

Disaster Preparedness Update

Audit and Finance Committee

January 19, 2022



Agenda

- History & Context
- Budget Requests and Information
- HSEM Response Efforts
- Recommendations and Tracking
- Emergency Alerting Systems



History & Context

- Disasters in Austin have changed over the last 20 years:
 - 2003 to 2012
 - 1 local disaster (Bastrop Wildfires)
 - 4 hurricanes (Gustav, Ike, Katrina, Rita)
 - 2013 to 2022
 - 8 local declared disasters
 - 2 separate years with 2 local disasters in the same year
 - 2 hurricanes (Harvey, Laura)

History & Context

- 2013 – Halloween Floods*
 - 2014 – *no major emergency*
- 2015 – Memorial Floods* & (2nd) Halloween Floods*
 - 2016 – *no major emergency*
- 2017 – Hurricane Harvey
- 2018 – Colorado River Floods*
 - 2019 – *no major emergency*
- 2020 – COVID* and Hurricane Laura*
- 2021 – COVID* (adult vaccine available) & Winter Storm Uri*
- 2022 – COVID* (pediatric vaccine available)

* FEMA reimbursement continues



History & Context

Resources are constrained:

- Grants that funded strategic planning and partnership efforts, and personnel, dried up in 2012
- With multiple years of constrained budgets, funding fell short of emergency management needs

The need has grown:

- More disasters affecting the **local** community
- Cost recovery is complex and lengthy



Budget Information

FY2019 – Unmet needs that did not fit within Council Priorities:

- Disaster response recovery resources
- Warehouse and shelter space
- Community preparedness campaign and Continuity of Operations and IT Disaster Recovery Project

FY2020 – Provided 1 FTE for Continuity of Operations

Due to COVID pandemic, the FTE was diverted to full-time emergency response

FY2023 – Needs are being assessed for inclusion in FY23 budget or as a mid-year addition in FY22



HSEM Response Efforts

- In 2020, HSEM full time staff spent approximately 20,000 hours among 13 FTEs responding to two disasters
 - 13 FTEs without vacation or sick leave would work 27,040 hours
 - Response to COVID-19 started in March
- City employees worked more than 1.1 million hours responding to COVID-19, the equivalent of 530 FTEs
- HSEM supported:
 - 6 Protective Lodges
 - 7 Isolation Facility locations
 - An alternate care site hospital
 - Regional Infusion Centers
 - Distribution of more than 25 million items from our logistics operation
 - Mass vaccine distribution
 - Citywide cost recovery



HSEM Response Efforts

- Before Winter Storm Uri
 - City in a COVID surge
 - APH identified as a State HUB vaccine distributor
 - Vaccine in short supply, but high demand
 - Vaccine scheduling system launched
 - Staff learning new vaccine administration and distribution protocols
 - People travelling from all over Austin/Travis County and other regions to get vaccine



HSEM Response Efforts

- Since Winter Storm Uri, HSEM:
 - Updated emergency plans
 - Conducted monthly emergency management SPOC meetings
 - Launched a new alert system for people who are hard of hearing, deaf, blind, or deaf and blind
 - Updated our cold weather sheltering plan for people experiencing homelessness
 - Conducted a tabletop exercise with more than 150 people from the City, County, other government agencies and the private sector
 - Scheduled an additional training for executives on responding to disasters
 - Acquired low power AM radio capabilities to broadcast emergency messages in a specific area during disasters
 - Continued making progress to complete the corrective actions from the Winter Storm After Action Report



AAR Recommendations Tracker

Overview

- HSEM Developed an After Actions Recommendations tracker to catalog and prioritize recommendations.
- Each recommendation underwent a detailed analysis including:
 - Benefit of risk mitigation
 - Confidence in the ability to implement risk mitigation solutions
 - Ease of mitigation solution implementation
 - Capabilities and type of resources required
 - Implementation timeframe
 - Cost
 - Funding source
 - Priority for implementation (immediate, long-term, future)

Priority Recommendations

Of the 132 AAR Recommendations, 32 (or 24%) were identified as Priority Recommendations because they rated as both:

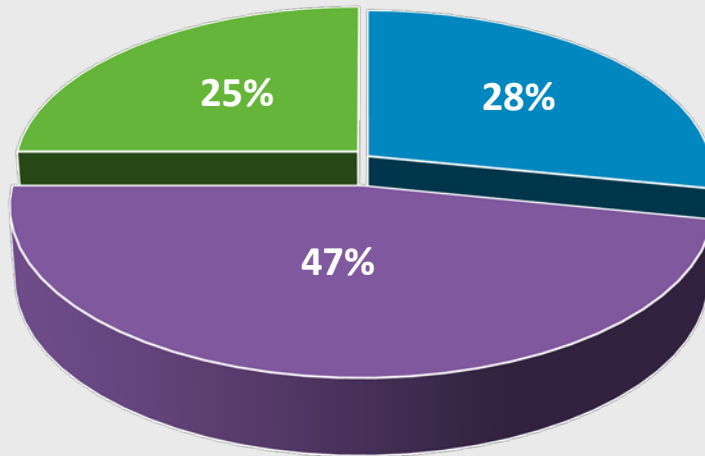
- High mitigation value
- Having little or no direct cost and/or could be funded under the existing budget, or be part of an existing, ongoing program.

