



REM Meeting

February 2, 2018

- ❖ Welcome and Introductions
 - Eric Hutmacher, REM Chair
 - Cindy Carlo, EMC of Mesquite
 - Introduction of Attendees

- ❖ Blank Note Cards were handed out to each attendee to provide suggestions for future REM meetings.

- ❖ Influenza Update
 - Russ Jones TCPH
 - Influenza is not a reportable condition, but cases are gauged through voluntary reporting of influenza-like-illness (ILI)
 - There was a small spike in cases in November prior to Thanksgiving.
 - In the second week in December, there was a peak in the baseline. Last three weeks have been in a plateau from visits to clinics, doctor's offices, and ERs. There have been several outbreaks where 2 or more people who are unrelated show ILI symptoms, including 32 institutions have had outbreaks with flu- 29 have been long term care facilities.
 - Influenza follows social networks. Institutions that report outbreaks can receive guidance on how to control, including serving residents in their rooms, cancelling social activities, and assign a staff member to one wing versus transferring between wings, reduce the number of visitors, don't go room to room, disinfect communal areas, and don't go room to room.
 - A medical director can prescribe TamiFlu for an entire population if they are going through an outbreak.
 - Severity- percent is not quite as high as 2013-2014 seasons. Severity is measured by number of people who are admitted to ICU as a result of the flu, around 10-12%. Flu related deaths are not required to be reported unless they are pediatric, but voluntary reports are accepted. Tarrant County is up to 22 deaths.
 - ILI reports coming from emergency rooms are not representative of Flu cases since people do not always go to the emergency room if their symptoms are not severe.
 - Vaccine effectiveness: Australians had a 10-17% effectiveness, Canadians had a 17% effectiveness, we have had an average of 34% in the past. H3N2 was historically known for older people being affected, resulting in higher deaths.
 - Vaccine effectiveness in Canada is preliminary data, but US seems similar results.
 - Peaks in Flu A cause epidemics. Flu B follows up don't have widespread epidemics. 60-70% effective for Flu B vaccinations.
 - School closures- no recommendations from TCPH to close for ISDs. Closures were due to lack of students or teachers. Resuming classes had no impact on controlling the flu cases in a school. There are no real public health reasons for closing schools and deep cleaning.

 - Steven DSHS-
 - Cases are high for 4th consecutive week. 12.9% of patients have shown ILI. This



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time last year was 4.3%. Last season peaked during week 6.

- There are a handful of schools closing, but DSHS have no recommendation. Concerned when absences have been 10-12%. ILI 6.3% but increased to 8%
- 37 overall pediatric deaths with 5 being in Texas, 2 from NCT.
- There have been more outbreaks this year for long-term care facilities, about 80 outbreaks. DSHS is providing recommendations for these long-term care facilities.
- Antiviral ordering- spotty shortages for antiviral drugs like Tamiflu. CDC is working with manufacturers to ensure supply. Pharmacies are recommended to order from different manufacturers.
- Sonya Hughes- Dallas County Health
 - Only two flu seasons have been classified as high severity 2003-2004 and 2014-2015 by CDC.
 - There are local variations in activity and severity.
 - This season peaked during week 51 with 31.1% of tests returning as positive.
 - Actions- disseminating health advisories to medical community.
 - Surveillance of long-term and assisted living facilities.
 - Provide resources to monitor ILI.
 - Investigate and verify reports of flu related deaths that have been tested for flu.
 - All hospitals voluntarily report stats to DCPH.
 - 52 adult deaths, 1 pediatric, with more pending. The 2012-1204 season had 58 deaths.
 - Schools- after 10% over baseline levels, they recommend talking to their communities.
 - 15 schools currently with outbreaks, resulting in 7 closures.
 - This season is decreasing, with several weeks left in the season.

General guidance for schools is to monitor absenteeism, continue with public information about staying home and good hygiene, and maintain contact with students that are out.

