

Disaster Preparedness & Response

SECOND QUARTER FY26



INTO 2026

A new year offers a chance to reflect on past achievements and thoughtfully plan ahead. Do we accept the status quo, or strive for continuous improvement and excellence? Preparedness is invaluable—being ready saves lives and ensures a swift, coordinated, effective response when disaster strikes. The stakes are high, and our unwavering commitment to readiness truly matters.

ACTIVE RISKS

Wildfires peak during dry, windy periods and spread rapidly through pine and grasslands. Smoke impacts air quality, and healthcare facilities may see surges in respiratory, cardiac, and burn patients—with no regional burn centers available. Road closures and extreme conditions increase responder risk. Effective response requires multi-agency coordination, situational awareness, and continuity planning.

MISSION IN ACTION

During wildfire season, the Piney Woods Disaster Preparedness and Response Division ensures readiness by coordinating EMTF-4 wildland fire assets, sharing real-time updates, and supporting hospitals and EMS. Our division extends support beyond the region, providing neighboring states and partners with the resources and coordination needed for an effective wildfire response.



EMTF 4 DEPLOYMENT

Kerr County flooding response currently includes six personnel and three units from Hopkins County EMS. As of October 26, EMTF 4 agencies have contributed over 17,000 deployed hours. Search and recovery operations are ongoing.



EMTF TRAINING

Five regional personnel completed MIST (Medical Incident Support Team) Initial Training at STRAC in San Antonio on November 19–20. MISTs are the subject matter experts who play a vital role in keeping Texas EMTF operations running smoothly and efficiently.

EMTF4.org



EMTF 101 is now available online:

“Training, preparation, and clear command make the difference between saving lives and losing them.”

~Retired FDNY Chief Peter Ganci

Stay connected! Follow us on X @PineyWoodsPRD and on Facebook at Piney Woods Preparedness and Response Program.



BUILDING A STRONGER, UNIFIED RESPONSE

Healthcare Coalitions F and G serve over 1.2 million citizens across 13,698 square miles in 27 counties of Northeast Texas. By integrating HCCs with Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF)-4, we are strengthening collaboration, improving continuity of operations, and bridging the gap between preparedness and response.

As we revitalize committees and workgroups, we invite hospitals, EMS, fire departments, long-term care, dialysis, home health providers, and partner agencies—including the Texas Department of State Health Services Regions 4/5 North, Texas Division of Emergency Management, County Emergency Management Coordinators, and Councils of Governments—to join us. Together, we'll create an all-hazards approach that unites people, plans, and resources to protect our communities.

Contact Us: (903) 593-4722



TRAINING, EDUCATION AND EXERCISES

MGT 319: Medical Countermeasures: POD, Planning, and Response; Jan 14-15; Texarkana

<https://teex.org/class/MGT319/>

AWR 136: Cyber Resiliency; Jan 21; Pittsburg

<https://teex.org/class/AWR136/>

AWR 376: Targeted Cyber Attacks; Jan 22; Pittsburg

<https://teex.org/class/AWR376/>

AWR 136: Cyber Resiliency; Feb 17; Tyler

<https://teex.org/class/AWR136/>

AWR 376: Targeted Cyber Attacks; Feb 18; Tyler

<https://teex.org/class/AWR376/>

PER 212: Hospital Response to HazMat Incidents; June 9-11; Tyler

<https://teex.org/class/per212/>

Disaster Day; February 27; College Station

Bataan Memorial Death March; March 21; White Sands, NM

Spring Full Scale Exercise; April 2026; Longview

TDEM Conference; May 26-29; Fort Worth

Suggestions, Questions or Inquiries email: eric@rac-g.org, lisa@rac-g.org, glenn@rac-g.org