



West Corridor Minutes

September 22, 2023

Memorial Hermann Katy

23900 Katy Freeway

Katy, Texas 77494



A. Call to Order

Gabriella Lopez opened the meeting at 9:04 am.

B. Approval of Minutes (C101)

Ms. Lopez requested review of the July minutes. Toni Carnie (HCA Houston Healthcare Tomball) made a motion to approve the minutes, Tina Rose (Texas Children's Hospital) seconded motion, and the corridor members carried the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

C. New Business

- **Safety and Security “Through the Lens of Education”**

Jamie Woodall (Executive Director of School Safety, Waller ISD) gave a presentation on safety and security and her role in the education environment. She discussed their threat assessments with one being bullying. The Waller ISD spans a large area as they are currently building a school in the Bridgeland area, and they welcome assistance and partnering with the local hospitals and agencies.

D. HPP Capabilities Review

- **Drill Policies**

Lisa Spivey gave a brief overview of the new drill policy. This policy will be presented, reviewed, and up for approval at the next RHPC Board meeting.

- **St. Joseph's Psych Unit**

Ms. Spivey announced St. Joseph's Medical Center will be closing their psych unit on October 18th and on October 25th they will be closing their in-patient psych unit; not the hospital, just the psych unit. SETRAC is currently working on numbers and will be having a meeting with county officials to plead our case that this is going to be catastrophic to the region.

E. EMTF Update

Mikal Orr highlighted the EMFT trainings as outlined below (*filed with West Corridor minutes binder*).

Current Activations:

1. No current activations to report.

Past Activations:

1. 5/2/2023 – San Jacinto Search Ops Support – 4 SETRAC personnel, 860, and generator
2. 5/19-5/21 - Preparing for Jeep Weekend – 5/19-5/21 (860, generator, MCI trailer, and request for 3 Voluntary ALS units)
3. 4/22/2023 - The Woodlands Ironman – SETRAC LNO on scene and HFD Strike Team on standby
4. 3/31/2023 - AST/ASTL/MPV 602 activation for Final Four to assist HFD

Training/Exercises/Meetings:

- Wildland Fire Teams
- 1. EMTF Training –
 - a. ASMT – June 13-14 (3 seats open)
 - b. 2nd Thursday of the Month – WebEOC trainings at 1400 & 1800
 - c. 4th Thursday of the Month – Pulsara Training (invite will be sent to appropriate team members)
- 2. Exercises –
 - a. TDEM Full-scale Hurricane Exercise – May 15-17, 2023 (opportunities to participate for TFL, MIST, AST, ASMT, MMU/RNST. Additional information and requests will be provided closer to the exercise date.)
 - b. UTMB Hurricane Evacuation Exercise – date TBD (opportunities to participate for TFL, MIST, AST, ASMT, MMU/RNST. Additional information and requests will be provided closer to the exercise date.)
 - c. CMOC – Spring Radiological Functional Exercise April 12, 2023 (TFLs invited to attend).
 - d. East Corridor MCI Triage Full-scale Exercise 4/11/2023
- 3. Meetings:
 - a. Galveston Hurricane Evacuation Meeting
 - b. UTMB/AMR – meetings to discuss RITA/IDRU teams and response.
 - c. TMORT – meetings to discuss team status and prepare for training opportunities.
 - d. College Football Playoff meeting

New/Future Business:

1. Future Meetings – TDEM Conference 5/29-6/2
2. MPV 602 1.5 upgrades (Final Inspection 5/5/23)
3. EMTF-6 ListServ – any members can be on the ListServ to receive general and critical information. Please sign-up at the following address <https://list.setrac.org/mailman/listinfo/emtf6> . You may also email Mikal.Orr@setrac.org to receive the link.
4. Member information – all members need to complete/update their contact information on Board #13 “EMTF Contacts” in WebEOC. The link to the EMTF WebEOC server is <https://webeoc.txemtf.org/eoc7/controlpanel.aspx>. If you do not have an EMTF WebEOC account, please email support@strac.org to request one. Please CC mikal.orr@setrac.org so that I know you have made a request for an account. If you have any questions, please contact Mikal Orr.
5. A request for TFL/MIST/AST/ASMT will be distributed for participation in the TDEM Hurricane Exercise, SETRAC Radiological Surge Exercise, and the Harris Co. Full-scale Exercise. Additional details will be distributed to the ListServ when more information is received.
6. SETRAC will transition from SmartNotice to OnSolve for event and emergency notifications. The transition is on-going. Please expect to receive emails or forms requesting updated information from agency’s leadership and some individual EMTF members.

F. Training and Exercise Update

John Wingate reviewed highlights from the Training and Exercise Schedule distributed to the corridor members (*filed with the West Corridor minutes binder*).

He reminded the corridor members registration is still open for the upcoming pre-symposium training hosted by Sam Houston State University on October 24th at the San Luis Convention Center.

