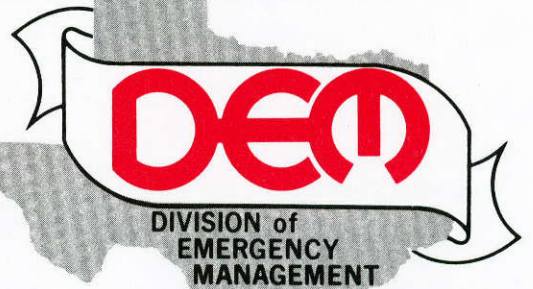


DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DIGEST



DIVISION of
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT



WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.
Governor

LEO E. GOSSETT
Director

ROBERT A. LANSFORD
State Coordinator

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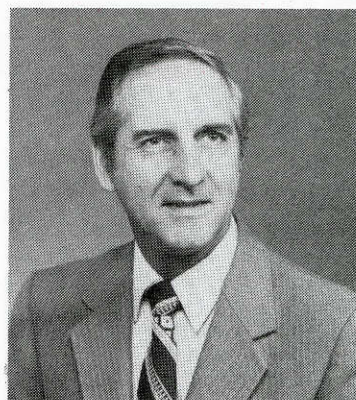


State and local agencies assisted in clearing debris from the community of Saragosa in Reeves County following a May tornado. The Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation spend about 4,450 personnel-hours at a cost of \$75,000. The crews removed 15,845 cubic yards of debris so that the site could be cleared for rebuilding homes. Story, page 2.

DEM UPDATE

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**by Robert A. Lansford
State Coordinator**

Official Publication
Division of Emergency Management
Texas Department of Public Safety

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In this issue of the Digest you will find another article concerning Title III activities. Although we are far from having everything solved, we are making progress. I want to thank you for your cooperation in this matter and your continued effort to comply with the requirements.

For the coastal cities and counties, we are putting the finishing touches on the computer program ESTED (Estimated Safe Time before Evacuation Decision) in order to allow dissemination of the data via the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (TLETS). This system will allow us to make a simultaneous broadcast via teletype to all predesignated TLETS terminals in any of the five study areas we have been working on during the past six years. This will give you additional information to use in recommending evacuation for the zones in your jurisdiction.

I urge all of you to encourage your local newspaper to print the camera-ready map (available for most study areas from our office) showing the evacuation and contingency zones by designated letter and number, so that your citizenry is aware of potential danger areas and can better understand the program. Your assistance at the local level will help this program work. If you need additional information contact Bob Gibson or Laureen Chernow of my staff.

Saragosa Recovers From Tornado

Residents in the community of Saragosa in Reeves County are recovering from a tornado that destroyed much of the town May 22. Thirty people died as a result of the tornado, and some 120 were injured. About 70 homes were destroyed or heavily damaged.

At the request of Governor William P. Clements, Jr., Saragosa was declared a major disaster area by President Reagan on May 26. The declaration made residents eligible for Individual Assistance in the form of temporary housing, grants, and low interest rate loans.

A state/federal Disaster Assistance Center was open May 30 through June 3 at the Balmorhea High School, about five miles from the community.

To date, the Department of Human Services, which administers the state-federal Individual and Family Grant program, has approved 90 grants for a total of \$303,243 -- an average grant of \$3,369.37. The grants are funded 25 percent by the state, 75 percent by the federal government.

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved

four loans for homeowners and one for business purposes to date. Several SBA applications are pending.

Because of the large number of residents left homeless by the tornado and the lack of nearby rental units, the Federal Emergency Management Agency brought in mobile homes as part of the Temporary Housing program. The State of Texas paid approximately \$100,000 for the development of the mobile home park site, on land donated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Twenty-six families are being housed there until permanent shelter is available; others are staying in rental units paid for the FEMA, or are receiving living expenses while staying with family or friends.

The Texas Department of Community Affairs has awarded \$260,000 in Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) funds to help residents learn job skills. A request for funds to help rebuild some of the destroyed houses is also being considered by TDCA.

Residents and volunteers from across the country are using donated building supplies to rebuild some of the houses under the direction of the Saragosa Building Committee and volunteer agencies.



