



DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Office of the Governor

RICK PERRY
Governor

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STEVEN McCRAW
Director
Office of Homeland Security

JACK COLLEY
Chief

December 5, 2005

The Honorable Don Hill
Mayor, City of Taylor
400 Porter St.
Taylor, TX 76574

Dear Mayor Hill:

As you may know, Governor Perry recently released the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2005-2010, which is a high-level roadmap for all homeland security efforts across our state. One of the significant efforts over the next five years is to develop a regional planning effort. The goal will be to provide you with the capability to provide an overwhelming response capability for any catastrophic incident posing a significant threat to communities within each region. Upon completion of the process, each region will have developed a regional response plan, which is under the ownership of the combined jurisdictions in the region. These should lead to a positive change in the way local emergency response assets will be managed during a catastrophic incident.


As of December 1, 2005, Texas will embark on a six-month program to develop Region Response Plans (RRPs). Although the Council of Government's regional boundaries will be used, each region will create a working group composed of emergency response personnel from cities and counties to develop, implement, and maintain the plan.

The Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) is responsible for assisting you in writing the regional response plan. To facilitate this process, GDEM has coordinated with the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC) to assist each region to develop its plan. NERRTC will provide your region with a planner who will work with your regional working group on this project. This will be accomplished through a combination of facilitated workshops and onsite visits. NERRTC will provide more specific information on these upcoming planning sessions through the COG Homeland Security planner.

Homeland security requires the collaboration of many stakeholders, including local, regional, and state leaders. As an elected official for your jurisdiction, we ask for your support with this important effort.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may also contact Denita Powell, Preparedness Section Administrator, at 512-424-2453.

Sincerely,



Jack Colley
Chief