



# Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

NCTCOG

August 2015



## National Preparedness Month

September is **National Preparedness Month** (NPM). This emergency preparedness awareness month is sponsored by the *Ready* Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps. NPM is held each September and is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. This year's theme is **Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today.**

Now is the time to be sure you can communicate during emergencies by having up-to-date contact information for those you may need to get in touch with during a disaster. Be sure to also establish alternate methods of communication in case traditional means are not available.

Making a [family emergency communication plan](#) is a great way to prepare for disasters, but testing your plan is even better so you'll be familiar with how to respond. It's also one of the [10 Ways to Participate](#) in America's PrepareAthon!

In addition to the overall theme, each week of NPM will also promote the following hazard focused themes:

- September 1 – 5: Flood
- September 6 – 12: Wildfire
- September 13 – 19: Hurricane
- September 20 – 26: Power Outage
- September 27 – 30: Lead up to [National PrepareAthon! Day](#)

National PrepareAthon! Day culminates NPM on September 30, 2015. Individuals, families, organizations and businesses are encouraged to use America's PrepareAthon! materials, available at [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare) as you plan, host and support preparedness actions such as discussions, drills, exercises and training sessions, throughout the month and on September 30.

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## State Homeland Security Program

Starting September 1, 2015, the State Administrative Agency will transition from the Department of Public Safety to the Office of the Governor (OOG) Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD). With this move comes a change in grant management systems. Grant Year (GY) 2014 will continue in SPARS, but GY 2015 projects will use the state's eGrants system. The eGrants system and process will be reportedly similar to the current Criminal Justice Division grants process, for those familiar with it. Major differences from the current SPARS system include a limited number of people with access to the project, each project is considered its own grant award, and expenditures must be entered during the project entry phase instead of throughout the grant performance period. With each project considered its own grant award, moving funds between projects will be more difficult. However, performance periods for each project can be tailored to that project's needs. Entering complete detailed expenditure budgets for the project in the beginning can prove challenging, but it reduces the time spent requesting preapproval before starting your local purchasing process, as the SPARS process included. With the move to the OOG, reimbursements will require less documentation and the funds will be issued quicker. However, subgrantees will be required to maintain all of the documentation for follow-up audits and monitoring visits.

As with all transitions, there is a learning curve. Marcie and Bryan are learning eGrants at the same time they are helping subgrantees with the new system. They understand that the new process is quite different from the longtime previous process, and will help their regional partners with the change.



## North Central Texas Regional Full Scale Exercise

In November 2016, the North Central Texas Council of Governments will coordinate the next Regional Full Scale Exercise similar to the Urban Shield exercise in 2013. This project, funded through the State Homeland Security Grant Program by the Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (REPAC) and the Emergency Preparedness Planning Council (EPPC), will be a multi-jurisdictional, multi-discipline exercise designed to increase proficiency levels in identified target capabilities and enhance multiagency/multidisciplinary response to large-scale incidents. The exercise will assess the North Central Texas Region's ability to successfully respond to and manage multiple terrorist events or other emergencies occurring simultaneously throughout the region. It will provide multi-layered training to enhance the skills and abilities of the region's first responders, as well as those responsible for coordinating and managing large-scale events. Preliminary planning for the exercise is currently underway. For more information, contact Brent Archer at [barcher@nctcog.org](mailto:barcher@nctcog.org).

## Hazmat IQ Training

In April 2015, the North Central Texas Council of Governments hosted a hazardous materials training class at the Arlington Fire Training Center. The course was supported with State Homeland Security Program grant funds awarded to the HazMat Working Group. The HazMat IQ Above The Line/Below The Line course, provided by Federal Resources, prepares responders by educating them on the threats as well as the equipment required to safely respond to any CBRNE incident. The course provided easy-to-understand lessons and intuitive charts to aid team members in sizing up the situation. HazMat team members from the region gained proven skills and confidence in themselves and their equipment to size-up, respond safely, and mitigate the chemical hazards within minutes.

