

DISASTER RESPONSE IN TEXAS

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESPONSE TO H. HARVEY



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ADFM ANNUAL MEETING 2019

HURRICANE HARVEY



EAST HOUSTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

- 120 Bed Hospital
- 16 Bed ICU
- 50,000 Annual ED Visits
- Closes/Evacuates Friday
- HFD Ambus
- Will NOT Reopen

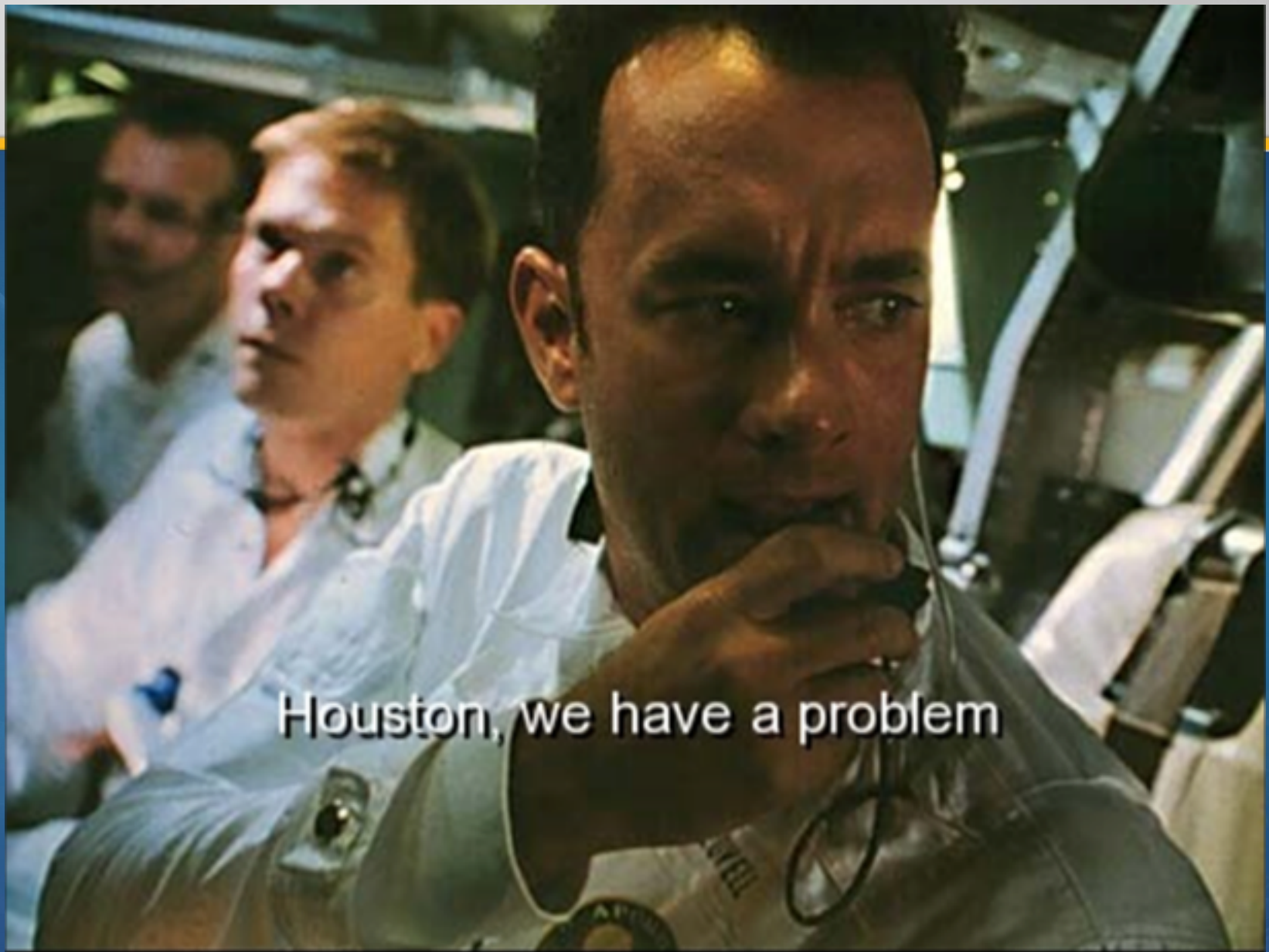


58 INCHES OF RAIN



4'10" OF RAIN





Houston, we have a problem

QuotesPics.com

GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



***"Plans are nothing;
planning is everything."***

- Dwight D. Eisenhower



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THE PLAN (some highlights):

- Never Use the George R. Brown as a Shelter Again.
- Health and Medical Will Be Run by The Health Dept.
- Medical Staff Will Be Supplied by The Medical Reserve Corp.

