

## EMAT 2017 SYMPOSIUM – PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE PROGRAM BROCHURE

THESE ARE IN ORDER ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE

**Monday, March 6, 2017**

### **Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address**

Join Jeb B. Lacey, EMAT President, for the Opening Ceremony and Keynote address of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual EMAT Symposium.

### **Fourteen Institutions, One Influenza Virus: University of Texas Systemwide Public Health Response Tabletop Exercise**

In August 2016, the University of Texas System conducted a successful Virtual Tabletop Exercise to test the coordination and capability of responding to pandemic influenza at the higher education institution level. Participants not only included institutional department stakeholders, but city/county Offices of Emergency Management, state agencies, and local public health authorities as well.

### **Collaborative Planning: Strategies to Coordinate Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plans**

The presentation will review the benefits and challenges of multi-jurisdictional mitigation planning and lessons learned to create a collaborative planning process. The presentation will provide model planning structures, plan integration, sharing resources and expertise, project management tools and annual evaluation and monitoring suggestions. The presentation is based on the recent 5-Year update to the Harris County Mitigation Plan, which consists of the County, 28 municipalities, 4 special purpose districts and various private non-profits.

### **Arson & Response: How Much Response is Too Much?**

When seconds count, our society does amazing things to preserve life and property from wildfires. However, what happens after the lawyers get involved and try to sort things out? There comes a time where response to an Arson or Fire Incident can actually inhibit a successful prosecution of the person who caused it. This presentation focuses on examining when measures taken to respond to a fire incident, actually inhibit an attorney's liability to successfully prosecute the individual causing it.

### **Statutes, Courts, and Codes; Oh MY!**

Like any other profession, the law is an ever changing challenge to follow. This presentation is designed to provide participants: a basic understanding of the legislative process; the general structure and role of the courts; and how regulations and city ordinances are developed. AN emphasis will be placed on how Emergency managers can "issue spot" and know what needs to be brought to the attention of their jurisdiction's attorney before it's too late.

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017**

### **Is your plan truly current?**

When is the last time you reviewed your emergency preparedness or Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan? When is the last time you tested it, whether part of it or the entire plan? Are things as you expect them to be? This session will look at some area you and your team should ensure are routinely looked at to ensure you don't have a "D'oh!" moment when you least expect (or want) it.

### **Hail Damage Claims in Texas**

With any hazard, hailstorms pose a significant risk to both person and property. A single hailstorm can cause several hundred million dollars in damages. This presentation provides an overview for Emergency Managers on what hail damage claims look like and how insurance companies handle them. This is significant because IHG Programs can only cover uninsured property damage. Thus, knowing how insurance carriers look and review claims for property damage following a hailstorm provides them a significant upper hand during a preliminary damage assessment. This presentation has recently been accredited by the Texas Department of Insurance under course number 105154 for 1 hour of insurance licensee continuing education.

### **The Clean Water Act and Your Project – What Can Sink Your Project**

Every Mitigation project requires intersects with some regulatory regime be it local, state, or federal level. The Clean Water Act of 1977 set in motion pollution control and water quality in the nation's waterways. In Texas, licenses and permits may be obtained for certain projects (i.e. dredging or filling) based on state certification. This presentation focuses on providing Emergency Managers with the awareness necessary to prevent violation of state and federal laws when planning Public Assistance and hazard Mitigation projects. Highlights from seminal and recent case law will be presented to provide context of information.

### **Planning a Unified Response to a Coordinated Complex Attack**

This BTI Institute presentation focused on lessons learned and best practices derived from the After Action Reviews of: the Terrorist Attack on the Westgate Mall, Nairobi, Kenya; the Aurora Theater Shootings; the Boston marathon Bombings; the San Bernardino Terrorist Attacks; and the Washington Navy Yard Shootings. BTI provides a compendium of the AAR recommendations, an accompanying Action Plan template to assist jurisdictions in efforts to prepare for such attacks, and a Synchronization Matrix delineating recommended key actions, by operational phase. The presentation also describes possible technological solutions to issues raised in the After Action Reviews.

