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COMPETITIVE DIVISION – GRADUATE STUDENT

Family Reunification Rapid Response Team

This project entails the development and incorporation of an all hazards response and rapid reunification into any emergency operation plan. With reunification not being limited to large scale disasters or emergencies this plan is to help begin a managed immediate response at the local level. Reunification is a complex problem that spans from on-site response to evacuation, medical transport, and special needs. This reunification plan is a lead-in response to the activation of larger response capabilities such as a Family Reunification Center, Red Cross, or other similar organizations. Knowing that it takes the larger response systems a longer time to be setup and operational it became necessary to address the first 12 to 24 hours of what to do with the affected be it just logging that they were at a particular location and had moved on, or with children and special populations the need to identify the appropriate care-takers, or in a multi-faceted incident with various responding agencies, allowing for a point of coordination via incident command.

Collaborators:

Mike Jones, Hays County Office of Emergency Management; Carey Morgan, Hays County Office of Emergency Management; David Benke, The “I Love U Guys” Foundation