The 32 Priority Recommendations are organized by:

- 3 capabilities; and
- 7 focus areas



Priority Recommendations: Capability



Priority recommendations support the following capabilities:

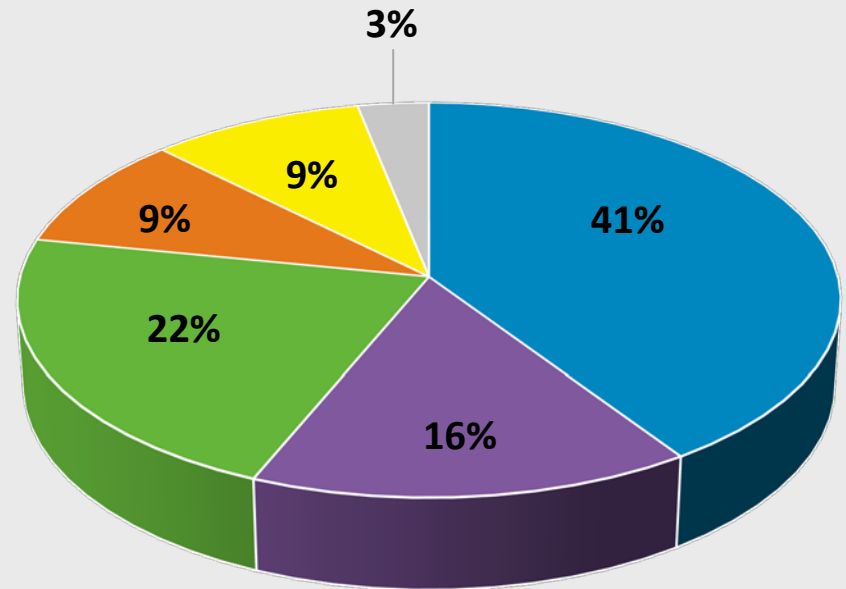
- 9 Logistics & Supply Chain Management (28%)
- 15 Planning & Preparedness (47%)
- 8 Communication & Coordination (25%)

- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Planning and Preparedness
- Communication and Coordination

Priority Recommendations: Focus Area

Priority recommendations support the Focus Areas in:

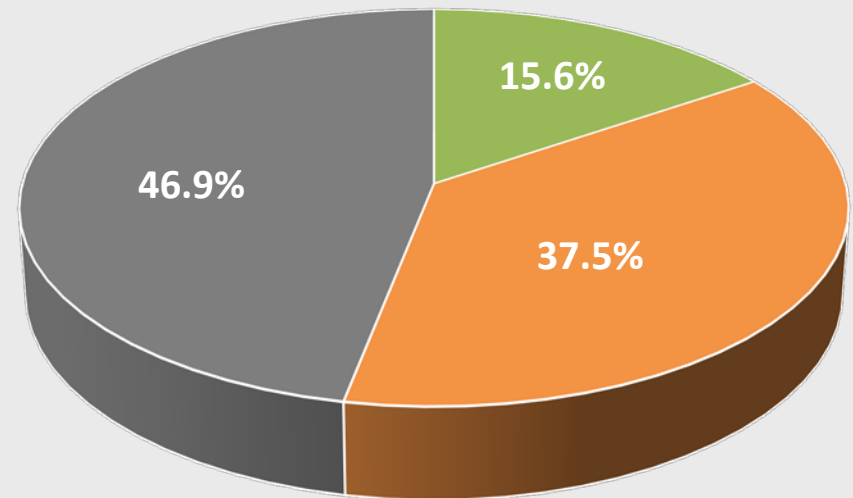
- 13 Leadership & Coordination (41%)
- 5 Medical (16%)
- 7 Shelter (22%)
- 3 Transportation (9%)
- 3 Water (9%)
- 1 Food (3%)



- Leadership and Coordination
- Medical
- Shelter
- Transportation
- Water
- Food

Priority Recommendations: Status

- Completed: 5 (15.6%)
 - 2 Communications
 - 1 Planning & Preparedness
 - 1 Transportation
 - 1 Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- In Progress: 12 (37.5%)
- Awaiting Updates: 15 (46.9%)



