



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