

## Quarterly Report El Paso County Commissioner's Court

Office of Emergency Management  
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Presented by:

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It is the responsibility of the Office of Emergency Management to protect public health and safety and preserve property from the effects of hazardous events. We have the primary role in identifying and preventing hazards, preparing for and responding to, and managing the recovery efforts from emergency situations that affect our community.

This report will cover the accomplishments in public preparedness presentations, training, and planning for April 2010 thru June 2010.

OEM conducted two Intermediate and Advance Incident Command System courses to representatives from Police, Sheriff, Fire Department, Health Department, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 911 Communications and other members of the community. Over 75 students participated. Emergency Management conducted four different presentations to some of our community partner agencies. These presentations consisted of an in-service to train agency social workers and case workers to assist OEM in registering their consumers to the Reverse Notification System during appointments or home visits. OEM has partnered up with the following agencies: Department of State Health Services Division of the Blind Services, Department of State Health Services Hard of Hearing Division, and Area Agency on Aging, VOLAR. Approximately 60 case/social workers have been trained to assist and register their agencies consumers. OEM will continue to partner up with agencies to provide this service and target the special needs population to try to register all citizens especially all populations with special needs.

Representatives from the Office of Emergency Management have participated in Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program training held at Ft. Bliss. HSEEP is a capabilities and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized methodology and terminology for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning. OEM attended an All-Hazards Type III Communications Unit Leader (COML) training course. This course covers how emergency responders can serve as radio communications unit leaders during all-hazards emergency operations. This training significantly improves communications across the multiple disciplines and jurisdictions responding to an incident. OEM representative attended a Psychological First Aid course to assist patients with basic psychological care in the short-term aftermath of a traumatic event. A representative from OEM attended the Texas Hurricane Conference. Representatives from OEM have also taken the Following FEMA online courses: Independent Study 120a. An Introduction to Exercise, Independent Study 130 Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning and Independent Study 139 Exercise Design. Emergency Management representatives attended a Mayors Emergency Summit held at the Rio Grande Council of Governments.

Emergency Management along with the local FBI collaborated to begin a technical group to coordinated exercises and training with first responder specialized teams when dealing with incidents concerning Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Incidents. OEM officials assisted Red Cross with the coordination of Ready El Paso Workshop and Skills Day at the El Paso County Coliseum. The workshop and skills day organized community volunteers to practice volunteer related skills.

Emergency Management participated in four emergency exercises this quarter. OEM participated in a Table-top exercise at the El Paso Federal Bureau of Investigations Headquarters dealing with a terroristic attack dealing with Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Office of Emergency Management also participated in an After-Action Report sponsored by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the El Paso City/County Health Department to evaluate and review the lessons of the H1N1 events. The Office of Emergency Management also participated in a Ft. Bliss Higher Headquarters full-scale exercise. This exercise tested the installation's capabilities to deal with a Ft. Hood related incident. It consisted of regional agencies and first responders to assist the military

base in such incidents. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) came to El Paso and evaluated the El Paso Urban Area to establish and maintain continuous communications among responding agencies. OEM utilized the May 22, 2010 USA vs. Mexico Soccer Match for OEC to evaluate communication with UTEP, El Paso Sheriff's Office, El Paso Police Department, and OEM. The El Paso Urban Area successfully demonstrated response-level emergency communications.

The Office of Emergency Management, utilizing FY07 UASI funds, has purchased a Reverse Notification System that will alert citizens county-wide of an emergency situation and emergency actions to take in case of such emergency, as well as, alert and dispatch emergency responders and government officials county-wide. OEM will continue conducting training sessions on the Reverse Notification System to our local community partners. They have committed themselves to help assist in the registration of the special needs population that the agencies oversee.

The Office of Emergency Management continues to meet monthly to plan and prepare for various types of emergencies that may affect the City and County of El Paso with:

- Community Crisis Consortium
- El Paso Traffic Management Team
- Extreme Weather Task Force
- FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force
- JOIC and Fusion Center Meetings
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Public Health Advisory Committee
- Terrorism Committee
- West Texas Damage Prevention Council
- West Texas Safe Schools Coalition

If there are any questions please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 915-838-3260.