

EMAT Award Committee Members:

Jeff D. Braun, Chair

Mark Chadwick

Lesia Dickson

Caroline Egan

Dee Harrison

Jack Pike

Patrick Repman



EMAT

Annual Awards Program



www.emat-tx.org



6th Annual EMAT Symposium:

Flowing Into the Future

February 17-20, 2013

San Marcos, Texas



**Congratulations
to the following recipients on receiving the
designation of
Certified Texas Emergency Manager[®]:**

TEM Certification

Jason Carriere

Jamie Galloway

Deedra Harrison

Antwyne Johnson

Jessica Woydziak

TEM Re-Certification

Mariah Armitage

William Jenkins

TEM[®] Program

The Certified Texas Emergency Manager (TEM) program is sponsored by the Emergency Management Association of Texas (EMAT) and administered by the Emergency Administration and Planning (EADP) Program Department of Public Administration at the University of North Texas. One method shown to increase professionalism and recognize the individual who possesses the knowledge, skills, abilities and experience to effectively manage a comprehensive emergency management program is through a rigorous certification program. The TEM is just such a program.



Excellence in Emergency Management Award

Shuttlebration

Cities of Nassau Bay, Seabrook and Webster

When news came that a full-size replica of the space shuttle was expected to arrive in four weeks' time, the Cities of Nassau Bay, Seabrook and Webster pulled together and set planning into motion. Area emergency response teams, agencies and organizations collaborated on the public safety and traffic control surrounding the arrival and celebratory events of Shuttlebration Weekend. Working through massive logistical issues, on top of ensuring the safety of over 5,000 people who came out to celebrate Shuttlebration Weekend, the Bay Area – Houston community came together in a truly collaborative way to make the event a huge success.

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Excellence in Emergency Management Award

Capital Area Animal Issues Committee Plan

Hays, Travis and Williamson Counties

Through the need to enhance their animal sheltering capabilities, the IH-35 Corridor County EMCs developed a Capital Area Animal Issues Committee Plan. As a result, an Animal Issues Committee was created to develop a comprehensive, regional effort to provide for the care and welfare of companion animals, livestock, and/or wildlife. Through this process, a strong partnership was created among the local emergency managers, local veterinarians, the Texas Animal Health Commission and each county's AgriLife extension agent. Put to the test during the Labor Day fires of 2011, the plan and partnerships have been made more robust.

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Purpose of the EMAT Annual Awards Program

The purpose of the EMAT Annual Awards Program is to recognize the achievements and hard work of the individuals, organizations and jurisdictions that have made exceptional efforts to further the field of emergency management and to ensure a whole community approach to preventing, preparing for, mitigating against, responding to and recovering from disasters.



2013 EMAT Annual Awards Program

“Lou Harrell” Emergency Manager of the Year Award

Dale Little

Midland County Office of Emergency Management

Dale Little has served as the Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Marshal for Midland County for over 20 years in addition to serving as the EMC for the City of Midland. Mr. Little directs and reviews the functions and activities of the Midland County Emergency Management Department, coordinates mutual aid services for fire and law enforcement, investigates fires, transportation accidents and storm-related incidents, conducts trainings and exercises and works with area agencies. Under his guidance, Midland County has transitioned to using unified command for all emergency management activities, been designated as a Storm Ready county and has responded to several disasters. Not counting the full work load that Mr. Little has in serving as EMC, he finds time to serve on several committees across the state including the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Steering Committee, the *Lonestar* Incident Management Advisory Committee and the Texas Forest Service Rural Fire Advisory Council. With a very limited staff, the vast majority of the work accomplished by Mr. Little is completed on his own.

Dale Little not only maintains the respect of the constituents in his jurisdiction but also assists many other entities in the area of emergency management on a frequent basis. Mr. Little has been and continues to be instrumental in helping surrounding counties who lack an emergency management department. These counties have the faith and trust in Mr. Little to have him serve as their emergency manager or incident commander during a disaster. Without Mr. Little these counties would not be able to respond to disasters.

