

WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT EXERCISE: Reeves County, Pecos, Texas 2023

October 24th, 2023

**Texas Department of Health Services
Texas Division of Emergency Management
Reeves County Emergency Management
Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program**



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**Texas Department of State
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Presented By:
Raven Alexander, DSHS
Jason Johnson, TDEM



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Defense Transuranic Waste Generating and Storage Sites





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TEXAS WIPP ROUTE



Plan Development and Exercise

WIPPTREX: EXPECTATIONS REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW



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Previous WIPPTREX

- **2000 – Odessa**
- **2001 – Abilene (Limited)**
- **2002 – Longview**
- **2005 – Fort Worth**
- **2007 – Pecos**
- **2010 – Lindale**
- **2014 – Andrews**
- **2016 – Big Spring**
- **2018 – Fort Worth (3-Ea.)**
- **2023 - Pecos**



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Background on Host Community

- **Hospital refused to accept NORM patient.**
 - Hospital staff did not have the appropriate knowledge on how to handle radiological incidents.
 - Patient had NORM on overalls.
 - The EMC, who is trained on how to respond to such incidents, responded and resolved the issue (performed surveys, provided guidance to patient and hospital)
 - Months after incident, The EMC reached out to DSHS WIPP staff at a Texas Division of Emergency Management Conference and discussed the incident.
 - DSHS WIPP proposed more training and a WIPPTREX in Reeves County for the following year.



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Exercise Requirements

This exercise can be planned to meet exercise requirements for:

- First Responders (LE, FIRE, EMS)
- Public Health
- Hospital and Healthcare Coalitions
- DOE and other Federal Agencies
- Others



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PURPOSE OF WIPPTREX

- **To validate the capability and proficiency of public and private emergency preparedness systems.**
- **A coordinated effort between local, state, and federal authorities.**



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Exercise Planning Process

- **Identify community**
- **Establish goals of local community**
- **Develop exercise scenario**
- **Determine key functions**
- **Determine number of players**
- **Align exercise objectives and activities with grant accreditation and/or certification requirements where possible**



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Planning Considerations

- **Objectives**
- **Exercise Scenario/Extent of Play**
 - Simulation Accident Site
 - Scenario Approval
 - From Participants
 - From DOE
- **Training for 1st Responders/Hospital/Receivers**
 - PIO
 - CMERRT
 - MERRT
 - TMERRT
 - HOSPITAL
 - Location and Dates
- **Primary and Secondary Dates**
 - Due to Weather or other events
- **Dates & Location(s)**
 - Full Scale Exercise
 - Briefings
 - Tabletop
 - Status and Planning Meetings
- **Available Resources**
 - Participants (Victims, Observers, Volunteers etc.)
 - Players (Local, State, and Federal)
 - Lunch, Water, Supplies (WIPP Truck, Vehicles, Drone, Crane, Bleachers, Shirts, Vest etc.)
- **Public Information**
 - PIO/Press Release
 - Media Invitation
 - Guest/Observers
- **After-action/Hot Wash reports**
 - Initial Draft
 - Final Draft
 - Evaluation
- **Who is in Charge/Leads?**
 - Controllers/Evaluators
 - EMC
 - Safety Officer
- **Incident Command?**
- **Credit for exercise**



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Exercise Planning Process: Training schedule for Pecos

DATE	TYPE	CITY/COUNTY	ORGANIZATION	ATTENDANCE
April-19-23	MERRT	Pecos/Reeves	Reeves Co/City of Pecos FD	19
April-20-23	MERRT	Pecos/Reeves	Reeves Co/City of Pecos FD	
June-7-23	MERRT	Pecos/Reeves	Reeves Co/City of Pecos FD	15
June-8-23	MERRT	Pecos/Reeves	Reeves Co/City of Pecos FD	
June-13-23	PIO	Pecos/Reeves	County Judge, Police Chief, Mayor, Odessa Fire Chief, City Manager, RCESD #1#2 Joint Chief, Assist City Manager, RC EMC, PBTISD PIO HC EMC	6
June-14-23	PIO	Pecos/Reeves	County Judge, Police Chief, Mayor, Odessa Fire Chief, City Manager, RCESD #1#2 Joint Chief, Assist City Manager, RC EMC, PBTISD PIO HC EMC	
July-18-23	Tabletop	Pecos/Reeves	Reeves Co/City of Pecos FD	38
July-19-23	MERRT	Odessa/Ector	Odessa FD	17
July-20-23	MERRT	Odessa/Ector	Odessa FD	
August-30-23	Hospital	Pecos/Reeves	Reeves Co/City of Pecos FD	21
August-31-23	Hospital	Pecos/Reeves	Reeves Co/City of Pecos FD	15
September-20-23	MERRT	Odessa/Ector	Odessa FD	11
September-21-23	MERRT	Odessa/Ector	Odessa FD	
October-22-23	TMERRT	Odessa/Ector	Reeves Co/City of Pecos FD/Odessa FD/EMS/Hazmat, DSHS	16
			TOTALS	158