❖ Enertech Pipeline Safety Event

- Brad Bitten, Liaison Project Manager of Enertech, 2018 Pipeline Liaison Program
- He was involved with public safety for 17 years with both Fire and Emergency Management. He has worked in the NCT region in Texoma and left the profession 3 years ago.
- Enertech is trying to provide an innovative solution for sharing information with communities by providing:
 - Public awareness for pipeline programs. Take care of documentation for federal audits and Texas Railroad Commission.
 - Work damage prevention- provide mailouts to residents.
 - Integrity management- use GIS, what products the pipeline carries, what is nearby of a pipeline with local jurisdictions.
 - Liaison programs
- Previously, he has met with EM at each county or government office and is currently trying to move to a model where officials meet regionally so that they can discuss how an incident could result in a widespread mutual aid response. He would like to include more fire, EMS, and EM.
- Pipeline lunch meetings are almost at the end of their lifecycles, while he is trying to



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find better ways to engage.

- Mock Line Strike- providing education through demonstration. Mock Line Strike will still be a liaison meeting but will include a life demonstration to show safe practices, consequences of an unsafe evacuation, and safe proper procedures.
- He showed a video over Collin County pipeline rupture.
- He encourages EM's to come to events and learn how to better respond to pipeline ruptures.
- Scenarios are customizable for work sites, and can provide coordinated response and unified command trainings
- For upcoming dates for training, visit diggingtexas811.com
- Will send some updates through COG listserv

❖ BREAK

❖ National Incident Management System Update

- Sam Garland, NIMS Coordinator for FEMA Region 6.
- NIMS provides common terminology for all incidents regardless of location.
- NIMS Refresh was developed in October 2017. The previous version was in 2008.
- Refresh reflects the whole community approach and keeps key concepts from 2004 and 2008 versions. It incorporates policy updates and lessons learned from exercises and real-world events and provides guidance for EOCs.
- The refresher provides shorter documents, fundamental concepts of NIMS, resource management, removed preparedness, covers resource management, command and coordination, communications and information management.
- Objectives: describe specific activities that are involved in NIMS, promote consistency in IMS, provide funding eligibility.
- Indicator: not requirements to be achieved, but clarifies types of activities that you may use to implement NIMS. It is not an exhaustive list and it does not exclude other ways to demonstrate NIMS implementation.
- Common indicators: exercise or real world incident documentation, SOPs, official agreements or proclamations.
- General: Implementation Objects. Adopt NIMS. Designate a POC for principal coordinator. Ensure training for incident personnel incorporating NIMS training.
 - Resource Management: identify deployable resources. Adopt NIMS terminology. Follow NIMS resource management process. Develop and maintain NIMS mutual aid agreements.
 - Command and Coordination: apply ICS to on-scene command
 - Implement JIS for incident dissemination. Use MAC.
 - Communication: use plain language, effective and secure comms, and maintain procedures for data collection
- Locals may want to update proclamations to include current NIMS adoption.
- Public engagement ends February 5. Submit any comments to fema-nims@fema.dhs.gov
- Once NIMS update is finalized, NIMS training programs will be updated.
- Contact State NIMS Coordinator, Rosemary McKnight, with questions or concerns
- EOC Updates: Generic approach with position qualification standards. Examples of how to set up EOC with ESF, Pod, or hybrid.
- Training Updates: Everyone will not have to retake the new courses. Certificates will stand as is. However, ICS instructors will have to retake trainings as recommended



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by the state of the courses they instruct.

- ❖ TDEM Road Show- Rosemary McKnight will be at the TDEM Road Show to address training questions. Monday at 1pm is the Road Show in Fort Worth for Hurst and Tuesday is the Road Show for Garland in Duncanville. There is a stakeholder survey that all are requested to fill out regardless if you are able to attend the meeting.
- ❖ Emergency Management Discussion Panel
 - Panelists, David McCurdy, Matt Feryan, Misty Gardner, Kenny Philips, Irish Hancock, and Perry Bynum discussed the following two questions.
 - How do the unique characteristics and personalities of your organization affect how you run your EOC? For example, do personnel shortfalls require you to deviate significantly from standard ICS organization?
 - What was an incident that had you concerned that it was going to spiral out of control? How did you handle it? Why did you ultimately choose that strategy?
- ❖ **Member Comments or Updates**
 - NCTCOG Updates- View at <https://tinyurl.com/yakzlrh6>
 - New copies of Public Assistance guides are available for jurisdictions to take.
- ❖ **Next Meeting**
 - Next Meeting will be in April of 2018