Well respected by others in and out of the emergency management field across Texas, Dale Little juggles a large work load in order to better serve his community, neighbors and state.

Contact: Dale Little
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2013 EMAT Annual Awards Program

Excellence in Emergency Management Award *Regional Strike Exercise and Training (R.E.S.E.T.) Program*

Capital Area Council of Governments

The Capital Area Council of Governments Regional Strike Exercise and Training (R.E.S.E.T.) Program was formed to improve and enhance the capabilities of the four local HazMat Response teams. It was determined that to create an effective and integrated Regional HazMat Strike Team both equipment and training would have to be standardized across the participating agencies and departments. This has resulted in the development of standard equipment and protocols for CBRNE response. Since then, R.E.S.E.T has designed a Technical Rescue progressive training curriculum with future endeavors in mind.

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Excellence in Emergency Management Award *Situational Intelligence Gathering Tool for Emergency Response (STINGER)*

Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

The Situational Intelligence Gathering Tool for Emergency Response (STINGER) is a proprietary geo-spatial situational monitoring tool developed by Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HCOHSEM). Using Google Earth, STINGER allows the user to overlay data sets to visually represent the incident as it progresses to create a more accurate operating picture. With minimal overhead and no annual maintenance costs, STINGER decreases initial situational information gathering time by 70% compared to traditional methods.

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2013 EMAT Annual Awards Program

Excellence in Emergency Management Award

Public Works Emergency Response Team

(PWERT)

Williamson County

After experiencing mass flooding in 2010, the Williamson County OEM began laying the groundwork for what has become the Williamson County Public Works Emergency Response Team (PWERT). The mission of PWERT is to support Williamson County jurisdictions by providing emergency critical public works response resources when required to facilitate local infrastructure recovery. PWERT has evolved into a collaborative partnership of jurisdictions and authorities, utility service providers, public works departments, emergency managers, school districts, and elected officials.

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Excellence in Emergency Management Award

Internet and Network Redundancy Project

Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management

A brief loss in Internet connectivity in the Houston region during Hurricane Ike highlighted the dependency that the Fort Bend County (FBC) EOC had on a constant and steady Internet and network connection. To ensure that FBC would be able to manage any critical incident, the FBC Internet and Network Redundancy Project was conceptualized to provide three main sources of redundancy: a strong and resilient redundant backbone network, a high-bandwidth backup Internet connection separate from the backbone and a worst-case backup Internet source if all telecommunication was lost. With 10 current options of providing Internet and network capabilities to its EOC, FBC actively looking to add to its redundancy options.

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2013 EMAT Annual Awards Program

EMAT Distinguished Service Award

Karen Adkins

City of McKinney Office of Emergency Management

Through focused and dedicated work Karen Adkins, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of McKinney, has consistently demonstrated her dedication to improving EMAT's standing within the State of Texas. Ms. Adkins has served EMAT in several capacities including serving as the current Chair of the Communications Committee, Co-Chair of the Conference Committee for the past three years and as a Director on the EMAT Board for Region 1. The Communications Committee, under Ms. Adkins's leadership, has redesigned the EMAT website, increased member communication, developed a social media presence and policy, created a consistent nominations policy, and many other significant improvements in EMAT business practices. Her service with the EMAT Conference Committee has consisted of hundreds of hours per year of committed leadership and has directly contributed to three consecutive TDEM Conference Emergency Management Tracks being praised by attendees. In 2012 alone, Ms. Adkins and her committees have produced policy reviews, Board introduction letters and numerous other products. Ms. Adkins's dedication to the organization is exemplified by her willingness to take on any project she is asked to, regardless of the associated workload.

Contact: Karen Adkins
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2013 EMAT Annual Awards Program

Community Service Award

Troy M. Kimmel, Jr.