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Exercise Planning Process: Important Dates for Pecos

DATE	TYPE
May 30 th , 2022	Exercise Proposed at TDEM Conference
February 15 th , 2023	Reeves County Commissioners Exercise Participation Approval
February 20 th , 2023	Initial planning meeting. Location Determined/Players determined
February 2023	Biweekly communications begin with EMC
May 31 st , 2023	Objectives Discussion/Due
August 21 st , 2023	Final Scenario Chosen
July 8 th , 2023	WIPP Roadshow
July 2023	WIPP Truck Confirmed
July 2023	Crane Services Confirmed
July 2023	Prop Vehicles Confirmed
July 2023	Volunteers/Moulage Confirmed
August 29 th , 2023	Scenario Submission
September 11 th , 2023	Scenario Approval
September 2023	Bleachers Confirmed
September 21 st , 2023 & October 16 th , 2023	Stake Holder Email Released
October 18 th , 2023	Public Announcement/Newspaper
October 19-23 rd	TRG Sources Approval
October 23 rd , 2023	Safety Brief
October 23 rd , 2023	Evaluator/Controller Brief
October 24 th , 2023	Exercise
November 15 th , 2023	Participant Feedback Forms Submissions
November 17 th , 2023	AAR Draft Submission
December 6 th , 2023	AAR Meeting
December 20 th , 2023	AAR Final Submission



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Exercise Planning Process: Planning Meetings for Pecos

DATE	TYPE	ATTENDANCE
February 20 th , 2023	WIPPTREX CORRESPONDANCE	DSHS, Reeves Co., Judge, City Manager, Reeves Regional Health, Joint ESD Chief, EMC, Assistant Chief EMS, EMC
March 14 th , 2023	WIPPTREX CORRESPONDANCE	SECO, TDEM, DSHS
April 19 th , 2023	WIPPTREX CORRESPONDANCE	SECO, DSHS, TDEM, RC EMC, DSHS, Reeves Co., Judge, City Manager, Reeves Regional Health, Joint ESD Chief, EMC, Assistant Chief EMS
June 6 th , 2023	WIPPTREX CORRESPONDANCE	DSHS, Reeves Co., Judge, City Manager, Reeves Regional Health, ESD, EMS, Mayor, EMC
August 21 st , 2023	WIPPTREX CORRESPONDANCE	DSHS, TEPP/TRG, EMC Reeves Co
September 8 th , 2023	WIPPTREX CORRESPONDANCE	DSHS, TEPP/TRG, EMC Reeves Co
September 18 th , 2023	WIPPTREX CORRESPONDANCE	DSHS, TEPP/TRG, EMC Reeves Co
September 29 th , 2023	WIPPTREX CORRESPONDANCE	DSHS, SECO, TDEM, EMC Reeves Co
October 4 th , 2023	WIPPTREX CORRESPONDANCE	DSHS, TEPP/TRG, TDEM, SECO, EMC Reeves Co



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Invitation: Requirements

INVITATION LETTER:

- Greetings:
 - To all participants, observers, organization representatives and guests
- Exercise Objectives:
 - Demonstrate the capabilities of Local, State and Federal Governments
- Target Capabilities for evaluation:
 - Communications, First Responder response, Public Information, etc.

