

*EMAT Award Committee Members:*

*Caroline Egan, Chair*

*Mark Chadwick*

*Dee Harrison*

*Kit Marshall*

*Patrick Repman*



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# EMAT

## Annual Awards Program

February 9, 2016

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual EMAT

### Leadership Symposium

### Innovate | Influence | Inspire

*February 7 - 10, 2016*





## Purpose of the EMAT Annual Awards Program

*The EMAT Annual Awards Program recognizes 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.*



## The Lifetime Achievement Award

### *Jeff Suggs*

*HSE Supervision/PIO, Kuraray Inc.  
(Former EMC, City of La Porte, TX)*

Jeff Suggs started his 20+ year career in the emergency management field as a volunteer with the City of La Porte Fire Department in 1993 and eventually served as a Captain/Training Officer for the department. In 2004, Mr. Suggs became the City of La Porte's first full-time emergency manager and, later in 2008, added the role of IT Director to his list of duties. During his time at La Porte, Mr. Suggs strove to pushed the envelope to ensure La Porte OEM served as a leader and positive example in the emergency management community, both locally and statewide.

Repeatedly challenged by disasters and emergencies (from tropical storms and hurricanes to chemical incidents), Mr. Suggs placed a huge emphasis on collaboration and building relationships, such as providing assistance and support to neighboring communities during disasters such as Hurricane Ike and the Morgan's Point ship collision incident in 2015. With his knowledge and experience of the chemical industry from his time prior to serving as EMC of La Porte, Mr. Suggs built strong partnerships between local government and industry through his participation and leadership in numerous organizations.



## TEM

## Certification & Re-Certification

***Congratulations to the following recipients  
on achieving the designation of Certified  
Texas Emergency Manager:***

Daniel Buchanan

Alisha Gimbel

Jeremy Kirk

Christopher Medina

David K. Stall

Larry Thompson

Rick Tull



## TEM<sup>©</sup> Program

*The Certified Texas Emergency Manager<sup>©</sup> (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 such a program.*



With a passion for crisis communications, Mr. Suggs built an emergency notification system that provides several ways of notifying citizens during an emergency. Mr. Suggs also served as Chairman of the Houston Area Local Emergency Communications Committee. In that capacity, he was instrumental in helping the Houston region make the transition from the classic Emergency Broadcast System to the new Emergency Alert System that incorporates Wireless Emergency Alerts as well as TV and radio alerts. In this capacity, Mr. Suggs also contributed to the development of the statewide Texas Emergency Alert System Plan.

On top of all this, Mr. Suggs is well respected amongst his peers and partners. Mr. Suggs has been an active member of the Emergency Management Association of Texas and has served as a Board Member in the past. He also constantly challenges people and processes to improve. He has served as a mentor to many in the emergency management community including his successor as the City of La Porte EMC, Kristin Gauthier.

Mr. Suggs left City of La Porte in 2015 to return to the chemical industry. Even in his new role, he continues to be engaged in the emergency management community and profession. Much more can be expected from Jeff Suggs in the years to come.

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## Community Service Award: DPS Region 2

*Rosie Flores*

*Harris County Citizen Corps*

Rosie Flores seeks to build a culture of preparedness in the community by engaging residents of all ages and teaching them the importance of having the skills and materials to survive a disaster. Working with the Harris County Citizen Corps, Ms. Flores' passion lies in the Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Teen CERT instructs teenagers on how to prepare for and respond to emergencies until professional help can arrive. Since 2004, Ms. Flores has showed spectacular success building and nurturing this program. She has worked tirelessly to help thousands of teenagers expand their knowledge and skills to become a resource for their families and their communities. Under Ms. Flores' leadership, in 2015 alone, the Harris County Citizen Corps Teen CERT program reached 1,987 students in 53 high schools. In addition to coordinating and teaching Teen CERT classes, she is a key force behind the annual Harris County Citizen Corps Teen CERT Rodeo competition which provides an opportunity for area teams to showcase their emergency preparedness skills.

