



# Collin County Full Scale Exercise

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# Participants

- Collin County Judge
- Collin County Fire Marshal/Emergency Management
- Collin County Sheriff's Office
- Princeton PD & FD
- Farmersville FD
- Lowry Crossing FD
- Frisco FD/Emergency Management
- Princeton ISD
- AMR – American Medical Response
- Minuteman Disaster Response
- Durham School Services
- Medical Air Rescue



# Purpose of the Exercise

- The overall purpose of the Collin County 2024 Tornado FSE was to engage first responders and decision makers of invited organizations and agencies to focus on the initial response from a tornado strike. The exercise essentially had two major components – (1) EOC activation at the City of Princeton and (2) Tornado Disaster Site Operations at Sister Grove Park.
- The full-scale exercise also focused on ensuring interagency understanding of response operations and key decisions during a tornado strike impacting the public were properly coordinated and consistent with the intent of response and recovery plans.



# Scenario

- The initial briefing of the scenario begins with a tornado striking the west side of the peninsula on Wednesday June 14, 2023 at 3:00 pm. Downed trees and flooded roads hinder first responder's ability to navigate the area and support the community. Additionally, high winds from the storm have caused widespread power outages. Search and rescue operations take place throughout the night.
  - Tanker truck with fuel was in an accident and is leaking fuel.
  - Two school buses have been impacted by the tornado and there are injuries.
    - 43 total injuries ranging from minor to severe
  - Extensive damage to local homes and business in Collin County
  - Extensive damage to other jurisdictions in the Region



# Scenario Cont'd

- Extensive damage to critical infrastructure
- 100+ residents unaccounted for after the storm
- The tornado continues in an easterly direction and strikes the neighborhood on the western side of the peninsula causing damage to 75 homes:
  - 30 major
  - 35 minor
  - 10 destroyed
- Neighborhood injuries/fatalities:
  - 6 fatalities
  - 56 injuries ranging from minor to severe
- The tornado then goes back up in the clouds
- Mutual aid is requested
- The County EOC is opened





# Capabilities

- Capabilities
  1. Operational Coordination
  2. Public Health and Emergency Medical Services
  3. Mass Search and Rescue



# Objectives

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  1. Establish and maintain a unified and coordinated operational structure and process that appropriately integrates all critical stakeholders and supports the execution of core capabilities.
  2. Provide lifesaving medical treatment via Emergency Medical Services and related operations to all affected populations.
  3. Deliver traditional and atypical search and rescue capabilities to survivors in need, with the goal of saving the greatest number of endangered lives in the shortest time possible.



# Accomplishments

- Good working arrangement between the responding agencies. It is apparent that they work on a regular basis. Continue training and exercising together.
- Good use of the Command Board on the first arriving chief officer. Well set up and was utilized throughout the exercise first as Command then as Operations.
- Good use of the Minute Men trailer by the Incident Commander. Well positioned at the scene and easily identifiable.
- Good communications between the Incident Commander and the EOC.





# Improvements

- The Princeton EOC was a “dead zone” for radio traffic. Operators had to move to another room to establish contact. Complete construction project for radio equipment and full implementation of the Princeton EOC.
- Improved communication between first responders on site would ensure a better response.
- Princeton EOC had no vest to make each section easily identifiable, which caused confusion.



# Comments from TEEEX

- Collin County is commended for identifying and proposing solutions to local issues they will face in an actual tornado disaster.
- The Collin County officials, responders and other local first responders within partnering jurisdictions are commended for expending the time and resources to challenge their own organizations to become better prepared for and proactively considering changes needed to enhance preparedness for, respond to, and eventually recovery from and return their community back to normal after facing a major tornado incident.

