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DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DIGEST



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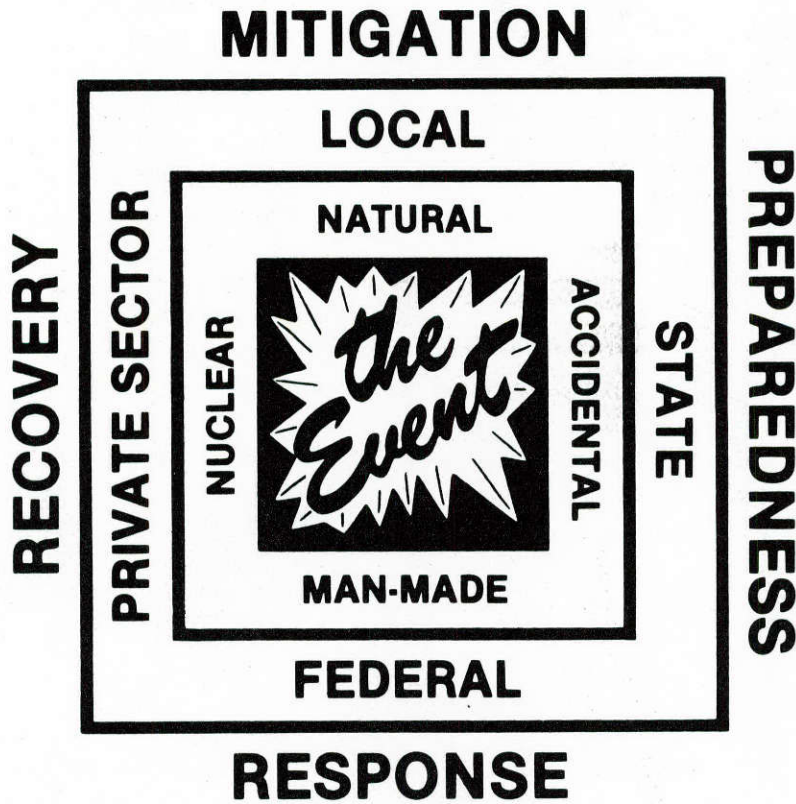
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Inside: 1988 Review



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 Division of Emergency Management
 Texas Department of Public Safety

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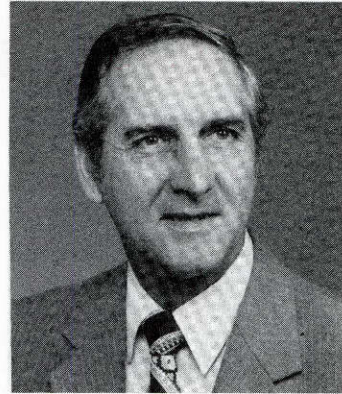
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DEM UPDATE



by **Robert A. Lansford**
State Coordinator

The beginning of a new year offers us the opportunity to look back on the year that was. In 1988 our Division handled 716 incidents—23 fewer than 1987 and 56 fewer than 1986. While the difference in those numbers may not be great, I believe that it is an indication of the increasing capability of local jurisdictions to cope with emergency situations on their own. This capability is due to more and improved planning and training, cooperative agreements between jurisdictions and between jurisdictions and industry, and in general a better understanding and appreciation statewide of the benefits of comprehensive emergency management.

Our state was fortunate last year in having only one presidential disaster declaration (Hurricane Gilbert), but the incident summary in this Digest is a reminder that in this state we are constantly subjected to all kinds of potential disasters and it is imperative that we be prepared at all levels to deal with them.

I encourage you to take seriously the shortcomings that your jurisdiction may have in the emergency management arena, and to take advantage of all the state, federal and private assistance that is made available to you in order to combat those problems. As emergency managers, you are responsible for the well-being of your citizens and there is not time like the present to do the best you can for them.

Division of Emergency Management

1988 Annual Incident Summary

Approximately 2,000 applications for Individual and Family Grants were approved during the recovery phase of Hurricane Gilbert, Texas' only presidentially-declared disaster during 1988. The counties declared included Bexar, Cameron and Hidalgo for hurricane-related damage that occurred September 15-17 when Gilbert came ashore in Mexico.

The State's share of the IFG program was nearly \$340,000 for grants and administrative costs, while the Federal Emergency Management Agency contributed a total of almost \$800,000. The State paid an additional \$21,000 for reservists who assisted staff during the recovery phase.