*** Will send out examples of Invitation Letters for Tabletop, WIPPTREX Exercise, and an example of Public Info/News Release for reference.**



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Invitation Letter Sample



Office of Emergency Management
Jerry D. Bullard
1714 W. Schmidt Drive
Pecos, TX 79772
jbullard@reevescounty.org

September 21, 2023

Dear Stakeholders,

Reeves County Emergency Management invites you to the WIPP Full Scale exercise. Our first responders and agencies from GMR, Odessa Fire, Pecos Police Department, Pecos Barstow Toyah ISD, Reeves County Emergency District EMS & Fire, Reeves Regional Health, Reeves County Sheriff Department, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Department of Transportation, Town of Pecos City, Technical Resources Group, State Energy Conservation, and WIPP will be onsite including some other agencies from the surrounding areas. Please make sure to put it on your calendar.

The training will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 08:00

Location: Reeves County Annex II
1714 W. Schmidt Drive
Pecos, Texas 79772
(432) 287-0242

The purpose of this training is to test the county plan, MOU's MOAs and annexes, demonstrate notification of local and state officials, demonstrate set-up of the EOC, mobile command post, and ICS, demonstrate communications interoperability between first responders, and manage communication with the media, define scope issues, time horizon, key drivers, collect and analyze, from expert opinion data, develop the scenario, apply the strategies and plans, and maintain and update critical performance. This training will help our local first responders handle future chemical spill incidents.

We hope you can attend. Please confirm the number of attendees from your agency before October 6, 2023. You can email me at jbullard@reevescounty.org. Together, we can make a difference.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions to discuss any items or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jerry D. Bullard
Reeves County Emergency Management Coordinator



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Public Info/News Release Sample

Reeves County Emergency Management

1714 W. Schmidt
Pecos, Texas 79772
(432) 287-0242

MEDIA ADVISORY



For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Jerry D. Bullard (Reeves County Emergency Management Coordinator)
Phone: (432) 287-0242
Address of Event:
1714 W. Schmidt Drive
Pecos, Texas 79772

WHAT:

A WIPP Full Scale Chemical exercise scenario.

WHY:

Learn how to analyze, collect, develop, demonstrate and implement a system on handling a WIPP chemical spill accident. We will also evaluate the communication interoperability between first responders, and update critical performance.

WHO:

First responders and agencies from GMR, Odessa Fire, Pecos Police Department, Pecos Barstow Toyah ISD, Reeves County Emergency District EMS & Fire, Reeves Regional Health, Reeves County Sheriff Department, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Department of Transportation, Town of Pecos City, Technical Resources Group, State Energy Conservation, and WIPP will be onsite including some other agencies from the surrounding areas.

WHEN AND WHERE: October 24, 2023 at Reeves County Annex II
1714 W. Schmidt Drive Pecos, Texas 79772



Reeves County prepares for potential chemical spills through WIPP facility | newswest9.com

10/25/23, 7:34 PM

Reeves County prepares for potential chemical spills through WIPP facility

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, also known as WIPP, facility has trading routes that run through the county.

Example video title will go here for this video

PECOS, Texas — Reeves County prepared themselves for any potential chemical spills they could face by having a training exercise in Pecos.

Reeves County is one of the most used routes by the [US Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant](#), also known as WIPP.

"So we have approved transportation routes that we negotiated years ago with each state we transport through," Bobby St. John, the external communication manager of SIMCO LLC, said. "Reeves County is on one of those transportation routes."

That is why the training exercise took place in Pecos.

The exercise simulated what would happen if a WIPP spill were to ever happen, and while this "accident" carried medical equipment, all kinds of chemicals go through WIPP.

"It's actually a radiological response training. The waste isolation pilot plant is a Department of Energy facility," St. John said. "We dispose of defense generated TRU waste, which is nuclear waste leftover from the research and production of nuclear weapons."

