

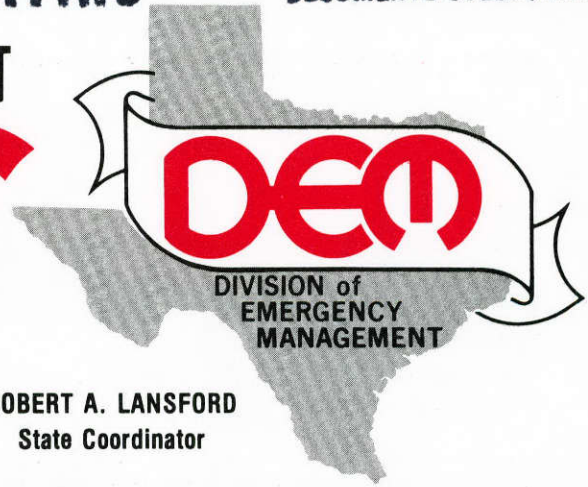
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State Coordinator

Volume 34, Number 1

Texas Department of Public Safety

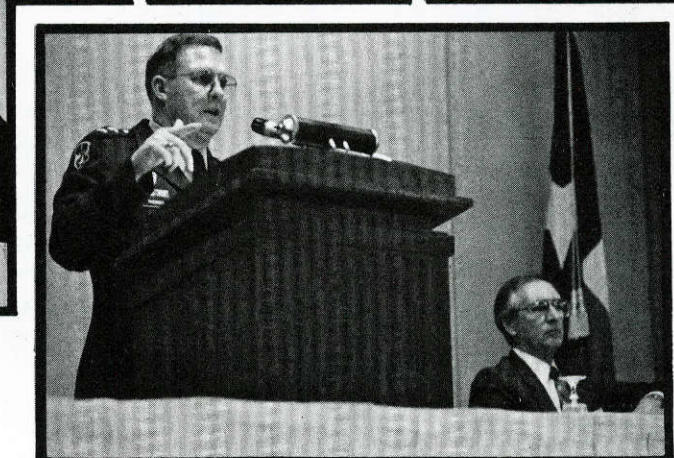
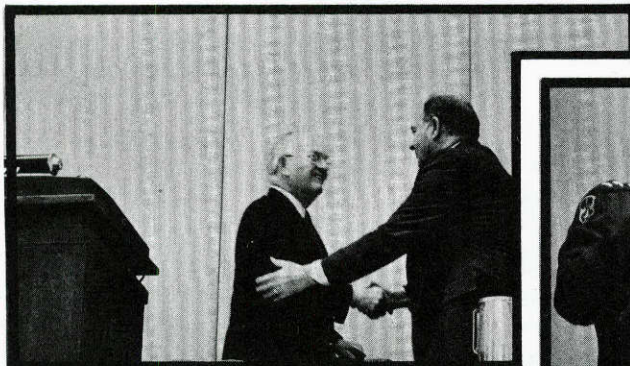
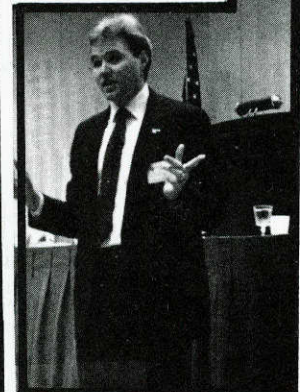
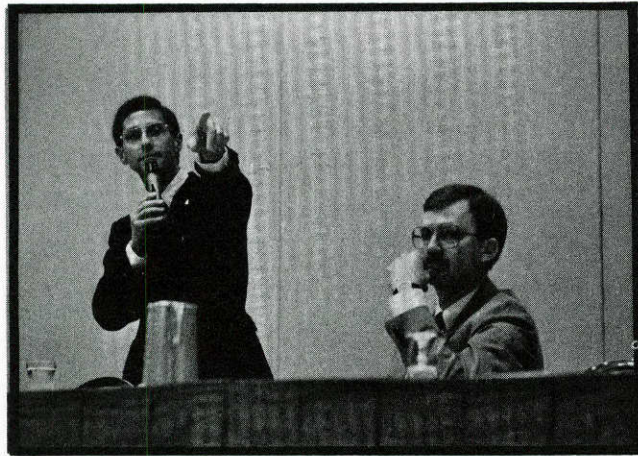
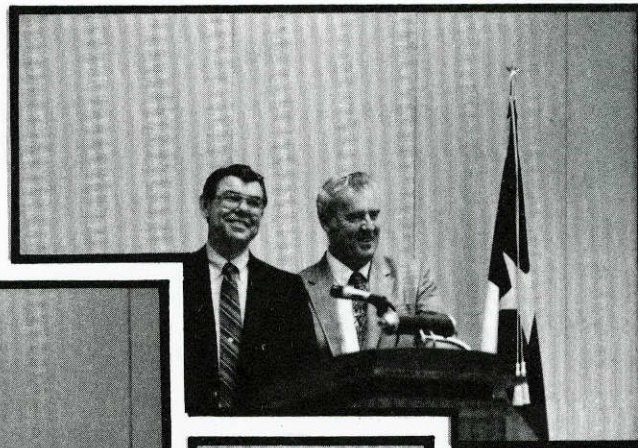
Austin, Texas