### **Effective Whole Community Digital Communications Planning**

Preparedness is the key to effective emergency response and leveraging resources. Waiting until a disaster strikes to implement appropriate channels will fail. Communications failures can have significant negative impacts on public perception and can literally have life or death implications. And, citizens who were previously asked to stand down are now vital pieces of the total response and recovery puzzle.

Today, citizens are social and mobile, wanting information coming to them via the channels they prefer. In advance, communicators must have determined appropriate channels for their particular demographics, set them up, and know how to use them. It takes time to build media relationships, develop web pages, build social channels, and write appropriate messaging. Policy considerations, managing local actors, and handling rumors are also important parts of a communication plan and must be considered in advance. Just as important is finding ways to turn that digital infrastructure into a functioning digital community before, during and after an emergency or declared disaster.

This session will present the elements of creating an effective communications plan. Topics will include determining demographics, channel creation, interfacing with government agencies and public sector stakeholders, policy development, embracing the whole community approach (including second responders, local actors), marketing strategies and more. Practical information will be supplemented with speaker experiences as government and citizen volunteer communicators during Hurricane Irene, Superstorm Sandy, the Joplin (MO) Tornado and other emergencies.

### **Managing the Incident within the Incident**

Disasters and emergencies by their very nature are extremely complex. Just when you think that you are dealing with a simple issue; it can blow up on you and you are faced with utter chaos. Sometimes it builds slowly with things trickling in a little at a time; but, far too often when things go badly it is like a tidal wave of issues hitting you all at once. In this workshop, we will concentrate on the increasing complexity and how that affects operations while Managing the Incident within the Incident.

### **Communications Failure: We have a Tourniquet for That!**

Communications failure is a common topic on many After Action Reports. Examine the benefits a certified Communications Unit Leader (COML) and Communications Technician (COMT) can bring to your agency's communications and continuity. Discuss benefits of collaborative communications and how to make it a practice rather than a theory. Review the COML/COMT training and certification process in the State of Texas.

### **"One Century Later: What We Didn't Learn from the Worst Biologic Disaster in History."**

We are approaching the one hundredth anniversary of the worst biologic disaster in our history. Our healthcare agencies as part of our healthcare coalitions work in a competitive atmosphere balancing the delivery of high quality healthcare with the fiscal responsibilities of the organization. Emergency Managers recognize the constraints imposed on Public Safety, Public Works, and First Responders by budgetary concerns. Mission critical resources are in short supply for agencies already at maximum surge with a just in time workflow. With an ever-changing funding stream, any aberration will lead to catastrophic consequences. We have an opportunity to learn from the events of the Pandemic of 1918. Critical gaps existed one hundred years ago and continue today. We live in precarious times. We have natural occurring biologic events and a resurgence of biologic diseases once thought controlled. Add to that the potential for release of natural or modified biologic agents by non-state sponsored organizations with even primitive dispersal devices amidst a naïve population, and we have the makings for disaster. EMS and Acute Care Hospitals/Emergency Departments will find themselves without the capability or capacity to care for the number of patients seeking help in addition to the routine numbers seeking care for heart attacks, stroke, and vehicular trauma. Critical gaps have been

identified. Non-competitive collaboration by political jurisdictions, Emergency Management, healthcare coalitions, public/private sector agencies and businesses, will sustain vital healthcare and societal functions. Centers of Excellence will be identified to care for the most seriously ill. The Hospital Home and Mobile integrated Healthcare will be the primary focus for care outside the Hospital when hospitals are overwhelmed. Responder health and safety will be a primary concern along with decontamination and waste management. Public and risk communications, and public safety will be incorporated into emergency management protocols. Telemedicine will allow for the care of many more than could be cared for in a standard hospital setting. And alternative care sites will aid in the care of an overwhelmed system. In this inclusive atmosphere Emergency Managers will formulate the Whole Community Plan to sustain the vital functions of society and maintain the health of our communities.

