

NORTH TEXAS INTEGRATED WARNING TEAM



Wednesday, March 6, 2013
8:00 AM – 12:30 PM
North Central Texas Council of Governments
616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76005



Forney Independent
School District

April 3, 2012
Forney, TX

The day we were "blessed".



We
knew it
was
coming

.....

Before the Storm.....

How did we know it was coming?

- ◉ Weather reports
- ◉ News and radio
- ◉ Television
- ◉ City of Forney Emergency Sirens

During the Storm...What procedures did we have in place?

- Because everyone found shelter before the storm, we were blessed that no one was hurt or killed.
- What we didn't expect was once the storm had passed Crosby Elementary and everyone was safe from the wind and flying debris, the smell of natural gas engulfed the school.
- Because busses were already at campuses, students were loaded and evacuated to their "sister" school.



After the Storm.....What did we do?

- We lost most forms of communication due to the incredible amount of incoming and outgoing cell phone traffic. The entire cell phone system was on overload.
- Because power was out in many of the effected areas, land lines were ineffective.
- The most effective communication was the two way radios on our busses that are tied into a home base at the Transportation Department and aided by a repeater tower for more area coverage.
- Central Office personnel went immediately to campuses to assist in dismissing students and getting them home safely based on our written emergency procedures.
- 2 hours after the tornado touched down, cell service was partially restored because of the reduced volume of calls that were being made.
- Once power was restored, the District call out system gave parents information on where to pick up their children or when to expect bus drop off.
- Central Office personnel went to campuses that were hit by the storm to evaluate damages.



We were blessed this time, but what about next time?



After the storm.....What did we learn?

- The district has purchased hand-held, two-way radios for every campus and Central Office administrator. We have our own dedicated channel and will be able to communicate in the event cell service is down or electricity is lost.
- A TV has been installed at Central Office just to monitor the weather.
- Campuses have been re-trained in the shelter in place drill.
- We have made every effort to improve communication in a time of crisis.
- We have learned that training and drills are not a waste of time.