January-February 1988

'88 Conference

Clockwise from top:

Midland Police Chief Richard Czech and Fire Chief James Roberts; Pittsburgh Fire Marshall Kevin Mellott; Major General Billy Thomas and DEM State Coordinator Robert Lansford; Governor William P. Clements, Jr. and DPS/DEM Director Leo Gossett; Astronaut Jay Apt and DEM Deputy Coordinator Tom Millwee; and FEMA Chief of Staff Bill Tidball (center). Story on page 2.



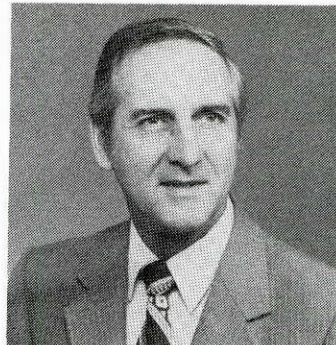
Staff photos by John Hansborough



# DEM UPDATE

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**by Robert A. Lansford**  
**State Coordinator**

Official Publication  
Division of Emergency Management  
Texas Department of Public Safety

### WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR., GOVERNOR

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As most of you are aware, the annual state conference held February 16-18 was a success in more ways than one -- our attendance was a record high 640, the presenters were excellent, and the hotel facilities were outstanding. It was good seeing those of you who attended, and I hope to see all of you again at the 28th annual conference. Those of you who missed it, make plans now for next year. We have scheduled the conference for February 14-16, 1989, at the same hotel --Doubletree Austin.

During the next few months we will be looking for possible conference programs that we think will interest Texas emergency managers. If you'd like to suggest a certain subject or recommend a speaker, please let us know -- we want the agenda to be meaningful to you, and we need your input.

FEMA's FY '89 budget request (see page 4 for details) is in Congress at this time. It is too early to determine what might happen. The request represents a \$30 million increase over FY '88, but we should be cautious about expecting such a large increase. Like FEMA, our agency is preparing its request for the next state biennial budget cycle. The budget will go to the Legislature next January, and we are hoping that we will get favorable consideration on our request.



# State Conference Draws Largest Crowd Ever

Governor William P. Clements, Jr., gave the keynote address to the 640 emergency managers attending the 27th annual State Emergency Management Conference in February. The Governor emphasized the need for professionals and volunteers alike in emergency situations, and urged those in attendance to continue their efforts to keep their communities safe.

The opportunity to share advice, information, and experiences brought more emergency managers than ever before to the Austin conference.

Kendall County Judge Garland Perry told the audience of the response effort needed when the Guadalupe River flooded last July drowning 10 young people and necessitating a lengthy search for drowning victims. Judge Perry pointed out both the successes and the shortcomings during the response to the tragedy,

allowing audience members to compare the situation with what might happen in their own jurisdictions.

