



# NEWS RELEASE

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Central Texas Agencies Assists With Hurricane Dolly Relief**

Today, August 1, 2008, members of the Capital Area Type III Incident Management Team return from over a week's tour of duty in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in response to Hurricane Dolly.

Members of this team, along with other teams from across the state, including El Paso, Lubbock, Dallas, Galveston, Sugarland, East Texas, and several others, assisted local officials and agencies with the management of rescue and recovery efforts in the hardest hit areas. Their response area ranged from Port Mansfield to Brownsville and McAllen.

Several of the teams were in place before the storm hit and rode it out with local residents to ensure that they were able to rapidly respond to the aftermath. Additional team members were brought in based on the needs determined by the valuable information provided from the members on the ground.

Over the last week and a half, these statewide teams, which are made up of local first responders, coordinated relief efforts which included the management of eighteen PODs (Points of Distribution) which supplied food, water, ice, meals and supplies to residents of the area devastated by Hurricane Dolly. In cooperation with Military, Federal, State and local responders, supplies were not only handed out from these PODS, but in many communities had to be trucked in to neighborhoods using high-profile vehicles as the water is still deep in many area, even today. Interestingly so far they have handed out 778,000 heated meals, 1.1 million bottles of water, and 45,000 bags of ice.

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The Capital Area Type III Team that assisted were members from the Austin Fire Department, Austin/Travis County EMS, Travis County Sheriff's Office, Williamson County Office of Emergency Management Communications, and the University of Texas Police Department.

These teams have been implemented throughout the state over the past three years to serve as direct assistance to communities in need following major incidents. By pulling only a few members from numerous agencies, local response is not adversely affected and the lessons learned are brought back and improve response capabilities here in the Austin metro area. All members expressed their thanks to the local citizens for their patience and cooperation in dealing with the first major hurricane of the 2008 season.

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