



# THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

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Regional Workshop coming May 2016! See page 4 for details



Tornado in City of Garland and Rowlett December 2015.

## Severe Winter Weather & Tornadoes

In late December 2015, a major winter storm system affected the Southern and Midwestern regions of the United States. This storm system brought blizzard conditions and severe weather, including tornadoes, damaging winds and flooding. The Dallas- Fort Worth area and surrounding counties were impacted by this storm system which produced an outbreak of twelve confirmed tornadoes in the area on the evening of December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Tornadoes touched down in several counties in DSHS Health Service Region 3, causing major destruction, destroying structures, property, lives and injuries. The strongest tornado produced EF4 damage in the City of Garland, as well as EF3 damage in the City of Rowlett. The tornado produced a continuous path of damage for approximately thirteen miles across Dallas and Rockwall Counties. The majority of damage occurred near the intersection of Interstate 30 and President George Bush Turnpike. The governor issued a Disaster Proclamation for the area due to tornadoes, high winds and flooding.

Continue on page 2



## Severe Winter Weather & Tornadoes continues...

Bart Thom  
Community Preparedness



DDC—Garland

This state is divided into disaster districts that engage in homeland security, preparedness, and response activities. These districts are comprised of local representatives of state agencies, boards, commissions as well as volunteers. DSHS Region 2/3 has a total of ten staff members assigned as Disaster District Committee (DDC) Liaisons. These staff members provide an interface between the Regional Medical Operation Center (RMOC) and five Disaster District Committees.

The DDC Liaison is responsible for providing briefings to the DDC Chair and staff on DSHS 2/3 response capabilities. Liaisons are expected to take a proactive approach during these situations. Before and during this event DSHS Region 2/3 DDC Liaison staff were at an elevated state of readiness and were gaining situational awareness by participating in State Operation Center conference calls with the National Weather Service and Disaster Districts.



Tornado damage in Rowlett, TX

## Severe Winter Weather & Tornadoes continues...

Bart Thom  
Community Preparedness

After review of this situation, DSHS 2/3 has implemented a rotation schedule for one DDC Liaison to be on call 24/7. This ensures effective use of resources and adequate situation coverage. We are committed to providing health and medical expertise and support around the clock and look forward to serving during events that may impact our communities.



Tornado damage in Rowlett, TX



Presents

## High Consequence Infectious Disease Response: Ebola and Other Pathogens – a Multi-Disciplinary Workshop

*for Elected Officials, Public Health and Healthcare Leaders,  
Emergency Management, First Responders, and Other Stakeholders*

Region 2/3

Dallas/Fort Worth

May 3-5, 2016

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Dallas - DFW Airport North

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Section (HEPRS) will host eight workshops – one in each of the DSHS Health Service Regions – for the purpose of sharing in-depth, Texas-specific preparedness and response information pertaining to high consequence infectious diseases. The workshops will provide formative information for attendees to review current strategies, assess individual levels of preparedness and response, and identify gaps in service.

**Day One**, beginning at 11:00 a.m., will provide an overview of high consequence infectious disease threats, lessons learned from previous responses (including the 2014 Ebola response), and comprehensive preparedness and response strategies for all levels of government

**Day Two**, a full day, will provide a variety of topics to include: tiered hospital approach for triage, transport, and treatment; legal and ethical considerations during an infectious disease incident; media relations; fatality management; EMS ground and air transport of an infected patient; decontamination; overview of personal protective equipment (PPE); infectious disease waste management (hospital and community); disaster behavioral health; and epidemiological investigation and other surveillance issues.

**Day Three**, will culminate in a half-day discussion-based tabletop exercise. The exercise will demonstrate a high consequence infectious disease response scenario specific to each region, concluding with a Hot Wash and working lunch.