Disaster Assistance Center workers helped 111 people in the DAC in Balmorhea. A variety of state, federal and volunteer relief programs were made available to victims of the tornado. Photo by Win Henderson.

“Emergency -- A Train/Truck Collision...”

Odessa/Ector County Emergency Management

by

Susan K. Thorpe and Su Zanna K. Prophet

“It is a clear Spring day in early May..., a poetic beginning for a scenario designed to test the effectiveness of Odessa/Ector County Emergency Management operations. The four hour mock disaster simulated a hazardous materials spill caused by a train/truck collision. The exercise resulted in some firsts for Odessa and Ector County -- it was our first time to develop a scenario using a computer program and our first full-scale exercise, which included the evacuation of a public elementary school.

SCENARIO

A computer program designed by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) was used as the basis for Odessa/Ector County’s hazardous materials spill scenario: a train/truck collision results in the derailment of two tank cars loaded with hydrochloric acid, a leak develops and the vapor cloud drifts to the southwest at 5mph towards a public elementary school and residential area. Emergency care personnel arrive but intense hydrochloric acid fumes and lack of protective gear prevent aid and rescue efforts, and additional ambulances, fire, and police units are dispatched to assist.

The original computer script contained over 550 messages and included mass destruction of fire and police personnel as well as the starting point for each agency to review and adapt to its needs and our overall goal -- to test interagency communication and coordination in response to an emergency situation. The final script of 188 messages addressed specific City/County needs and realistically tested the personnel.

FULL-SCALE EXERCISE

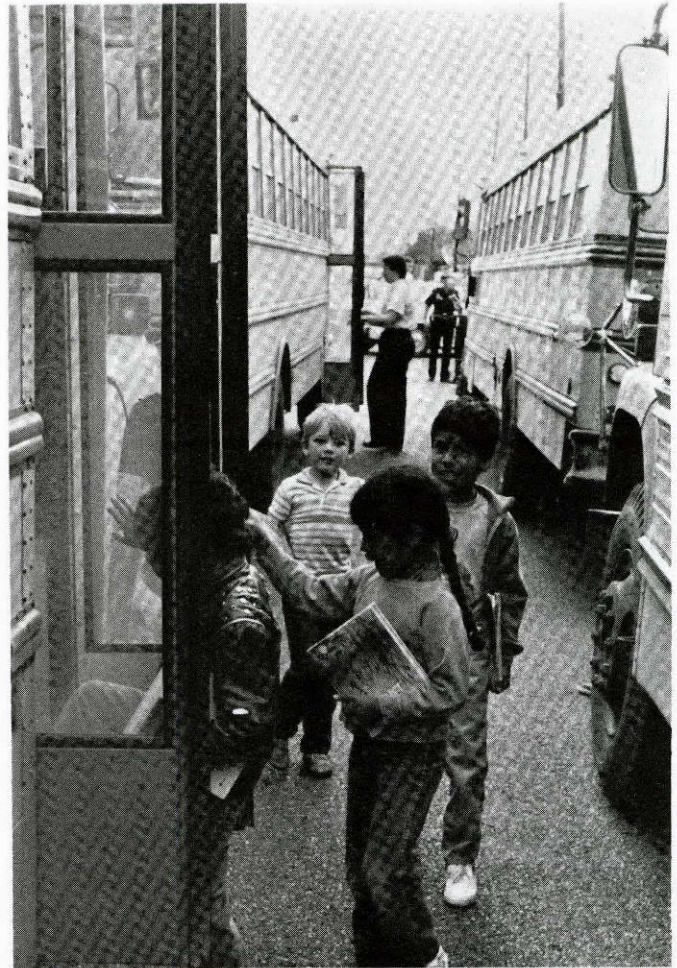
A full-scale exercise is the most complex exercise and has two primary requisites: use of a field site command post and field personnel, volunteer victims, and actual movement of emergency resources, and use of the EOC for communications and overall direction/control.