There are two HAM radio courses coming up with registration open now. Contact Mr. Wingate or Carrie Cox at education@setrac.org if you have any questions.

G. Special Populations Update

Ms. Spivey highlighted some items in the Special Populations update as outlined below (*filed with West Corridor minutes binder*).

Emergency Preparedness Bootcamps have been completed for all Corridors meeting grant requirement;
Continue to on board new facilities into the Coalition;
Providing guidance and SETRAC training to new facility administrators;
September and October SETRAC will participate with HHSC Annual Provider meetings;

End of the Year Survey is being developed and finalized and to be distribute to Special Populations Stakeholders in late September. This will collect the latest information from our stakeholders and assist with planning for this year's initiatives.

REMINDER, we have our annual upcoming Symposium and a LTC speaker presenting lessons learned during a hurricane evacuation. UTMB Respiratory Trainings will be held at the SETRAC Conference Center September 8th, 22nd, and 29th. Please contact Fidel if you would like to register.

H. Inventory Update

Ms. Spivey stated Kyle Ericksen recently left SETRAC and since then Philip Culter was promoted to the SETRAC Logistics Manager role. Anyone with questions regarding their inventor or SETRAC assets should contact him at philip.culter@setrac.org.

I. Partner Updates

DHSH Region 6/5 South

Current Nipah outbreak in India. As of 9/18/23, a total of 6 confirmed cases of Nipah virus, of which two have died, were reported in the Kozhikode District of India (in the south, opposite Pondusherry). One of the cases is a healthcare worker that was exposed to a confirmed case. Surveillance and contact tracing is underway in the area, and over 1200 contacts have been identified. Containment zones have been established, and no entry or exit is allowed in these areas. The cause of the exposure is currently unknown.

Symptoms: fever, headache, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, vomiting, a phase of brain swelling may follow causing seizure, coma

Fungal Disease Awareness Week (September 18-22nd). Each year, the CDC and its partners dedicate the week to activities and outreach regarding fungal disease. This year, there have been many challenges and complexities regarding fungal disease, such as a recent publication highlighting the rise of *Candida auris* cases and a multinational outbreak of fungal meningitis. Refer to CDC webpage for links to recorded webinars, articles, and resources: [Fungal Disease Awareness Week 2023 | CDC](#). To contact Regional HAI Epis email Kourtney.Lopez@dshs.texas.gov or Kajal.Amin@dshs.texas.gov.

Red Tide Upper Coast (Galveston Bay and Sabine Lake): cell counts of *K. brevis*, the algae commonly referred to as Red Tide, are moving up the coast. Potential for discolored water, dead fish and even localized respiratory issues in the Galveston Bay area. NOAA satellite imagery indicates a large bloom in waters offshore and impacted areas will vary based on prevailing currents and wind. Refer to Texas Parks and Wildlife Red Tide website for updates and status reports: [Red Tide Status \(texas.gov\)](#).

Symptoms from physical contact: skin irritation, burning eyes

Symptoms from breathing in: coughing, sneezing, teary eyes

Symptoms from eating contaminated shellfish: food poisoning, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, cramps, fever.

The partners discussed ongoing events, lessons learned, and shared recent wins. No partner updates were submitted. Anyone wanting their partner update included in the minutes should send their update via email to Roxie Ward at roxie.ward@setrac.org. This will ensure updates are documented accurately in the minutes.

J. Open Discussion/Other Business

- **Preparedness Coalition Symposium**

The symposium is scheduled for October 25th-27th at the San Luis Convention Center in Galveston. The agenda has been posted on the SETRAC website. There were recently a few rooms that became available at the Hilton but very limited. Contact Roxie Ward at roxie.ward@setrac.org if you are still looking for a room.

- **Acronyms**

Ms. Lopez advised the corridor members that Kathrine Samuel put together an acronym document that will be posted to the West Corridor webpage on the SETRAC website. This list should help assist with the large span of acronyms in the region and what they mean.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, Ms. Lopez adjourned the meeting at 10:24 am. The next West Corridor meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 15th, to be held at Texas Children's Hospital West 18200 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77094.

ATTENDEES: Gabriella Lopez, Tanya Phillips, Jonathan Keels, LaVonne Clark, Tina Rose, Matt Kelly, Andy Fisk, Mike Jaquez, Amy Fields, Jamie Woodall, John Wingate, Delba Barrios, Jesse Pedroza, Raphael Cohen, Jose Silvas, Toni Carnie, Angel Cruz, Joseph Murray, Bonnie Macius, Trey Frankovich, Todd Daigneaut, Joseph King, Cassidy Werts, Kim Hobson, Lisa Spivey, Albert Ramos, Sandra Arnez, James Campbell, LaSandra Brown, Melva Thompson, Roxie Ward, Philip Cutler