

# Disaster Preparedness Update

## Audit and Finance Committee

January 19, 2022



# Agenda

- History & Context
- Budget Requests and Information
- HSEM Response Efforts
- Recommendations and Tracking
- Emergency Alerting Systems



# History & Context

- Disasters in Austin have changed over the last 20 years:
  - 2003 to 2012
    - 1 local disaster (Bastrop Wildfires)
    - 4 hurricanes (Gustav, Ike, Katrina, Rita)
  - 2013 to 2022
    - 8 local declared disasters
      - 2 separate years with 2 local disasters in the same year
    - 2 hurricanes (Harvey, Laura)

# History & Context

- 2013 – Halloween Floods\*
  - 2014 – *no major emergency*
- 2015 – Memorial Floods\* & (2<sup>nd</sup>) Halloween Floods\*
  - 2016 – *no major emergency*
- 2017 – Hurricane Harvey
- 2018 – Colorado River Floods\*
  - 2019 – *no major emergency*
- 2020 – COVID\* and Hurricane Laura\*
- 2021 – COVID\* (adult vaccine available) & Winter Storm Uri\*
- 2022 – COVID\* (pediatric vaccine available)

\* FEMA reimbursement continues



# History & Context

## Resources are constrained:

- Grants that funded strategic planning and partnership efforts, and personnel, dried up in 2012
- With multiple years of constrained budgets, funding fell short of emergency management needs

## The need has grown:

- More disasters affecting the **local** community
- Cost recovery is complex and lengthy



# Budget Information

## **FY2019 – Unmet needs that did not fit within Council Priorities:**

- Disaster response recovery resources
- Warehouse and shelter space
- Community preparedness campaign and Continuity of Operations and IT Disaster Recovery Project

## **FY2020 – Provided 1 FTE for Continuity of Operations**

Due to COVID pandemic, the FTE was diverted to full-time emergency response

**FY2023 – Needs are being assessed** for inclusion in FY23 budget or as a mid-year addition in FY22



# HSEM Response Efforts

- In 2020, HSEM full time staff spent approximately 20,000 hours among 13 FTEs responding to two disasters
  - 13 FTEs without vacation or sick leave would work 27,040 hours
  - Response to COVID-19 started in March
- City employees worked more than 1.1 million hours responding to COVID-19, the equivalent of 530 FTEs
- HSEM supported:
  - 6 Protective Lodges
  - 7 Isolation Facility locations
  - An alternate care site hospital
  - Regional Infusion Centers
  - Distribution of more than 25 million items from our logistics operation
  - Mass vaccine distribution
  - Citywide cost recovery



# HSEM Response Efforts

- Before Winter Storm Uri
  - City in a COVID surge
  - APH identified as a State HUB vaccine distributor
  - Vaccine in short supply, but high demand
  - Vaccine scheduling system launched
  - Staff learning new vaccine administration and distribution protocols
  - People travelling from all over Austin/Travis County and other regions to get vaccine



# HSEM Response Efforts

- Since Winter Storm Uri, HSEM:
  - Updated emergency plans
  - Conducted monthly emergency management SPOC meetings
  - Launched a new alert system for people who are hard of hearing, deaf, blind, or deaf and blind
  - Updated our cold weather sheltering plan for people experiencing homelessness
  - Conducted a tabletop exercise with more than 150 people from the City, County, other government agencies and the private sector
  - Scheduled an additional training for executives on responding to disasters
  - Acquired low power AM radio capabilities to broadcast emergency messages in a specific area during disasters
  - Continued making progress to complete the corrective actions from the Winter Storm After Action Report



# AAR Recommendations Tracker

## Overview

- HSEM Developed an After Actions Recommendations tracker to catalog and prioritize recommendations.
- Each recommendation underwent a detailed analysis including:
  - Benefit of risk mitigation
  - Confidence in the ability to implement risk mitigation solutions
  - Ease of mitigation solution implementation
  - Capabilities and type of resources required
  - Implementation timeframe
  - Cost
  - Funding source
  - Priority for implementation (immediate, long-term, future)



