



STRAC Emergency Operations Division/Regional Rescue Team

Description:

The Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma is a non-profit organization made up of 70 Fire/EMS agencies and 35 hospitals within the 22 county region, called a Trauma Service Area (TSA). TSA-P covers the majority of the Hill Country and extends to the Mexican border, to include Del Rio and Eagle Pass. This geographic region is prone to swiftwater/flooding emergencies that require rapid response of well-trained public safety personnel. In recent years, this area has experienced at least three major flooding events that resulted in dozens of lives lost and hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage.

Many of the Fire/EMS agencies that responded to these flooding incidents or smaller incidents in the recent past have expressed concern that flooding presents specific challenges to rescue response. Due to the unique characteristics, normal mutual aid assistance from neighboring departments becomes useless, as floodwaters tend to affect larger areas. In essence, if your area is getting floodwater, chances are your neighboring mutual aid departments are getting floodwater as well. This creates a situation where we need to look farther than normal to bring additional swiftwater rescue assets to bear. This type of equipment is expensive and only rarely used, and is also difficult for most departments to train with due to the arid nature of Texas under most circumstances.

The goal of the STRAC Regional Rescue Team is to provide rapid (<30-60 min) response to requests for assistance. This response is only at the request of the on-scene command personnel. The Regional Rescue Team will provide a mechanism to organize the existing swiftwater resources within the TSA-P public safety agencies into a comprehensive regional team capable of assisting our region's concerns. The initial thrust of the team is aimed at swiftwater rescue, but other areas of technical rescue will be examined for future expansion of the team. Monthly training will be conducted and attendance at a minimum of 50% of these training events will be required to be eligible for team membership.

Membership is open to any public safety provider; (Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, etc) either paid or volunteer. Requirements at present include SRT-I (NFPA 1670 Operations level) or higher from any approved training program. In addition, due to the physical demands of swiftwater rescue, the ability to operate for extended periods in strenuous exercise environments is required. EMT certification is encouraged. It is anticipated that the majority of the team will be at the Technician level and able to operate in many different rescue applications, such as paddle boat, power boat, PWC or helo rescue.

Members are required to have the STRAC sponsorship letter signed by their chief or administrator, specifying that when on team assignment, whether training or actual missions, that they are "on-duty" for their sponsoring department. This means that all medical and death benefits coverage from their sponsoring department are in force, regardless of actual location of the injury or death. In the event that a candidate is unable to obtain a signature on the sponsorship letter, they will be required to have a liability waiver on file with the team.

The Regional Rescue Team should be viewed as an organizing body, to better coordinate existing resources, such as rope, boats, PWC's etc from member agencies. These pieces of equipment may or may not be available at the time of request, due to the specific weather considerations at that moment. In addition, the RRT has powerboats, jet skis and other rescue equipment that that are reserved for RRT use. STRAC has a policy with Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services (VFIS) to replace or repair any and all equipment damaged or lost during training or rescue missions, so sponsoring departments do not suffer unreasonable losses.

Some members of the Emergency Operations Advisory Committee also sit on the TEEEX Texas Task Force -I state water rescue committee and the regional rescue team routinely participates as a Tx Task Force-I swiftwater asset for state deployments.

**Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council
Emergency Operations Division
Regional Rescue Team
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

(Circle all that apply)

Emerg. Ops Division Position: **Rescue** **ERU/MCI/Communications/STL**

NAME

LAST: _____ FIRST: _____ MI: _____

ADDRESS

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COMMUNICATION

HOME: _____ PAGER: _____ WORK: _____

CELL: _____ E-Mail _____

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY / PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY AFFILIATION

CURRENT EMPLOYER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ YEARS: _____ SUPERVISOR: _____

DUTIES: _____

BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE ANY RESCUE RELATED EXPERIENCE, EMERGENCY PREPAIRDNESS OR DISASTER RESPONCES YOU HAVE ASSISTED IN & LIST ALL COURSES ATTENDED:

STRAC
Emergency Operations Division/Regional Rescue Team
Memorandum of Understanding

I, _____, being the department/organization administrator
(Chief or Administrator)
of _____, have reviewed the
(Department or Agency)
general and specific requirements of the position(s) being applied for by

_____ with the STRAC Emergency
(Applicant)

Operations Division/Regional Rescue Team and hereby certify that he/she does meet the general requirements of the position being applied for as specified and the following:

1. Is at least 21 years of age.
2. Is a United States citizen

It is understood that the person making application shall be allowed by the sponsoring department/organization to participate in needed training exercises, mobilization exercises, and continuing education as required by the STRAC Emergency Operations Division/Regional Rescue Team. By sponsorship of the applicant, the department/organization will ensure that all health insurance, worker's compensation and death benefits that are provided by employment are in force for any and all official Emergency Operations Division/Regional Rescue Team training, mission responses, or any other official Team event and STRAC shall have no responsibility therefore. The department/organization also acknowledges that allowing the applicant to participate in team activities shall not place in jeopardy the response requirements or standard levels of service of the sponsoring department/organization.

Signature: Department/Organization Administrator

Date

Signature: Applicant

Date

Accepted:

Signature: STRAC Executive Director

Date