

By: Edwards

H.B. No. 17

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to establishing legislative district volunteer emergency
3 response teams.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 11, Local Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Chapter 364 to read as follows:

7 CHAPTER 364. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONSE
8 TEAMS

9 Sec. 364.001. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY
10 RESPONSE TEAMS. If explicitly provided for under an emergency
11 management plan adopted under Section 418.106, Government Code, a
12 district within 100 miles of the Gulf of Mexico from which a member
13 of the state house of representatives is elected may form a district
14 volunteer emergency response team to:

15 (1) increase the number of trained volunteer
16 responders in the district;

17 (2) assist local government to coordinate information
18 among district residents and local and state government officials;

19 (3) assist local and state government to coordinate
20 distribution of aid during a disaster or emergency; and

21 (4) serve as a source of information to the residents
22 of the district.

23 Sec. 364.002. TEAM MEMBERSHIP. Each district volunteer
24 emergency response team may include:

- 1 (1) licensed amateur radio operators;
- 2 (2) persons who have a medical background; and
- 3 (3) persons who have completed Federal Emergency
4 Management Agency Incident Command System training classes 100,
5 200, 700, and 800A.

6 Sec. 364.003. DUTIES OF TEAM. The district volunteer
7 emergency response team shall collaborate with county and municipal
8 emergency management entities to determine the scope of work and
9 duties of the team.

10 Sec. 364.004. COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS. Each communications
11 center may contain an amateur radio operator, radio equipment, and
12 wireless Internet access.

13 Sec. 364.005. MEDICAL TRIAGE TRANSPORT STAGING DUTIES. (a)
14 The medical triage transport staging site may:

- 15 (1) be equipped with a generator;
- 16 (2) include restroom facilities, showers, and a food
17 preparation location;
- 18 (3) have available an amateur radio operator;
- 19 (4) have equipment that has the capacity to produce
20 ice; and
- 21 (5) be located in an area that is not subject to
22 flooding during a category four hurricane.

23 (b) The district volunteer emergency response team shall
24 coordinate with county and municipal emergency management entities
25 and the elected state representative representing the district
26 about the location of the medical triage transport staging site.

27 Sec. 364.006. APPROPRIATIONS. Each district volunteer

1 emergency response team that complies with the requirements of this
2 chapter may be eligible to receive money appropriated by the state.

3 Sec. 364.007. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNTY. The county in
4 which most of the district residents reside may:

5 (1) administer the district volunteer emergency
6 response team's funds, including any money appropriated to the team
7 by the state;

8 (2) make purchases for the team; and

9 (3) provide the team with appropriate equipment.

10 Sec. 364.008. LEGISLATIVE LIAISON. The state
11 representative whose district creates a district volunteer
12 emergency response team shall serve as a liaison for the team. Each
13 state senator that represents the district may also serve as a
14 liaison.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
20 legislative session.