

TSDC Meeting Agenda
1/16/2014

1. Welcome and antitrust statement
2. Update on private sector participation in disaster management activities – Texas Division of Emergency Management
3. Update from the State Fire Marshal's Office – Chris Connealy
4. Update on 2014 weather
5. Open discussion

Dial-in instructions:

- Dial 877-226-9790
- Enter passcode 9241684#

Texas State Disaster Coalition 1/17/2014 Quarterly Meeting Notes

Melissa Hield welcomed the group and reviewed the antitrust statement.

Ray Parks, Operations Section Coordinator, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), gave an update on the Business Emergency Operations Center (BEOC). The BEOC concept began during Hurricane Rita (2005), when TDEM brought together various groups to address fuel needs across a wide geographic area. TDEM learned that the fuel supply, as well as water and food supplies, are controlled by different groups. Since then, representatives from the Public Utilities Commission, banking groups, hotel and lodging groups, and retailers including Home Depot, Lowe's, Target, and Wal-Mart are participating and the group has met twice. BEOC goals are to re-establish business as quickly as possible, and share information and resources. During a disaster response, the first priority is to get emergency responders into the disaster area to save lives. The next phase is re-building the infrastructure, and the BEOC could play an important role. The third phase is re-population; in Texas local authorities will determine "when" people can enter a disaster area. TDEM is discussing a new responder entry database, or Texas RED, that could be used by all parties who wish to enter a disaster area. The BEOC could address problems affecting businesses, and share resources. In addition to participating in the recovery effort, the BEOC could also play a role in preparing businesses for disaster, for example, encouraging businesses to have disaster plans to recover their operations and help their employees come back to work. The BEOC will meet in the next few months. If TSDC members are interested in participating, please send an email to Patrick.mulligan@dps.texas.gov.

Chris Connealy, State Fire Marshal, gave an update on efforts since the explosion and fire in West, Texas (April 2013). The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) investigation is ongoing. In addition, SFMO staff are working to prevent another West; the explosion and fire there resulted in more than \$100 million in damage to the town. SFMO has identified 104 facilities in 68 counties where ammonium nitrate is stored. SFMO created a map application on the SFMO website where citizens can type in their zip code to determine if a facility is in their community; to view the map go to <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/fman.html>. SFMO staff will visit each facility to educate facility managers about best practices and make sure each facility has filed a Tier II report with the Texas Department of State Health Services and registered with federal Homeland Security. SFMO does not have authority to force facilities to meet safety codes. They will host a meeting in each county with local leaders, plant managers, and other state agency staff and present a slide show about West and lessons learned. They will also provide a blast zone map to demonstrate what could happen if the local plant blew up, and encourage local leaders to use this information for planning. At the national level, there is an Executive Order for federal agencies

to work with state and local agencies to prevent future explosions and fires. In addition, SFMO is focused on preventing line-of-duty deaths; Texas had 18 line-of-duty deaths in 2013, a very high number.

Scott Helmcamp, TDI Consumer Protection, gave a weather update. Texas has had one winter ice storm so far. The event revealed a fuel shortage, when hundreds of vehicles were abandoned after motorists were stuck on highways and ran out of gas. The current prediction is for a warmer and drier spring and summer. Statewide, the drought outlook has dropped to 47 percent, with only 7 percent of Texas in extreme drought. The high danger of wildfire continues.

2014 meeting schedule: All meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. Central time and are via conference call, and meeting reminders will be sent:

- April 17, 2014
- July 17, 2014
- October 16, 2014