

# Operation Recovery

Tornado Tabletop Exercise  
April 4, 2018



# Welcome & Introductions





# Purpose

- ◆ To provide participants an opportunity to evaluate current response and recovery concepts, plans, and capabilities for a response to a severe weather event in northern Collin County.
- ◆ The exercise will focus on local volunteer organization command and control coordination, critical decisions, notifications, and logistic support operations.
- ◆ The role of each jurisdiction and organization will be critical to the overall recovery effort.
- ◆ To provide participants an opportunity to revise plans and share critical needs.



Operation Recovery



Apr 4 2018



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# Exercise Guidelines

- ◆ This is an open, low-stress, no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected
- ◆ Base your responses on the current plans and capabilities of your organization
- ◆ Decisions are not precedent setting; consider different approaches and suggest improvements.
- ◆ Feel free to ask questions





# Agenda

0900-0910	Welcome and Introduction
0910-1000	Module 1 – Tornado Impact
1000-1010	Break
1010-1045	Module 2 – Recovery Operations
1045-1100	Review & Closing Comments
1100	Adjourn

# Module 1 – Incident Notification





# Event Background

*Apr 4, 3:00 p.m.*

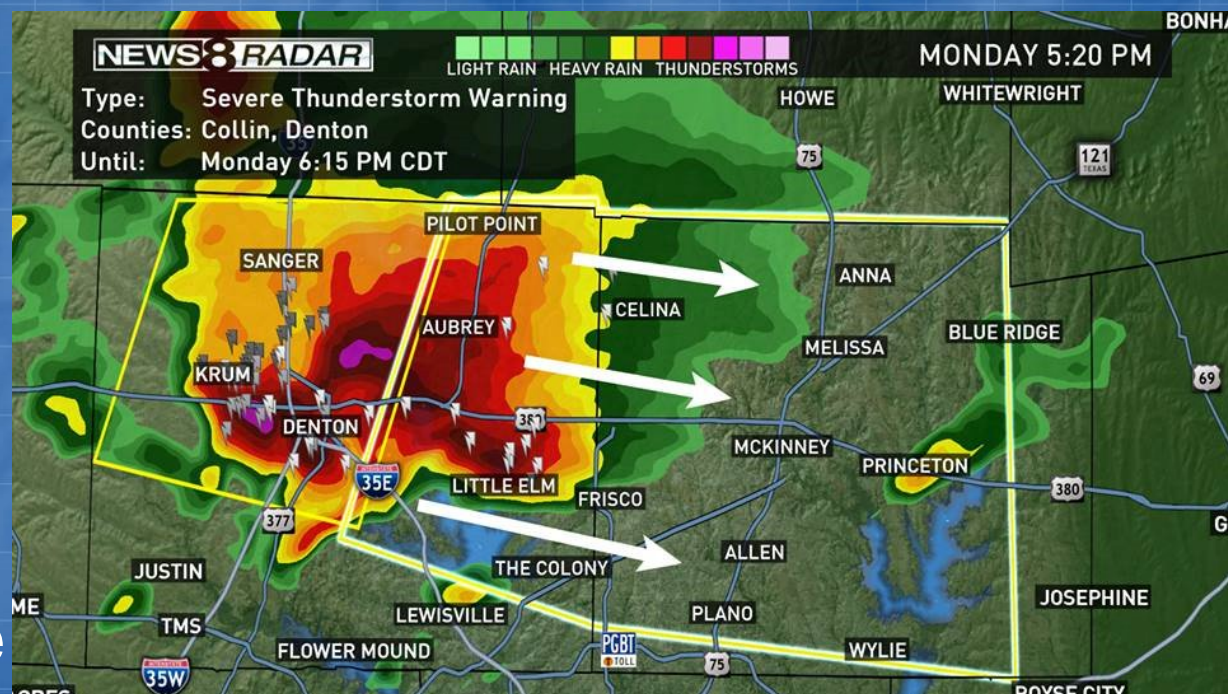
- ◆ The national weather service just issued a tornado watch for north central Texas
- ◆ Many local schools are planning end of year events and activities.
- ◆ Forecasts also indicate the possibility of severe weather approaching Collin County around 5 pm threatening residents on their drive home