KimCo Meteorological Services

Having been involved with broadcast meteorology since before 1984, Mr. Kimmel has been an integral part of Central Texas emergency management efforts and has set the “gold standard” for service to his community and State. Despite his heavy workload, he has never been too busy to explain complex weather events in an understandable manner, provide meteorological advice to local officials or assist the NWS and local officials with countless damage assessments, surveys, and studies throughout the Central Texas area.

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Community Service Award

Lee Vela

Clear Channel Outdoors

Through the efforts of Lee Vela, Clear Channel Outdoors has partnered with Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston and Harris Counties to form the Gulf Coast Emergency Communications Network. Not only does Mr. Vela care greatly about passing information on to the public but he also understands the needs of emergency management. Providing information to commuters on area highways is a challenge but Mr. Vela and Clear Channel Outdoors help facilitate this process by disseminating vital emergency information through its network of digital billboards. Emergency managers can be assured that their messages provided to Mr. Vela and Clear Channel Outdoors will reach the targeted areas during a crisis.

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2013 EMAT Annual Awards Program

Excellence in Emergency Management Award

2012 Hurricane Preparedness Awareness Campaign

City of Pearland Public Affairs Department

With the goal to communicate a serious hurricane preparedness message in a creative, fun and innovative way during the 2012 Hurricane Season, the City of Pearland settled on the Superman-theme and used the tag line “Be your own superhero”. Using both non-traditional and traditional methods to deliver this message, the City of Pearland saw a spike in their social media reach, more news stories in local papers related to hurricane preparedness and more city residents receiving critical living-saving information.

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Excellence in Emergency Management Award

Together Against the Weather

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Lessons learned from Hurricane Rita prompted the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC), in partnership with Houston TranStar, to develop Together Against the Weather (TAW), a hurricane evacuation initiative to target communication with functional support needs populations. TAW identifies the major challenges faced by functional support needs populations and outlines specific strategies to address each challenge. With ready-made materials and videos available for download and customization, TAW helps local jurisdictions and social service organizations effectively communicate with functional support needs populations in their areas.

<http://www.togetheragainsttheweather.com/>

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2013 EMAT Annual Awards Program

Excellence in Emergency Management Award

City of Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Austin HSEM has exemplified the mission and vision of emergency management organizations by being proactive and innovative in their approach to emergency preparedness. Achieving full accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, being awarded the National Homeland Security Award for Outstanding Educational Program of 2012 by the National Urban Area Association, Inc. and leading Area Command at the Austin-Travis County EOC continuously for up to 52 hours during the Formula 1 race are all ways that Austin HSEM has striven to excel in emergency management.

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Excellence in Emergency Management Award

Run-Hide-Fight Active Shooter Video Project *City of Houston Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security*

The development and professionalism of the Run-Hide-Fight video project is truly unprecedented for a homeland security preparedness campaign in terms of reach with an impact not only in Texas but nationwide and internationally. Through the efforts of Jackie Miller and Richard Retz of the City of Houston Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, civilians all over the country have now at least thought about what to do if they find themselves in an active shooter situation.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>

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2013 EMAT Annual Awards Program

Community Service Award

Paul Yura

National Weather Service—Austin/San Antonio

As a member of the Austin-San Antonio Weather Office, Paul Yura helps provide forecasting services to 33 counties. Never hesitating to provide that late night forecast or to explain a meteorological term to a local official, Mr. Yura is a welcome and helpful participant, sharing his expertise, in numerous weather-related activations, trainings, and exercises throughout the region. Before and after severe weather strikes, his boots hit the ground between providing forecasts and conducting damage assessments.

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Outstanding Media Award

The Texas Tribune

The Texas Tribune is a web-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit media organization that promotes civic engagement and discourse on public policy, politics, government and other matters of statewide concern. Reporting on the state of Texas's water supply, The Texas Tribune provides a variety of viewpoints highlighting the policy- and water-related risks and vulnerabilities of the diverse populations, economies and ecosystems across the State. The Texas Tribune's commitment to keep Texans informed about the State's environment, policies and diminishing water supply is evidenced by its continued reporting on the topic.

www.texastribune.org/texas-environmental-news/water-supply/

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