth, Sr. Emergency Preparedness Specialist, NCTCOG
- See attached notes and email from Candice dated 8/1/22

Discussion
- Private Sector EM’s on REM Listserv - Maribel Martinez, Interim Director, NCTCOG
  - Asked for input on allowing public sector EM’s to join the listserv
  - Consensus was to allow them, but there will be a process for admitting them, and they will have to abide by, and sign an agreement. Must apply to join through their local EM.

Member Updates
- NCTCOG Updates
- TDEM Updates
- NWS Updates
- Give Back Program

Team Building Activity
- Telephone Game
  - Pushed to next meeting

Next Meeting
- Friday October 7th