During the training, an accident was simulated between multiple cars, some



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Participants: Requirements

PARTICIPANTS

- Local Partners/LE, FIRE & EMS
 - Name(s)/Title(s):
 - Organization Attendance:
- Medical and Public Health Partners
 - Name(s)/Title(s):
 - Organization Attendance:
- County Partners
 - Names(s)/Title(s):
 - Organization Attendance:
- State Agencies – Texas
 - Name(s)/Title(s):
 - Organization Attendance:
- Federal Agencies
 - Name(s)/Title(s):
 - Organization Attendance:
- Private, Non-Profit and Volunteers
 - Name(s)/Title(s):
 - Organization Attendance:



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OBJECTIVES - Examples

HOSPITAL

HOSPITAL

- Demonstrate capability to mobilize appropriate staffing, setup, receive, and process patients through decontamination and treatment.
- Conduct radioactive material contamination surveys on each patient. As found, demonstrate patient decontamination techniques.
- Give patient report to include the known hazards patients were exposed to and how decontamination was performed.
- Criteria for transport agencies both ground and air for exposed patients.
- As needed, utilize national asset resources for technical assistance on decontamination and treatment questions for radiologically contaminated or exposed patients.



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OBJECTIVES - Examples

LAW ENFORCEMENT

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Controller and Evaluator (C/E) Reeves County Radiological Response Exercise Handbook

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Promptly respond and demonstrate the capability to identify the hazards present and make necessary notifications and conduct necessary driver's license and plate background check.
- Coordinate activities as part of the Unified Command.
- Report when the scene is secure, and provide public safety crowd control, road closure and/or traffic has been rerouted around the accident scene.
- Participate in responder decontamination if needed.
- Utilize the Drone Division to provide overwatch security, video, and as possible assist with radiation detection.
- Conduct accident investigation.
- Work with WIPP, vehicle driver, and radiation authority to conduct necessary inspections. (Level VI).



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Master Scenario Events List

- **Event Number**
- **Event Description**
- **Injects**
- **Attachments**
- **Exercise Timelines**
- **Exercise Actual Time**



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Master Scenario Events List Example: Pecos

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Controller and Evaluator (C/E) Reeves County Radiological Response Exercise Handbook

Master Scenario Events List (Summary)					
Event #	Event Time	Expected Action	Responsible Controller(s)	Recipient Player(s)	Expected Outcome of Player Action
01	-01:00	Simulations ready (e.g., drama student for van driver, shipping papers in the delivery truck, Controllers in place, and communications checks conducted.)	Jerry Bullard	NA	NA
02	-00:30	Brief all controllers/evaluators on planned exercise activities (briefing should review all response agencies, including dispatch, law enforcement, fire, EMS, hazmat, and the state radiation response team). Complete prop scene set-up in the field.	Jerry Bullard	All	NA
03 Inject Msg.1	00:00	Implement Message 1, which starts the exercise. Simulated vehicle accident occurs. A motorist calls (actual or simulated) the emergency communication center (e.g., 911 or controller informs IC) and reports accident/scene conditions. "This is _____, I am on Schmidt Dr and Texas St located off Interstate 20 Service Road, and there has been a wreck. A delivery van and car have crashed into a tractor trailer with big containers on it and the van is badly damaged. I see smoke! There is someone lying in the road. You had better get help here fast."	Jerry Bullard	Fire and Rescue	Fire and EMS dispatched to scene.
04 Inject Msg. 2	00:01	Implement Message 2 if the dispatcher fails to complete initial emergency response notifications. "For the purpose of this exercise, you are directed to dispatch the following emergency response units to the incident scene" (list only the applicable units that have not already been dispatched, as shown below): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire Department	Jerry Bullard	Fire and Rescue	Dispatching mistakes are corrected if they occur



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Participant Feedback Form

- **Recommendations**
- **Corrective Actions**
- **Exercise Design Assessment**
- **Conduct Assessment**



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Participant Feedback Form Example

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Controller and Evaluator (C/E) Reeves County Radiological Response Exercise Handbook

Appendix I: Participant Feedback Form

Exercise Name: Reeves County Radiological Response Exercise

Exercise Date: _____

Participant Name: _____ Title: _____

Agency: _____ Role: ☐ Player ☐ Controller
☐ Evaluator ☐ Observer

Part I – Recommendations and Action Steps

1. Based on the exercise today and the tasks identified, list the top 3 issues and/or areas that need improvement.

2. Identify the action steps that should be taken to address the issues identified above. For each action step, indicate if it is a high, medium, or low priority.

3. Describe the action steps that should be taken in your area of responsibility. Who should be assigned responsibility for each action item?

4. List the equipment, training or plans/procedures that should be reviewed, revised, or developed. Indicate the priority level for each.