Our mock disaster, the third consecutive annual exercise, was Odessa/Ector County’s first full-scale exercise. To enhance realism, Union Pacific Railroad provided two derailed train cars loaded with water to simulate a chemical spill. Police and Fire command points and personnel at the site provided traffic control, containment, and fire suppression. Ector County Independent

School District mobilized 23 school buses to Zavala Elementary School. Although students knew an exercise would occur, they were surprised when they were actually loaded on the buses as a test to time the school’s evacuation plan. Ector County’s Medical Center Hospital treated a continual influx of 100 volunteer victims in the emergency room for chemical and fire related injuries.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated

Continued on page 5



Elementary school children were loaded on buses during Odessa/Ector County’s disaster drill. About 600 students participated in the timed loading.

TLETS Allows Access To Hazmat Files

Users of the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System now have access via TLETS to the automated hazardous material data base system called HAZMAT which will provide them with on-line hazardous materials information

The HAZMAT data base is housed and maintained by the National Sheriff's Association in Washington, D.C. The base file and updates are provided to NSA by the Department of Transportation and, with a few minor exceptions, will mirror the DOT's Emergency Response Guide.

HAZMAT will provide information based on the four-digit UN number on the placard that vehicles carrying hazardous material are required to display. The information will include the chemical name, personal safety precautions, general handling procedures, disposal methods, degree of hazard to public health, and

availability of counter-measure materials.

Although CHEMTREC does not have a direct link in this process, every response from HAZMAT will direct the user to contact CHEMTREC at 1-800-424-9300 if an actual emergency exists. CHEMTREC can provide one-on-one contact and more detailed information on the chemical in question.

HAZMAT is currently in a test phase, and all responses to inquired will be prefixed with the statement "Hazmat Testing."

The HAZMAT inquiry format is available from the format retrieval files in the TLETS Message Switcher using form code MQ. Users should note this form code in Chapter 14, Section 14.2, of the TLETS/NLETS Operating Manual until a new manual is published.

DEM Personnel

Ashley C. Eledge, Manager of the Disaster Preparedness Improvement Grant, has taken advantage of the state's early retirement offer. He will continue working for the Division as a consultant until the FY' 87 project is complete. **Jack Brummett**, a Population Protection Planning engineer, has left the Division to take a position with another state agency.

Flood Coverage Expanded For Owners Of Residential Condominium Units

WASHINGTON -- Owners of residential condominium units will have increased protection through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as a result of new rules published in the *Federal Register* that became effective June 1, 1987.

Insured unit owners whose condominium association assesses them for covered flood damage to any NFIP-insured building in a multi-building condominium complex now may collect under their flood insurance policy for the amount of the assessment, subject to policy limits.

Before the rule change, insured residential condominium unit owners were covered only for associa-

tion assessments for damage to the building in which the owner's unit is located.

The federal government's flood insurance program is administered by the Federal Administration, a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The NFIP offers the only insurance protection against flood losses for most property owners, either directly with the NFIP or through one of the private-sector insurance companies participating in the government's "Write Your Own" program. These companies sell and service flood insurance under their own names through arrangements with the Federal Insurance Administrator.

SERC Designates Planning Districts

The State Emergency Management Council, acting as the State Emergency Response Commission, has designated each county in Texas as an Emergency Planning District (EPD) in order to comply with Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

The Act requires that each state designate EPDs under Title III: the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986. The Council chose to designate each county as an EPD and to allow county judges to select one of three options in providing members of local emergency planning committees: a single, county-wide committee; a single committee representing the entire county, with various subcommittees representing subsections of the county; and, two or more independent committees representing various sections of the county.

"Because county government is in a position to know the needs of the entire county, the State decided that in order for the committees to best serve the local areas the county judge should be as involved as possible in choosing local emergency planning committees," Robert Lansford, state coordinator for the Texas Division of Emergency Management, a member of the Emergency Management Council, said. The State must give final approval of each committee, which must be submitted by the judge by August 17, 1987.

County judges have been sent information on local committee selection requirements, and are being urged

by the State to hold a public meeting to allow all interested individuals in their county to express an interest in holding a position on the committee, according to Lansford. The federal law requires that certain segments of the population be represented on the local committee.

"We are encouraging the judges to expand on local CAER (Community Awareness and Emergency Response) committees that may already be in existence in their jurisdictions, rather than to develop an entirely new committee," Lansford said. CAER committees are joint public, private and government planning groups for hazardous materials.

To date, some 2,500 entities have filed an initial notification with the state that they manufacture or store requisite amounts of hazardous materials.