The State spent \$410,472 fighting a brush fire that burned some 300,000 acres in Shackelford, Callahan and Throckmorton counties in March. Through the federal Fire Suppression Assistance program for state governments, the state agencies involved received a total of \$142,148 in reimbursement from the federal government for costs incurred fighting the fire.

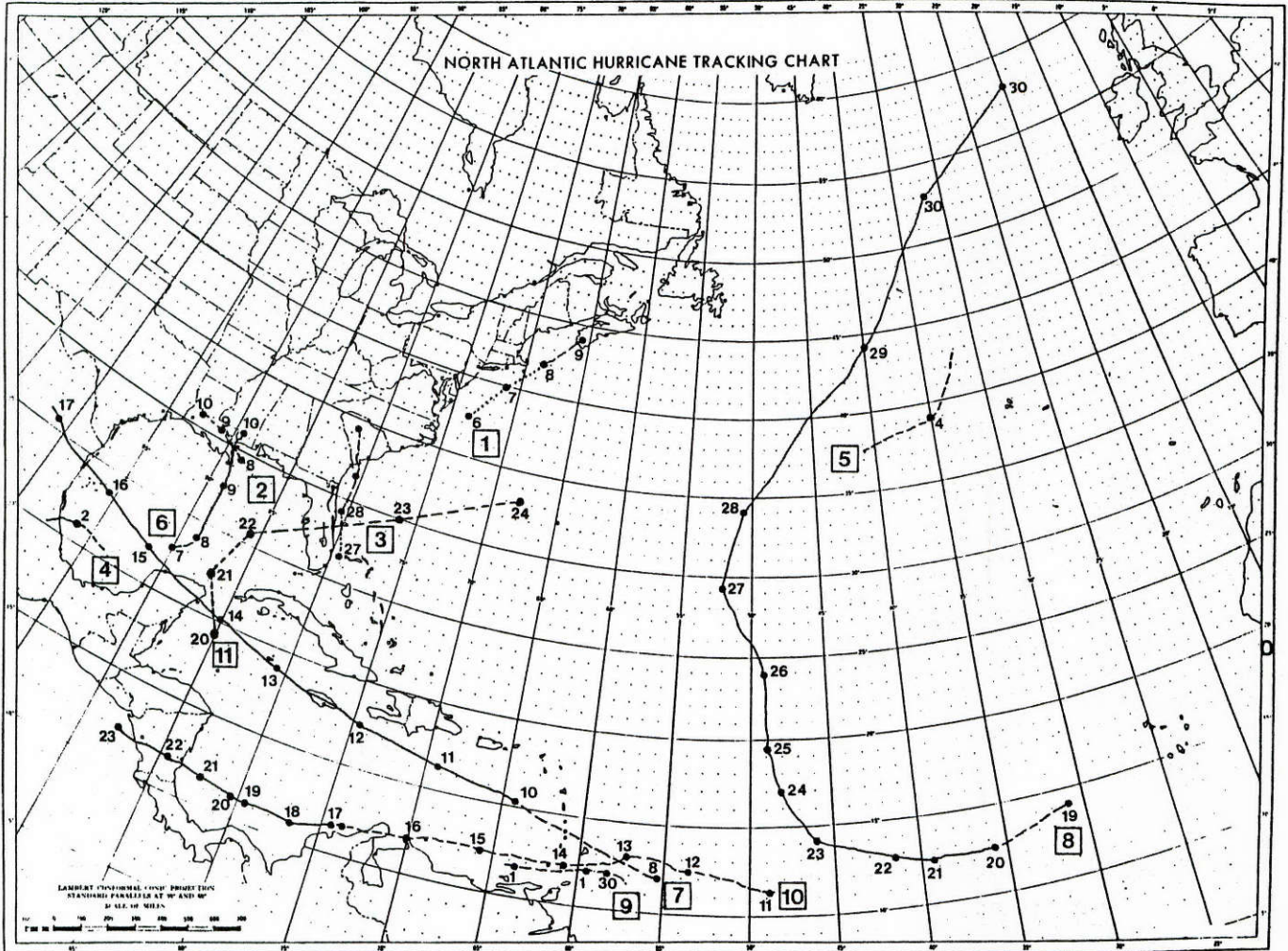
The Division authorized 67 Civil Air Patrol missions during 1988, and reimbursed CAP members \$4,734.78. The federal government also contributes reimbursement funds for CAP missions.