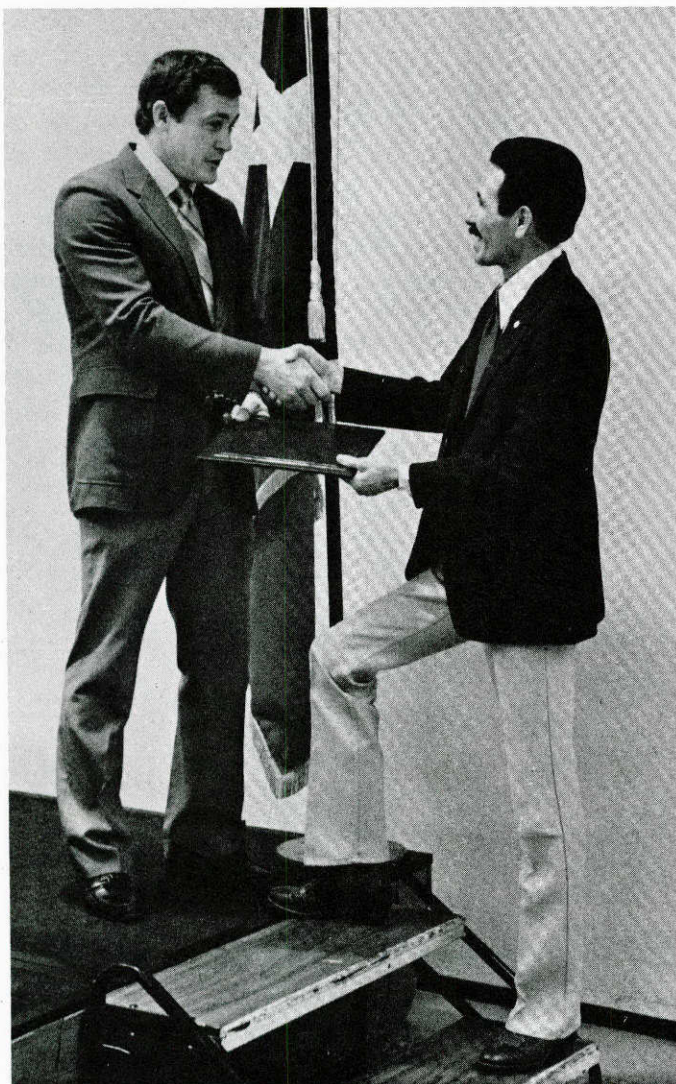
Pittsburgh Fire Marshal Kevin Mellott stressed the importance of the Incident Command System in successfully handling an emergency situation, such as the train collision and subsequent derailment involving hazardous materials in his city. He also noted the usefulness of police officers trained in emergency management -- they were first on the scene and got placard numbers before the fire destroyed the signs. A nighttime evacuation of more than 15,000 people and frequent wind changes added to the problems that had to be addressed.

The 58-hour-long rescue attempt of Jessica McClure from a well in Midland was detailed by Police Chief Richard Czech and Fire Chief James Roberts. Everyone who was asked to respond did so -- volunteer agencies and businesses, as well as city and state personnel, according to the two chiefs. Nearly 500 people were involved in the rescue attempt.

Other speakers shared information on topics such as governments' tort liability in emergency situations, the National Emergency Management Association, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, FEMA, SARA Title III, NASA space technology, military disaster planning, and the National Weather Service's river forecasting capabilities. Workshops on Title III, volunteer organizations, the use of packet radio for emergency communications, disaster recovery operations and programs, and training rounded out the program.

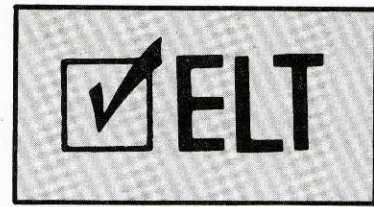
The 28th annual conference is scheduled for the Doubletree Austin Hotel February 14-16, 1989.

*FEMA Region VI Director Edd Hargett (left) presented Reeves County Emergency Management Coordinator Armando Gil with a special certificate at the state conference for his assistance in the recovery of the community of Saragosa from a devastating tornado.*  
Staff photo by John Hansborough





# 1988 Designated Year For ELT Awareness



Because of the large number of non-distress ELT (Emergency Locator Transmitter) signals received in the state of Texas, a number of state and federal agencies and private industries have joined together in designating 1988 as "ELT Awareness Year." Governor William P. Clements, Jr., has signed an official memorandum calling for citizens of Texas to learn and practice proper procedures for operating electronic distress signaling equipment.

The awareness campaign was kicked off February 1 with a press conference at the State Capitol. Officials from DEM, the Texas Aeronautics Commission, Texas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, the Adjutant General's Department, the Federal Aviation Administration, and private aircraft businesses were on hand to emphasize the need for increased attention to the problems caused by false alarms. The groups plan to distribute videotapes and public service announcements to the media, and provide posters for airports and metallic stickers for aircraft to help remind all concerned to check their ELT signal at 121.5 MHz before take-off, during flight, after landing, and while performing maintenance.

