

Mike Bewley Abstract

The State of Texas needed to develop new structures, new methodologies and new philosophies in dealing with the unprecedented and still continuing drought some of the innovations:

The development of a multi-agency crisis team, the Emergency Drinking Water Task Force. The refocusing of traditional emergency management to disaster prevention. Conducting drought workshops in West Texas involving local, state and federal agencies on the consequence management of drought including what to do if a city completely runs out of water. Emergency Management serving as the facilitators between water, soil, agriculture, climate and weather scientists to produce a more complete picture of a complex event and its consequences. The development of new measures for drought that are beyond the Drought Monitor. The development of a nexus between academia and drought managers to develop information tools that used by consequence managers to manage drought.

Lessons learned:

In Texas,

- The ability to get situational awareness is extremely difficult as there is no single collection point for information.
- The inability to measure how much water do the jurisdictions have and how long will it last.
- The inability to institute state wide coherent water restrictions.
- The inability of FEMA to grasp drought and develop a response.