Register at [www.texas-hcid-workshops.org](http://www.texas-hcid-workshops.org)

## West Africa Traveler Monitoring Summary

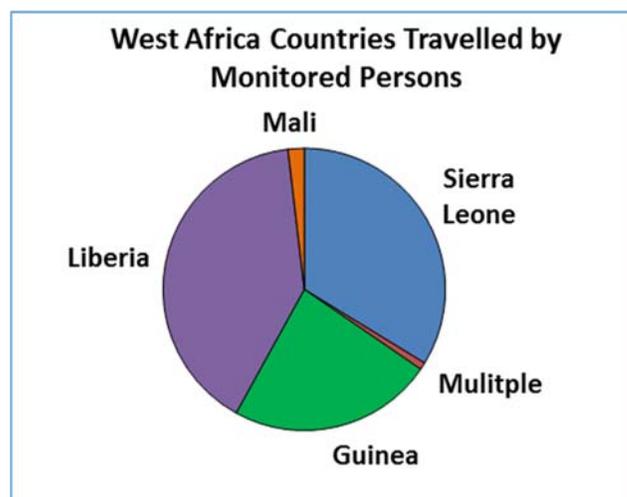
Heidi Honza  
Epidemiology

The United States began monitoring travelers from West Africa on October 14, 2014. The total number of travelers assigned to the State of Texas was 1,510 as of December 28, 2015. Approximately one third (32%) of the travelers assigned to Texas were monitored by health departments in North Texas. A total of 487 travelers from West Africa were monitored within Health Service Region 2/3 (HSR 2/3). Of those monitored in HSR 2/3, 7 (1%) were classified as "Some Risk" travelers while 480 were classified as "Low, but not Zero Risk." Travelers from Liberia accounted for the majority of those monitored in HSR 2/3 at 40% (195 travelers) followed by Sierra Leone with 164 (34%) travelers and Guinea with 114 travelers (23%). Travelers to Mali were monitored from November 17, 2014 to January 6, 2015 and 9 of those reporting travel to Mali were monitored in HSR 2/3. A small percent of travelers (1%) reported visiting multiple countries with widespread Ebola.

During the fourteen months of monitoring travelers from West Africa, there were 16 Patients under Investigation (PUIs) reported in HSR 2/3. Malaria was the final diagnosis for the majority of the PUIs at 50%. The remaining PUIs had diagnoses ranging from a pulmonary embolism to an ear infection to congestive heart failure. Of the 11 PUIs tested for Ebola in North Texas, none were positive for Ebola.

### Lessons Learned:

- Information in regards to assigned travelers provided by the CDC was not always complete nor accurate. It was imperative to contact the traveler as soon as possible in order to determine if the contact information was correct and if the traveler was even within our jurisdiction.
- The Low but not Zero Risk travelers were not under any travel restrictions allowing for movement around the United States. It became apparent health departments needed to inquire about any travel plans at each symptom check to ensure other jurisdictions could be notified in a timely fashion about any arriving travelers.
- The transportation of PUIs became complicated in circumstances when the PUI was not healthy enough to transport themselves to a healthcare facility. The North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council is working on a transport plan for their counties and DSHS is drafting a regional plan to address this issue.

