

Austin-Travis County EMS

**Severe Weather Preparedness
City of Austin Public Safety Commission
Monday March 6, 2023**

Division Chief Kevin Parker



PRESERVE/ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY CAPABILITY

PREPAREDNESS

- Resilience of personnel, vehicles, and facilities
- Acquire expertise for personnel
- Acquire equipment to support personnel/patients

RESPONSE

- Preserve scarce resources
- Send right resource to the right patient at the right time
- Leverage support to/from other departments



PREPAREDNESS

Equipment

- Generators for stations
 - Fixed, Towable, & Hand-carry sizes
 - Included in future/re-built stations
- Extra Sleeping Arrangements
- Vehicle hardening
 - Tire Chains
 - De-icer
 - Vehicle Fuel Changes

Personnel

- Removable shoe-sole studs for walking on ice
- Uniform assessment for extremes
- Partner with Austin EMS Employee Association for home needs



RESPONSE

Equipment/Teams

- Vehicle/Personnel Recovery Teams
 - winches/ropes/4X4 for patient access
- Increased Fleet Service Staffing
- Emergency Operating Center (EOC)
 - Community response
- Department Operating Center (DOC)
 - Department tactical response
- Joint Operating Center (JOC)
 - Scarce resource coordination
- Patient temperature management
 - Invasive & passive options
- Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM)
- Special Operations

Personnel

- Collaborative Care Communications Center (C4)
- Community Health Paramedics (CHP)
- Alternative Transport Units (ATU)
- Peak-Resource Units (PRU)
- Adjust response matrix for low-priority calls
- Rescue Squads paired with Basic Life Support (BLS) units
- Drones
- Healthcare facility evacuation experts
 - Medical Incident Strike Team Leader (MIST)
 - Medical Unit Leaders (MEDL)



SEVERE WEATHER IMPACTS



INCREASED CALL VOLUME

+

UNIQUE NEEDS

- Sheltering un-housed
- Durable medical equipment supply
- Normal activity w/ ↑ risk (falls)
- Call duration ↑ (ice/floods)
- OOS time (ambulance AC)



SPECIALTY TEAMS

Internal to Department

- Medical Unit Leaders (MEDL)
- Medical Incident Strike Team Leader (MIST)
- Ambulance Bus (AMBUS)
- Drones w/ thermal cameras
 - Wildfire
 - Freeze/Snow/Ice
 - Floods
- Special Operations
 - Boats (5 swift water, 2 still water)

External Support provided to Texas/USA

- Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF)
 - Medical Incident Strike Team Leader (MIST)
 - Medical Unit Leaders (MEDL)
 - Ambulance Bus (AMBUS)
- Texas Task Force 1
 - Flooding
 - Urban Search & Rescue