DEM also dealt with the following:

Incident Type	Number	Deaths	Injuries
AIRCRAFT			
ELTs	116	0	0
Crashes	128	71	173
Alnots	15	0	0
Subtotal	259	71	173
HAZMAT			
Radioactive	7	1	1
LPG & Natural Gas	39	0	21
Petroleum Products	50	4	38
Chemicals	118	7	52
Subtotal	214	12	112
PERISHABLE GOODS	85	5	65
WEATHER			
Severe Thunderstorms	10	0	4
Hail	1	0	0
Tornadoes	59	0	9
Flooding	10	3	0
Winds	5	0	0
Subtotal	85	3	13
HOT SPOTS	12	0	0
NUCLEAR FACILITY	6	0	0
RAILROAD ACCIDENTS	23	24	9
FIRES	17	0	0
EXPLOSIVE DEVICES	6	0	2
HWY TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS	9	5	71
Total	716	120	445

HURRICANES / TROPICAL STORMS YEAR 1988

NUMBER	TYPE	NAME	DATE	MAX. WIND SPEED
1	TS	ALBERTO	8/7-8/8	40
2	TS	BERYL	8/8-8/10	50
3	TS	CHRIS	8/28-8/28	50
4	H	DEBBY	9/2-9/2	75
5	TS	ERNESTO	9/4-9/4	40
6	H	FLORENCE	9/7-9/10	80
7	H	GILBERT	9/10-9/17	175
8	H	HELENE	9/20-9/30	140
9	TS	ISAAC	9/30-10/1	45
10	H	JOAN	10/11-10/23	135
11	TS	KEITH	11/20-11/24	65