Texas is among the nation's leading states in many areas, unfortunately one of those areas is in the number of false alarm ELTs from planes and ships. ELTs are a lifesaving device -- when a plane or boat experiences heavy turbulence or is involved in a crash, the ELT emits a signal that can be picked up by search and rescue satellites or other receiving devices. This signal allows rescuers to find a downed plane more easily, often resulting in the saving of lives.

However, only about three of every 100 ELT signals nationwide reported to the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Scott AFB are an actual distress signal. The other 97 reports have been caused accidentally,

often carelessly. Each signal, however, must be treated as if it were an emergency until it has been determined that no emergency exists. This frequently requires that various federal, state and local agencies become involved in making that determination.

In 1987, of 252 ELT incidents in Texas handled by the AFRCC, only eight (8) were distress calls. Of 132 actual missions involving ELT signals, only six (6) were distress. (An incident is any report that AFRCC receives that can be handled without additional federal resources; a mission is a report that requires more extensive action). California, by comparison, had 441 incidents, of which 13 were distress, and 211 missions, of which 10 were distress.

These cries of "wolf!" require that search crews endanger their lives to determine if the signal is valid, and cost the federal and state government money. One of the prime concerns of everyone involved is the potential for ELT signals to automatically be thought of as false and for rescuers to become complacent about responding to them. The consequences could be tragic.

When an ELT report is received that cannot immediately be located or identified as non-distress, Scott AFB contacts the State Division of Emergency Management and requests permission to activate the Texas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. CAP members are dispatched by ground and/or by air to track down the signal and locate the ELT causing it. Such a search can take hours or days to complete.

Signals have been tracked to ELTs located in garbage bins, car trunks, and private homes, as well as to locked aircraft parked at isolated landing strips and major airports.

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## DEM Personnel

**Tom Millwee**, formerly DEM State Plans Officer, has been promoted to Deputy Coordinator for Operations. Tom has been with the Division since October of 1981, when he joined the Flood Insurance Assistance Program as a planner. He became the State Plans Officer in 1983. Tom has a Bachelor of Arts degree from North Texas State University and a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska. **Laura Lee Franks** is the new Engineering Assistant for the Population Protection Planning office. Laura Lee has a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering and a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal arts from Mississippi State University. **Toni Fiero**, formerly of Population Protection Planning, has replaced **Dawn Demuth** as the Administrative Technician for the Energy and Hazardous Materials Program. Dawn has moved to San Antonio. **Sherri L. McClendon** is the new secretary for the Operations section. Following a year at the University of Texas at Austin, Sherri worked for the Department of Public Safety Region IV office in Midland.



# FEMA Requests Increase In Civil Defense Budget

FEMA Director Julius W. Becton, Jr., recently told a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee that a 20 percent budget increase is needed for FY '89 to revitalize emergency planning and response capabilities and systems of state and local governments.

Becton's testimony before the subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities outlined FEMA's request for almost \$160.4 million in civil defense funds for fiscal year 1989. The request is \$26 million above the current spending level.

More than 80 per cent of the budget -- about \$131.5 million -- would go directly or indirectly to state and local emergency response organizations to help them sustain and improve their capabilities.

The request includes \$58.275M for State and Local Emergency Management; \$13.767M for Radiological Defense; \$14.293M for Population Protection; \$10.793M for State and Local Direction, Control and Warning; \$10.900M for Research; \$12.453M for Training and Education; \$21.675M for Telecommunications and Warning; and \$28.255M for Salaries and Expenses.

FEMA's 1989 request was endorsed in companion testimony by Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Craig Alderman, Jr. The department and the National Security Council have oversight of FEMA's civil defense efforts.

Alderman said the department was "disappointed" with the \$135 million appropriated by Congress in 1988. He said the 1989 budget proposal is seen by Defense as "facilitating a much-needed start to rebuilding" the nation's civil defense program.

The funding level being sought is needed to revitalize the program, he said, and to meet the requirements of a 1987 presidential directive -- National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) 259.