# Priority Recommendations

**Of the 132 AAR Recommendations, 32 (or 24%) were identified as Priority Recommendations because they rated as both:**

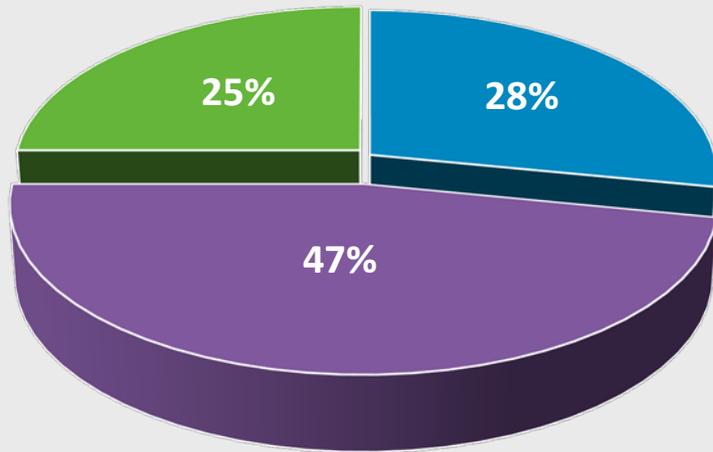
- High mitigation value
- Having little or no direct cost and/or could be funded under the existing budget, or be part of an existing, ongoing program.

**The 32 Priority Recommendations are organized by:**

- 3 capabilities; and
- 7 focus areas



# Priority Recommendations: Capability



- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Planning and Preparedness
- Communication and Coordination

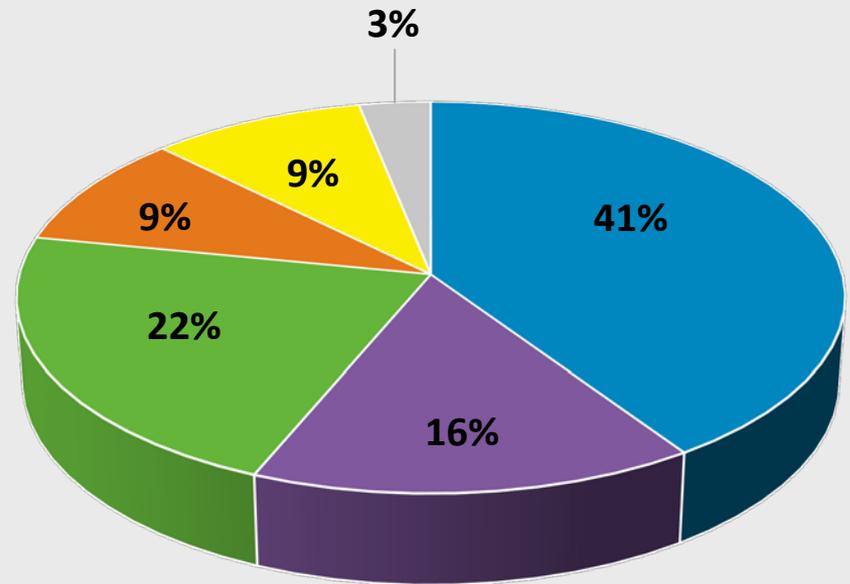
Priority recommendations support the following capabilities:

- 9 Logistics & Supply Chain Management (28%)
- 15 Planning & Preparedness (47%)
- 8 Communication & Coordination (25%)

# Priority Recommendations: Focus Area

Priority recommendations support the Focus Areas in:

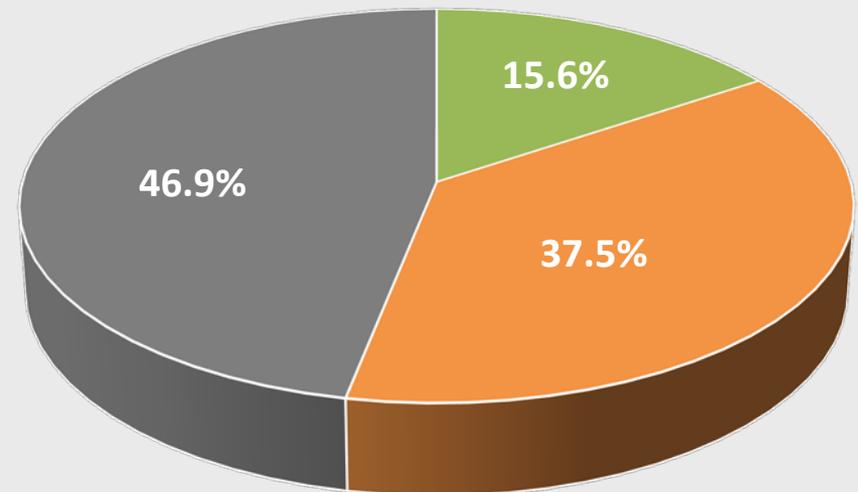
- 13 Leadership & Coordination (41%)
- 5 Medical (16%)
- 7 Shelter (22%)
- 3 Transportation (9%)
- 3 Water (9%)
- 1 Food (3%)



- Leadership and Coordination
- Medical
- Shelter
- Transportation
- Water
- Food

# Priority Recommendations: Status

- Completed: 5 (15.6%)
  - 2 Communications
  - 1 Planning & Preparedness
  - 1 Transportation
  - 1 Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- In Progress: 12 (37.5%)
- Awaiting Updates: 15 (46.9%)



- Complete
- In Progress
- Awaiting an Update

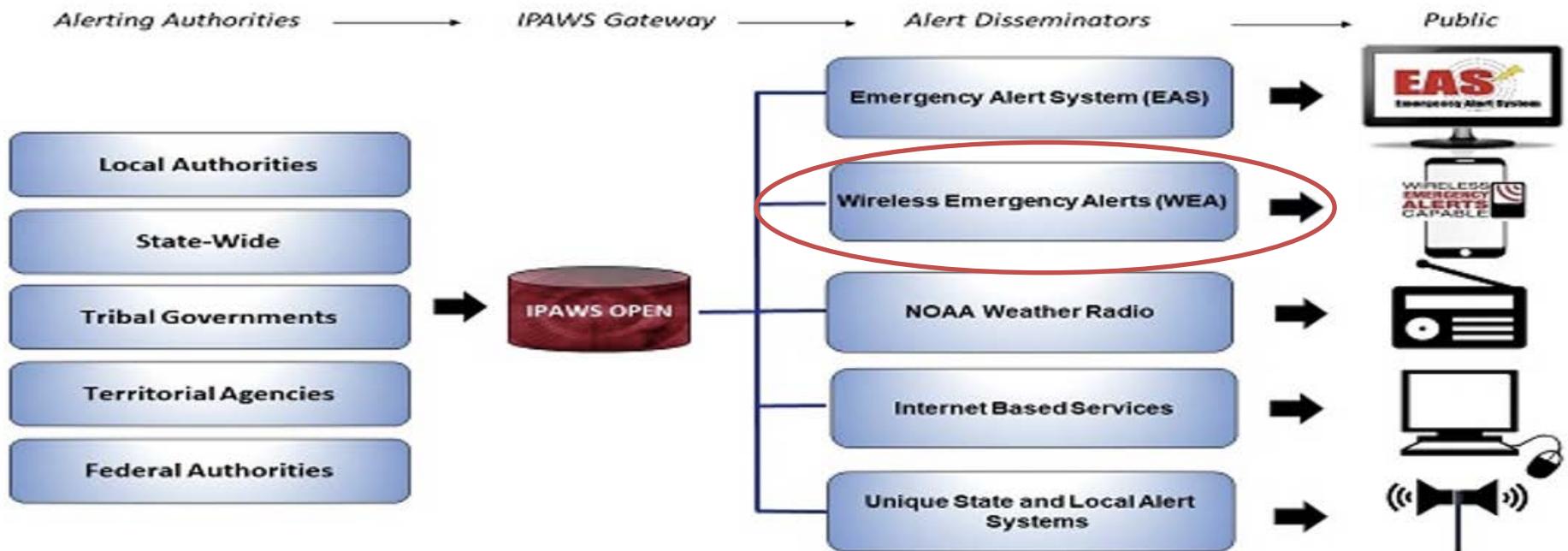
# Emergency Notification Systems

- Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS)
  - Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)
- Warn Central Texas (WCT)
  - Regional Notifications System (RNS)



