



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

**PHEP-HSR1  
 Newsletter**

ISSUE  
**06**  
 November 2013

**Volunteers...the lifeblood of the community!**

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Deputy Regional Director:  
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Administrative Assistant II:  
 Vacant

Program Specialist III:  
 Roy Ramos (Bailey, Briscoe, Cas-  
 tro, Cochran, Hockley, Lamb, Par-  
 mer, Swisher)

Program Specialist III:  
 Liz Broadstreet, M.Ed (Hale, Floyd,  
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 Garza)

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Program Specialist IV:  
 Jordan Coulson, RN, BA  
 SNS Coordinator (Dallam, Deaf  
 Smith, Hartley, Moore, Oldham,  
 Sherman)

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

Program Specialist III:  
 Rick Tull, BS  
 Chempack Coordinator & SNS  
 Assistant Coordinator (Armstrong,  
 Carson, Childress, Collingsworth,  
 Donley, Gray, Hall)

**5th Annual  
 Preparedness Coalition  
 Symposium**

The SouthEast Texas Re-  
 gional Advisory Council and  
 the Texas Department of  
 State Health Ser-  
 vices sponsored the 5th An-  
 nual Preparedness  
 Coalition Symposium  
 on October 16-18,  
 2013 in Galveston,  
 TX. The symposium  
 was an opportunity for  
 national collaboration,  
 sharing of information,  
 best practices, and  
 new innovations. The  
 Preparedness Coali-  
 tion Symposium promotes  
 resiliency in the healthcare

community. The two and a  
 half day event featured es-  
 teemed guest speakers and  
 panel discussions.

The symposium featured  
 sessions for EMS, Public  
 Health, Hospital, Trauma,  
 and Public Safety.



*Full house for the opening of the  
 symposium*

**In This Issue**

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**Regional Public Health Emergency Preparedness Staff Attend Symposium**

Roy Ramos and William McDowell at-  
 tended the 5th Annual Preparedness Co-  
 alition Symposium . They shared that the  
 trainings provided insight into the im-  
 portant role of assessing and identifying  
 risks in the region. The assessments pro-  
 vide awareness of the gaps within the 15  
 Centers for Disease Control and Preven-  
 tion (CDC) Public Health Emergency Pre-  
 paredness capability planning standards.



*William McDowell attends Symposium*

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## **Texas Disaster Medical System Advisory Committee**

The Texas Disaster Medical System (TDMS) is a Health and Medical Emergency Support Function 8 Advisory Committee with membership determined by the Texas Department of State Health Services Community Preparedness Section. Membership includes representatives from Health Service Regions, Regional Advisory Councils, The Department of Aging and Disability Services, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Military Forces, Hospital Administrators, Emergency Medical Services and the Emergency Medical Task Force.

The vision of TDMS is to be an effective, integrated public health and medical disaster response system dedicated to protecting and saving lives in Texas. The TDMS mission is to establish and maintain a strategic operational framework to support local, regional and state public health and medical disaster response in Texas. Some of the goals for TDMS include conducting strategic analysis of current disaster public health medical issues and resources, development of systemic and programmatic priorities, map the available organizations, relationships and resources and finally establish or identify work groups, initiatives and special projects as needed.

Currently there are five TDMS workgroups; Responder Health and Safety, Resource Typing, Health and Medical Operations Centers, Education and Training and Mass Fatality. Within the next few months additional workgroups will likely be formed to include, Disaster Behavioral Health, Emergency Medical Task Force and Volunteer Management.

Rick Tull, Program Specialist, Health Service Region 1 with the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program is a member of the TDMS Mass Fatality



*Rick Tull*

Workgroup and meets monthly with that group to work on the specific scope and goals as set by the TDMS Committee. The Mass Fatality Workgroup is tasked to develop a regional and statewide response system for mass fatalities incident management, to include incident site operations, morgue operations, victim identification and family assistance. This will be accomplished through planning, training and exercising as well as developing working relationships with Medical Examiners, Justices of the Peace and Funeral Home Directors.

*Rick Tull can be contacted by phone at 806-477-1140 or by email [rick.tull@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:rick.tull@dshs.state.tx.us)*

## **Learn more about Mass Fatalities Incidents**

Health Service Region 1, Public Health Emergency Preparedness staff offer a Mass Fatalities Incident Overview presentation. The overview discusses:

- Definitions—Incident Classifications (Disasters, Mass Casualties, Mass Fatalities)
- Experiences—Major Operational Areas (Search and Recovery, Morgue Services/Victim Identification Center, Family Assistance Center)
- Next Steps—Planning Issues

This presentation and other Public Health Preparedness presentations are offered by staff or online at the HSR1 website (<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/region1/default.shtm>). Call your county representative (list on front page) if you would like to schedule a training.



