

Hurricane Dolly

List of providers who responded in Dolly:

- American Medical Response of Texas, Inc.
- Angleton Area Emergency Medical Corps
- Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS
- Champion EMS
- Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corp
- Copperas Cove Fire Dept/ EMS
- Cypress Creek EMS
- East Texas Medical Center
- Frisco Fire Department
- Kendall County EMS
- Kerrville Fire/EMS
- Northwest Rural EMS
- Roanoke Fire Department
- Transcare EMS
- Washington County EMS
- Wise County EMS

List of providers who responded in Edouard:

- American Medical Response Careflight
- Champion EMS
- First Medical Response
- Frio County EMS
- New Braunfels Fire Department
- Schertz EMS
- St. Joseph Regional EMS
- Texas Vital Care
- Transcare EMS
- Washington County EMS

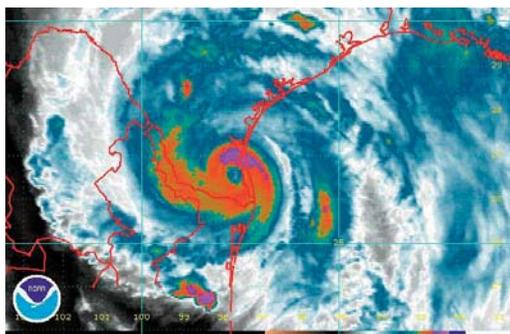
So long, Dolly — hello, Edouard

Tropics don't give anyone a break this summer

In late July and early August, tropical weather took aim on the Texas Coast and didn't let up. We had barely tackled the paperwork from Dolly when we got the first calls that another storm was headed for the Texas Coast. Seemingly overnight, Tropical Storm Edouard had become a threat and was heading to the Houston area. For the second time in two weeks, the State Operations Center (SOC), housed deep below the Department of Public Safety headquarters, and the Multi-Agency Coordinating Center (MACC), located at DSHS, were activated. And that meant that the emergency operations center at the DSHS EMS offices also was activated.

Our job at the Exchange Building is to activate our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and ask which providers might be available to send units and personnel. When we are asked to deploy ambulances, DSHS EMS staff goes on round-the-clock shifts to make sure the job gets done.

Dolly headed for far South Texas, so staging



Hurricane Dolly

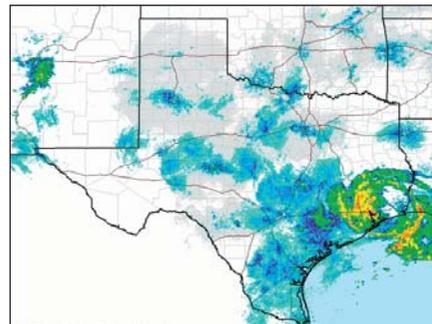
was in San Antonio, coordinated by the Alamo Regional Medical Operations Center (ARMOC). For the first time, DSHS used the strike team leader model. Ambulances and personnel were organized around strike team leaders who were responsible for up to five units and personnel. Regular conference calls kept lines of communication open with DSHS, strike team leaders and providers around the state. A total of 25 units were deployed.

When Edouard churned across the Gulf toward Houston, the process was repeated, this time using the Central Medical Operations Center (CMOC) as the point of contact. Edouard fizzled after it hit landfall, but the process provided a good drill for how things can work. DSHS deployed 15 units and three strike team leaders.

We're very proud of the way Texas EMS stepped up, as usual, to help in a crisis. Has your service signed an MOA to respond during a statewide crisis? Even if called during a crisis, a provider has the option of declining the deployment. And only providers with signed MOAs are guaranteed payment by DSHS instead of having to wait for reimbursement from FEMA. For more information, go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems and click on the picture of the ambulances at the top of the page.

What's in a (hurricane) name?

Ever wonder how we end up with hurricane names like *Edouard*, a French version of our English *Edward*? The National Hurricane Center did it. In fact, they've got six rotating lists they switch out each year. The naming of hurricanes began in 1953 with lists of female names. Male names were added in 1979 so that successive hurricanes alternate gender. In case you hadn't noticed, there are no names with letters that begin Q, U, X, Y or Z. The lists only change when a hurricane (or tropical storm, as in the case of TS Allison, which devastated Houston in 2001) does so much damage the name is retired. Sixty-two names have been retired since naming began.



Tropical Storm Edouard

The following hurricanes that affected Texas had names retired:

- 2005 Rita 2005 Katrina
- 2001 Allison 1983 Alicia
- 1980 Allen 1970 Celia
- 1967 Beulah 1961 Carla
- 1957 Audrey

Next up for hurricanes this year: Fay, Gustav, Hannah and Ike.



Memorandums of Agreement for Disaster Response

Interested in responding? Go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems for how to be guaranteed reimbursement for response.



Above, DSHS deployed strike teams and ambulances to stage in San Antonio in anticipation of Dolly's landfall. More than 25 ambulances from 15 EMS providers responded to the hurricane.

At top, more than 50 patients were evacuated from a flooded nursing home by Texas Task Force 1 and Ambulance Strike Team 1. The strike team leader model was used during Hurricane Dolly and Tropical Storm Edouard, with one leader responsible for five ambulances. Ambulances were deployed from DSHS EMS offices in Austin.

Above, the Hurricane Room in Austin was staffed 24 hours per day as providers responded to Hurricane Dolly and Tropical Storm Edouard. Indra Hernandez (left) updated a database used to track responding providers, while Maxie Bishop (right) oversaw deployment and fielded questions from EMS providers and strike team leaders. Conference calls between DSHS and strike team leaders kept everyone informed of what was going on.