At the Emergency Management Council's June 24 meeting, commission members decided that the Texas Department of Health will have the responsibility of collecting companies' lists of chemicals. TDH will also establish the format for the companies to use in compiling those lists.

The Texas Board of Health published a proposed rule in the July 7, 1987, Texas Register that would allow manufacturers to file their list with the State in lieu of the chemical list required under the Texas Hazard Communication Act. The proposed rule also establishes a \$25 filing fee.

"Emergency" continued from page 3

within 1/2 hour after the collision. During the next 3 1/2 hours, personnel in the EOC relied on actual messages transmitted from the field command posts and agencies to coordinate mobilization of school buses, emergency rescue efforts, and temporary shelter for displaced residents.

CONCLUSION

Immediately after the "HazMat" exercise, participants met as a group to evaluate their operations and interaction with other agencies to identify changes and improvements. While the majority thought the exercise simulated emergency response activities and adequately tested capability to implement the plan, one suggestion to enhance the emergency situation and test decision-making capabilities was to eliminate use of a script by personnel in the EOC. Our most challenging

task during the exercise was the actual mobilization of 23 school buses. Approximately 600 students were loaded and timed which provided valuable data should an actual emergency require mass evacuation.

This successful exercise was made possible by the active involvement and support of the 20 participating agencies and their personnel. The interagency communication and coordination developed through consistent exercising gives the public confidence that emergency personnel are ready and able to respond in a real disaster situation.

Thorpe is Odessa/Ector County Emergency Management Coordinator. Prophet is a Budget and Research Analyst for the City of Odessa.

Hurricane Season Arrives

With June comes the beginning of another hurricane season, and emergency managers have even more decision-making tools to assist them in dealing with a hurricane than ever before, according to State Coordinator Robert Lansford.

"The majority of the Texas Coastal Hurricane Preparedness Program is complete, with the Contingency Planning phase for the Brownsville area and the Evacuation phase for the Matagorda area scheduled for completion within a few months," Lansford said.

Information contained in the computerized ESTED (Estimated Safe Time before Evacuation Decision) program is now available through the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (TLETS) as a backup

source of information to local jurisdictions' own computer systems.

Coastal communities took advantage of the opportunity to test their emergency management plans during the DEM-sponsored annual hurricane exercise "Polly VI." Some 38 local jurisdictions in Region 3 and 50 in Region 2 participated.

Once again the Division is making camera-ready hurricane preparedness material available to local coordinators and media for printing handouts and newspaper supplements. The camera-ready copy includes information contained in the "Keys to Hurricane Safety" brochure and the surge tide map inserts. Contact the DEM public information office for details.



Official Memorandum

By

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.

Governor of Texas

GREETINGS:

AUSTIN, TEXAS

With the approach of summer, coastal residents and visitors once again face the possibility that hurricanes and tropical storms may threaten their lives and property.

Although Texas has not had a major hurricane for several years, Texans are urged to ensure that this recent good fortune does not keep them from taking these life-threatening storms seriously and making plans to deal with them. While we cannot always predict exactly when and where a hurricane will cause damage, it is inevitable that one will occur. The effects of these storms can be lessened by being prepared.

As of this year, the majority of the Texas Coast will have available Texas Coastal Hurricane Preparedness Program materials that deal with evacuation, vulnerability analysis and contingency planning. Local governments have more decision-making tools than ever before to assist them in preparing for, and warning their citizenry about, hurricanes.

The Governor's Division of Emergency Management, the National Weather Service, the Texas Catastrophe Property Insurance Association, and the Insurance Information Institute, along with other State, federal and private agencies and businesses, are cooperating with local governments in promoting hurricane awareness. Private citizens, business owners, and administrators of schools and other public institutions are urged to contact their city or county emergency management office for more information about hurricane awareness, and to participate in hurricane drills and other programs offered by local, State and federal governments.

As of June 1, the hurricane season will officially be upon our State.

Therefore, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of Texas, do hereby designate the week of June 7 through 13, 1987, as:

HURRICANE AWARENESS WEEK

in Texas and urge appropriate recognition thereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my

signature this 18th day of May, 1987

W. P. Clements, Jr.
Governor of Texas

Division of Emergency Management
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