



# PRESS RELEASE

## Regional Full Scale Safety Exercise in Canton Next Week

*East Texas Counties Join Together to Test Emergency Response*

**Canton, TX, November 1, 2012:** The East Texas Council of Governments, in partnership with Regional Advisory Council Trauma Service Area Regions F and G, the City of Canton & Van Zandt County Emergency management, will conduct a Full Scale, Regional Safety Exercise on November 6-8, 2012 in Canton, Texas.

This 72 hour, around the clock event will begin at 7:00 AM on November 6, and will incorporate local and regional emergency responders; local, regional, and state public works agencies; private business partners; and various state / federal agencies and over 60 participating hospitals through the Regional Advisory Council Trauma Service Area Regions F and G; and EMTF Region 4.

The multi day exercise, involving 400 to 500 participants will test many areas of emergency management and medical response. Scenarios during the 3 day exercise will include: a structural collapse, a dive rescue recovery, a confined space-low angle/high angle rescue, a dam break, a hazardous material spill a wide area search and rescue, medical special needs sheltering and two active shooter enactments.

### SCENARIOS

Over the course of the 72-hour exercise, emergency response will be staged in Canton and the surrounding area. The exercise will begin with a scenario of a tornado that touches down in various locations across Van Zandt County. Emergency responders will attend to a structural collapse scenario at Tyler Pipe located at 11910 County Road 492 in Tyler. A dive rescue recovery and a search and rescue operation will be conducted by area CERT teams at the Canton City Lake "Mill Creek Reservoir" located at 410 Arnold Paul Road in Canton. A mass fatalities/casualties scenario will be conducted at the First Monday Trade Grounds theoretically caused by a tornado during First Monday Trade Days. This scenario will allow first responders, EMS and regional medical facilities to test tracking victims as they are transported for medical care via ambulance, helicopter or Ambus. Mass Casualties also test the medical surge response at area hospitals. There will be a active shooter scenarios held at the Van Zandt County Courthouse and also at Canton Trade Days. Daytime and nighttime aircraft landing zones will be established and coordinated for the removal of victims to nearby hospital facilities.

Behind the scenes, a Base of Operations will be established, incorporating major aspects of the Incident Command System, Communications Inter-Operability, and various IT related events, i.e., WEB EOC, video conferencing. Regional hospital facilities will coordinate and receive injured patients in their respective emergency rooms. The State of Texas Type III Incident Management Team will be providing the Command and Control element. Command and control activities, as well as Level II Staging and Aerial Operations, will be conducted from Splash Kingdom located at 18814 Interstate 20, Canton, Texas.

### MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

**CANTON** - Media interested in covering the event should make arrangements with Public Information Officers Lindsay Vanderbilt or Chuck Allen. An initial media briefing will be available at Canton Senior Center, 200 Grove Street, Canton, Texas at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, and media will be escorted to the various scenarios. We ask that no media attend the first day of the exercise as there will still be guests leaving Trades Days.

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**TYLER** - The Piney Woods Regional Advisory Council will set up the Zumro Mobile Medical Unit in Tyler for the first time. The Zumro mobile facility is a 16 bed hospital shelter available to deploy in the East Texas region and the state in the event of a disaster. The unit will be set up at the UTHSCT Hospital located at 11937 US Highway 271 in Tyler. Other equipment on site at this location will include: Ambus (20 patient bus ambulance), command trailer, and decontamination showers. Media are invited to view the equipment and schedule interviews by request on Wednesday, November 7th, from 12 PM - 2:00 PM. Please contact Beth Powell with the Regional Advisory Council at 903.530.3855 or beth@rac-g.org to schedule an interview at this location.

#### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES / CONTACTS**

East Texas Council of Governments

Director of Public Safety, Stephanie Heffner, 903-331-6770 cell

Event Planner, Russell Marshall, 903-399-8499 cell

PIO, Lindsay Vanderbilt, 903.984.8641 x218, 903.931.1830 cell

Van Zandt County EMC, Chuck Allen, 214-356-4770 cell

City of Canton EMC, Bud Sanford, 903-567-6477

Piney Woods Regional Advisory Council

Beth Powell, Risk Oversight Coordinator, 903.530.3855 Cell

Loretta Kuhn, Assistant Director Hospital Preparedness Program 903-258-5377

City of Lindale

City of Grand Saline

Hideaway Lake

Longview Fire Department



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#### **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.