

# Licensed Texas Emergency Manager Work Group



## Licensed Texas Emergency Manager (LTEM) Meeting Notes

Monday, April 15, 2019

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

1400 – 1600 Rm 212

### Who needs to be licensed?

- General consensus was that EMCs need to be licensed.
- At a minimum—The chief elected official, the emergency manager, the deputy or assistant emergency manager.
- The question of licensing or credentialing is still up for discussion.
- A mention that the proposed bill doesn't mention licensing.
- Argued whether small jurisdictions with an unsalaried mayor, volunteers, etc. should be required to be licensed or credentialed. Doing so may create a hardship. Tribes need to be considered, as well.
- Argument that if law enforcement, fire and EMS professionals need to be licensed, then EMCs do, too. If malpractice is committed, a license could be in jeopardy.
- An argument (which was disputed) that law enforcement, fire, public health and EMS professionals touch individual lives while EMs do not.
- Agreement that smaller jurisdictions should be able to afford anything proposed.
- Field staff need to have either experience or education to get started on licensing/credentialing.

### What levels should be licensed (Basic, Advanced, Master)?

- Agreement on at least Basic; with the more advanced levels required for higher-level positions.
- Licensing curricula needs to be researched.
- Legislation can be formalized on requirements of training/licensing/credentialing EMCs.
- Where do TEM and CEM fit into licensing requirements? Universities with emergency management degree programs? EMI?
- Some type of continuing education should be required.
- More than one emergency management discipline? Small jurisdictions might need a generalist; larger jurisdictions, a manager.
- Mentioned that all governments need to have a process to work towards a masters' level.
- If a jurisdiction can show that they have a policy/plans/procedures/people, then life will go on without an EMC.

### Do we include all phases of emergency management (Preparedness, Response, Recovery, Mitigation)?

- General consensus – yes.

### What should levels be based on (population, threat hazards, historical, other)?

- Argued that if we base levels on population or frequency, we are doing ourselves a disservice. There are threats all across Texas. Training and expertise should be equivalent across Texas.

**What about “other emergency management personnel (VOADS, private sector, council of governments, first responders)?”**

- Argued that was putting the “cart before the horse”—need to clean up other aspects in these areas before adding more requirements.
- Argument that adding more requirements may discourage volunteers.

**General**

- A group has not officially been organized, but the idea of conducting a brief TEMAC meeting to decide about forming a license/credential committee within TEMAC was introduced.
- An argument stating that “live” classes are more effective than online training.
- Arguments that experience counts as much, if not more, than education. Can the worker do the job or not? Training is worthless if you can’t apply it.
- Complaints about rehashing topics and disorganization of this meeting.
- Facts and standing laws need to be researched.
- There is a gap at the local level—TDEM is not talking to the Texas Municipal League.
- It may be premature to make any decisions before legislation gets passed.