Three Days Later: Explosive Sequelae in West, Texas

(and other Lessons Learned from Texas being #1!)

2014 EMS State of the Science: Gathering of Eagles XVI

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Texas is #1!

....in disasters in the US

- Hurricane Katrina
- Hurricane Rita
- Hurricane Gustav
- Hurricane Ike
- H1N1 Pandemic of 2009
- Wildfires of 2011
- West Nile Virus Outbreak
- Dallas tornadoes of 2012
- West, Texas explosion
- Ice storms of 2013
April 17, 2013

7:30 pm

7:51 pm

Photo obtained by KEYE-TV from video from https://www.facebook.com/FOX44tv
April 17, 2013
Local Response

- Community rallies
- Nursing home evacuation
- West EMS – devastated, but helps with initial triage of patients
- 60% of patients go to hospital by private vehicle
- Law Enforcement transport
- Local EMS providers (ground and air)

Photos obtained from Mail Online Article, www.dailymail.uk.com, Copyright AP
Regional Response

Mutual Aid Partners

- Fire
- EMS
  - Ground
  - Air
- Emergency Management
- Hospitals
  - Hillcrest Baptist Hospital
  - Providence Regional Hospital
  - Scott and White Hospital
  - Parkland Hospital
  - Hill Regional Hospital
Initial Injuries...

- Blast Injuries
- Burns
- Lacerations
- Orthopedic injuries
- Traumatic Brain Injuries

Photos obtained from Mail Online Article, [www.dailymail.uk.com](http://www.dailymail.uk.com), Copyright AP
State Response

- Emergency Management
- Department of State Health Services
- Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF)
  - 4 Ambuses
  - Mobile Medical Unit
- Medical Incident Support Team (MIST)
- Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU)
Emergency Medical Task Force Team

- 5 Ambulance Strike Teams
  - 5 Ambulances in each Strike Team (25 total ambulances)
  - Each Strike Team has assigned Strike Team Leader
  - Teams are pre-identified
  - No Notice Regional deployment
  - State-wide tasked mission assignments
  - 200 Ambulances

- 2 AMBUSes
  - AMBUS(es) capable of transporting 16-20 litter patients at one time.
  - DSHS licensed as a specialty Ambulance
  - EMS agencies to staff for 4:1 patient care ratios
  - No Notice Regional deployment
  - State-wide tasked mission assignments
  - 16 AMBUSes

- Mobile Medical Unit
  - 16-32 bed capacity
  - Able to provide emergency stabilizing care and transfer
  - Fully staffed with EM physicians, ER nurses, Paramedics, techs, pharmacy, logistics, clerical and other support
  - 6-12 hour launch time for 72 hr. deployment
  - 4 Type I & 4 Type III

- 5 RN Strike Teams
  - 5 RN’s in each Strike Team (25 total RN’s)
  - Each Team has pre-assigned Strike Team Leader
  - 4 ER Strike Teams
  - 1 Specialty area (Burn, OB, ICU, Pedi, NICU, etc)
  - Approx. 72 hr. deployment
  - 200 Registered Nurses

- Command/General Staff
  - ICS 100, 200, 300, 400 certifications, with position-specific certifications as well
  - Must have EMS/ER/IMT management experience
  - Full Comms package to communicate with all Groups and Local EOC/DDC/DSHS/TDEM-SOC
  - Logistics package to support all Groups
State Emergency Medical Response Assets.....

- Ambuses
State Emergency Medical Response Assets....

- Mobile Medical Unit
State Emergency Medical Response Assets...

- Ambulance Strike Teams
- RN Strike Teams
- Medical Incident Support Teams
Three things I have learned...

- Get to know your emergency management partners
- Understand the basics of public health and how they affect you and your EMS
- Encourage your service to be involved at a regional and state level for disaster preparedness
Get to know your emergency management partners...

- Know your local, regional, and state EM Plan and your EMS fits in
Get to know your emergency management partners...

- Know who you can call on ... before the disaster
That public health stuff...

- Pandemic
- Quarantine issues
- Food safety
- Shelter support
- Mass Fatality
- Responder Health & Safety
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Caches
Regional and state level participation...

- Medics participating in regional and state programs
- Medical direction and liability during mutual aid response
- Help guide the planning
- Improves local readiness
  - Mass gatherings
  - Day to day response
Thank you...