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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**



PRESS RELEASE

Regional Safety Exercise Next Week

East Texas Counties Join Together to Test Interoperable Communications

Kilgore, TX, April 26, 2011: The East Texas Council of Governments will be holding a Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Regional Exercise at the ALERT Academy in Big Sandy, Texas on May 4, 2011. The event, testing radio interoperability within 1 hour of arrival at the incident or exercise, will involve all 14 counties served by ETCOG. This exercise provides the Office of Emergency Communications that East Texas is working towards interoperability based upon the guidelines of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) goal number two.

Media and Elected Officials are welcome to attend and must sign-in at the ALERT Academy Chapel located at 1085 Private Road 3481 in Big Sandy, TX, at 8:00 am. All Media and Elected officials will be taken to a designated viewing area by a Public Information Officer assigned to the event due to exercise requirements and on-site safety. The viewing period for the event is limited to 8:30 am – 11:00 am. Please call Stephanie Heffner, Director of Public Safety with any questions at 903-984-8641 x 251.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.