

# Memorial Weekend Flood Response and Recovery

Kharley Bagley Smith

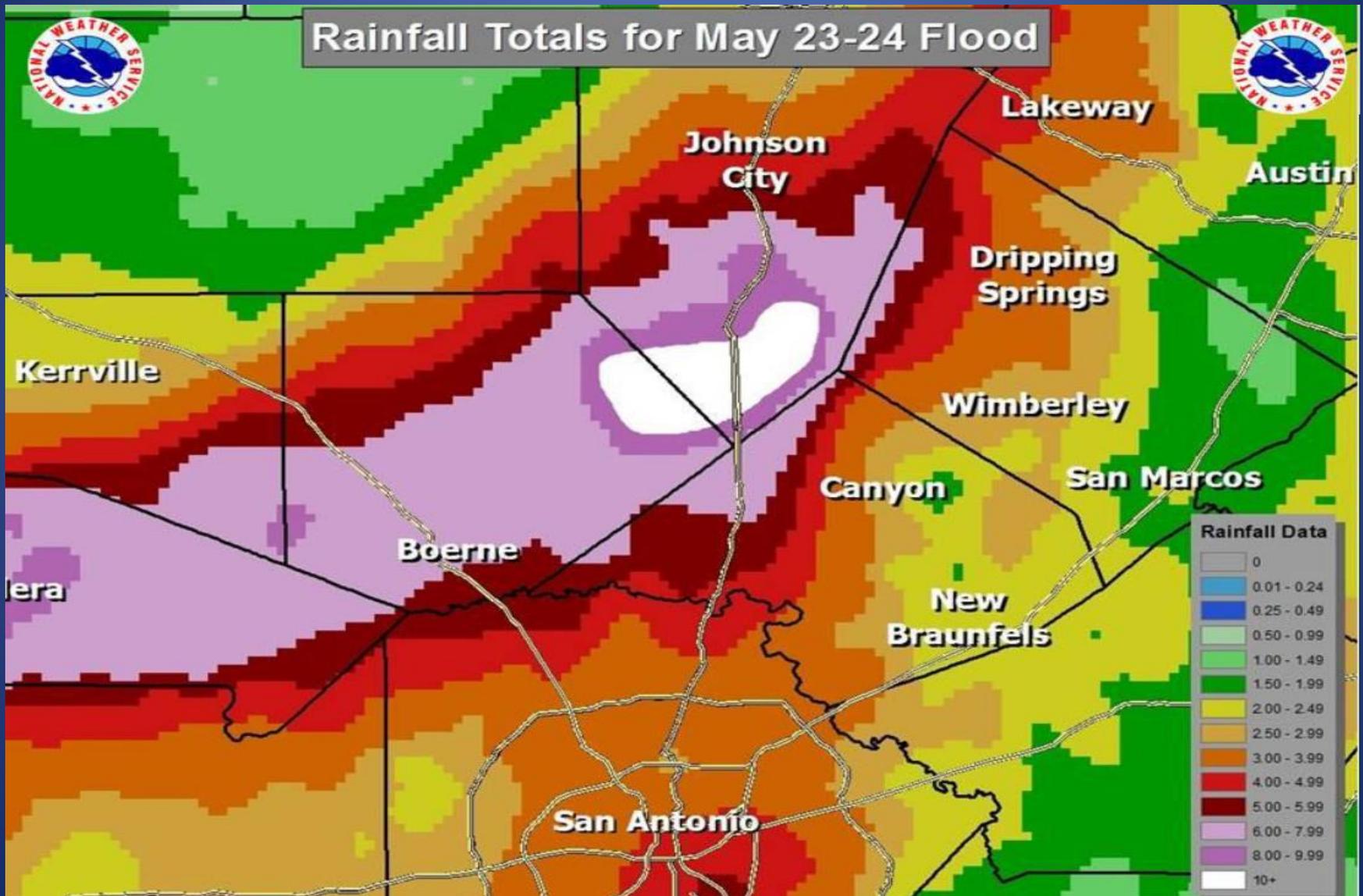
Hays County

Emergency Management Coordinator

# Memorial Weekend Blanco River May 23, 2015



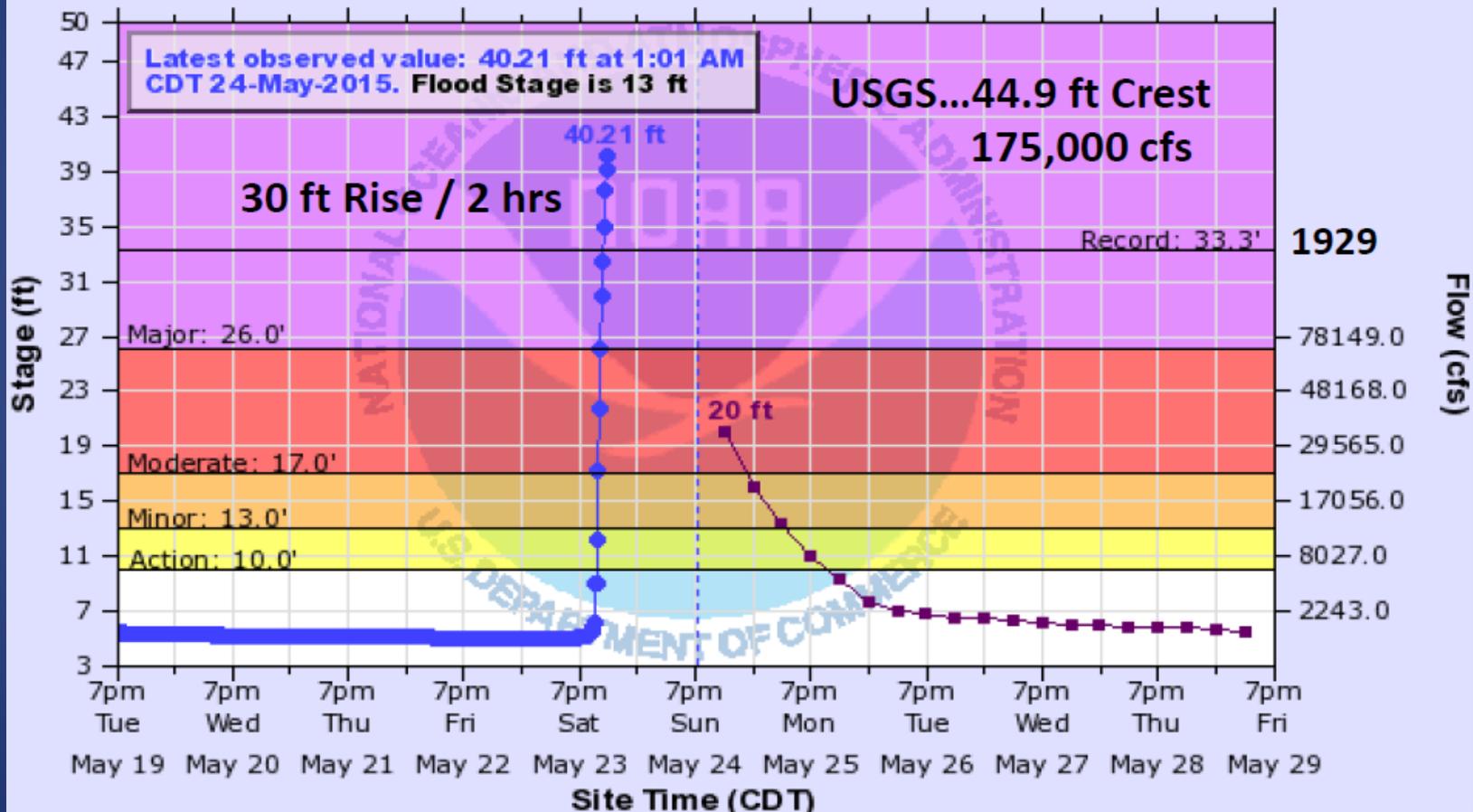
# Then this happened...



# BLANCO RIVER AT WIMBERLEY

Universal Time (UTC)

0Z May 20 0Z May 21 0Z May 22 0Z May 23 0Z May 24 0Z May 25 0Z May 26 0Z May 27 0Z May 28 0Z May 29 0Z May 30







# Emergency Response

- 911 Center Processed over 3600 calls for help
- Emergency Operations Center Activated
- Mutual Aid Agreements Activated
- Emergency Shelters Opened
- Hundreds of Residents Evacuated

Established Relationships are Essential!

# Multi Agency Response

Texas Division of Emergency Management

Hays County Sheriff's Office

San Marcos Police Department

Texas State University Police Department

Kyle Police Department

San Marcos SMART Dive Team

San Marcos Fire Marshal's Office

North Hays Fire and Rescue

Wimberley Fire Department

San Marcos Fire Department

South Hays Fire Department

Kyle Fire Department

Buda Fire Department

Wimberley EMS

San Marcos Hays County EMS

Buda EMS

Austin/Travis County EMS

Texas Task Force I

Texas Task Force II

Texas A&M Forest Service

Texas Military Forces

Texas Boarder Patrol

Texas Department of Public Safety

Texas Department of Transportation

Texas Health and Human Services

Alamo Area SAR

Travis County SAR

Austin PD SAR

TEXSAR

Texas A&M Veterinary Team



# Hays County Blanco River May 24, 2015





# Notifications

10:58 pm Flood Warning

12:41 am Flood Warning

1:58 am Flood Warning

2:43 am Flood Warning

2:09 am Flood Warning

6:12 am Flood Warning



29°40'37.39" N 98°00'15.42" W elev 669 ft eye alt 160.51 mi

19 Weather EAS Notification sent out overnight

# Notification Fatigue

- In CAPCOG area National Weather Service issued
  - 9 Severe Thunderstorm Warnings
  - 10 Flash Flood Warnings
  - 12 Tornado Warnings
- 27 GIS911 notifications were sent on May 25:
  - Average duration of notifications was 1 hour 56 minutes
  - 95,707 telephone numbers were called
  - 60,326 (63.03%) calls were successful
- 106,410 total calls were initiated
  - 55.8% of the total calls were related to tornado activity
- Registered cell users received so many notifications we had to shut down the server in order to process 911 emergency notifications.