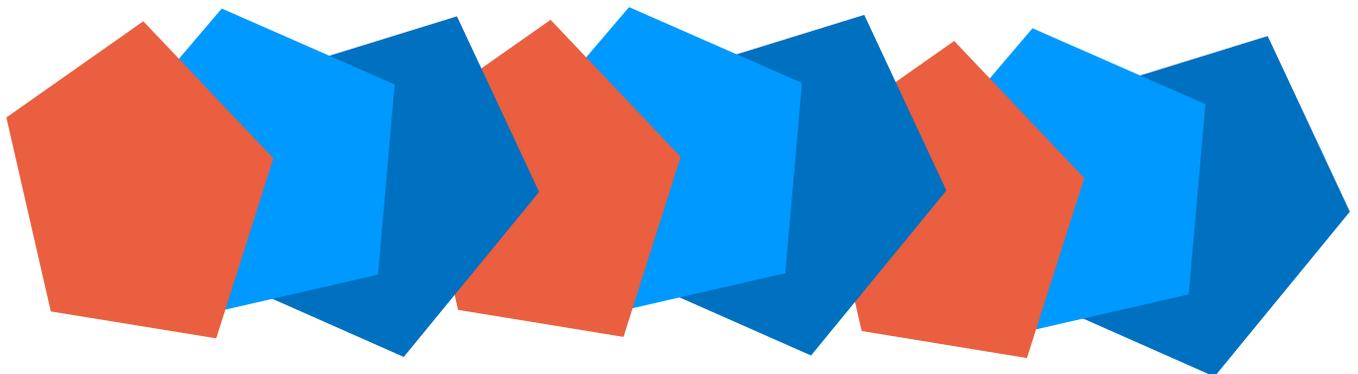


## High Consequence Infectious Disease Tabletop Exercise

Brenda Hart  
Community Preparedness

The end of 2014 proved to be a challenge for the North Texas region after the first Ebola diagnosis in the United States, along with two additional cases of nurses who were exposed to the initial patient. Although the community at large performed admirably during the crisis, many gaps were identified. After the response came to a close and jurisdictions were able to come together to discuss the response, everyone agreed that although jurisdictional planning is important, a coordinated regional response where multiple jurisdictions can work in unison would be key to a successful response in the future. After gathering as many jurisdictional infectious disease response plans as we could, Health Service Region 2/3 and the North Central Texas Council of Government contracted with Integrated Solutions Consulting (ISC) to develop and test an integrated regional High Consequence Infectious Disease Response Plan.

The ISC team, with experts in the fields of public health, EMS, and infectious disease, has been working since November to review current plans and capabilities, and develop a comprehensive regional response plan. This plan will include responsibilities for multiple response levels and will be tested at an upcoming tabletop exercise on February 25. The discussion during the tabletop will identify strengths and weaknesses in regional coordination and contribute to a comprehensive regional response plan. We look forward to participation across multiple disciplines and jurisdictions. For registration or additional information, please contact Brenda Hart at [Brenda.hart@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:Brenda.hart@dshs.state.tx.us).



## Upcoming Exercises and Training Events

Stephanie Patrick  
Community Preparedness

⇒ **Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness (course# MGT-439)**

February 2 – 4, 2016 at Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine, TX **Conference Room A/B**  
1650 West College St. Grapevine, TX

This course prepares students to effectively, appropriately, and safely plan for and respond to a disaster incident involving children, addressing the specific needs of pediatric patients in the event of a community based-incident. Pediatric specific planning considerations include mass sheltering, pediatric-triage, reunification planning and pediatric decontamination considerations. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/ViewCourse.aspx?courseid=c8d05bf6-93a0-4736-9999-82642233277e>

⇒ **Emergency Operations Center Operations and Planning for All Hazards Events**

February 2 – 4, 2016 at NCTTRAC offices CenterPoint Three 600 Six Flags Dr. Suite 100 Arlington, TX

The EOC course offers participants insight into, and practical experience with, emergency management and decision-making skills necessary to effectively manage an EOC and the overall response to a large-scale Type 3 or 2 and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/terrorism incident or all-hazard event utilizing the MACS. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/DeliveryDetails.aspx?classid=eab6ff5c-3fa6-4db1-89e8-a2a718d5b056>

⇒ **Jurisdictional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (course# MGT-310)**

February 17-18, 2016 at NCTTRAC 600 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX

This course prepares participants to complete a jurisdictional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) by following the DHS/FEMA THIRA process. The course is designed to enhance the jurisdiction's ability to identify and manage risks associated with human-caused, natural and technological disasters through application of the THIRA process. Target Audience: EMS Technicians/Paramedics, Fire Service, Public Health, Hazardous Materials, Public Works Emergency Management, Health Care, Emergency Communications, etc. Registration Instructions: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/DeliveryDetails.aspx?classid=b19c5d2b-366a-408a-9bbb-b6c0e243793f>

⇒ **Emergency Support Function #8 (ESF8) Tabletop Exercise**

February 25, 2016 at Ruthe Jackson Center 3113 S. Carrier Pkwy Grand Prairie , TX

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)- Region 2/3 Community Preparedness Program will host the ESF 8 tabletop exercise. This tabletop exercise will involve key ESF 8, regional partners discussing their ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover – in both the short and long terms – from public health incidents and assess their current procedures and plans and identify areas for improvement. **To register:** <http://goo.gl/forms/7ztc2o8thD>

## Upcoming Exercises and Training Events

Stephanie Patrick  
Community Preparedness

⇒ **Public Information in an All – Hazards Incident**

March 9-10, 2016 at NCTTRAC 600 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX

The course focuses on the role of public information in incident management, the information needs of the public in a crisis, and the various means of effectively communicating through the news and social media. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to manage the major elements associated with public information in a WMD, terrorism and all-hazards incident.