Appendix I: Participant Feedback Form I-1 TEPP

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Controller and Evaluator (C/E) Reeves County Radiological Response Exercise Handbook

Part II – Exercise Design and Conduct

1. What is your assessment of the exercise design and conduct?
Please rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, your overall assessment of the exercise relative to the statements provided below, with 1 indicating strong disagreement with the statement and 5 indicating strong agreement.

Assessment Factor	Rating of Satisfaction with Exercise				
	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree
a. The exercise was well structured and organized.	1	2	3	4	5
b. The exercise scenario was plausible and realistic.	1	2	3	4	5
c. The documentation used during the exercise was a valuable tool throughout the exercise.	1	2	3	4	5
d. Participation in the exercise was appropriate for someone in my position.	1	2	3	4	5
e. The participants included the right people in terms of level and mix of disciplines.	1	2	3	4	5

2. What changes would you make to improve this exercise?
Please provide any recommendations on how this exercise or future exercises could be improved or enhanced.

Appendix I: Participant Feedback Form I-2 TEPP



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Participant Evaluation Form Example

Health

Exercise Evaluation Guide: Reeves County Radiological Emergency Response Exercise

Capability Description:

Health is the capability to protect the public from environmental hazards and manage the health effects of an environmental health emergency. This capability includes the design, implementation, and interpretation of results from environmental field surveys, laboratory sample analyses, rapid needs assessments, and comprehensive environmental health and risk assessments focused on drinking water, food, and mass care safety, waste water management, vector control, solid waste and debris removal, and hazardous materials disposal.

Capability Outcome:

After the primary event, disease and injury are prevented through the quick identification of associated environmental hazards to include exposure to infectious diseases that are secondary to the primary event and secondary transmission modes. The at-risk population (i.e., exposed or potentially exposed population) receives the appropriate treatment or protection (countermeasures) in a timely manner. The rebuilding of the public health infrastructure, removal of environmental hazards, and appropriate decontamination of the environment enable the safe re-entry and re-occupancy of the impacted area. Continued monitoring occurs throughout the re-building process to identify hazards and reduce exposure.

Jurisdiction or Organization:

Name of Exercise:

Location:

Date:

Evaluator:

Evaluator Contact Info:

Note to Exercise Evaluators: Only review those activities listed below to which you have been assigned.

Activity 1: Direct Health Operations

Activity Description: In response to notification of an environmental hazard, provide mobilization, assessment management, coordination, and support of environmental health activities through the demobilization layout of the incident.

Tasks Observed (check those that were observed and provide comments)

Note: Asterisks (*) denote Performance Measures and Performance Indicators associated with a task. Please record the observed indicator for each measure

	Task / Observation Keys	Time of Observation/ Task Completion
1.1 (Res B3c 1.1.6)	Implement incident-specific plan to coordinate the various elements of environmental health among Federal, State, and local response. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirm contact list Federal, State, and local representatives is <u>current</u>Prepare, discuss, and distribute plan and responsibilities to Federal, State, and local representatives in accordance with established procedures	Time: Task Completed? Fully [<input type="checkbox"/>] Partially [<input type="checkbox"/>] Not [<input type="checkbox"/>] N/A [<input type="checkbox"/>]



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Exercise After Action Report

- **Overview:**

- date, time frame/duration, and location of the event; name and type of exercise ; participants and agencies/ organizations in attendance; scenario; and improvement on Emergency operations Plan (EOPs);

- **Goals and objectives:**

- broad, general statements that indicate the desired outcome of the emergency exercise or event; and specific, measurable actions for achieving the goals;

- **Analysis of the outcomes:**

- the level to which goals and objectives were or were not met and why, based on observations, surveys, and discussions;

- **Analysis of critical tasks/capacity:**

- strengths and areas of improvement in regard to the capability levels of administrators, faculty, staff, and community partners as well as the adequacy of supplies and equipment;

- **Summary:**

- lessons learned, including demonstrated capabilities, primary areas for improvement, and/ or required updates to the EOP; and

- **Recommendations:**

- corrective actions to be implemented, person(s) responsible, needed resources, and expected completion date

- **Drafted and Reviewed:**

- 52 days after Full Scale Exercise

- **Finalized:**

- 120 days after Full Scale Exercise

The background of the slide features a large, semi-transparent seal of the State of Texas on the left side. The seal is circular with a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by a wreath. The words "STATE OF TEXAS" are inscribed around the perimeter of the seal.