# Onset of Severe Weather

*Apr 4, 5:20 p.m.*

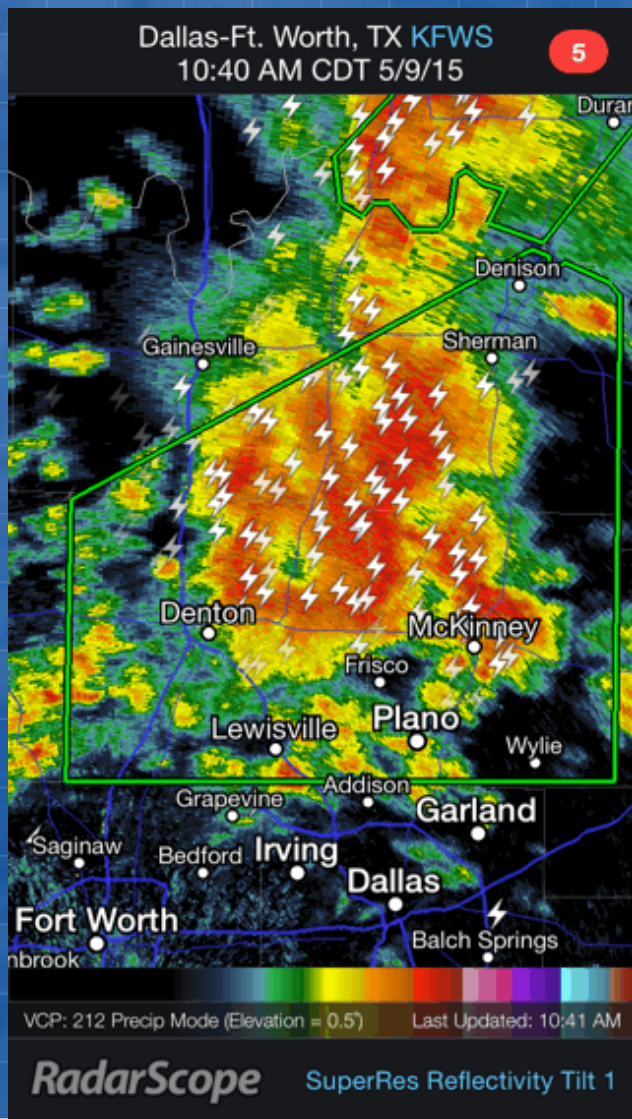
- ◆ Heavy rain and high winds are causing dangerous road conditions for commuters coming home from work
- ◆ Several accidents have traffic backed up on the I-35 corridor in Denton County creating a dangerous situation for potential tornados