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tirelessly to engage public and private stakeholders to meet the objectives of the workshops, such as to improve the resilience of the supply chain to natural, technological hazards and human-caused threats, facilitate joint planning and communication amongst stakeholders, etc. These efforts on behalf of the four individuals and the Critical Supply Chain Workshops themselves have resulted in the creation of a Texas Oil and Natural Gas Working Group; the formation of a Texas Transportation Working Group; a revised plan submitted to the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government Coordinating Council and to the Department of Homeland Security with recommendations for future Critical Supply Chain Workshops to be conducted nationwide; and more.

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## Excellence in Emergency Management Award

### *Critical Supply Chain Workshops*

- *Maria Burns, University of Houston*
- *Danielle Hale, Nueces County Office of Emergency Management*
- *Marisa Quintanilla, Rio Grande Council of Governments*
- *Barney Welch, Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission*

In 2015, Texas piloted a new program of Critical Supply Chain Workshops for the study and assessment of critical supply chains focused on the oil and natural gas industry. These workshops brought together private and government stakeholders from the energy, transportation, and information technology sectors to identify and address operational concerns to the oil and natural gas industry. The pilot workshops were held in Corpus Christi, El Paso, Houston, and Midland. The success of these Critical Supply Chain Workshops is contributed to Maria Burns (University of Houston), Danielle Hale (Nueces County Office of Emergency Management), Marisa Quintanilla (Rio Grande Council of Governments), and Barney Welch (Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission). Apart from overseeing the actual logistics of the workshops, these four individuals worked



## Emergency Management Technology & Innovation Award

### *Animal Disease Response Collector App*

#### *Texas Animal Health Commission*

During the Texas Animal Health Commission's (TAHC) response to the Cattle Fever Tick infestation in South Texas, agency staff recognized the need for a more robust and efficient electronic method of collecting and sharing data related to animal disease outbreak response operations. With a little ingenuity and the use of the ArcGIS Collector software platform, TAHC staff developed disease response-specific fields to capture real-time geospatial data, photographs, site- and animal-specific identification and data. After being field tested, the resulting application has helped TAHC field inspectors deployed to the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program in South Texas since July 2015. The ability to create and share real-time interactive maps has proven invaluable for agency staff, response partners, and stakeholders in establishing a common operating picture and maintaining situational awareness during response activities.

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## Outstanding Emergency Management Public Information Award

### *County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management JIC Strike Team*

The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) activated multiple times in 2015 for severe weather and flooding events. One of the lessons learned from these events was that the need for Joint Information Center (JIC) staff may not arise until an event is underway. It was noted that the HCOHSEM Public Information Officer needs to be able to call in qualified staff quickly during incidents. Out of this, HCOHSEM asked a dozen public information professionals from county departments and key external partners to participate in a newly developed JIC Strike Team. With the successful implementation of the JIC Strike Team, HCOHSEM has been able to facilitate faster, more efficient JIC staffing for short-notice incidents. This allows HCOHSEM to continue its commitment to providing Harris County residents with accurate and timely emergency public information.

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## Outstanding Media Award

### *KLUX*

#### *Corpus Christi*

The City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) continually evaluates new ways to reach the community for purposes of education and awareness. Recently, a new county-wide emergency notification system was implemented. Citizen opt-in is a key feature of this new tool however getting citizen participation continues to be a challenge. A long standing partner of the Corpus Christi-Nueces County LEPC, KLUX stepped up and developed radio ads promoting the emergency notification system free of charge. KLUX runs the ads on a regular and continual basis as a community service. The radio station also continues its commitment to the LEPC and local community by only broadcasting official emergency public information, unedited, anytime there is a need. In addition, KLUX is always willing to provide advisement and support for the cause and mission of the LEPC and local emergency management programs.

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