⇒ **ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents (course# ICS-300)**

March 22-24, 2016 at NCTTRAC CenterPoint Three 600 Six Flags Dr. Suite 100 Arlington, TX

This course provides training on use of multiple resources for personnel who require application of the Incident Command System (ICS) during expanding incidents. This course expands upon information covered in the ICS-100 and ICS-200 courses. To register: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/DeliveryDetails.aspx?classid=f71f468a-ee71-47e8-be83-93a59d16e9f6>

⇒ **ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System, Command and General Staff**

April 5-8, 2016 at Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center San Antonio, TX

Conference attendees will have multiple opportunities to meet and network with local, state, and national emergency management professionals. Attendees also benefit from choosing among more than 200 workshops and training classes to attend covering a variety of all-hazards topics. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit conference exhibitors and look for essential products and services to help ensure their communities and organizations are prepared for the next event or incident. Register at: <http://www.cvent.com/events/2016-texas-emergency-management-conference/event-summary-cc9863b0352f4b28997313abcf6b42e9.aspx>

⇒ **Operational Level Response to HazMat / WMD Incidents (CEUs)**

April 19-21, 2016 at NCTTRAC 600 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX

This course focuses on the unique personal protection challenges that responders face during a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or terrorist incident. Target Audience: Emergency Medical Service, Fire Service, Public Health, Public Works, Emergency Management, Health Care, Law Enforcement.

Registration Instructions: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/ViewCourse.aspx?courseid=e49c397a-77aa-45ce-abf1-09fcfe8d303>

## Upcoming Exercises and Training Events

Stephanie Patrick  
Community Preparedness

⇒ **Regional workshops on the High Consequence Infectious Diseases – Ebola and Other Pathogens**

May 3-5, 2016 at Doubletree by Hilton Hotel - DFW Airport 4441 West John Carpenter FWY Irving, TX

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Section (HEPRS) will host regional workshops – in Region 2/3– for the purpose of sharing in-depth, Texas-specific preparedness and response information pertaining to high consequence infectious disease. The workshops will provide information for attendees to review current strategies, assess levels of preparedness and response capacity, and identify gaps. These workshops will share information on current strategies, assess individual levels of preparedness and response, and identify gaps in service. Target Audience: EMS Technicians/Paramedics, Fire Service, Public Health, Hazardous Materials, Public Works Emergency Management, Health Care, Emergency Communications, etc.

Registration procedures and lodging availability are available at: [www.texas-hcid-workshops.org](http://www.texas-hcid-workshops.org).

⇒ **Mass Fatalities Incident Response**

May 18 – 20, 2016 at Parker County EOC 215 Trinity St. Weatherford, TX

The Parker County Emergency Management Department will be hosting this training at the Parker County EOC at 215 Trinity St., Weatherford, Texas. Class size is limited to 25 seats. If you are interested please register at [www.preparingtexas.org](http://www.preparingtexas.org).

⇒ **Medical Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Ex-plosive (CBRNE) Events**

June 16-17, 2016 at NCTTRAC 600 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX

This Course teaches participants to perform patient triage, decontamination, treatment, and transportation in the event of exposure to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) weapons. Target Audience: EMS Technicians/Paramedics, Fire Service, Public Health, Physicians/Physician Assistants, Hospital/Medical Treatment Facility Personnel, etc. Registration Instructions: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/DeliveryDetails.aspx?classid=5badaeec-66bc-4fb1-85eb-a2ed92a75782>

⇒ **Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness (course# MGT-439)**

July 21-22, 2016 at NCTTRAC 600 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX

This course prepares students to effectively, appropriately, and safely plan for and respond to a disaster incident involving children, addressing the specific needs of pediatric patients in the event of a community based-incident. Pediatric specific planning considerations include mass sheltering, pediatric-triage, reunification planning and pediatric decontamination considerations. Target Audience: Community and Hospital-based Emergency Managers, Public Health Personnel, MRC Personnel, Private Sector, Law Enforcement, and Disaster Response/Relief Personnel  
Registration Instructions: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/DeliveryDetails.aspx?classid=7b641a61-2d27-4068-b8a6-c8ea83d2d734>

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