# Tornado Warning

*Apr 4, 5:45 p.m.*

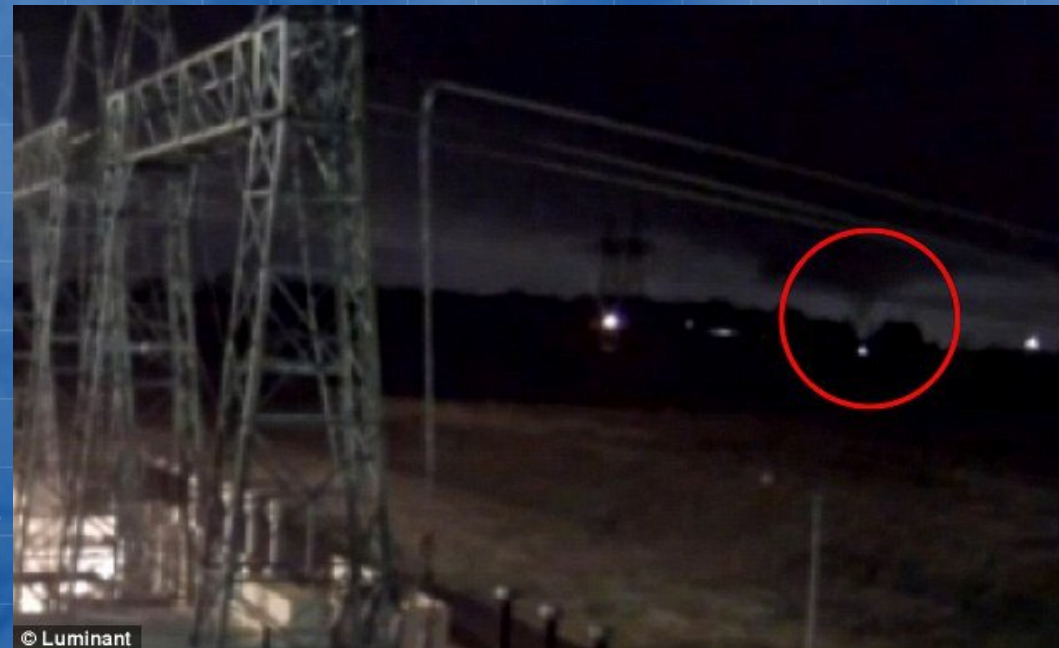


- ◆ The NWS has issued a tornado warning for central and north western Collin County
- ◆ Collin County Sheriff's dispatch has received several calls from residents citing funnel clouds approaching the Celina area and north
- ◆ The Collin County OEM has advised partner jurisdictions in the threatened areas that the EOC has been activated to level 3.

# 9-1-1 Dispatch

*Apr 4, 6:00 p.m.*

- ◆ Collin County Sheriff's dispatch has received confirmed reports of large hail and high winds in the Celina area
- ◆ Several residents have tweeted images of tornadoes in the warning area.
- ◆ Debris is covering major roads and several buildings are reportedly damaged





