



DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
Office of the Governor

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COUNTY JUDGE

RICK PERRY  
Governor

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 4087  
Austin, Texas 78773-0220

Contact Numbers:  
512-424-2138 Duty Hours  
512-424-2277 Non-Duty Hours  
512-424-2444 Fax

Physical Address:  
5805 N. Lamar Blvd  
Austin, Texas 78752

STEVEN McCRAW  
Director  
Office of Homeland Security

JACK COLLEY  
Chief

June 5, 2008

The Honorable J.D. Salinas  
Hidalgo County Judge  
100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor  
Edinburg, TX 78539

*SM*

*Need you help.*

Dear Judge Salinas:

For many years there has been feedback to me from elected officials, especially those who have had to experience a severe or catastrophic natural event, of the need to provide a concise course of instruction for our local officials, which addresses: how to prepare for, respond to and recover from events that strike both with and without warning. These are the events which challenge and test local leaders' abilities to take care of their citizens in a time of dire need. We have together tried many solutions and techniques; however, we have never before had the resource support to accomplish this very important task the way it should be done. Today we do. The Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) in coordination with the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC), has worked to develop a course designed for local leaders. This course will assist local leaders in understanding their roles and responsibilities as they lead their jurisdictions in a time of crises, but more importantly, how to prepare for such events. Our approach will be quite different. We are going to ask leaders to teach leaders.

I would like to invite you to participate in the pilot delivery of this executive level program to help shape this important training event for elected officials in Texas. This course will consist of a facilitated discussion of selected executive homeland security topics (4 hours) followed by three computer simulation-based exercises (12 hours). The course is planned for two days (16 hours) and is specifically focused on the needs of Texas.

The course pilot delivery is scheduled for July 29-30, 2008. You would travel on Monday, the 28<sup>th</sup> and depart College Station on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> of July. Your participation is fully funded by GDEM. NERRTC will arrange all travel and lodging requirements to and from College Station to include your per diem.

If your schedule permits we would be very grateful if you could attend. Please contact Keith Stephens at (979) 862-6085 or [keith.stephens@teexmail.tamu.edu](mailto:keith.stephens@teexmail.tamu.edu) to advise him of your decision. If you have questions, and I know you will, please call me at 512-424-2443 or by e-mail [jack.colley@txdp.state.tx.us](mailto:jack.colley@txdp.state.tx.us).

I have asked you simply because you have done it and done it well. I am excited because this course, if it is done well -- and it will be, will have a far greater impact on the health and safety of Texans than any other effort, simply because in Texas, local leaders are in charge and are truly the tip of the spear. Please help us to, help you.

Sincerely

*[Handwritten signature of Jack Colley]*

Jack Colley  
Chief