

2014-2015 Austin/Travis County Emergency Operations Center Activations

2014

Winter Weather Activations

January

February

Flash Flooding Activations

May

September

Traffic and Crowd Management

March

June

August

October

2015

Winter Weather Activations

March

Flash Flooding Activations

May

June

October

November

Traffic and Crowd Management

March

October

HSEM Directory

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Scott Swearengin | HSEM Assistant Director

Executive Assistant

Mary Ann Ramirez | Executive Assistant

Disaster Recovery

Sean Shepard | Disaster Recovery Officer

Emergency Management Programs

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Billy Atkins | Senior Emergency Plans Officer

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City of Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management



2014-2015 Annual Report

About HSEM

The mission of the City of Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) is to:

- Plan and prepare for emergencies
- Educate the public about emergency preparedness
- Develop volunteers
- Manage grant funding to improve homeland security and public safety capabilities
- Coordinate emergency response and recovery
- Support planned events
- Work with public and partner organizations to protect our whole community when it needs us the most

HSEM co-manages the Austin/Travis County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In addition, HSEM adopts 24/7 readiness posture in response to all hazards, special events, dignitary visits and severe weather events.

Message from Staff

The City of Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) proudly presents its annual report for a challenging, as well as rewarding, Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Disasters and emergencies create destruction in their path, affecting everyday lives. However, the hard work comes in the following months and years of recovery.

As Austin HSEM successfully wrapped up an unprecedented after-action process this year following the 2013 Halloween Floods, we found ourselves immersed in two more Presidential Disaster Declarations. More than 100 municipal sites were identified as damaged from the Memorial Day and Halloween Floods of 2015.

As we step into the new year, HSEM will continue its partnership with our local and state partners to stay vigilant in order to respond to all hazards facing our fast-growing major metropolitan area.

Regardless of the obstacles and challenges in times to come, our 14-member team remains steadfast in its commitment to protect our community when it needs us the most.

Emergency Management

HSEM coordinated the full scope of emergency management response and recovery for two major disasters affecting Austin: the 2015 Memorial Day Flood and 2015 Halloween Flood.

HSEM successfully coordinated emergency management for a record-breaking SXSW festival and HSEM adopted 24/7 readiness posture for 45 severe weather warnings that same year.

In 2016, among its key major initiatives, HSEM will continue to maintain Austin's standing as one of only two Texas cities (of just seven total cities nationwide) accredited by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. Austin was accredited after a comprehensive evaluation of 64 nationally recognized standards.

HSEM also maintains readiness to host 25,000 Gulf Coast hurricane evacuees.



Community Preparedness



In 2015, Austin HSEM continued its endeavor to enhance the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer management and dual English/Spanish public information team.

The Austin CERT program established a partnership with the Watershed Protection Department to include a "Flooding 101" component to the basic CERT training curriculum. This module will educate citizens of the imminent dangers associated with flash flooding and encourage preparedness.

HSEM continued to expand a "whole community" approach by engaging Boy Scouts, neighborhood associations, at-risk populations, and minority populations. It provided consistent bilingual information on emergency preparedness and prevention.

Business and Special Programs

HSEM audited the City's inventory of approximately 3,000 grant-funded items that were purchased to improve homeland security and public safety capabilities in 2015.

HSEM successfully led a pilot resiliency exercise with Travis County, John Hopkins University, the State of Texas and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that evaluated disaster impacts on essential services. The exercise followed a year of planning meetings and workshops. It was the first program nationwide to examine the impact that disasters have on essential community services.

HSEM also managed about 40 ongoing projects for infrastructure, emergency protective measures and debris removal submitted for federal reimbursement following the 2013 Halloween Floods.