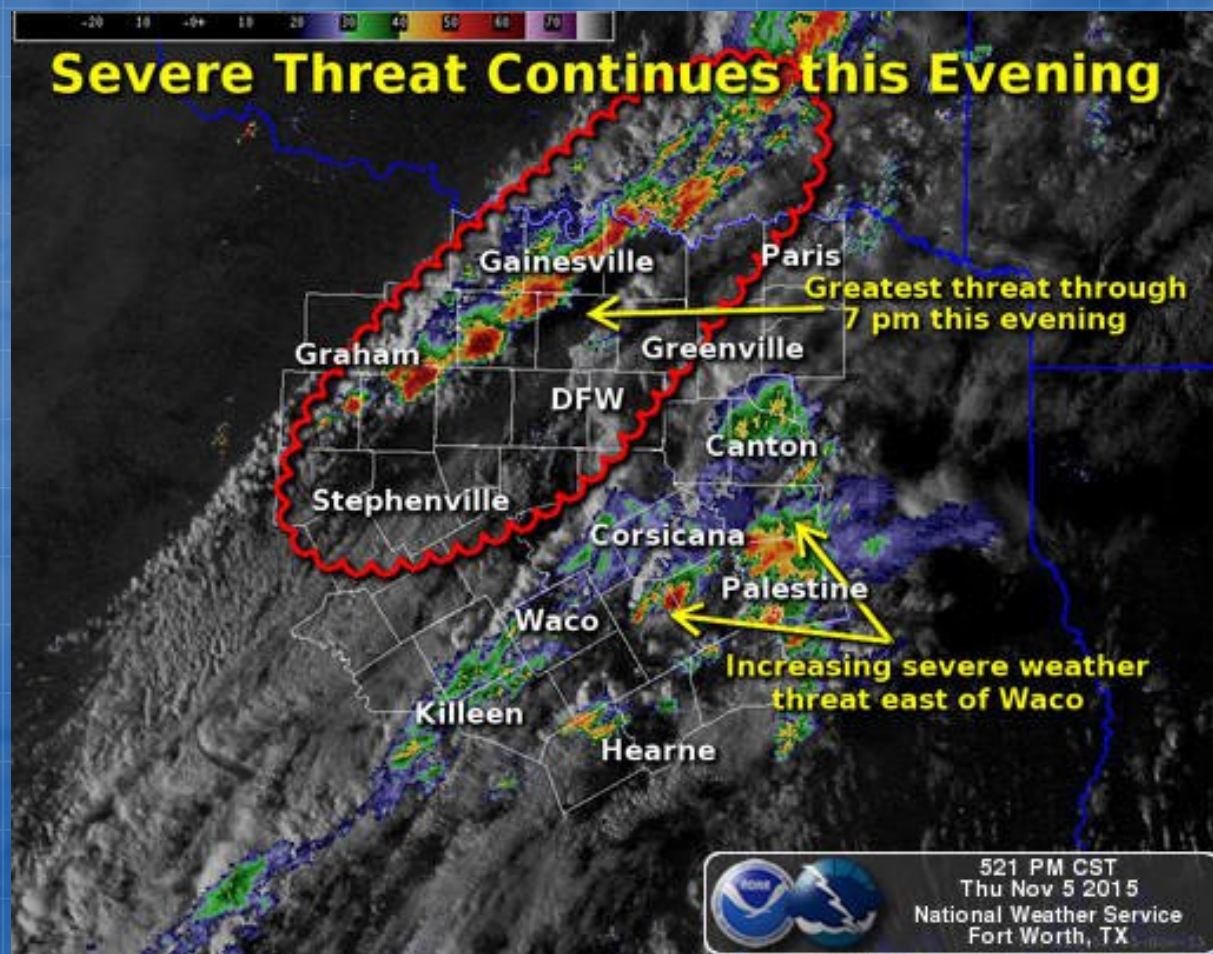
# Key Issues

- What actions should CCVOAD members be taking at this time?
- What should Ex Officio VOAD members be doing?
- What information will you be trying to gather for your organization?
- Are there particular areas of immediate concern?
- Does the VOAD have volunteer support for first response assistance, ie., CERT, Search and Rescue, Sheltering?
- For first response volunteers, what actions would they be taking at this time?

# Confirmed damage, injuries, tornado

*Apr 4, 6:15 p.m.*

- ◆ Some county roads in and around Celina are blocked by debris
- ◆ Numerous casualties are reported at three Celina schools
- ◆ A large tornado is spotted moving east at approximately 40 mph
- ◆ Anna and Melissa are in the path of the approaching tornado





# A Path of Destruction

*Apr 4, 6:30 p.m.*

- ◆ A large tornado has passed through the City of Anna
- ◆ The power is out in a large section of the City of Anna
- ◆ An assisted living center has extensive damage
- ◆ Residents in Weston report numerous injuries and extensive damage to homes
- ◆ Funnel clouds have been reported over Melissa



# Second Siting

*Apr 4, 6:35 p.m.*

- ◆ A funnel cloud in Melissa is causing extensive damage
- ◆ Several house fires may be spreading in Melissa
- ◆ Traffic on US 75 is backing up and stalling traffic at the outer loop
- ◆ Significant debris is blocking 121 headed northeast
- ◆ A second tornado has been sighted in McKinney heading east from the crossing at Spur 399 and US 75 headed NE toward Eldorado





# Second Siting

*Apr 4, 6:35 p.m.*

- ◆ Minor damage reported at Medical Center McKinney
- ◆ McKinney has widespread power outages
- ◆ US 75 is shut down at 121
- ◆ Potential hazardous material incidents
- ◆ Persons in area of path are disoriented and in shock



# Breaking News

*Apr 4, 6:46 p.m.*

- ◆ Television and radio stations are running uninterrupted coverage of the devastation associated with this event:

*“...there are few details at this time, but it seems many deaths and untold numbers of injuries have occurred as at least two tornados swept through north central Texas. We are struggling to get through traffic backed up on US 75 to get to a nursing home that has reportedly sustained extensive damage and deaths of people trapped inside. It is an extremely eerie scene as we pass through the area without power and flames rising above damaged homes. We have not been able to reach local officials...”*





# Key Issues

- At least two tornadoes, numerous injuries and potential fatalities, power is out over a large area of central Collin County, phone service is spotty
- What are current priorities and concerns? First responder volunteers. Recovery volunteers.
- How will the VOAD respond as a unified organization?
- Will the VOAD be able to assist with immediate recovery support for victims? Shelter, transportation, medical aid, etc.
- How will the VOAD coordinate with jurisdictional EMCs?
- How long will it take the Assistance Center to open?
- How will VOAD members communicate their status with Ex Officio representatives?
- Who will communicate VOAD services with the media?