## Lone Star Thunder TTX

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015, UT Southwestern Medical Center in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (Office of Counterterrorism Policy and Cooperation, Office of Global Material Security) hosted a table-top exercise titled "Lone Star Thunder." The scenario of Lone Star Thunder was a radiological counterterrorism exercises as the capstone event of voluntary security enhancements and responder training. Over 100 representatives from 32 local, regional, state, and federal emergency response agencies were present to discuss the scripted escalating incident.

The agencies in attendance included: UT Southwestern Medical Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, Sandia National Laboratories, The University of Texas System, The University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of State Health Services, Parkland Health & Hospital System, Children's Medical Center, Baylor Scott & White Health, Radiation Emergency Assistance Center Training Site, Collin County Homeland Security, North Central Texas Council of Governments, North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council, North Central Texas Fusion Center, City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management, Dallas Fire Rescue, Dallas Police Department, City of Dallas Department of Aviation, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, MELE Associates, and City of Tyler Police Department.

"The Lone Star Thunder tabletop exercise validated where the training program of the UT Southwestern Police has been headed for the past 15 years. The exercise confirmed that a window of vulnerability may exist during an incident. The exercise also clearly showed the need for every UT Southwestern police officer to be capable of executing a complex in-extremis hostage rescue during the first critical time period before Dallas Police SWAT arrives on scene. Team tactical training and firearms skills are the core competencies we will continue to emphasize." – Mark McKean, Asst. Chief for Operations, UT Southwestern Police

"On behalf of UT Southwestern Medical Center, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the involvement of all emergency response partner agencies. Our emphasis moving forward is the continual development of a strong response coalition throughout the Southwest Medical District in support of incidents that may affect our community." – Bruce Brown Dr.P.H., Director of Environmental Health & Safety, UT Southwestern Medical Center.



**UT Southwestern**  
Medical Center



**NNSA**



## Mitigation Planning Enhances NCT Capabilities

Hazard mitigation action plans (HazMAPs) are tools to help jurisdictions identify local hazards and pre-determine actions to mitigate their impacts. Jurisdictions with approved HazMAPs meet primary eligibility requirements to receive federal mitigation funds through three Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs: Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA).

As a testament to our region's dedication to all phases of emergency management, all sixteen North Central Texas counties will soon have mitigation action plans. Counties with new HazMAPs, approved or in progress, are: Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, and Wise. HazMAP updates, approved or under TDEM/FEMA review, include Collin, Dallas, Denton, and Tarrant. In addition, several NCT municipalities have their own approved HazMAPs. When all new and updated county plans receive final FEMA approval, over 180 North Central Texas jurisdictions will have hazard mitigation plans in place.

## North Central Texas Safe Room Rebate Program

Rebate opportunities for 2015 have been released. The North Central Texas Safe Room Rebate Program provided 643 rebate opportunities to qualified residents in the North Texas region. Eligible waitlisted applicants were contacted in July to submit documentation for acceptance into the program.

Additional rebate opportunities will be released in January, 2016. The number available will be determined by numerous factors, including whether the North Central Texas Council of Governments receives the PDM or HMGP grants it has applied for.

The North Central Texas Safe Room Rebate Program offers north central Texas residents living or developing in one of the sixteen counties in the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) region an opportunity to qualify to receive half the cost of construction for an individual safe room, up to a reimbursement cap of \$3,000.

Program information, waitlist registration, and waitlist ranks can be found at <https://saferoom.nctcog.org>.

## Teen Cert Train-the-Trainer Course

North Central Texas was host to a state-wide Teen CERT Train-the-Trainer for Teachers June 9-11. The course, a modified CERT Train-the-Trainer curriculum designed for high school teachers, was taught by regional master CERT instructors and sponsored by the NCT Regional Citizen Corps Council and TARC. The class graduated 23 new Teen CERT instructors, who will deliver the CERT curriculum to high schools throughout Texas. Our thanks to Denton County, Parker County, and the City of Dallas for supporting the class with their instructors: Brenda Gormley, Kit Marshall, and Cassandra Wallace, respectively.





## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - DR-4223

As the result of the 2015 storm and flood damages that occurred statewide, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, HMGP DR-4223, is open for application. Total available HMGP funding will be determined as a percent of statewide damages (currently being calculated).

HMGP cost share is 25% local, 75% federal. In order to receive funding applicants must have an approved Mitigation Action Plan. Plans do not have to be approved at the time of application, but funds cannot be dispersed until the plan is approved. Applicants must also have a Local Emergency Plan at the basic level of approval, and be in good standing with NFIP if requesting a flood control project. A good project is considered to be one that is well planned and addresses the hazard risk. It is helpful if the project is profiled in the mitigation action plan, but not required. All projects are expected to be completed two years from the time of award.

An HMGP application workshop, presented by TDEM Mitigation staff, is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 1:00-4:30 pm at NCTCOG. You are encouraged to download the HMGP application packet appropriate for your project\* and begin assembling required data, documentation, and support information for your project. Bring questions and concerns to the workshop for discussion. An email with details and registration information was sent 8/27 via the REM listserv, or click the button to register.

**REGISTER**

**Application packets can be found here:** <http://dps.texas.gov/dem/downloadableforms.htm> (Mitigation- Application Packets). \*Application packets should be selected based on your project: Comprehensive (general/construction, Form 618), Hazard Mitigation Action Plans (Form 602), Generators (Form 604), and Individual Safe Room Rebate Program (Form 621).

Final applications should be complete and contain all required documentation. Incomplete applications will receive secondary consideration. A deadline of **Tuesday, December 15, 2015** has been established for submittal of all projects.

The following approach will be used in the distribution of DR-4223 funds:

- A minimum of 5% of the funding will be utilized in the initiative category for projects such as warning systems. This category includes flood warning, stand-alone generators and public information campaigns.
- 7% of the funding will be used for planning grants (hazard mitigation)
- A significant percentage of the total funds will be applied to applications with flood and wind storm mitigation activities
- Flood Control
  - Erosion control cannot be a standalone project, however this issue is often addressed with flood control projects.
- Demolitions and Acquisitions
- Community Safe Rooms
  - Alternate use projects are outside the scope of community safe rooms (e.g. basketball courts), and must be funded by the jurisdiction
- Individual Safe Rooms

Priority in selection will be given to each of the counties declared under the DR-4223 event.

Applicable HMGP Guidance for the DR-4223 includes:

- Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations – October 1, 2014 edition
- Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulation – January 1, 2015
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance](#) – Effective February 27, 2015
- [FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis module](#) – version 5.1.1 or later





# Listserv FAQ

The first of each month anyone on a listserv receives an e-mail address from mailman-bounces@list.ncttrac.org with the subject list.ncttrac.org mailing list memberships reminder. This e-mail includes all of the lists you are subscribed to and a special password for each list. Using those links and passwords you are able to; change your e-mail address, unsubscribe, and set delivery settings.

### How can I change the email address which is subscribed to one or all list.ncttrac.org mailing lists?

- Click on the link in your e-mail below the mailing list for which you'd like to change your subscribed email address.
- Login using your email address and subscription password.
- Enter your new email address in both the "New address" and "Again to Confirm" fields.
- Optionally you may enter your name in the "Your name" box.
- If you would like this change to take affect for all list.ncttrac.org mailing lists which your old email address is subscribed to, check the "Change Globally" check box.
- Click the "Change My Address and name" button.
- You will receive an email at your new email address which you will need to reply to in order to confirm that you want the change of address to take place. Remember when replying to the confirmation email, that your "from" address must be your new email address

### How do I unsubscribe from a mailing list?

- Click on the link in your e-mail below the mailing list for which you'd like to unsubscribe.
- Login using your email address and subscription password.
- Click the "unsubscribe or edit options" button at the bottom of the mailing list's info page.
- Check the "Yes, I really want to unsubscribe" check box, and click the "Unsubscribe" button to immediately be unsubscribed. Note that if you have elected to receive emails from this list in digest form, you may receive one more digest after you have unsubscribed from the list.