Among other things, the directive mandates increased protective measures for state and local government communications capabilities, improved information to the public, and development of "surge" production plans to respond to attack emergencies.

The agency's budget proposal also was supported in testimony by Avagene Moore, president of the National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management, and Lacy E. Suiter, legislative chairman for the National Emergency Management Association.

Becton said the agency is seeking the funds to "develop a survivable infrastructure of civil defense systems needed to save lives" in the event of emergencies ranging from natural and technological disasters to attack against the country.

He reminded the subcommittee of the FEMA's 1986 report to Congress which found that the nation's civil defense capabilities are "at a low ebb."

"That situation has not changed due, in part, to the fact that our existing...emergency systems lack the reliability and survivability needed for a catastrophic disaster, including attack," Becton told the subcommittee in remarks submitted for the record.

He said research has shown that a majority of the American people support civil defense and view it as a wise use of tax dollars. Studies have shown that belief to be unchanged over the past 30 years, he said.

"I think the views of the people regarding civil defense can be summed up in one word, prudence -- the same motive which leads us to put smoke detectors in our homes, to use seat belts, and pay scores of billions of dollars each year to insure ourselves against a variety of risks," according to Becton's testimony.

While the major thrust of the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 and its amendments is preparedness against attack, the studies have shown that people also see a strong civil defense program as a safeguard against peacetime emergencies, he said.

For this reason, Becton said FEMA supports the "dual use" of civil defense funds and physical assets by state and local governments to deal with all types of crises that threaten lives and property.

FEMA's 1989 plan, he said, "makes sense to the states by striking the right balance between preparedness for a catastrophe we all hope will never occur, nuclear attack, and the natural and technological disasters which do occur all too often."





OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM  
STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Citizens throughout the state of Texas are vulnerable to many kinds of severe weather. Last year, forty-two persons were killed by tornadoes, five by thunderstorm winds and seventeen by flash floods. These numbers do not include the hundreds of people injured as a result of severe weather.

Although in most instances severe weather is unavoidable, loss of life, personal injury and property damage can be reduced if communities are prepared to handle and deal with severe weather situations. The onset of spring brings an even greater probability of severe weather in our state.

In order for citizens to become better prepared for severe weather, government and private organizations should participate in drills so that in the event of an emergency they will be aware of the proper procedures and methods to best deal with severe weather. A well-prepared community will better be able to recover. Losses can also be reduced through awareness of the effects of severe weather.

It is important that we recognize the importance of being prepared to handle emergency situations that arise as a result of severe weather.

Therefore, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of Texas, do hereby designate February 28 through March 5, 1988, as:

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

in Texas and urge appropriate recognition thereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this

17th day of February, 19 88.

*W. P. Clements, Jr.*  
Governor of Texas

**HURRICANE AWARENESS WEEK  
JUNE 5-11, 1988**

# FEMA Schedules New Videoconferences

The Emergency Education Network (EENET), the Federal Emergency Management Agency's satellite-distributed videoconferencing network for state and local government fire service and emergency management personnel, will broadcast 15 training conferences during 1988.

EENET broadcasts will use Spacenet I, Transponder 4 (120 degrees West) for all programs. The

videoconferences are in the public domain, therefore EENET encourages continued rebroadcast through local cable television networks in addition to local receive sites at state and local facilities.

The videoconferences that deal with emergency management topics will be available from DEM. Contact the Public Information Office at 512-465-2138 for information.

MONTH	EVENT	TITLE
March 2	Conference	Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program: A Partnership That Works
March 30	Conference	Arson Investigation: A Practical Approach
April 26-27	Course	Introduction to Hazardous Materials in Cooperation with the State of Virginia (2-day Awareness Training)
May 11	Conference	Organizational Development
May 25	Conference	Health Concerns in Chemical Emergencies
June 8	Cast	Emergency Management and Fire Service Training Video Journal
June 22	Conference	Partnership Against Fire
July 14	Conference	National Sesame Street Fire Program
August 3	Conference	Advanced REP Planning Issues
August 17	Conference	Legal Aspects in Emergency Management
August 31	Conference	Flood Insurance Program
September 28	Conference	Executive Fire Officer of the 1990's
October 20	Cast	Emergency Management and Fire Service Training Video Journal
October 26	Conference	Hazardous Materials - Protective Clothing
December 1	Conference	Rethinking the Unthinkable

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