



OASPR TSA-O Regional Preparedness and Response Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2011

Agenda:

- I. Sign In / Introductions
- II. Review / Approval of RPRC meeting minutes: Jan 14, 2011 & Feb 11, 2011
- III. Old Business: HVA, ENS – Communicator, “Vidyo” update, Other
- IV. Public Health
- V. Texas Emergency Conference – April 26-29, 2011 in San Antonio
- VI. EMTF 5
- VII. FY11
- VIII. Committees
- IX. Regional Discussion / Concerns

Attendees: Phil Alder, Rolando Benevidez, Renee Buhman, Nancy Brown, Joe Canfield, Mike Elliott, Oscar Enriquez, Michelle Fillman, Dahlia Flores, Chris Freeman, Kimberley Gill, Jackie Gondeck, Gilbert Gonzales, Phil Gordon, Robert Haugland, Cristy Knapp, Freddy Krail, Andy Littlejohn, Nancy Maschal, Dallas Mellichamp, Idalia Mendez, Ryan Moeller, Ricky Nevels, Jim Pickens, Keri Pierson, Dave Reimer, Dave Rhinehart, Bill Shaffell, James Michael Siepl, Guy Stevenson, Amy Thompson, Asma Vahora, Ron Weaver, Mark Wehner, Robin Wiatrek

Handouts: HAM Radio Operator course flier and map of hosting facility (Austin State Hospital)

Next meeting: April 8, 2011, 9am – 11am, CATRAC office

- I. Sign In/Introductions
- II. Review/Approval of RPRC meeting minutes:
 - a. Jan 14, 2011 – approved with attendance updates
 - b. Feb 11, 2011 – approved
- III. Old Business:
 - HVA –Hazard Vulnerability Analysis. The latest one we have is from 2009. Dave said the goal is to update in the next month. Please send your current HVAs. As was done previously, these may be used as a guide for the regional HVA. If they haven’t been updated recently, and you’re comfortable with that, it’s still fine but please send in your current HVA for CATRAC records.
 - ENS CommunicatorNXT – As part of our EMTF, we have been trying to find a good communication system so that EMTF team members can be reached when the task force is needed. Robin explained that CAPCOG purchased the Emergency Notification System (ENS) in 2004 with Homeland Security Grant funds. Robin explained that there are two components to the ENS: Geocast, which uses a reverse 911 web-based system by pulling phone numbers from a geographic area in the 911 database to call citizens during emergencies. If you use a cell phone, you can register it at www.capcog.org. Go to the Homeland Security section, select the

ENS, and register your cell phone there so you can be notified. Landline telephone numbers are already pulled automatically through 911 mapping services. The other system component is CommunicatorNXT, a web-based solution that allows an agency to create a contact list or a group like a strike team, an EOC group, etc. for activation or notification. CAPCOG is making CommunicatorNXT available to other agencies. (Cannot offer Geocast to other users due to confidential 911 data.) Currently CAPCOG have 5 licenses, so 5 users can be on the system at once. Dave just signed a contract for use last week. Another new contract will be signed for the new contract year (FY12), using OASPR funds to get next group going. This isn't the end-all of communication, but will be a good compliment to the 800 radios. If you don't have a communication system within your hospital and would like it, it's \$750/year. There is no limit on groups you can create. HCA hospitals purchased Communicator for all their hospitals. Mike Elliott added that you can track who didn't respond to the system notice or follow up. Dave said to take care of monthly testing of the system they may use it to send reminders about the RPR meeting.

- Phil Gordon performed a demo on Vidyo, a teleconferencing program. Ports and licenses and a router were purchased, and they want RPR committee members to use it. Computer licenses are about \$5, camera is about \$100. They don't have enough support for a single hospital to use it internally for their daily meetings and the like, but should be used for emergency communications, or communicating between facilities as needed. The project is in the early stages. Setup takes 10-15 minutes. Users can share documents with each other while conferencing, as well as split the screen to see multiple users. If you don't have a camera, you can still watch a conference. Would still need to be logged into the system. Connections are limited by the 16 ports. They will add onto the system after they're sure it works the way they'd like it to.
- While Dave was in last weather ice event over at CTECC with medical operations, Chuck shared an example of a quick connect earpiece for radios. They are compatible with a lot of radios, definitely the 800s, but possibly the others you're using. Cost is about \$80-\$100. GT Distributors EMS supply store off Braker Lane, carries interchangeable earpieces for multiple users. CATRAC is researching and determining the best appropriate ear mic to purchase.
- HAM Radio classes – Dallas brought a flier to share about the latest Radio Operator classes. The current set is at Seton NW Austin State Hospital will be host for the next set of classes. They have a list of 10-12 names for second class already. Dates are April 9, 16, 30, & May 7. Map of the ASH campus is included. Email Dallas with any questions. If you have a staff member who will be taking class, CATRAC will cover cost of the book/test. Preference is they finish the course first, then be reimbursed. Go to www.austinhams.org for more information.
- Universal Generator plugs – Ricky will send Dave the information. At the last meeting, it was mentioned there is a company that makes universal mounts to plug in generators. This is something to look at as a regional project. Bill asked if there was a local generator vendor. There will be several vendors at the April TX Homeland Security conference which we will at. Dave said they don't want to buy one for the region if we'd have to PM it, but would rather it be contracted out for that. This will be a good discussion for Emergency Management.