# Discussion





# Module 2 – Recovery

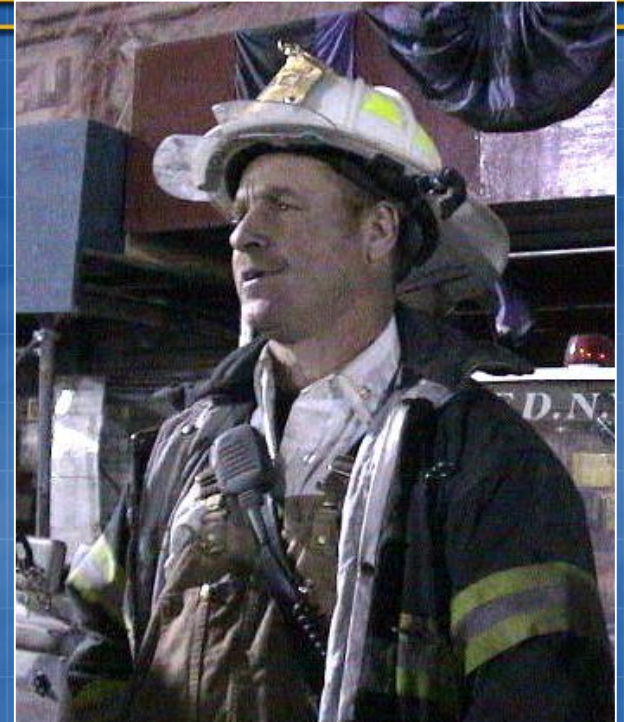




# Responders Arriving

*Apr 4, 6:50 p.m.*

- ◆ The first mutual aid responders dispatched to the scene begin their operations to conduct search and rescue, transport victims, clear debris, put out the fires and protect the community.
- ◆ Volunteers establish temporary shelters and provide comfort to victims.
- ◆ Public works officials work with the power company to get electricity, mobilize portable lights and heavy equipment to remove debris.





# Crowd Control

*Apr 4, 8:00 p.m.*

- ◆ Maintaining a secure perimeter in damaged neighborhoods is problematic
- ◆ A number of television news crews can be seen in the among the debris in harms way
- ◆ Access routes to the scene must be kept open for emergency responders, but the roadways are filled with vehicles and people on foot trying to escape the fires
- ◆ Many people have already started to self-evacuate to areas directed by fire and law enforcement, the situation is chaotic at best
- ◆ 9-1-1 is inundated and social media is filled with on scene accounts of the carnage



# Emergency Declaration

*Apr 4, 8:15 p.m.*

- ◆ Mayor Fuller issued a Disaster Declaration for the City of McKinney
- ◆ All City jurisdictions will be under a mandatory 10 pm to 6 am curfew
- ◆ Judge Self has expressed concern for the victims of this incident and asked the Governor to expedite a State disaster declaration to expedite state and federal resources.
- ◆ The Governor issued a statement concerning options for mobilizing members of the national guard for area security





# Scene Survey

*Apr 5, 7:03 a.m.*

- ◆ Several victims are still being pulled from damaged buildings. Neighbors try to help the injured as medical responders continue to treat and transport.
- ◆ Crowds have begun to gather at sites throughout the area as curious citizens arrive to see what happened.
- ◆ Some roads in urban and rural areas are blocked by abandoned cars and debris.
- ◆ Smoke from burned buildings waft through the air while numerous police and fire personnel attend to screaming, crying and distraught citizens; some looking for family members.



