



REM Meeting

May 7, 2021

Virtual

❖ Welcome and Introductions

- Shawna Lemley, REM Chair

❖ Guest Speakers

- Fort Worth Pileup: Maribel Martinez, City of Fort Worth
 - Timeline:
 - 4:30am – scout trucks deployed and reported all bridges appeared dry and passable.
 - 6:00am – Duty Officer in the EOC.
 - Just after 6am- first accident occurs. Reports of several vehicles involved.
 - TxDOT signs stated icy roads possible.
 - 6:45am- multiple alarms issued.
 - 7:00am- additional EOC teams activated.
 - 7:30am- family reunification center activated.
 - 8:30am- NCTTRAC issued MCI.
 - Response:
 - 135 vehicles- 103 cars, 16 tractor trailers (count as 2)
 - 36 victims treated and transported to area hospitals.
 - 6 fatalities.
 - 82 police units responded.
 - 26 fire units – 100 firefighters.
 - 13 ambulances, 4 supervisors, 33 EMS.
 - People were sending in vehicle descriptions to get status updates.
 - 60 tow trucks deployed.
 - Phone number established for PD towed vehicles.
 - Reunification:
 - MHMR staffed call center. Sent data to EOC.
 - Worked to check with hospitals and EOC.
 - Police Victim Assistance Center helped with callbacks.
 - 26 people transported via buses.
 - Key Takeaways:
 - Challenges-
 - Inundated with calls and email.
 - Better patient tracking.
 - Having PIO remain at family reunification.
 - Train community center personnel for mental health first aid.
 - Operations manual for employees.
 - Successes-



REM Meeting

- Unified command.
- Family reunification activation.
- EOC coordination.
- Joint information center coordination.
- Corrective actions will be implemented and tested in upcoming CCTA exercise.

❖ Discussion

- Winter storm EOC operations with COVID precautions

❖ NCTCOG Updates (Attached)

❖ NWS Updates

- **Mark your calendar for June 16th for a virtual EM/Partner Workshop!** We will have a morning session and a repeat session in the afternoon, so you only need to attend one session. We have lots of updates to provide including: upcoming changes to the formatting of Severe Storm Warnings and Special Weather Statements, new services from our office, and a new webpage to unveil. We will also incorporate a science/weather or event review for part of the workshop. A formal invite will be coming in the next few weeks.
- **Sign Up for iNWS (Interactive National Weather Service)!** iNWS, is a real-time information system that provides hazardous weather warning and watch information (and river point information) straight to your mobile device, email, or both. It keeps you in touch with what is going on with the weather, especially when you are not in your office. This is a free service, and the great thing about it is you can set a polygon or county based alert area you want to be notified for. I strongly recommend you set your alert area for a wider radius than your jurisdiction so you can receive advanced notice of incoming weather that may impact your area. I usually recommend a 20-30 mile radius around your coverage area, or at least to your southwest, west and northwest to catch the majority of incoming storms.
 - Users of this service are limited to qualified partners and this is not a public service. Please check the list on the sign up page before requesting an account, but EMs and other public safety personnel are on the list. Check to see if you qualify for the service and sign up for an account at: <https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov>. The decision for approval for iNWS is done regionally and is not done at WFO Fort Worth.
 - If you request an account, you must set up an alert area or your account may be removed.
- **Non-Weather Emergency Messages and IPAWS:** Changes are coming with regards to NWEMs and IPAWS. This will not affect Amber Alerts. I will need to have a discussion with those of you who have this capability as this may change the way these alerts are issued in the future. If you have IPAWS capability and have some idea(s) of the best way to tackle these changes as a group, please let me know, and/or you might see a virtual meeting invite from me in the near future.