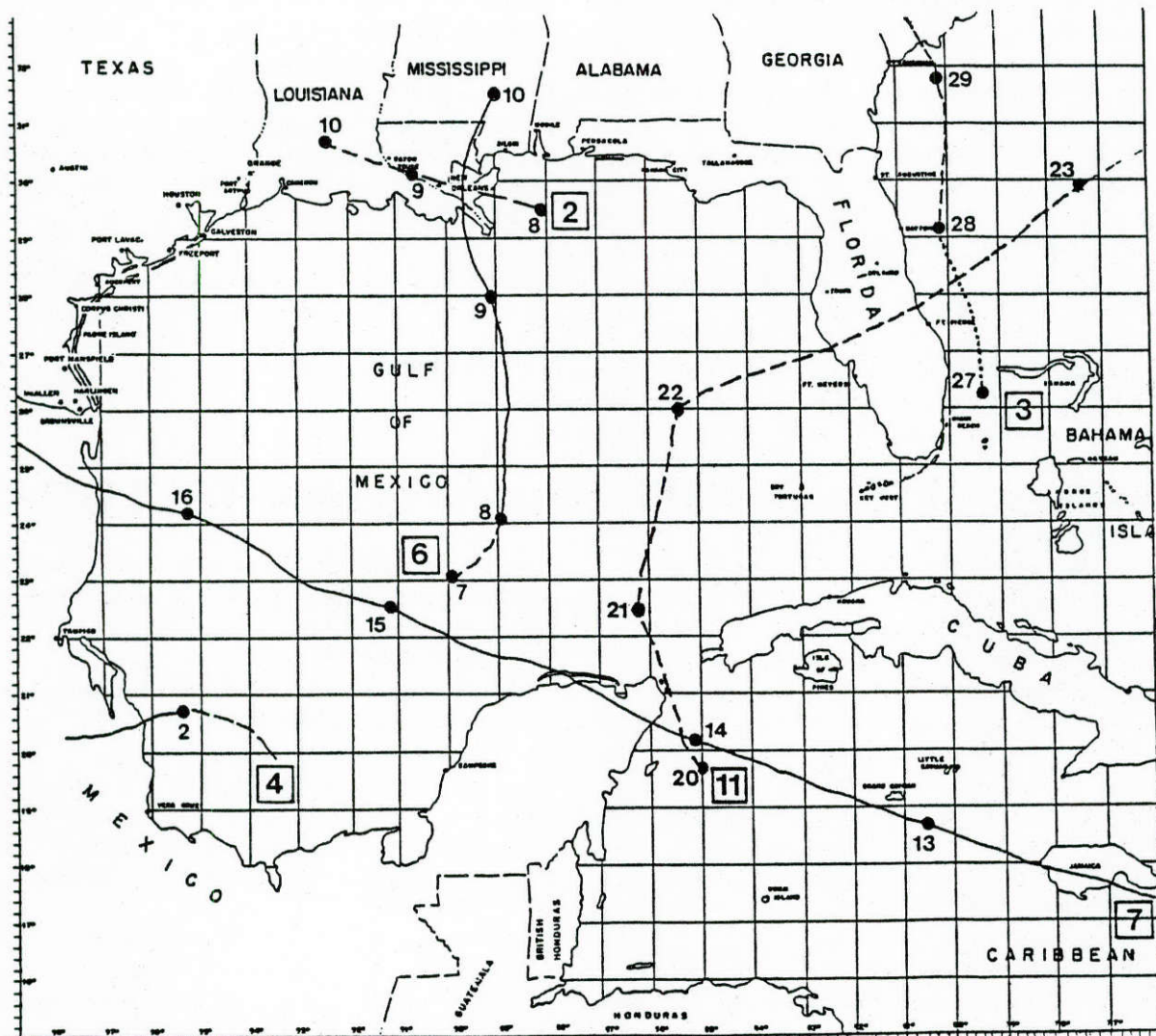


LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|----|-------------------|
| | Tropical Depression Stage | ● | Position and Date |
| | Tropical Storm Stage | H | Hurricane |
| | Hurricane Stage | TS | Tropical Storm |

HURRICANES / TROPICAL STORMS YEAR 1988 GULF OF MEXICO REGION

NUMBER	TYPE	NAME	DATE	MAX. WIND SPEED
2	TS	BERYL	8/8-8/10	50
3	TS	CHRIS	8/28-8/28	50
4	H	DEBBY	9/2-9/2	75
6	H	FLORENCE	9/7-9/10	80
7	H	GILBERT	9/10-9/17	175
11	TS	KEITH	11/20-11/24	65



LEGEND

- Tropical Depression Stage
- - - - - Tropical Storm Stage
- Hurricane Stage
- Position and Date
- H Hurricane
- TS Tropical Storm

Disasters Hit Low Ebb In 1988

In a year of worldwide natural disasters that toppled records for intensity, destruction and loss of life, Americans in 1988 escaped relatively unscathed by nature for the first time since the early part of the decade, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reported recently.

The agency, in a year-end review, said that damages caused by weather, fires and other natural phenomena resulted in 11 Presidentially-declared major disasters, the fewest since 1981 when 15 disasters were declared by President Reagan.

Texas received a declaration for Hurricane Gilbert, and also received fire suppression assistance following range fires in Shackelford and surrounding counties.

By comparison, FEMA Director Julius W. Becton, Jr. pointed out that an average of 27 declarations were made over the past five years, with an annual total federal obligation of \$766 million. He placed this year's obligation at an estimated \$31.9 million, excluding an additional \$2.3 million provided by FEMA to help fight forest fires in Oregon, South Dakota, Texas and Washington.

Becton, noting that the 1988 figures are preliminary, attributed part of this year's unusual lack of need for

federal disaster aid to the protection offered by private and federally-backed insurance programs, and credited the resourcefulness of state and local governments in managing their emergency preparedness capabilities.

He added, however, that the year also was marked by the absence of such past large-scale and costly disasters as the Whittier fault earthquake that struck southern California last year and the multiple hurricanes that ravaged the Atlantic and Gulf coasts in 1985.

"While the nation's citizens were fortunate this year, the fact is that no one can predict precisely when or where a disaster will strike, nor how severe the consequences of such an event will be," Becton said.

"Those who doubt that need look no farther than the unimaginable destruction and devastating number of deaths caused this year by such global disasters as the Armenian earthquake, Hurricane Gilbert and the floods in Bangladesh."

Becton said that the recent enactment of amendments to the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 can help to reduce

Continued on page 6

Trainers, Title III Planners Busy In 1988

During calendar year 1988, the Division of Emergency Management conducted or sanctioned 139 courses and workshops involving a total of 2,543 participants. Included were 23 Professional Development Series (Introduction to Emergency Management, Emergency Planning, and Basic Skills I and II) courses involving 519 participants; 75 Radiological courses involving 1,141 participants; 30 Exercise program classes involving 561 students; three Disaster Recovery Courses attended by 74 students; one course in Instructional Techniques for 19 participants; and seven workshops that involved 229 participants.