### Closed POD "What Is It"

The use of Closed Point of Dispensing (PODs) is an alternate method of dispensing that helps to redirect some of the population away from traditional POD sites. A closed POD is primarily used to respond to a specific group or organization.

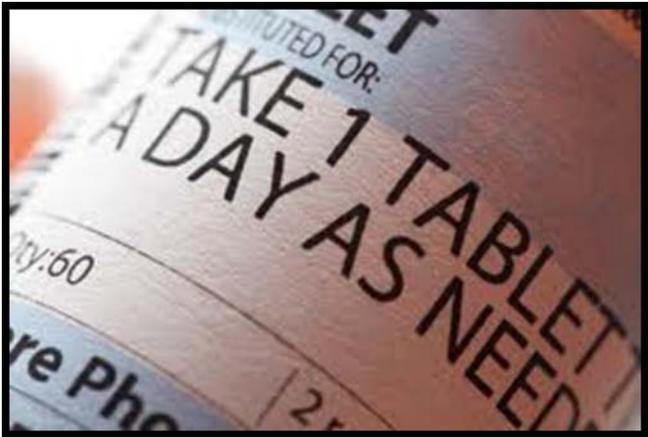
Benefits of becoming a Closed POD:

- Benefits the community
  - ⇒ Helps achieve community dispensing goal more rapidly
  - ⇒ Decreases the number of people going to open PODs
- Benefits your organization
  - ⇒ Protects staff and their families
  - ⇒ Helps to ensure your organization's continuity of operations
  - ⇒ Exhibits your commitment to your staff and community

Who can be a Closed POD?

- TDCJ Prison facilities
- County Jails
- Nursing Homes
- Long Term Care
- Assisted Living Homes
- Private Business
- State Schools
- Mental Institutions

If you are interested in learning more about or becoming a Closed POD please contact your county representative (see front page).



Liz Broadstreet with PHEP display at Building Strong Families Conference



Liz Broadstreet handed out community preparedness surveys at Building Strong Families Conference

### Staff Attend Building Strong Families: Tools for Success Parenting Conference

Health Service Region 1, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) staff participated in the Building Strong Families: Tools for Success Parenting Conference held on October 24, 2013 by displaying PHEP information and distributing a community preparedness survey.

The mission of the conference is to offer the opportunity for skill development so that families, and those who work with them, are able to provide the care and guidance

needed for positive emotional, social and cognitive growth.

For further information contact:

Liz Broadstreet by phone at 806-783-6454 or by email [liz.broadstreet@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:liz.broadstreet@dshs.state.tx.us)



Sheila Rhodes, DSHS, Doris Rector, Volunteer, Liz Broadstreet, DSHS

## Social Media Spotlight Center for Disease Control (CDC)



### Twitter at CDC

[CDC Emergency \(@CDCemergency\)](#) - The CDC Emergency Twitter feed provides emergency preparedness and response information.

[CDC Ready \(@CDCready\)](#) - The official Twitter account of CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response.

[CDC: Dr. Ali Khan \(@CDC\\_DrKhan\)](#) - Director of CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response.



### CDC on Facebook

[CDC Emergency on Facebook](#) -The CDC has launched a new Facebook page for Emergency Preparedness and Response. This page will keep you informed about how to be prepared for public health emergencies and disasters and provide information needed to protect and save lives during an event. Become a fan today! "Like" our Facebook page to receive updates, participate in future conversations, and more.

Source—CDC 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

## Texans Caring For Texans Honors Rick Tull

Rick Tull was the recipient of the 2013 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:

*"Rick consistently exceeds expectations in his job duties, whether the task is setting up training and/or equipment for a regional Mass Fatality response, training his peers in the use of WebEOC or in the finer points of Emergency Management, assisting local judges and Emergency Management Coordinators in whatever they ask of him, assisting in setting up local conferences, volunteering his expertise in regional and state-wide responses as a member of the Rapid Assessment Team (RAT), or simply poking fun of himself in tense situations in order to lighten the mood, Rick truly deserves to be recognized as one of the State of Texas' finest employees! Rick volunteers his time at his local church, and is constantly on the search for shoeboxes, which he fills with donated goods and toys, to be sent to less fortunate children."*



Rick accepting his award

*Rick accepting his award*

**Rick – you make us very proud!**

(Continued from page 1)

Building a process of improvement strategy within Public Health Emergency Preparedness/ Epidemiology will offer the opportunity to achieve a more robust program and ensure operational readiness when needed. Furthermore, the goal of obtaining full capability, as defined by the CDC, should include increased collabora-

tion with other agencies/ organizations for a more coordinated response. This was an excellent oppor-



Symposium was held in Galveston, TX

tunity for public health partners from across the state to further their

knowledge of emergency response, make new contacts or strengthen existing ones, and learn new methods and advances in medical and public health response.

For more information contact:

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