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Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:08 AM
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Subject: [EPPCIP] March EPPC Meeting Update

Hello EPPC,

We miss seeing all of you at our meetings. Hopefully as Texas reopens and businesses start finding a new normal we will be able to meet in person soon. Below you will find an update to take place of our March 18, 2021 EPPC Meeting. The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2021.

EP Department Update:

- The COG building is still closed to the public at this time, and all meetings will continue on a virtual platform until more information is released about public meetings.
- Anna Piasecki has left the COG and moved to Denton County. Her job duties have been redistributed among the department and I have attached an updated job duties document.

Project Updates:

- FY21 Projects - These projects were presented to REPAC on January 29th and funding was allocated by the EPPC funding subcommittee on March 5th. I have attached the projects as presented to REPAC for your review, final allocations will not be released until we receive them back from the State.

| Rank | Project | Cost |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Carveout | Regional Planning | \$393,880.36 |
| Carveout | Citizen Corps Program | \$30,000.00 |
| 1 | Explosive Ordinance and Disposal | \$410,000.00 |
| 2 | Training and Exercise | \$79,275.00 |
| 3 | Cybersecurity | \$126,000.00 |
| 4 | Special Weapons and Tactics | \$224,377.50 |
| 5 | Public Works Emergency Response Team | \$94,956.90 |
| 6 | Emergency Management | \$384,300.00 |
| 7 | Urban Search and Rescue | \$150,248.43 |
| 8 | Interoperability | \$43,365.00 |

| | | |
|----|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 9 | Fusion | \$137,583.00 |
| 10 | Public Education | \$44,100.00 |
| 11 | Hazardous Materials | \$130,000.00 |
| | Total | \$2,248,086.19 |

- Homeland Security Programmatic Changes
 - Enhancing Cyber Security – 7.5%
 - Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places – 5%
 - Enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies, including DHS – 5%
 - Addressing emerging threats – 5%
 - Combating domestic violent extremism – 7.5%
 - <https://www.dhs.gov/ntas/advisory/national-terrorism-advisory-system-bulletin-january-27-2021>
 - Open-source analysis of misinformation campaigns, targeted violence and threats to life, including tips/leads, and online/social media-based threats
 - Sharing and leveraging intelligence and information, including open-source analysis
 - Execution and management of threat assessment programs to identify, evaluate, and analyze indicators and behaviors indicative of domestic violent extremists
 - Training and awareness programs (e.g., through social media, suspicious activity reporting [SAR] indicators and behaviors) to help prevent radicalization
 - Training and awareness programs (e.g., through social media, SAR indicators and behaviors) to educate the public on misinformation campaigns and resources to help them identify and report potential instances of domestic violent extremism

- Cyber Security updates – Budget \$60,000 – To be completed by 9/20/2021
 - Hiring of a contractor to facilitate the creation of an incident response/recovery template, consolidated list of standards, maturity model for jurisdictions.
 - Please stress the importance of this working group to your IT departments and their participation as subject matter experts to ensure regional projects address capability gaps effectively. Cyber Security continues to be a main DHS priority and therefore a requirement for regions, UASIs, and states to submit quality projects.
 - We are currently working on procurement documentation to submit an RFP
 - If your IT department is interested in assisting with this project, please email cforsyth@nctcog.org

- Emergency Management Working Group update – Budget \$100,000 - To be completed by 9/20/2021
 - Hiring of a contractor to develop templates/checklist including presenting the tools to the region for the Housing and Restoration of Critical Infrastructure recovery support functions identified in the National Disaster Recovery Framework.
 - Procurement is in process

- Training & Exercise Working Group update
 - Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) 2021-2023
 - Last year FEMA announced they were changing the process to ensure regular examination of threats, hazards, and risks in our region were incorporated in the exercise planning cycle. FEMA also changed the name to Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) and it covers all the POETE (Planning, Organizing, Equipping, Training, and Exercising) elements plus Evaluate/Improve. New templates were recently released, so we are doing our best to transition our previous information into the new template and will have to gather additional information to complete the plan.

- Safe Room Rebate Program
 - The Safe Room Rebate Program retired on December 31, 2020. From the +11,000 applicants at the beginning of the Program, there have been 1,733 storm shelters installed and the waitlist has dwindled down to only 4,477 remaining applicants. We will be keeping a copy of the waitlist in the event that a new rebate program is created.
 - The administrative burden created by the grant administration agencies and the often +12 month repayment timeframe for the rebates has forced us to realize that this program is neither living up to our standard nor serving the participants in a timely manner.
 - We encourage you to consider creating your own rebate program through FEMA's [hazard mitigation funding](#) or to promote the safe room financing options provided at some local hardware stores.

- Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere (CASA Wx) Program
 - If you are interested in learning more about the CASA Wx Program we will be hosting three open houses at the end of March. Invites will be sent shortly.
 - Tuesday March 30, 2021 / 2 PM – 3 PM
 - Wednesday, March 31, 2021 / 11 AM – 12 PM
 - Thursday, April 1, 2021 / 5 PM – 6 PM

Upcoming Events:

Texas Association of Regional Councils Meeting (Virtual) - March 30 - April 2, 2021

Emergency Management Working Group Meeting (Virtual) - April 8, 2021

Cyber Security Working Group Meeting (Virtual) - April 15, 2021

Texas Volunteer Management Conference (Virtual) - May 13-14, 2021 - <https://www.texasvmc.org/>
National Homeland Security Conference, Las Vegas - August 30 – September 2, 2021 -
<https://www.nationalhomelandsecurity.org/>

Sincerely,
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