Organize Training for Emergency Personnel

WIPPTREX: EXPECTATIONS REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW



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Organize Training for Emergency Personnel

- **Compressed Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transport Training; CMERRTT (8-Hours)**
- **Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transport Training; MERRTT (16-Hours)**
- **Technician Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transport Training; TMERRTT (8-hours)**
- **Local Officials Orientation (1-Hour)**
- **Hospital/Medical Management of Radiological Incidents (8-Hours)**



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WIPPTREX TABLETOP





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WIPPTREX TRAINING





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EXERCISE PREPARATIONS





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MOULAGE PREPARATION





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SAFETY BRIEFING





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PATIENT ASSESSMENT





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SCENE EVALUATION





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1st Responders





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AIR RESCUE





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SURVEY TECHNIQUES





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DECON PROCEDURES

On Site and at Local Hospitals





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NEWS MEDIA





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TEXAS REGIONAL INSPECTOR



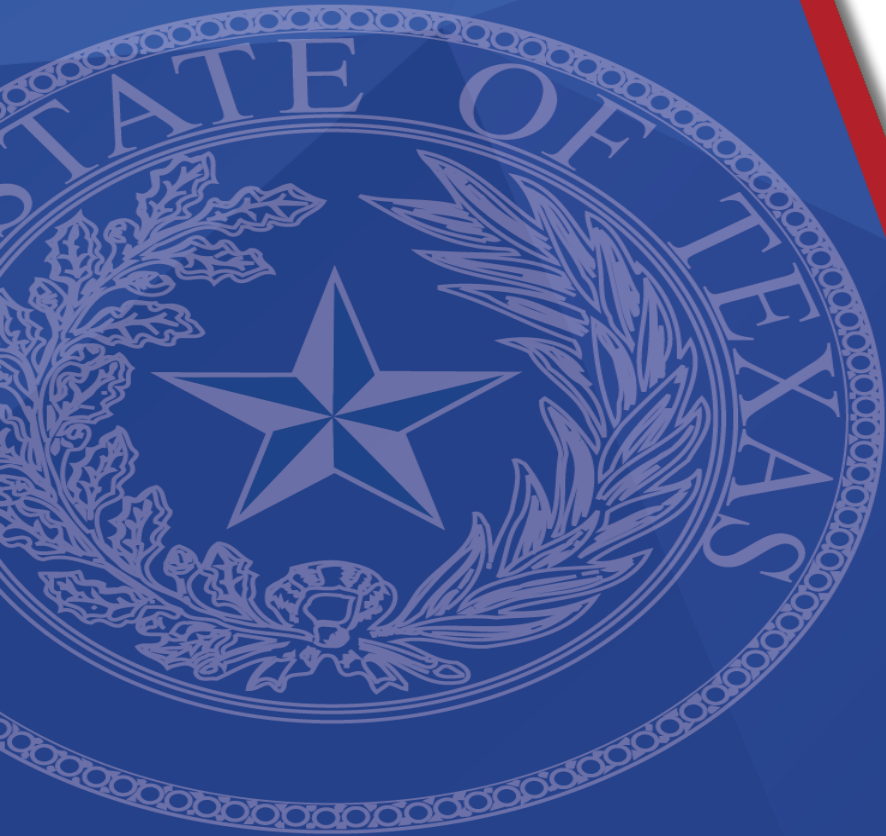


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WIPP TRUCK SURVEY





PUBLIC AWARENESS

WIPPTREX: EXPECTATIONS REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW



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Public Awareness

- **LOCAL OFFICIALS BRIEFING**
- **Radiological Safety**
- **TRANSCOM Tracking System**
- **Driver Training**
- **TRUPACT-II Training**

Lessons Learned: WIPPTREX

**Reeves County, Pecos,
Texas.**

October 24th, 2023



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Lessons Learned

- **16+ months for exercise planning with host community.**
 - Allows for the EMC to assess the resources/support needed from Local, State, and Federal partners.
- **Incorporate the use of Rad Responder**
 - Possible incorporation of one trained expert/movement of information to the necessary agencies.
- **More PIO Training for Local Officials**
 - Combat against mixed or incorrect messages
- **More Tabletops**
 - Bridge the gaps/highlight gaps