# Emergency Operations

- Disasters affect all areas of Local Government
- Trust the System
- Accurate Damage Assessments are Crucial
- Know what to ask for when offered help
- Transition from Response to Recovery is sooner than you think

# IMT and PIRT

The need for both in a coordinated response is evident!

# IMT Response

- Instrumental in planning and documentation
- Coordinated Operational Response
- Facilitated communication between response agencies and locals
- Reinforced the structure and schedule

# Post Incident Response Team (PIRT)

- Professionals with Emergency Management experience that can facilitate the Recovery Phase
- Recovery planning and implementation must start during the response phase
- Subject Matter Experts in everything from finance to donations to volunteers are needed to assist the Locals

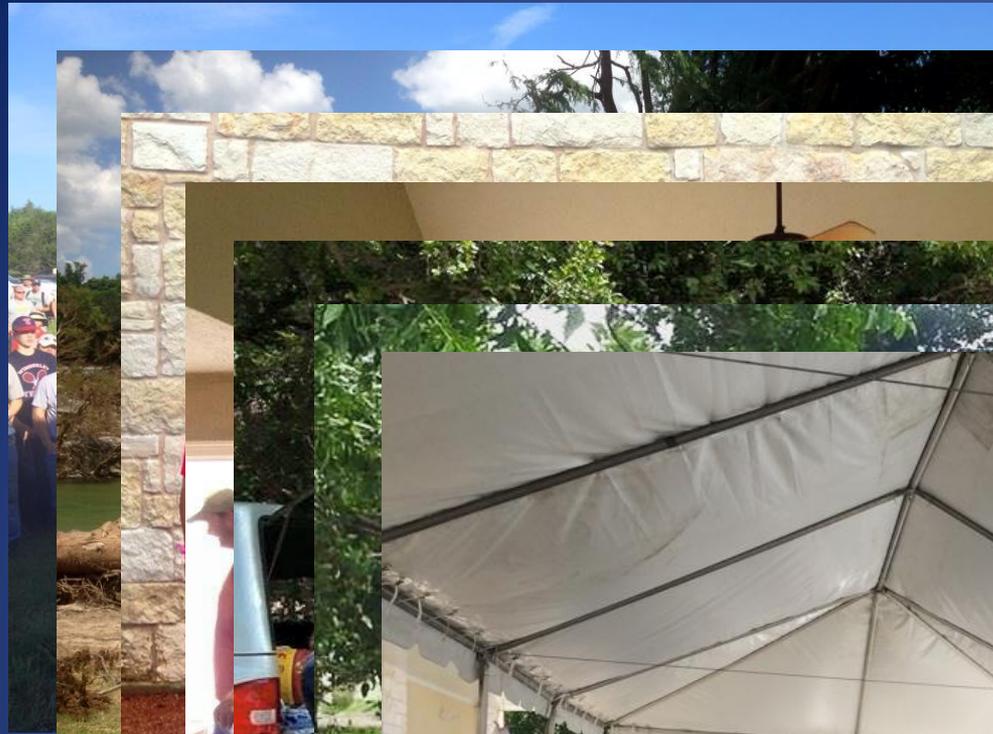
# Debris Management

- Initial Response
  - Public Health and Safety Concern
- Right of Way Debris Removal
- Private Property Debris Removal



# Volunteer Management

- Establish a Volunteer Resource Center (VRC)
- Have a system to receive requests for volunteer assistance
- Register All Volunteers
  - Track Job Assignments and Hours
  - Liability Waivers
- Volunteer hours count toward your soft match



# Donation Management

- The Disaster After the Disaster
- You cannot 'un-ask' for donations
- Set parameters and do not wavier
- Remember that receiving and distributing are two very different functions
- Have an established closing date
- Store additional donations to be turned over to long term recovery





# Long Term Recovery

- Utilize your local organizations
  - Faith Based
  - Non Profit
  - Business
- Have Oversight but NOT Direct Involvement
  - this organization should function independent of County Government
- Expected to be in Long Term Recovery for years



**BLANCO RIVER**  
Regional Recovery Team

- Collaboration of the EMCs from Blanco County, Hays County, Caldwell County, Guadalupe County, and the City of San Marcos
  - Selected Transitional Board Members
  - Identified the committees and/or functions that needed to be addressed
- Comprised of Faith Based Organizations, Non-Profits, local business, community members
- Established 501c3

Stay Strong. Stay Kind. Stay Texans

