

R6 RA Opening & Closing Remarks – Day 1 & 2
Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC)
Theme: All-Hazards Planning
Business casual attire
April 11 – 12, 2023

Opening/Closing remarks – Day 1: 8:35 a.m. (10 min); 4:45 p.m. (15 min)

Opening remarks – Day 2: 8:45 a.m. (10 min), 4:20 p.m. (10 min)

Location: Russell Newman Building 600 North Loop 288 Denton, TX

Spring 2023 RISC: Opening & Closing Remarks

You last addressed the RISC in November 2022.

Opening Remarks / Welcome (April 11 | 8:35 a.m.)

- Good morning, I want to thank you all for taking the time and making the effort to participate in our Spring RISC meeting whether you're here with us in person or virtual. It's so important to have this time together to learn from each other and get to know each other better.
- Partnerships, like the ones we make in events like this, are vital to emergency management. In February, our agency announced the release of our [Guide to Community Engagement](#). A resource that provides guiding principles, tools, and best practices to strengthen our engagement with our community partners.
- The guide relies heavily on identifying trusted voices in our communities to help navigate our changing disaster landscape.
- All of you know well that community-based organizations, nonprofits, cultural groups, faith-based partners, schools, academia, advocates, and health entities are powerful voices in our communities and help us in driving local decision-making.
- Everyone in this room and online with us today plays a pivotal role in disaster response and recovery. Each of you brings unique perspectives and contributions and I am looking forward to hearing from many of you.
- One of those we'll hear from later today is the Private Sector Emergency Management Association (PSEMA) and how they serve as a conduit between the private sector and government agencies to prevent or lessen any negative effects when major emergencies and disasters occur.

- They have tools and technologies that can help us meet our communities where they are with what they need.
- Technology has been on the forefront lately. I had the pleasure of attending TDEM's inaugural Technology Summit in Ft. Worth in February. It was a great opportunity to talk to and engage with first responders, emergency managers and our private sector partners that were in attendance.
- I can't say enough about keeping up with the latest advancements in technology. As Emergency Managers, stakeholders and partners, we must continue to find new resources, decision support tools and better define how we share data and information with each other.
- We will be talking in more depth about some of those technological advances over the next couple of days. I did want to highlight one new tool which is Pin2flood. A tool that allows on-scene first responders to make their own flood maps - on demand! With a quick tap at the water's edge (dropping a 'pin'), the map automatically returns the boundary of the floodwaters along with additional critical information.
- As we look toward our upcoming hurricane season, we also need to be aware of where we are now. Severe weather has always been a year-round concern, and it's been a factor since we met in November. We need to embrace every tool we can.
- Hurricane Season is right around the corner. Over the next several days, we will be talking about our posture and hearing updates from many of you.
- Everyone in this room and online is a valuable partner.
- We continue to adjust the format of these meetings to better meet your needs. We want this to be more of a conversation, more relevant and more engaging.
- We want to know what gaps you keep seeing, what are the shortfalls and what are your expectations from a federal response. You'll hear about this and many other that will be discussed over the next few days.
- On the screen and in the chat, you'll see a link or a QR code. This will take you to our virtual Q&A space. We'll use this as a whiteboard, as well as having some poll questions.

- This is a way for you to ask questions or comment on what you're hearing in the sessions. You can also "like" other's questions if it's something you've also been wondering.
- We will do our best to address as many of the questions as we can during the course of the meeting. If there's something we need more time to address, we'll make sure you're aware of that. We encourage you to use tool to help us engage in conversation.
- I encourage you to engage in conversations, participate in the sessions and network over the next few days.
- So, let's go around the room and online and do introductions. Let us know who you are and what agency you're with.
- Thanks everybody.

Closing Remarks – Day 1 (Apr 11 | 4:45 p.m.)

- I hope you had a productive day today. We've had some great discussions.
- We had the opportunity to build on new and existing relationships.
- Tomorrow we'll be hearing more about All Hazards Planning, updates to the Hurricane Plan, GIS capabilities, Power Restoration and Disaster Emergency Communications.
- I encourage you to come ready to have productive engagements again tomorrow.
- Enjoy your evening and we look forward to seeing you in the morning.

Opening Remarks / Welcome (Apr. 12 | 8:35 a.m.)

- Welcome back to Day 2. I hope you had a good evening and are ready to dive into today's discussions.
- Before we get started, I want to take a moment to recognize the service of one of our ESF partners, Danny Eason, Danny will be retiring after more than 30 years of emergency management experience.
- Danny began his service with the Kilgore Fire Department in 1982. He moved to the VA North Texas Healthcare System in 2002 as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. He has spent the last 14 years with the Region 6 VHA Office of Emergency Management.
- Danny has been an irreplaceable partner within FEMA Region VI serving as the RRCC LNO for the VA. Danny was instrumental in providing coordination and partnership for numerous COVID Mission Assignments within the region ensuring that Veterans and the US population in the region continued to receive the care they needed.
- Danny also had numerous response roles to national headline disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike where his FCC received and ensured patients from these disasters were provided the definitive care under NDMS that was necessary in their time of need.
- Danny is well known for his heart for mentoring and relationship-building. He has mentored numerous staff across VA and emergency management. He is also the reigning chilidog eating champion of the VHA Office of Emergency Management holding a record of 13 gas station chilidogs when he defeated the now current Director of OEM in 2020.
- He will be retiring at his home in Canton, TX, where for years he has been a faithful husband, Dad of two girls, Sunday school teacher, granddad, and more. His retirement plans include more babysitting (spoiling) grandkids, fishing, traveling, and barbequing.
- I want to thank you for your service to Region 6, to our veteran community, and to the residents of Region 6. Let's give a big hand to Danny.

- Now, today we're focusing on our All-Hazards Planning postures. Whether we're talking hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, or wildfires, there are elements we can concentrate on that help us respond and recover from them all.
- We'll also be digging deeper into our Hurricane season plans, since that's foremost on a lot of minds. We went over the Hurricane season forecast yesterday. With that in mind, let's look at how we can move the needle forward on our legacy storms to help our communities be more resilient in the face of this year's forecast.
- We will be concentrating on tools, lessons learned, and best practices today. Hopefully there were some takeaways yesterday that you can incorporate into what you learn today to help you with future planning.
- Flooding is a major component of most of our hazards. Later today, you'll hear about tools and technology that can help you track your highest risk properties and how NFIP plays into that.
- We'll also be talking more about emergency communications and how GIS can be a great tool. During these sessions we'll take the time to discuss the capabilities of these technologies that you can use them with your communities to build greater capacity when it comes to response and recovery.
- We'll continue using the virtual whiteboard today as well. Please continue submitting your questions and comments. The QR code or link is available in the chat or on the screen.
- I wish you all a good day as we move into our full day of discussions.

Closing Remarks – Day 2 (Apr 12 | 4:20 p.m.)

- I hope you today gave you plenty to think about and work with. We've had some great discussions.
- We've talked about all-hazard planning and different ways to address some of needs. From using technology in high-risk flood areas to disaster communications and utilizing GIS more efficiently.

- If you are joining us for our Training Day tomorrow, we look forward to working with you. If you are headed back to your home bases, travel safely.
- We appreciate the time you've spent with us this week. We appreciate all you've brought to the table. We'll see you at the next RISC.
- Thank you all and good night.