THE REALITY

- A Closed Mall Opened As A Shelter Saturday Aug. 26th – Fills Rapidly
- 3 Other Locations Opened as Shelters, Fill Just As Rapidly
- Presidential Disaster Declaration is Signed for 3 County's in South Texas (NOT Harris)
 - ▶ ...but it did come later
- Sunday – George R. Brown is Opened As A Shelter
 - ▶ >300 waiting outside at daybreak

GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER



“MEDICAL” GROWS WITH THE SHELTER

- Medical Coverage started Sunday Afternoon with a few ARC Vols., Houston Fire Dept EMS Crews, and an HFD Medical Director on site 24/7.
- By Late Monday, a Full-Blown Medical Clinic is Operational, Staffed by a Combination of Medical Volunteers and HFD Personnel.
- Goal: Provide Quality Care and Protect the Already Overwhelmed Hospital System

“MEDICAL” GROWS WITH THE SHELTER

- Volunteer Physicians, Nurses and the Medical Reserve Corp.
- Baylor College of Medicine Agrees to Faculty Providing Clinical Care (Liability Protection) at GRB.
 - ▶ Psychiatric Care
 - ▶ Internal Medicine - ESRD
- Coordinated Efforts with HFD Medical Director on Site

PHARMACY

- Many Shelterees Left Home Without Their Medications
- Many Shelterees Showed Up With Lots of Medications.
- Texas State Board of Pharmacy
- Volunteer Pharmacist/Evacuee with Valid Pharmacist I.D.

DIALYSIS

- No Power, No Transportation...No Dialysis
- Texas ESRD Network
- Friends and Family Network
 - ▶ Dr. Jeff Kalina
- Houston Health Dept. w/ CMOC

SPECIAL MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Acute Injuries/Illnesses
- Hemodialysis
- Chronic O₂
- Behavioral Health
- Nursing/Long-term Care Needs
- Withdrawal Symptoms



KUSH (K2, SPICE, etc.)

- Source of problems/patients for HFD/HHD and DMAT
- Short Acting, Respiratory Suppressing, Emesis Inducing
- \$2
- Available All Around the GRB
- HPD Focusing on More Serious Issues and Limited Staff



THE FEDS ARE COMING!!!

- Mixed Experience with Previous Disasters
- Narrow Scope of Services
- Good, but not Great Match of Skills for Situation