- IV. Public Health – Amy Thompson reported that Pertussus and Influenza numbers are both down in Travis County. For the last week or so, their department has been working on a food borne illness outbreak from a recent conference. Out of the 200 attendees at the conference, they interviewed 120 of which 60 were ill. One was hospitalized, but it appears that the hospital tested for bacteria, but not norovirus. A norovirus looks to be the most likely cause, but they can't get confirmation. It would be helpful to the department, if hospitals have patients with sudden onset of nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, that they test for norovirus not just bacteria. The affected conference involved school staff throughout the state, all adults. Contact Amy if you have questions. Also, Asma Vahora is working with Travis County Health Department on identifying medically vulnerable individuals in the community. They are looking at a range of factors like chronic disease making one predisposed to complications. Ryan Moeller had nothing new to report for Williamson County Health Department.
- V. EMTF 5:
- Mike Elliott reported: They're just getting the list as far as what we have as far as Strike Team Leaders. ATCEMS did a no notice drill when Metro Rail had their drill, to see what it was like when those participating had no clue at all it would be happening. In two hours they put a team together. The other committee he is on is the TDMS (Texas Disaster Medical System). This committee has had a giant shift in direction. After much input, regarding a regional medical operations center piece they'd been working on, that project halted. One thing they did realize was they have a lot of deployable assets within the state; however if you are not linked in, you won't know how to reach them. Determined to start identifying assets that are available to people, and begin to figure out training, explanations on what they do, how to reach them, what they will bring with them, etc. EMTF had a face to face meeting in Waco. They are continuing to work on the mobile medical units and the Ambulance Strike Team leader piece. The Nurse Strike Team piece will also be a big thing to work on. Jackie said if everyone gets word out to staff that there is positive momentum behind this, word can reach hospital administration, so then when Dave comes to talk with them about it, they will already have some background. Dave also said that they are trying to convey that "volunteering" for the strike team does not mean "free", that the time will be compensated.
 - Regarding "Ambus" multipatient movers, they have backed off from that. Initially the plan was for each region to have two of them. Homeland Security funding helped with the local purchase but are waiting to push it through politically. Mike is going through the purchasing process for these. Hoping to be done by the end of the year.
 - Armbands for the evacuee tracking system – The state is now taking away "evacuee" and "hurricane related" and now calling it the Texas Emergency Tracking Network (TxETN), formerly "TxNets"; new name, same system, applicable to all hazards. How everyone will manage it is still in progress. They are trying to get the rep for EMTrack to come down to go over the system once again.
- VI. TX Emergency Conference: Texas Department of Public Safety has combined the Homeland Security Conference and the Hurricane Conference into one. It is being held April 26-29, 2011 in San Antonio. We can send someone using OASPR funds. Our RAC was asked to speak on an exercise we did in November. Currently putting a presentation together on how we made it successful. Participants can register online. Dave will send out the link. Send PAF to Dave; it falls under education, capabilities, etc. There is a cap on cost of hotel room, food.



VII. FY11:

- Pre-approvals: We are still processing the pre-approvals. We'll soon be coming up on the March 30 deadline for big ticket items.
- Monthly reports: We are still considering the best avenue for that. We've gone to quarterly reports. We're gathering information from the Belton RAC on how they do theirs to make it more user-friendly.

VIII. Committees

- Drills: The next Coalition drill meeting is March 23rd. They are looking heavily at the next drill. There is just the one meeting per month at this stage. Dave is still doing radio drills, but had not done them for a bit since the icy weather events. At this point, it seems the same facilities respond to the unannounced ones as the announced.

IX. Regional Discussion / Concerns

- Some outlying EMS agencies are in need of VHF radios for their vehicles. Getting into town having trouble reaching facilities. We have piloted the 800 radio with Marble Falls with VHF component, which has been successful for them so far.
- Next meeting was announced to be April 15, 2011. However, since the EMS 150 is that weekend it was changed back to the April 8th.

Meeting adjourned 11:10am.