Governor’s Task Force on Evacuation, Transportation, and Logistics

“While we achieved the ultimate goal of moving millions of people to safety in a matter of hours, we can and we must do better the next time we are faced with an emergency.”

- Governor Rick Perry
(September 30, 2005)
Task Force Members

- Jack Little, former President and CEO of Shell Oil Company (Task Force Chair)
- Russell Henk, Research Engineer, Texas Transportation Institute
- Bill King, former Mayor of Kemah, Texas
- Dr. Carol Lewis, Texas Southern University
- Jerry Patterson, Texas Land Commissioner
- Dr. Theron Bowman, Chief of Police for City of Arlington
- Bill Kiesse, Executive Vice President and COO of Valero Energy
- Dr. Karen Sexton, Vice President and CEO for Hospitals and Clinics at UTMB (Galveston)
- Mike Trevino, General Manager of Public and Governmental Affairs for Marathon Oil
- Erle Nye, former Chairman and CEO of TXU Corporation
- Carlos Cascos, Texas Dept. of Public Safety Commissioner
- Trey Henderson, President of Angelina Hardwoods Sales Co., Lufkin
- Bob Walker, Vice President of Dow Chemical Company
- Gordon Bethune of Houston, former Chairman and CEO of Continental Airlines
- David Saperstein, former Chairman and CEO of Metro Networks Inc., Chairman of the Office of Mobility for the City of Houston

Assignment

- Document lessons learned from the Hurricane Rita evacuation,
- Reinforce the positive lessons,
- Identify key challenges,
- Document the Task Force’s findings,
- Make recommendations on how to improve evacuation plans and evacuation execution to better protect Texas in the event of future emergencies.
Public Hearings

- Oct. 26 Houston
- Nov. 2 Corpus Christi
- Nov. 15 South Padre Island
- Nov. 30 Fort Worth
- Dec. 2 San Antonio
- Dec. 13 Beaumont

Public Hearing Summary Stats

- 6 public hearings
- 13 persons provide written testimony
- 97 persons provided verbal testimony
- 670 pages of transcripts
Task Force Subcommittees

- Command, Control, and Communication
- Persons with Special Needs
- Fuel Availability
- Traffic Management

Task Force Results

- Feb. 14, 2006: Task Force submitted its report to the Governor (21 recommendations)
- Mar. 21, 2006: Governor issued Executive Order
Executive Order Highlights
(Command, Control, Communications)

• Each of the 24 Councils of Government (COG) shall appoint a single Incident Commander for the Regional Unified Command Structure (RUCS).

• DPS will assume command, control, and communications responsibilities where multiple RUCS are involved.

Executive Order Highlights
(Command, Control, Communications)

• Division of Emergency Management (DEM) shall direct an annual hurricane evacuation drill to test readiness of state and local evacuation and shelter plans.
Executive Order Highlights
(Command, Control, Communications)

- DEM shall develop evacuation and shelter plan.
- Public schools and universities shall contribute vehicles and buildings for evacuation and shelter purposes.

Executive Order Highlights
(Persons with Special Needs)

- DEM, et al. shall define “special needs” and develop criteria for evacuation plans for all special needs facilities.
- DEM shall develop and implement a statewide database to assist in the evacuation of the special needs population.
- DEM shall develop and implement a plan to address the evacuation and sheltering needs of individuals with companion animals.
Executive Order Highlights
(Fuel Availability)

• TxDOT shall coordinate with the oil industry to
  – develop a fuel availability plan for major evacuation routes, and
  – coordinate fuel distribution from State Operations Center during emergencies.

• DEM shall establish procedures to distribute fuel in a prioritized manner.

Executive Order Highlights
(Public Awareness)

• Public Utility Commission shall work with public utilities to include hurricane preparedness and evacuation information in monthly billing statements.
Executive Order Highlights
(Traffic Management)

• DPS shall assume authority over designated evacuation routes during multi-jurisdictional evacuations.

• TxDOT shall develop short- and long-term solutions to a bottleneck on US 290 in Brenham.

Executive Order Highlights
(Traffic Management)

• TxDOT shall prioritize improvement projects specified in a March 2005 Report to the Governor on Hurricane Preparedness.

• DPS shall work with federal agencies to expedite traffic flow through Border Patrol checkpoints during evacuations.

• TxDOT and DPS shall develop contraflow plans for specified evacuation routes.
Evacuation Routes to have Contraflow Plans

US 69, Beaumont to Lufkin
I-10, Houston to San Antonio
I-45, Galveston to the north
I-45, Houston to Dallas
US 290, Houston to Austin
US 59, Houston to Nacogdoches
I-37, Corpus Christi to San Antonio
US 281, Brownsville through McAllen to San Antonio
US 83, Harlingen to McAllen

Questions?

Andy Ballard
a-ballard@tamu.edu
210-979-9411