



EMAT

Annual Awards Program

March 6, 2018

11th Annual
EMAT Symposium

March 4-7, 2018

San Marcos, Texas



www.emat-tx.org



EMAT Award Committee Members:

Caroline Egan, Chair

Mark Chadwick

Dee Harrison

Kit Marshall

Brian Murray

Patrick Repman



Emergency Management Technology & Innovation Award

Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue

To aid responders and decision makers during Hurricane Harvey and its immediate aftermath, Fort Bend County partnered with the Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue (CRASAR). CRASAR stepped in and volunteered, at no cost to the County, their expertise, service, and equipment. CRASAR volunteers piloted over a hundred individual missions, using more than 20 different robotic platforms. For example, EMILY robot boats with various sensor payloads were used to project river flow rates and drones were used to map areas at risk for flooding and to conduct damage assessment. The imagery captured by CRASAR was provided to the Fort Bend County Emergency Operations Center and helped the first responders and decision makers with near-real-time situational awareness. The gathered data continues to drive recovery and mitigation activities as well as inform future response actions for years to come.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gm5tcJzS3Go>

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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.



“Lou Harrell” Emergency Manager of the Year Award

Mark Sloan

***Harris County Office of Homeland Security and
Emergency Management***

Mark Sloan is Homeland Security & Emergency Management Coordinator for Harris County, serving over 4.7 million residents covering more than 1,770 square miles. Having served in this role since June 2008, Mr. Sloan has continually striven to meet the growing expectations of emergency management. 2017 was both an exciting and challenging year for Harris County and Mr. Sloan’s consistent leadership throughout the year was invaluable.

In early 2017, Houston hosted Super Bowl 51 at NRG Stadium. An event of national importance, Mr. Sloan worked in partnership with the City of Houston for two years leading up to the Super Bowl to ensure that the region developed and executed safety and security plans for game day. In addition, the Harris County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated at the highest state of readiness for the days prior to the game to the day after the Super Bowl to support regional partners.

At the end of August 2017, Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, which became the worst flood event to ever impact Harris County. Under Mr. Sloan’s leadership, the Harris County EOC was



Outstanding Media Award

***Houston Public Media and KHOU-
Houston***

Serving in their traditional media roles in the Houston media market and beyond, Houston Public Media and KHOU-Houston (the local CBS affiliate) provided extraordinary news coverage of Hurricane Harvey while overcoming major obstacles. In the midst of the storm, KHOU had to first relocate its operations inside its building and then ultimately completely evacuate due to flooding in around the news station building. Houston Public Media extended a helping hand and allowed KHOU to move its operations to Houston Public Media’s production studios on the University of Houston’s campus. Showcasing a spirit of resilience and flexibility, both stations were able to work together and work out of the same space to provide their news coverage and other news programs. Six months after Hurricane Harvey, KHOU continues to operate from Houston Public Media until it can relocate to a new and permanent location.

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2017/09/03/235047/watch-working-together-through-the-storm/>

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Community Service Award: DPS Region 1

Justin Adams

Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue

During Hurricane Harvey, Justin Adams with the Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue (CRASAR) volunteered as the Fort Bend County Air Operations Branch Director. Stepping in to fill this role, which had never been filled in Fort Bend County, Mr. Adams implemented a draft plan for air operations in Fort Bend County and coordinated manned and unmanned flights county-wide during and after the storm. From establishing a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) over the region and getting FAA clearance to fly drones in and during a presidential TFR, to coordinating over a hundred individual missions using more than 20 different small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Justin Adams coordinated the entire operation. Working in partnership under the guidance of Mr. Adams, CRASAR and Mr. Adams were responsible for thousands of volunteer hours and millions of dollars of deployed equipment. All of the work coordinated under Justin Adams as the Air Operations Branch Director was done at no cost to the County, earning Fort Bend County accolades along the way.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC7vpN1Mblx1NmffvM1dAxA>.

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activated for 26 days, with more than 450 representatives from partner agencies supporting response operations. Mr. Sloan continues to lead recovery efforts in Harris County as a result of Hurricane Harvey.

Less than two months later, Mr. Sloan and Harris County found themselves playing an active role in Harris County's support of the World Series. The Harris County EOC and Harris County Regional Joint Information Center again activated during the American League Division Series, the American League Championship Series, the World Series, and the Championship Parade to support the City of Houston and to keep residents safe and informed.

Aside from responding to major disasters and sporting events, Mr. Sloan has day-to-day responsibilities leading the Harris County emergency management program. This includes serving as the director of the Harris County Citizen Corps. Coordinating all aspects of the program, the Harris County Citizen Corps Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program reached a milestone of 30,000 trained members in October 2017.

The dedication to making Harris County a safer and more resilient community, especially in 2017, is exemplified by the leadership and hands-on participation that Mark Sloan provides to all aspects of emergency management in Harris County.

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