

Texas State Disaster Coalition Meeting
Thursday, July 18, 2013, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Central time
Via Conference call or at Hobby State Office Building – Tower 1, Room 1250

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Antitrust Statement – Melissa Hield, Associate Commissioner, Consumer Protection
- II. Update on West fire and explosion disaster – Chirs Connealy, State Fire Marshal
- III. Update on 2013 hurricane season – Jack Evins
- IV. Discuss suggestions to establish “insurance villages” during a disaster - Group
- V. Open discussion - Group

2013 Meeting Schedule - All meetings will be via conference call and begin at 1:30 p.m. Central time

- October 17

Dial in instructions:

1. Dial 877-226-9790
2. Enter passcode 9241684#

Texas State Disaster Coalition (TSDC) QUARTERLY MEETING NOTES

July 18, 2013

Melissa Hield welcomed the group and reviewed the antitrust statement.

State Fire Marshal Chris Connealy gave an update on the West fertilizer plant explosion and fire that occurred on April 17. The cause is undetermined. Please see the press release at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/news/2013/news201320.html>. At the request of the Homeland Security Committee, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is developing best practices for storing ammonium nitrate and for firefighting in facilities that store ammonium nitrate. SFMO is preparing an inventory of these facilities, including where they are located and how they are using the chemical. In addition, SFMO inspectors are conducting voluntary inspections of the facilities. Facilities are not covered by fire codes unless they are located in counties or cities with their own fire codes; policy decisions will likely be made in an effort to prevent future tragedies. The West fire and explosion caused significant damage to hundreds of homes and cars and the town's infrastructure, including three schools and the water system. The City of West continues to seek federal assistance from FEMA.

Jack Evins said predictions are for a more active than usual hurricane season, with 13 to 20 named storms, seven to 11 hurricanes, and four to six major hurricanes. Recently some industry representatives asked about establishing insurance villages during disaster responses where companies, TDI, and FEMA would be collocated. This approach has been used in other states and in Texas. During the Hurricane Katrina response, company representatives helped policyholders at tables inside the Reliant Center in Houston and other shelters. During the West response, four insurers set up their mobile response units in the Knights of Columbus Hall parking lot where the Red Cross disaster center, including TDI, was located. TDI sent a proposal to the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM); the proposal was well-received and is under review. Implementation will likely depend on the types of facilities that are available in the local area affected by a disaster.

TDI invited FEMA to give a presentation about the recent National Flood Insurance Program changes. Carl Watts from Region VI will speak on July 23. Also, TDEM invited TDI, the Department of Banking, and other state agencies to participate in critical infrastructure planning regarding the state's financial sector. TDI will keep TSDC informed as this planning effort moves forward.

Next meeting: October 17, 2013, 1:30 p.m. Central time via conference call