During the same time period 62,627 people took part in 199 Exercise events statewide. Forty-six of these events were credited as fullscale exercises. The large number of participants was generated by Hurricane

Gilbert, and numerous coastal jurisdictions received exercise credit for their participation in actual Hurricane Gilbert events.

The State of Texas, through the Division, received \$400,000 for 1987-88 and \$260,000 for 1988-89 to train local government officials in Title III requirements. During the 1987-88 year, 2,395 individuals participated in this training program. Currently, approximately 60 percent of the state's population is covered by hazardous materials planning.

Approximately 6,000 companies reported to the State during 1988 that they handle hazardous substances in amounts deemed potentially dangerous under SARA Title III guidelines; more than 1,800 chemical incidents were reported during the same time period.

DEM Personnel

Wade Nofziger has joined DEM as the Hazard Mitigation Officer. He replaces **Ed Thompson**. Wade, a retired Air Force major, has a bachelor's degree in Social Science from Colorado State College and a master's degree in Counseling and Guidance from the University of North Dakota.

Around The State

Data Users Wanted

New members of the State and Local Emergency Management Data Users Group (SALEMDUG) are being sought. This organization, which is partially funded by FEMA, now has members from federal, state and local governments across the nation.

The goal of the group is to promote, encourage and standardize the development, exchange and usability of emergency management automated data processing information and applications among all levels of government.

If you share this goal and believe that computers are here to stay, then join SALEMDUG and be a part of the future. To join, leave a message for Mary Arnold on the SALEMDUG Bulletin Board, (202) 646-2887, and include your name, state, emergency management agency or company affiliation, mailing address and phone number. You can also join by sending the above information to Bob Gibson at the Division of Emergency Management, P.O. Box 4087, Austin, TX 78773-0001.

Hazmat Equipment Donated To Corpus Christi FD

The City of Corpus Christi Fire Department recently received an encapsulated suit with a flame-resistant cover, a meter to detect dangerous concentrations of flammable gases and assorted spill-control material valued at nearly \$5,000 from Valero Refining to bolster the City's hazardous material response capability. Last summer, Southwest Refining donated some \$10,000 in equipment, including two encapsulated suits. Other area companies are also considering donations.

Low Ebb continued from page 5

future natural disaster risks as a result of mandated improvements in federal funding for preparedness planning, hazard mitigation and other measures designed to assist state and local emergency planners.

But he also cautioned that "such assistance can not be totally effective by itself" and called for "a continuation of individual vigilance and commitment to community preparedness and hazard reduction efforts."

Despite the light year for declarations and recovery costs, FEMA officials indicated that more than 9,100 individuals and families in 51 counties sought federal aid during 1988 to help them recover from the effects of disasters.

Former EMC Dies

Mark Curtin, former Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Waco and McLennan County, died February 10 of heart failure at his home. He was 59 years old.

Curtin, who directed emergency management operations from 1980 until his retirement in October of 1988, oversaw the building of an Emergency Operations Center in the basement of Waco City Hall, the repair of Waco's emergency sirens and development of the County's emergency management plan. During his tenure he also recruited some 250 amateur radio operators in 13 counties to provide backup communications for the National Weather Service.

Damage Survey

Hopkins County received approximately 15-17 inches of rain November 15-25, which caused some flooding in Sulphur Springs and surrounding rural areas. Resources Management Officer Ed Laundy led a damage survey of the area on November 29 at the request of local officials. Accompanying him were Regional Liaison Officer Ron Staggs; Doug Evetts of the Department of Human Services, and Paul Ysaguirre and Cliff Clotney of the Highway Department.

County EMC Rex Morgan and Evetts inspected privately-owned property. They reported minimal damage to homes, and estimated that most homes were insured. Staggs and Laundy surveyed damage to county-owned roads and bridges, accompanied by the commissioners of the precincts they surveyed. The heaviest damage was in Precinct 2, but most damage was found to be repairable by maintenance, and as such did not qualify for state and federal disaster assistance.

The agency said more than half of government's estimated total obligation for the year, or about \$19.7 million, was provided to meet people's needs for temporary housing, grants, property loans and unemployment assistance. The remaining \$12.2 million was made available to local governments for the repair and replacement of damaged public property.

In all, seven states and three Pacific Ocean territories were declared major disaster areas as a result of incidents ranging from tornadoes and heavy rains to a typhoon and the aftermath of Hurricane Gilbert. California, stricken by storms and flooding in February and wildfires in September, was the only state to have federal disaster aid approved twice during the year.

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