### How can I change my subscription password?

- Click on the link in your e-mail below the mailing list for which you'd like to change your subscription password.
- At the bottom of the page, click the "Unsubscribe Or Edit Options" button.
- Login with your email address and current password
- Fill in both the "New password" and the "Again to confirm" fields with what you want your new password to be.
- If you click the "Change Globally" check box (below the "Change My Password" button) you can change your password associated with all list.ncttrac.org mailing lists which your email address is currently subscribed to.
- Click the "Change My Password" button

Example from E-mail:

List	Password // URL
<a href="mailto:dc22sherman@list.ncttrac.org">dc22sherman@list.ncttrac.org</a>	*****
<a href="http://list.ncttrac.org/cgi-bin/mailman/options/dc22sherman/cforsyth%40nctcog.org">http://list.ncttrac.org/cgi-bin/mailman/options/dc22sherman/cforsyth%40nctcog.org</a>	

**Changing your dc22sherman membership information**  
 You can change the address that you are subscribed to the mailing list with by entering the new address in the fields below. Note that a confirmation email will be sent to the new address, and the change must be confirmed before it is processed.  
 Confirmations time out after about 3 days.  
 You can also optionally set or change your real name (i.e. John Smith).  
 If you want to make the membership changes for all the lists that you are subscribed to at list.ncttrac.org, turn on the Change globally check box.

New address:   
 Again to confirm:

Your name (optional):

Change globally

**Unsubscribing from dc22sherman**  
 Turn on the confirmation checkbox and hit this button to unsubscribe from this mailing list. Warning: This action will be taken immediately!  
 Yes, I really want to unsubscribe

**Your dc22sherman Password**  
 Click this button to have your password emailed to your membership address.

**Change Your Password**  
 You can view a list of all the other mailing lists at list.ncttrac.org for which you are a member. Use this if you want to make the same membership option changes to this other subscriptions.  
  
 New password:   
 Again to confirm:   
  
 Change globally.

For more FAQ's please visit <https://www.ncttrac.org/Participation/Member/MemberListservsFAQs.aspx>



**Upcoming Events**

- [Managing Rail Transportation Emergencies Seminar, September 3, Arlington, TX](#)
- [ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents, September 16-18, Dallas, TX](#)
- [ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System, Command and General Staff, September 18-19, Dallas, TX](#)
- [WMD Standard Awareness Training \(AWR-160\), September 22, Dallas, TX](#)
- [WMD Standard Awareness Training \(AWR-160\), September 23, Dallas, TX](#)
- [H-204 HazMat First Responder Awareness/Operations, October 13-15, Dallas, TX](#)
- [Large Animal Rescue Operations: Integrating Veterinary Medicine, November 6-8, Gainsville, TX](#)

For more upcoming events please visit <http://www.nctcog.org/ep/calendar.asp> and <http://www.preparingtexas.org>.

**FY16 Dues**

Invoices for the FY16 Emergency Preparedness Dues and the Collaborative Adapting Sensing of the Atmosphere (CASA WX) dues will be sent to the Emergency Managers, City Managers, and Mayors, unless otherwise specified, on October 1 and November 1 respectively. If you have any questions about your dues amount or to change the recipients, please contact Candice Forsyth at [cforsyth@nctcog.org](mailto:cforsyth@nctcog.org) or 817-704-5615.

**Public Education Working Group**

The public education working group is looking for volunteers to help create a new look of KnowWhat2Do. Over the next two years we will be updating the guidebooks, and developing a new website.

If you are interested in being a part of this committee please contact Candice Forsyth at [cforsyth@nctcog.org](mailto:cforsyth@nctcog.org) or Cassandra Wallace at [cassandra.wallace@dallascityhall.com](mailto:cassandra.wallace@dallascityhall.com).

**Offices Closed**

NCTCOG Offices will be closed Monday September 7, 2015 in observance of Labor Day. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday.



The Regional Emergency Managers Group (REM) visited Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth, TX on August 7, 2015.



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**Enhancing lasting partnerships and proactive Emergency Preparedness initiatives through advocacy, communication, and collaboration.**