

Department of State Health Services
Health Service Region 1
Public Health Emergency Preparedness
(PHEP)

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Jordan Coulson, RN, BA
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Sherman)

Program Specialist III:
William McDowell, BA
(Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson,
Lipscomb, Roberts, Wheeler)

Program Specialist III:
Rick Tull, BS
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Carson, Childress, Collingsworth,
Donley, Gray, Hall)

**PHEP Regional Staff
Participate in Pantex Ex-
ercise**

On August 6, 2014 the Pantex Plant, located in the Panhandle, held a full participation exercise which involved participants from multiple agencies across the area, including local government officials, law enforcement and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Health Service Region 1 (HSR1) and Central Office Radiation Control staff.

The purpose of the Pantex exercise, which was titled Twister-14, was to demonstrate and evaluate the ability of the U.S. Department of

Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration Production Office (NPO), and Pantex Emergency Response Organization (ERO) to recognize, respond to, contain, and control an Operational Emergency within and outside the site boundary. The exercise also evaluated the effectiveness of programs, plans, and procedures, as well as facility and site support systems during a simulated severe event.

Part of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Team (Jordan Coulson, William McDowell, and Liz Broadstreet) were screened for field radioactive contamination at the Department of State Health Ser-

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Jordan Coulson, William McDowell and Liz Broadstreet are briefed by DSHS central office Radiation Control staff



Jordan Coulson is screened for field radioactive contamination .



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vices (DSHS) Radiation Control, Emergency Operations Staging Area using the CCM-IB whole body monitor and the hand-held E-600 radiation meters.

During the exercise HSR1 staff were also asked to participate in the Disaster District Committee (DDC) command center located the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in Amarillo and at the City of Amarillo emergency operations center.

Radiological emergencies are, fortunately, a rare event and the opportunity to participate in this exercise was valuable for all concerned. It helped develop important relationships with new and already established partners. It also increased awareness and understanding of issues related to radiological events.



William McDowell, is screened by Shay Christian, Radiation Control –Canyon Office, for field radioactive contamination .



Liz Broadstreet, is screened by a Central Office Radiation Control staff member, for field radioactive contamination .



Jordan Coulson, HSR1 and Colleen O'Neal, DPS work at the DDC in Amarillo.



Health Service Region 1 Staff on the Command Assistance Team (CAT) Attend Training

In May 2014, select HSR1 staff attended Command Assistance Team (CAT) training in San Antonio, TX. CAT members consist of Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) personnel who volunteer to be utilized during catastrophic events to support and assist local emergency response professionals. During the three day training course, William McDowell from the Canyon sub-office trained CAT members on Responder Safety and Health. The course encompassed basic first aid/buddy aid and force protection measures followed with skill sets such as victim assessment, hemorrhage control and recognition of various environmental injuries.



William McDowell training CAT members from around the state.

Additionally, CAT members were trained on Mass Fatality management and learned the protocols to conduct mass fatality processes such as identification procedures, family assistance, and the process flow during a mass fatality event. CAT members were also afforded the opportunity to set up the mobile morgue unit and become familiar with the equipment and the body identification process for mass fatality events.



Jordan Coulson (top right), HSR1 staff, and other CAT members setup the mobile morgue unit



Don Nicholson, HSR1 staff, assists with setting up the mobile morgue unit.

West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne illness. Up to 80 percent of people infected with West Nile virus will have no symptoms. However, some infections can result in serious illness or death.

People over 50 years of age and those with weakened immune systems are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill if they become infected with the virus.



Your best defense is to practice these four habits:

1. Use an approved insect repellent every time you go outside. Approved repellents are those that contain DEET, picaridin or

oil of lemon eucalyptus. Follow the instructions on the label.

2. Regularly drain standing water, including water that collects in empty cans, tires, buckets, clogged rain gutters and saucers under potted plants. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water.
3. Wear long sleeves and pants at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
4. Use air conditioning or make sure there are screens on all doors and windows to keep mosquitoes from entering the home.

To learn more about West Nile virus, go to website <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/westNile/>.

Source: DSHS website

Training Modules and Presentations Available upon Request

- ◇ Point of Dispensing: POD
- ◇ Family Emergency Preparedness
- ◇ Nutrition in Preparedness
- ◇ PHEP/EPI — Who are we?
- ◇ Shelter-In-Place
- ◇ Mass Fatalities Overview
- ◇ Tuberculosis Best Practices
- ◇ Strategic National Stockpile Security Overview for Law Enforcement

Texans Caring For Texans Honors Jordan Coulson

Jordan Coulson was the recipient of the 2014 DSHS Panhandle Area Texans Caring for Texans award. This award honors those state employees who go above and beyond the call of duty.

This annual tradition gives us, as state employees, the opportunity to showcase the people who dynamically implement the business of Texas every day. His nomination form read as follows:

“Jordan serves as a Team Lead to 4 other members of the PHEP program and more than one of them has shared that he is an awesome Team Lead. I agree with them and have witnessed the ways he interacts with them. He is always positive and has a great



Jordan accepting award.

attitude which has contributed to the development of a very strong, close knit team. He is willing to assist others to get the job done, easy to communicate with and a great role model. He is also willing to go out of his way to build and foster relationships with other partners in the region. He has spent time traveling from Canyon to the South Plains Public Health District to provide technical assistance when they were struggling with one of their program requirements. He also does things like setting up early morning meetings at a coffee shop off the clock before work just to visit with members of the emergency management community and build those relationships. Jordan just simply does whatever he can to support his own team and program as well as doing whatever he can to build crucial relationships and help out partners across the region.”



Jordan this years DSHS Texans Caring for Texans honoree.

Jordan – you make us very proud!