



# REM Meeting Notes

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February 3, 2017

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Host: Irving OEM

Valley View Municipal Complex

333 Valley View Lane

Irving, TX 75601

- **Introductions**

- Cindy Carlo
  - Distribution of the ListServ guidelines
- Jason – Irving
  - Housekeeping

- **John Fisher from Team Rubicon – Overview**

- Two EM attendees are TR volunteers
- Responded to several disasters beginning with Haiti
  - First domestic response was the Tuscaloosa, AL tornado
- Integration with ICS has facilitated their interaction with the EM community
- 2014 launch of comprehensive training program
  - Chainsaw program is growing
  - HE program is building
    - Currently being used in Mississippi in tornado recovery efforts
- National Operations Center in Grand Prairie
- Over 45,000 members
  - 5,000 very active members
- 75% veterans; 25% first responders and EM
- Win-win situation
  - TR members get a renewed sense of purpose
  - The citizen gets on the road to recovery sooner
- NOC Overview
  - EOC
  - Offices and Conference Rooms
  - Warehouse
  - Training Classroom
- Questions
  - How does TR linkup with local EM's when they show up? What are PPE requirements?
    - TR is a young program and they are still working through the formalization of training standards.
    - Advon teams liaise with local officials to determine the level of TR involvement.

- Member self-deployment is forbidden
  - Are teams self-sufficient?
    - Most logistical needs are donated and are not a burden on local logistics chains.
  - How does TR decide to deploy to an incident?
    - They look for certain thresholds
    - A recon team is dispatched to see if TR can be of help
    - A decision is made regarding what services are needed
  - Suggestion was made to continue to coordinate these issues with TR to firm up the relationship
    - TR would like to work better with local jurisdictions and even develop MOU's if possible or applicable
  - What is TR's funding source? Is debris removal the primary focus?
    - Debris removal seems to be the most common use but they can do a lot of other things like damage assessment and medical operations (internationally)
    - 49% Nonprofit/Foundation/Trusts; 30% individual Donors; 21% Business/Corporations
    - Partnerships with Home Depot and Tyson alleviate many of the logistical needs
  - What is the official relationship with TDEM and FEMA?
    - No official relationship...Texas VOAD
  - Do you have a method to capture how much debris you are removing so that jurisdictions can keep track?
    - Not sure exactly how it is captured but it is
  - Who develops the training curriculum?
    - HQ in Los Angeles and Training Director in Texas develop the curriculum
  - TR asked to address the self-deployment issue because a few bad apples tend to tarnish all of the great things TR does
  - TR asked to better plan with EM so logistical needs such as showers can be worked out in advance
- **TCEQ Emergency Response (Gary Sinclair)**
    - Responsibilities
      - Spills/ Releases
      - Natural and Man-Made disasters
      - Tech Support
      - Support to TCEQ Staff
      - Disaster Response Strike Team
    - DR Strike Team
      - Intended for larger disasters that exceeds local capabilities
      - TCEQ jurisdiction covers any hazardous material that is release into the environment
    - Laws and Regs
      - Texas Water Code 26: Sections 39, 121, 261-267
      - 30 TAC

- Determines who the responsible person agency is what they must do to fix the problem
    - 40 CFR
    - Reportable quantities vary based on origin of the spill, what the chemical is, and where the spill occurs
  - Clean up and waste management
    - Waste classification
    - Authorized Transporter
    - Authorized Disposal Facilities
    - Manifest Requirements
  - During incidents, TCEQ is concerned with the geography of the incident and whether the spill will impact the environment “downstream”
  - Contact information
    - State Emergency Response Commission
      - 1-800-832-8224
    - Federal national Response Center
      - 1-800-424-8802
- **TCEQ Debris Management (Kendra Houston)**
  - Cities and Counties are often tasked with debris removal after a disaster
  - Roles and Responsibilities
    - To provide guidance on how to manage debris
    - To ensure sites are returned to their pre-disaster state
    - Provide information from FEMA to ensure jurisdictions can meet requirements
    - Provide guidance on who is authorized to handle and process debris
  - You may need a temporary debris management site
    - May need authorization if you are establishing a debris reception center
      - Options
        - Vegetation
        - Clean lumber
        - Construction and demo waste
        - White goods
      - How to request
        - Go to TCEQ site and search for debris
        - Download and fill out the request form
          - Pay attention to page three – General Conditions
    - Why can't sites be pre-approved?
      - The primary reason is that conditions around a pre-identified site can change and make a site no longer suitable for a debris management site.
      - The paperwork can be filled out in advance so that all that needs to happen is a quick examination of the sites current conditions to streamline the process.
    - Once the form is complete:
      - Email to the TCEQ regional office

- TCEQ will review
  - Approval or denial letter will be transmitted
  - TCEQ staff will do a site visit
  - Sites can be approved prior to a disaster declaration
  - New requests must be submitted even if the site has been previously used
  - Preparing Texas debris management classes
  - What are site remediation requirements?
    - The site must be returned to pre-disaster conditions
  - Kendra Houston – [kendra.houston@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:kendra.houston@tceq.texas.gov) – 817-588-5807
  - Gary Sinclair – [gary.sinclair@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:gary.sinclair@tceq.texas.gov) – 817-588-5834
- **Open discussion – Cindy Carlo**
  - Listserv guidelines
    - A gentleman asked for access to the listserv for job search purpose
      - General consensus about not allowing this
  - Congressman Burgess is having an emergency preparedness event. Details to follow
  - Big X after action review is wrapping up
  - REPAC project scoring is coming up
  - Molly has some ideas about how our region can get more funding. More information will be given out at REPAC
  - COG staff has been short for various reasons should be back up to speed soon
    - Meredith starts at COG on Monday
  - Rhodium discussion about the benefits and applications of the software. Licenses will be available soon for regional use
    - Licenses are about \$400 a piece and could rise
    - Training plan is in development
  - Regional Response summit
    - Tentatively scheduled for late July (two days)
    - Will be an opportunity for regional response assets to show what they can do for mutual aid purposes
    - Development of a regional “phone book”
    - Could have 300 attendees
  - IWT with the National Weather Service scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> at COG
    - Focused on Outdoor Warning Sirens
  - TARC is considering allocating funds to interoperable communications issues
  - SB2 may limit local government authority – could be an issue as it goes forward
  - HB1005 – may turn land burning activities into a firefighting activity which would require a firefighter present for burning actions within municipal boundaries.
  - CASA is looking for hosts for wind and hail sensor hosts. They will cover costs
  - Emergency management continues to be left out of legislation that addresses first responder issues. Emergency Management should be listed as a first responder function
  - Brian Brumfield introduced as TDEM DDC for Hurst