

June 30, 2009

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett Welcomes the Texas Citizen Corps Conference



Harris County Judge Ed Emmett & Hon. Penny Redington address the conference.

State Conference Brings Together Leaders in Community Preparedness

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett kicked off the 5th Annual Texas Citizen Corps Conference today at Houston's Omni Hotel. The annual conference, hosted by the Texas Association of Regional Councils, has attracted hundreds of participants from across the state and will focus on citizen preparedness. The conference runs June 30th through July 1st and features nationally recognized speakers.

Supported by the Texas Association of Regional Councils, local Citizen Corps

programs offer volunteer opportunities to support fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services and community public health efforts. They also contribute to the four stages of emergency management: preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery.

The Harris County Citizen Corps Council, chaired by County Judge Ed Emmett, is a nationally recognized best practice. Harris County's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program has 204 teams with 6,970 trained members while Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) includes 21 agencies with over 5,530 trained members. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit has 2,650 trained volunteers and USA Watch reaches 18 cities with 213 groups supported by its almost 3,000 members. The growing Fire Corps program is an ongoing effort of 20 agencies

Mark Sloan, who leads the Harris County Citizen Corps program and is Harris County emergency management coordinator, has been a strong advocate of community preparedness. Community volunteers were essential to our region's response to Hurricane Ike.

The Texas Association of Regional Councils, a public entity, administers the Citizen Corps programs in Texas through councils of governments (COGs).

For more information on Citizen Corps programs in Texas and our region, visit:

<http://www.texascitizencorps.org/>

<http://www.harriscountycitizencorps.com/>