

Thank You!

Chal-leng-ing /'CHalənjiNG/ *adjective*

1. testing one's abilities; demanding.

In April and May, East Texas experienced heavy rainfall, leading to flooding along the San Jacinto and Trinity Rivers. Our members helped residents of Walker, Montgomery, Liberty, and Harris County with their recovery. The TGCRVOAD also helped coordinated the response in Trinity, Polk, and San Jacinto County, which did not have a VOAD. Responding to a disaster across more than 200 miles of riverfront? Challenging.

In mid-May, a Derecho surprised all of us, causing significant damage across over 700 square miles and knocking out electricity for 1 million Houstonians. The volume of vegetative debris spread over such a wide area? Challenging.

In July, Hurricane Beryl came ashore in Matagorda County. It left our counties a little more than half a day later, leaving more downed trees and damaged roofs, three million without power, and the challenges of keeping reasonably cool while July heat indices soared to triple digits. Challenging-cubed.

I am proud of the way TGCRVOAD responded to the challenges. We exercised the four Cs of cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration and assisted a great number of our neighbors. Some of our preparations and training worked very well. However, the disasters were not exactly like the Harvey flooding that we learned from and trained for reminding us that every disaster has unique challenges.

It reminds us that we need to be always flexible – like Gumby.

It also reminds us that after every response, we have an opportunity to recognize what we did right and celebrate it, as well as identify areas for improvement to face challenges and prepare for the next opportunity.

In our September meeting, we'll focus on both as we gently remind ourselves that 2024 is not over.



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General Membership Meeting



September 18, 2024
9:00 – 10:30

United Way of Greater Houston
50 Waugh Dr
Houston, TX 77007

Our September meeting will be held at the United Way of Greater Houston starting promptly at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be a Double Feature: the TGCRVOAD meeting from 9:00 to 10:30 and the Harris County Long Term Recovery Committee meeting from 10:30 to noon. At noon, we will have an opportunity to have lunch together and work on building relationships before the next disaster.

Please note the time change! Set your alarm clock a little earlier and don't forget about Houston traffic.

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Regular Business
 - Officer reports
 - New Member Consideration
 - After Action Review and Initiatives
- Presentations
 - DSHS
- Organizational Announcements

Our next General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13th, from 9:30 – 11:00 (location to be announced).

Plugging In



Although the short-term recovery phase of our disaster response is “over,” many neighbors still need our help. Please join your local LTRC and lend a hand to help others on their worst days. You can also look at Crisis Cleanup to find jobs that may have been overlooked.

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Connections



connective

A Message from Connective

Thank you for your continued support as our community recovers from Hurricane Beryl, the May storms, and the Derecho. As you know, after disasters we deploy the Connective Survey in collaboration with Harris County OEM, Harris County LTRC, and the Texas Gulf Coast Regional VOAD to accurately assess post-disaster needs. Following Hurricane Beryl, we received nearly 7,500 unique responses, which highlights are available on [this dashboard](#).

Since July, we have sent over 20 texts to survey respondents, providing information about cooling centers and shelters, food aid, cleanup and debris removal, and disaster and financial assistance as it becomes available. We currently have over 50,000 subscribers to Connective Texts and are continually sourcing relevant, targeted resources to share with them.

If your organization offers resources related to disaster recovery assistance, home repair and cleanup support, food or utility assistance, or other community recovery programs, please email mrodgers@connectivetx.org or emorales@connectivetx.org and let us know. We would love to circulate these resources to our survey respondents.

If your resources are zip code or geographically restricted let us know so we can do targeted outreach.

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New Tool!



The Texas Department of State Health Services Public Health Region 6/5s (DSHS PHR 6/5s) is excited to share its recently developed Emergency Communication Aids.

These communication aids provide disaster shelters with a tool to facilitate communication about health and medical needs with nonverbal or limited English-proficient individuals.

If you are interested in receiving FREE physical copies to distribute to your disaster response and AFN partners, please complete the following request form: [Emergency Communication Aid Request Form](#).



9.11

The community is invited to help honor and commemorate 911 Day of Service at a massive cleanup event at Houston National Cemetery, 8am-1pm, September 7, 2024. The event is an official event of 911Day.org and powered by JustServe.org, the City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods, Carry the Load, the American Red Cross, and the Houston ToolBank. To volunteer for the event go to: Tinyurl.com/Houston911Day11

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TGCR VOAD Education Roadmap



All Members are encouraged to take the FEMA Emergency Management Courses. Familiarity with these concepts will help tremendously in our ability to communicate, Cooperate, Collaborate, and Coordinate with each other and the jurisdictions governing the people we serve. We have divided the courses up into quarters representing about 7 hours of work a quarter.

First Quarter

- IS-288.C The Role of Voluntary Organizations in Emergency Management - 1 hour
- IS-100.C Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100 - 2 hours
- IS-700.B An Introduction to the National Incident Management System - 3.5 hours

Second Quarter

- IS-200.C Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 - 4 hours
- IS-800.D National Response Framework, An Introduction - 3 hours

Third Quarter

- IS-2900.A National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) Overview - 3 hours
- IS-2200 Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions – 4 hours.
- Harris County's EOC-101,201

Advanced Study

- G-191 Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface – 8 hours (in-person)

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Invitation



JOIN A COMMITTEE

[Join a TGCRVOAD Committee!](#)

All our committees are seeking members. We want all Members to be represented and have a voice in how the TGCRVOAD operates. Do you have anyone in your organization that has a gift in these areas? Please get in touch with the respective committee chair.

COMMUNICATIONS - responsible for the website, newsletter, situational awareness, internal communications, and external communication support. Contact [Gary Flaharty](#).

EDUCATION & TRAINING – responsible for training programs for bi-monthly meetings. Contact [Amanda Groller](#).

INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, & COMMUNITY RESOURCES - responsible for the Membership directory, resources by county, and gap analysis. Contact [Sarah Malcolm](#).

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT - responsible for recruiting Members and Partners and encouraging participation in TGCRVOAD events. Contact [Morgan Zeringue](#).

OPERATIONAL COLLABORATION - support enhancement of Functions in Disaster; interface with the LTRCs. Contact [Debbie Allensworth](#)

STEERING COMMITTEE – Meets six times yearly to advise the Executive Committee; the Executive Committee appoints members to the Steering Committee Contact chair.tgcrvoad@icloud.com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Officers and Committee Chairs

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