# Damage Assessment

*Apr 5, 7:30 a.m.*

- ◆ Widespread reports of tornado touchdowns are being investigated by the National Weather Service
- ◆ Hundreds of homes and businesses have been seriously damaged or destroyed.
- ◆ Access to many neighborhoods is difficult due to downed trees and power lines.
- ◆ City and County officials are asking impacted residents to stay out of their homes until inspected





# Damage Assessment

*Apr 5, 7:30 a.m.*

- ◆ Widespread reports of tornado touchdowns are being investigated by the National Weather Service
- ◆ Hundreds of spontaneous volunteers and sight seers have begun assembling at numerous locations throughout the county.
- ◆ Search and rescue operations are still ongoing in half a dozen neighborhoods throughout the county.
- ◆ Dispatch offices report wandering sheep, horses, and cattle



# Hospitals Full

*Apr 5, 8:00 a.m.*

- ◆ A large number of walking-wounded are arriving at local hospitals seeking medical attention
- ◆ The surge capacity at the hospitals closest to the scene has been exceeded
- ◆ Medical Center McKinney, Baylor McKinney, and Presby Plano are unable to take any more patients





# The Missing

*Apr 5, 8:30.m.*

- ◆ People are overwhelming call centers and arriving at the scene to inquire about their missing loved ones who might have be trapped in their collapsed homes



# Summary of Casualties

*As of Apr 5, 8:00 a.m.*

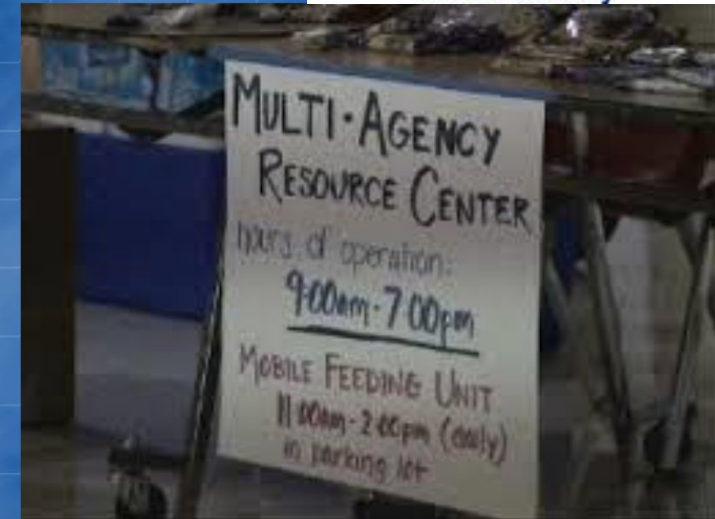
Casualties.....	147
Fatalities.....	34
Missing .....	5



# Key Issues



- Several emergency managers have asked if the VOAD is ready to set up a MARC.
- If yes, who will coordinate the effort and provide ongoing support and coordination?
- Who would find the location/s and decide when to suspend their operations?
- Will Volunteer Coordination Centers be established to support spontaneous volunteers?
- If yes, who will lead those efforts and determine what tasks are appropriate for the presenting people?



# Key Issues



- Will a donations management team be created and supported by the VOAD?
- Who will provide additional support for expanded Assistance Center phone bank operations?
- What information will the neighborhood be provided and how will they receive it?
- How will requests for financial assistance from the VOAD be assessed, prioritized, and distributed?
- How will the VOAD respond to support for unmet needs: infant and toddler supplies, pet needs, medicine and transportation?





# Key Issues

- For what period of time should the MARC be open and for how long?
- How long will the Assistance Center be able to support the recovery effort?
- If FEMA becomes part of the recovery, how will the VOAD coordinate services?
- Will the VOAD facilitate the integration of new businesses and volunteer agencies?
- How will the VOAD ex officio representatives determine when it is time to suspend membership services coordination?



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# Press Conference

*Apr 5, 8:30 a.m.*



- ◆ At a press conference representing the efforts of the VOAD membership, President Dana Riley praises the contributions of the volunteers and community.
- ◆ When asked about ongoing needs, what should she include in her remarks? What else can the community do to help?
- ◆ One reporter asked her about volunteer responders finding roaming cows and horses. Who can catch them?
- ◆ Many of the discussion questions just raised are brought up in the press conference. How long will services be provided and where can residents turn once recovery operations transition to more long-term assistance?
- ◆ What have we learned from the past that we did better this time to help our friends, families and community?



# Discussion





# Closing Remarks

