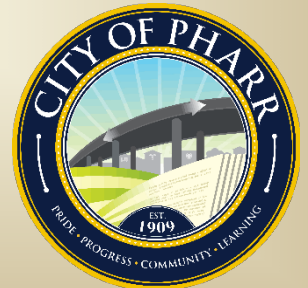
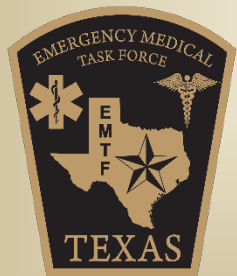


Rio Grande Valley EMS Response to CoVID-19

Daniel Ramirez EMT-P

Director of Communications, Deputy EMC,
TX EMTF Task Force Leader for EMS response to CoVID-19

City of Pharr, Texas



Where is the Rio Grande Valley?

Deep South Texas

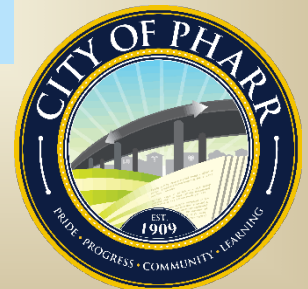
- 4 Counties
- 47 Cities
- Population of 1.3 Million

EMS

- Private for Profit 9-1-1
- Fire Based
- 3rd City Service
- Private non for profit 9-1-1
- Hospital Based 9-1-1
- Private –non 9-1-1



Approx. 5,922 Sq. Miles



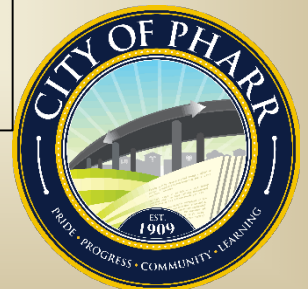
Rio Grande Valley EMS Response to CoVID-19

Timeline

- 1st case March 21st, 2020
- Beginning of surge mid June
- Request for State Assistance late June
- 1st State assets in theater June 28th, 2020
- 5 - TX Emergency Medical Task Force Ambulance Strike Teams deployed from June 28th – July 29th, 2020
- 10 – FEMA Ambulance Strike Teams deployed July 25th – currently in theater

Challenges

- Positive cases among EMS personnel
 - Quarantine Procedure different at every agency
 - 1 LODD (Weslaco Fire EMS Driver Paramedic Jesse De La Rosa)
- Loss of personnel to private contractors
 - Multi job medic = double loss
 - Some agencies reporting 65% staff reduction, a combination of positive cases and loss of staff to contractors
- Extremely long wait times at the ER
 - Every Facility on Diversion
 - EMS units waiting with patients 8-12 hours
- Increased response time to 9-1-1 calls
- Personal Protective Equipment
 - Initial shortage



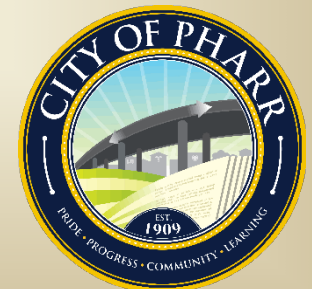
Rio Grande Valley EMS Response to CoVID-19

Solutions

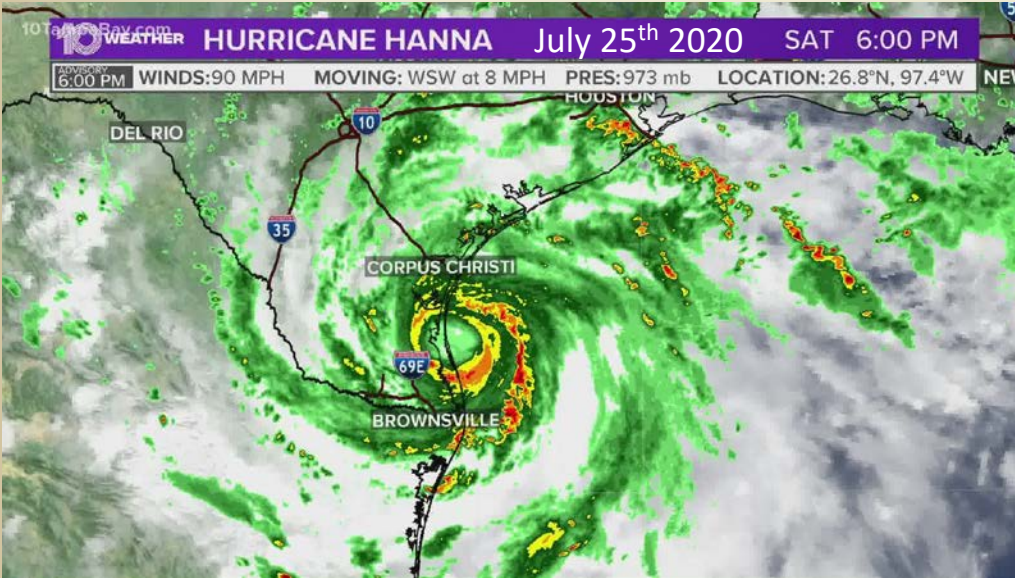
- Communication among all providers to help each other when and wherever needed.
- Regional Advisory Council involvement
 - EMS calls to discuss needs
 - Discussion – on regional protocol to transport only if needed
- Early involvement of the Rio Grande Valley Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
 - Daily calls to determine hospital capacity
 - Ventilator need
 - Supplied PPE provided by Texas Division of Emergency Management
- State of Texas Assistance Request for Ambulance Strike Teams

TX EMTF / FEMA Response

- Support 9-1-1 providers
- Decompress hospitals
- Support Alternative Care Sites
- Movement of critical patients due to oxygen failure at hospitals



Rio Grande Valley EMS Response to CoVID-19 BUT WAIT THERE IS MORE!!

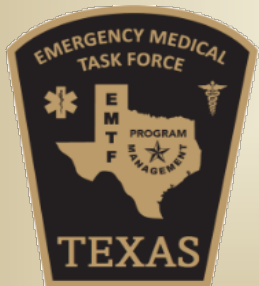


TXEMTF / FEMA Response

- Support 9-1-1 providers
- Decompress hospital pre landfall
- Support Alternative Care Sites
- To Date EMS Responses
 - TXEMTF – 2,193
 - FEMA – 2,749
- 5 deployed EMS personnel tested positive and have since been and RTW

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- 214,957 people tested
- 42,384 positive cases
- 1,474 fatalities
- 1st child fatality on 8/15/2020



Rio Grande Valley EMS Response to CoVID-19

Questions?