### **Changing Dynamics: When One of Ours is Injured**

Anytime that anyone is injured during an emergency or disaster response, the operation changes tempo. When the injury occurs to one of the responders, one of ours, the tempo increases dramatically. That change in operational tempo creates its own set of challenges and requires careful consideration to prevent a bigger problem. This workshop will highlight the increased concerns for responders when we have someone we know and work with who is injured during a response.

### **Case Study: UT Medical Branch's Hurricane Ike FEMA Appeal**

On September 13, 2008 Hurricane Ike struck the Gulf Coast, prompting a Major Disaster Declaration by the President. On September 29, 2016, FEMA issued its response to the Second Appeal made by the University of Texas Medical Branch for increased operating expenses from an attempt to clear Legionella from the facility's water system. Though the UT Medical Branch was not successful in its appeal; there are important takeaways that can help other organizations avoid the same issues. Much of the presentation will focus on what FEMA considers "Emergency Work" and how well intentioned cost saving measures can turn "Emergency Work" into "Regular Operations."

**Wednesday, March 8, 2017**

### **PWRT – The Public Works Response Team**

The Public Works Response Team (PWRT) supports local jurisdictions in their response to a catastrophic event by providing critical public works services as needed to facilitate recovery. When a catastrophic event occurs and the citizens of Texas have their daily lives and local economy disrupted, an immediate and integrated public works response provides for quicker recovery of critical services and infrastructure. The PWRT is a state resource with multi-disciplined, multi-talented, and highly qualified members who support local response, rapid damage assessment, and recovery efforts. PWRT is composed of members who are highly skilled and knowledgeable in public works activities. The PWRT is a State asset deployed by the State Operations Center (SOC) under the direction of the Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), as required to support local jurisdictions in the event of a catastrophic incident. The operationally ready response teams are recruited from local jurisdictions and coordinated with other State Agencies. The teams are made from identified public works disciplines and will function under Memorandums of Understanding and the Texas Statewide Mutual Aid System.

### **Identifying & Prosecuting Disaster Relief Fraud**

Every disaster has honest people who need assistance getting back on their feet. However, in every subset of a population there are those who seek to take a dishonest advantage of others good-will and assistance. This presentation provides an overview on current trending issues and events relevant to Texas and Florida disaster relief fraud. This presentation's focus will be centered on presenting real world data from storm related insurance fraud claims and provide an outlook on any potential or pending legislation arising out of the current legislative session. The presentation will close with a brief overview on prosecution of disaster relief fraud for non-attorneys. This presentation has been accredited by the Texas Department of Insurance under course number 101564 for 2 hours of insurance licensee CE.

### **The Paper Mache Minefield: Developing Your Legal Annex**

The World of Emergency Management is incredibly intertwined with that of the law, and it is only becoming more so. However, many organizations and governments fail to have an adequate legal annex to their Emergency Operations Plan. This sets the stage for the EOC to enter a state of confusion the moment a legal issue arises. Additionally, many attorneys lack even the basic understanding of what Emergency Management is and does. Only those that have built a relationship with their local in-house legal department have the capacity to overcome this confusion and unreasonable stress. This Presentation will guide Emergency Managers on: (1) techniques that will help the OEM and Legal Department collaborate on planning initiatives before disaster strikes; (2) guidance on what EM's should be looking for the attorneys to answer; and (3) the basic concept of what outside-counsel does and what the attorney-client relationship is.

### **Borders, Trade and Immigration (BTI) Institute: A DHS Center of Excellence**

The newly established Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence for Borders, Trade, and Immigration (BTI) Institute, led by the University of Houston, conducts research, provides educational materials, and develops technological solutions to: secure our borders, facilitate legitimate trade and travel, and ensure the integrity of our Nation's immigration policies. This presentation focuses the BTI Institute's value to Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial and local jurisdictions and government agencies to help assess strategic priorities, discern gaps in capabilities or knowledge, provide mission-focused research, and address workforce development needs for today's Homeland Security Enterprise.