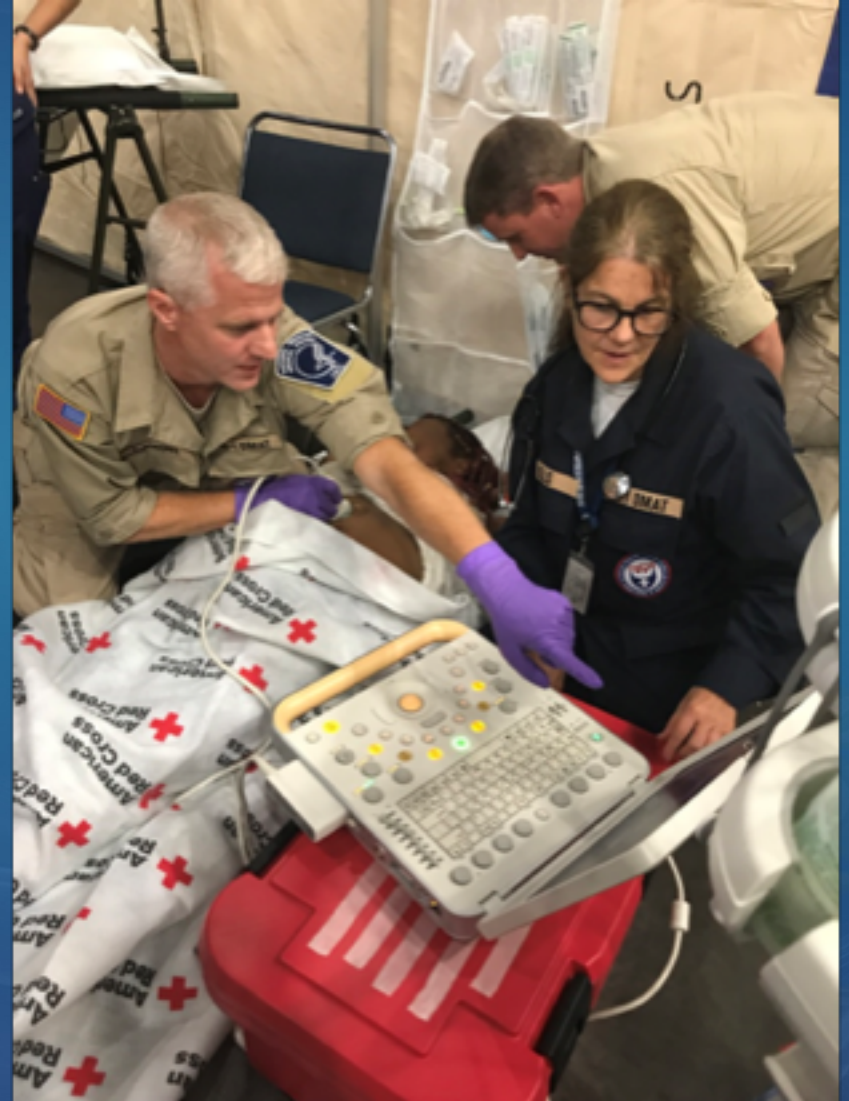
NDMS/DMAT TEAMS

- Much Better Prepared
- Extremely More Helpful



DMAT: DISASTER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

- NDMS
- Scalable, Versatile
- Physicians, NP's/PA's , RN's, RT's, PM's, Pharmacists, Logistics, IT, Comm, Admin. Specialists



FMS: FEDERAL MEDICAL SHELTER

- 250 Portable Beds Staffed by USPHS
- Designed for Long Term Care Type Patients
- Assisted with Isolation (bed bugs, etc.)
- Grouping of LTC Patients Needing Oxygen – Consolidation of Oxygen Requiring Patients to One Area.



HFD MAINTAINED OVERALL MEDICAL CONTROL



- **HFD EMS Supervisor = Transportation Officer**
 - ▶ **Determined patient destination based on Situational Awareness of Hospital Closures, Diversion Requests, and Capability of Hospitals.**
 - ▶ **1st – FEMA Ambulance Strike Team**
 - ▶ **Next – Texas State Asset Ambulance Strike Team**
 - ▶ **Last – HFD Ambulance**

HFD MAINTAINED OVERALL MEDICAL CONTROL

- An HFD Medical Director On-Site 24/7 for two weeks
 - ▶ Approved All Transports and Destination Decisions from GRB
 - ▶ Liaison Between:
 - Local Hospitals and GRB Shelter Ops
 - OEM and EOC
 - HFD/Strike Teams and DMAT
 - “Put Out Fires”
 - Assisted with Response to All Medical Calls Within GRB

THROUGHOUT THE SHELTER...

- American Red Cross Nurses Were Stationed in Each Hall
- Houston Health Dept. Nurses “Cruised” Hall to Look for Persons With Medical Needs, Behavioral Needs

ACROSS THE CITY/REGION

- Worked with Gov. Relations to Get 1135 Waiver
 - ▶ Allows HHS Sec. to Waive/Modify Certain CMS & CHIP Requirements to Ensure Sufficient Health Care Needs are Met

ACROSS THE CITY/REGION

■ Catastrophic Medical Operations Center

▶ Coordinated Hospital/Healthcare Center Evacuations

- 24 Hospitals
- 20 Nursing Homes
- 1,544 Patients

▶ Ambulance Strike Teams

- FEMA
- Texas



ACROSS THE REGION

- Multiple Other Shelter Ops
- Greenspoint Mall
- Multiple Churches
- Reliant Center



DOWNTOWN HOUSTON (4TH LARGEST CITY)



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QUESTIONS?

