

Three Days Later: Explosive Sequelae in West, Texas

(and other Lessons Learned from Texas being #1!)

2014 EMS State of the Science:
Gathering of Eagles XVI

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Texas is #1!



....in disasters in the US

- Hurricane Katrina
- Hurricane Rita
- Hurricane Gustav
- Hurricane Ike
- H1N1 Pandemic of 2009
- Wildfires of 2011
- West Nile Virus Outbreak
- Dallas tornadoes of 2012
- West, Texas explosion
- Ice storms of 2013



April 17, 2013



7:30 pm



7:51 pm



Photo obtained by KEYE-TV from video from <https://www.facebook.com/FOX44tv>

April 17, 2013

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Local Response



- Community rallies
- Nursing home evacuation
- West EMS – devastated, but helps with initial triage of patients
- 60% of patients go to hospital by private vehicle
- Law Enforcement transport
- Local EMS providers (ground and air)



Photos obtained from Mail Online Article, www.dailymail.uk.com, Copyright AP

Regional Response



Mutual Aid Partners

- Fire
- EMS
 - Ground
 - Air
- Emergency Management
- Hospitals
 - Hillcrest Baptist Hospital
 - Providence Regional Hospital
 - Scott and White Hospital
 - Parkland Hospital
 - Hill Regional Hospital



Initial Injuries...



- Blast Injuries
- Burns
- Lacerations
- Orthopedic injuries
- Traumatic Brain Injuries



State Response



- Emergency Management
- Department of State Health Services
- Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF)
 - 4 Ambuses
 - Mobile Medical Unit
- Medical Incident Support Team (MIST)
- Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU)





EMTF



Emergency Medical Task Force Team

- Command/General Staff
- ICS 100, 200, 300, 400 certs, with position-specific certs as well
- Must have EMS/ER/IMT management experience
- Full Comms package to communicate with all Groups and Local EOC/DDC/DSHS/TDEM-SOC
- Logistics package to support all Groups

5 Ambulance Strike Teams

- 5 Ambulances in each Strike Team (25 total ambulances)
- Each Strike Team has assigned Strike Team Leader
- Teams are pre-identified
- No Notice Regional deployment
- State-wide tasked mission assignments
- 200 Ambulances

2 AMBUSes

- AMBUS(es) capable of transporting 16-20 litter patients at one time.
- DSHS licensed as a specialty Ambulance
- EMS agencies to staff for 4:1 patient care ratios
- No Notice Regional deployment
- State-wide tasked mission assignments
- 16 AMBUSes

Mobile Medical Unit

- 16 -32 bed capacity
- Able to provide emergency stabilizing care and transfer
- Fully staffed with EM physicians, ER nurses, Paramedics, techs, pharmacy, logistics, clerical and other support
- 6-12 hour launch time for 72 hr. deployment
- 4 Type I & 4 Type III

5 RN Strike Teams

- 5 RN's in each Strike Team (25 total RN's)
- Each Team has pre-assigned Strike Team Leader
- 4 ER Strike Teams
- 1 Specialty area (Burn, OB, ICU, Pedi, NICU, etc)
- Approx. 72 hr. deployment
- 200 Registered Nurses



EMTF



State Emergency Medical Response Assets.....



■ Ambuses



State Emergency Medical Response Assets....

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- Mobile Medical Unit



State Emergency Medical Response Assets...

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- Ambulance Strike Teams
- RN Strike Teams
- Medical Incident Support Teams



Three things I have learned...



- Get to know your emergency management partners
- Understand the basics of public health and how they affect you and your EMS
- Encourage your service to be involved at a regional and state level for disaster preparedness

Get to know your emergency management partners...



- Know your local, regional, and state EM Plan and your EMS fits in



Get to know your emergency management partners...

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- Know who you can call on ... before the disaster



That public health stuff...



- Pandemic
- Quarantine issues
- Food safety
- Shelter support
- Mass Fatality
- Responder Health & Safety
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Caches



Regional and state level participation...



- Medics participating in regional and state programs
- Medical direction and liability during mutual aid response
- Help guide the planning
- Improves local readiness
 - Mass gatherings
 - Day to day response



Thank you...

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