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Summary

- **Purpose of WIPPTREX:**
 - To Validate the capability and proficiency of public and private emergency preparedness systems.
 - A coordinated effort between local, state, and federal authorities.
- **Development: Expectations and Requirements**
 - Trainings (MERRT, TMERRT, PIO, HOSPITAL)
 - Planning Meetings, Objectives, Public Awareness (PIO, Briefings, Exercise Scenario, Scenario Approval, Available resources, Primary and Alternative Exercise dates, Invitations (Media, guest/observers), Roster Assignments (Controller, Evaluators, Facilitators, Observers, Safety Officer, Planners, etc.)
 - Hot Wash, Evaluations/Participant Feedback, AAR/IP, credits
- **16+ months for exercise planning with host community**
 - Allows for the EMC to assess the resources/support needed from Local, State, and Federal partners.
- **Tabletops**
 - Bridge gaps (communication between agencies, training, etc.)
- **TMERRT and Hospital Training**
 - Frequent training to combat against knowledge gaps/turnover
- **Be flexible**
 - Expect the unexpected
- **Stay Engaged**
 - Communicate often
 - What can you offer/incentives?
 - Outreach to other relationships with non-profits and private businesses to provide free food and water



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Contact Information

- **Texas Department of State Health Services**

Raven Alexander

Health Physicist 1/WIPP

Phone: (512) 902-9960

Email: Raven.Alexander@dshs.texas.gov

- **Texas Division of Emergency Management**

Jason Johnson

TDEM/WIPP Program Manager

Phone: (512) 656-1486

Email: Jason.Johnson@dshs.texas.gov

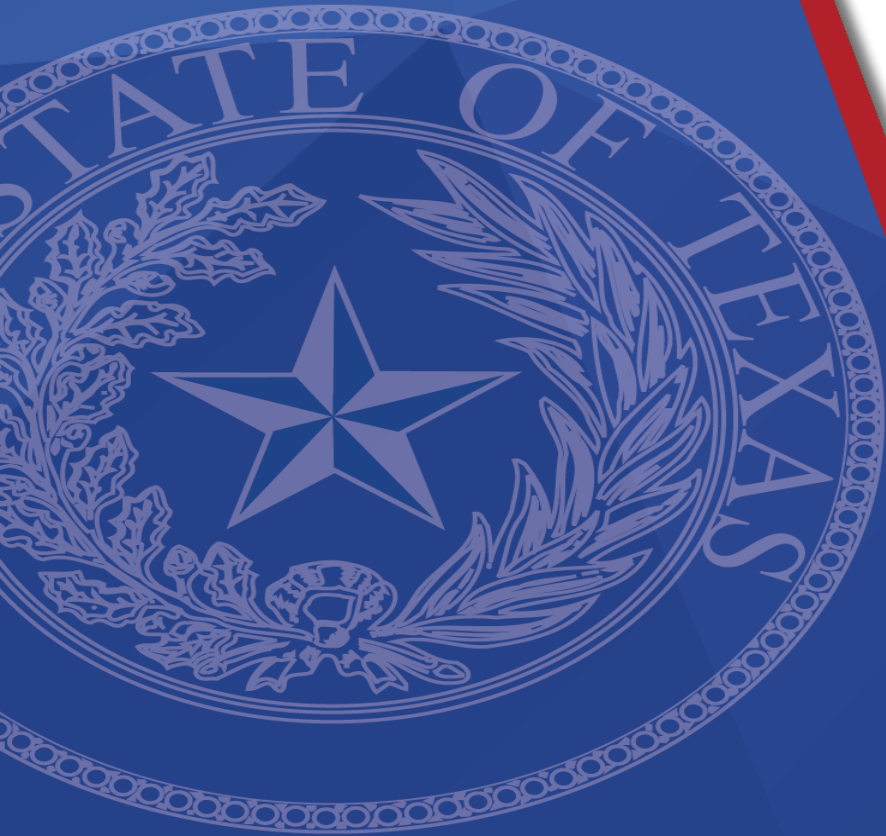


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Thanks to Our Partners





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Reeves County Emergency Management
Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program**



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