■ Complete
■ In Progress
■ Awaiting an Update

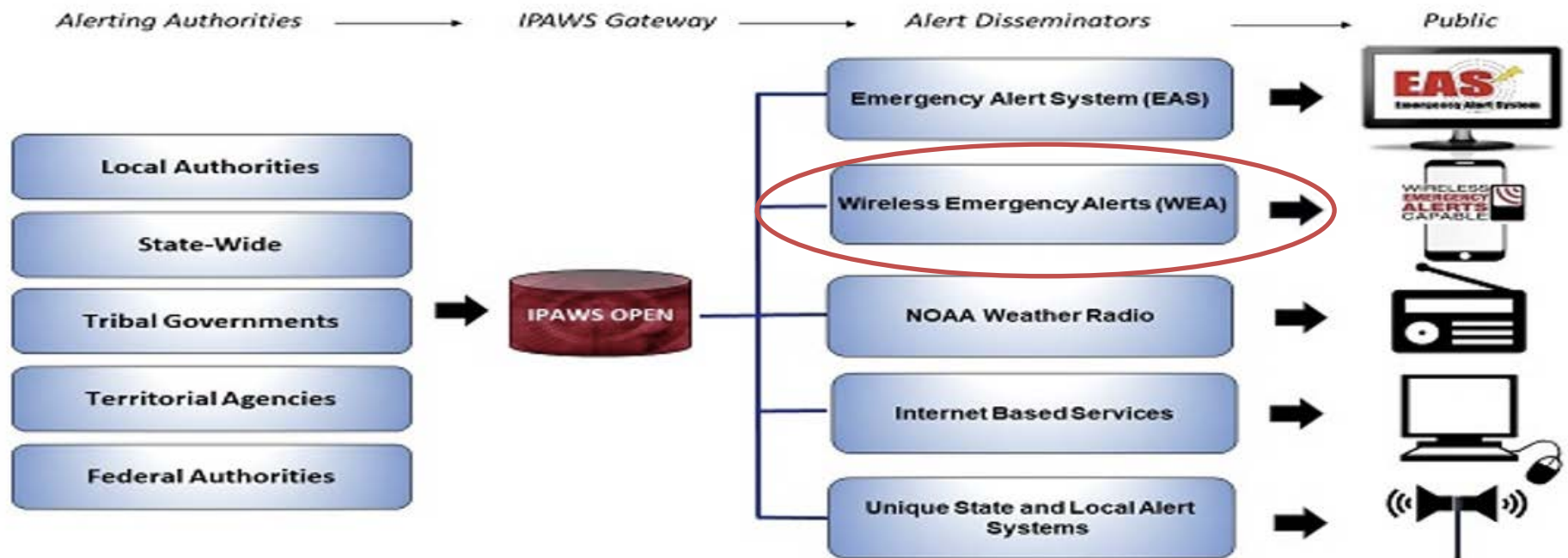
Emergency Notification Systems

- Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS)
 - Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)
- Warn Central Texas (WCT)
 - Regional Notifications System (RNS)



IPAWS – WEA – WCT

Different tools to accomplish different things

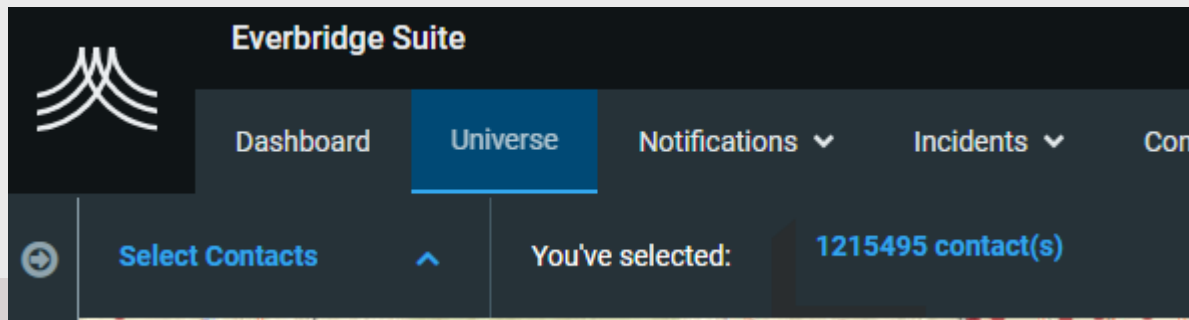


You've selected: **1215495 contact(s)**



IPAWS – WEA – WCT

- To send a Warn Central Texas message takes a substantial effort to effectively communicate the message
 - The message has been to be sent multiple times to convey the information in English and Spanish, via phone, text and email
 - Thousands of people call 311 and many call 911 when they receive a message
 - Thousands call the number back that calls them to convey the message
 - Media receive calls about the utilization of the system
 - Hundreds opt out every time we utilize the system citywide



Questions & Answers

