



TDEM

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Texas Emergency Management Advisory Committee:

Thank you for your dedication and hard work over the last few years and your recent report on your efforts along with recommendations to improve emergency management in Texas. TDEM will continue to improve upon those areas addressed in the *Interim Report 2023*. Moving forward, I am requesting the committee study three general areas and provide recommendations to TDEM for each. I understand some of these issues are more complex than others, and as such some of the work may take longer to complete. I welcome your feedback when you deem it appropriate.

I would like the committee to consider developing and formalizing an Emergency Management Mission Assignment (EMMA) concept. EMMA would be an assessment of local emergency management capability to (1) Warn the public; (2) Open a shelter; and (3) Establish Points of Distribution (PODs).

1. Warning to the Public

- a. What tools and policies exist to warn and communicate with the public?
- b. Can the local emergency manager activate a warning?
- c. How many people can be contacted?

2. Sheltering and Evacuation Assessment

- a. How many or what percentage of a jurisdiction's population can be sheltered in 1 hour, 12 hours, and 24 hours?
- b. How many locations can serve as a shelter?
- c. How will emergency power, water, food, or other needs be provided?

3. Points of Distribution

- a. How many PODs can be established within 4 hours and 24 hours?

Next, I would like the committee to study aspects of the National Incident Management System in Emergency Operations Centers and how we can improve its use in Texas. Specifically, I am interested in two aspects.

1. Pre-filling of Positions

- a. Which local partners are pre-filling positions prior to an incident?
- b. Is there a local ICS organizational chart with positions filled?
- c. What can TDEM do to help facilitate the pre-filling of positions?

2. Pre-rostered Incident Management Teams

- a. Are local partners pre-rostering Incident Management Teams?
- b. How can TDEM assist in the effort to increase the number of local jurisdictions adhering to this practice?

Finally, I would like the committee to consider cyber threats and how the state and local jurisdictions can work to best collaborate to address these incidents.

1. Cyber Security

- a. How are local jurisdictions preparing for and preventing cyber attacks today?
- b. What are the biggest threats to local communities?
- c. What resources exist at the local level to address attacks once they occur?

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- d. What practices and resources exist at the local level that can be leveraged across the state?
- e. What gaps exist between local needs and state resources to address cyber threats?

Each of these broad areas (EMMA, NIMS, and Cyber Security) represent ways the state and local jurisdictions can work together to improve the way we prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against threats to Texas. I look forward to your insights and recommendations.

Sincerely,



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