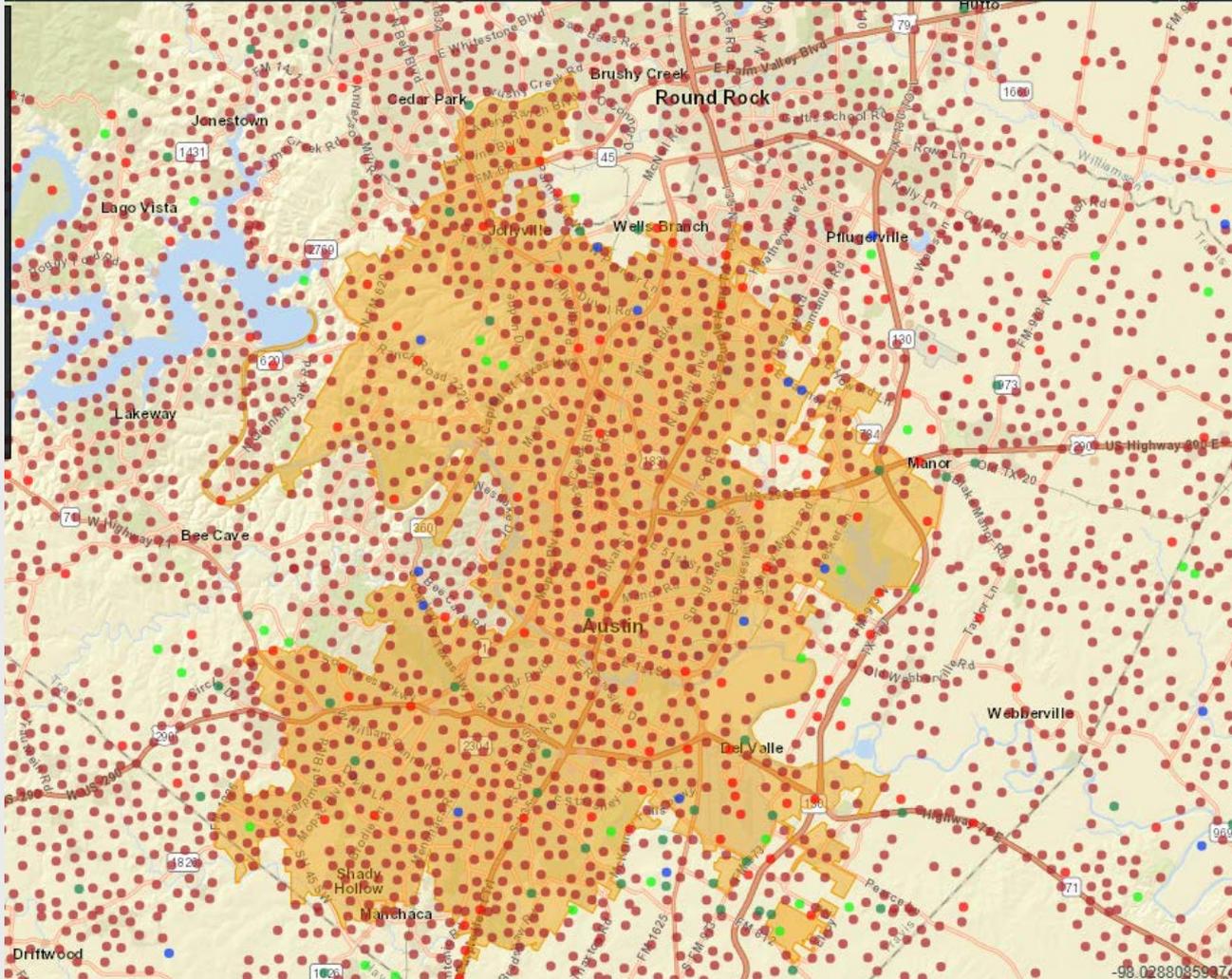
# IPAWS – WEA – WCT

Different tools to accomplish different things



# IPAWS – WEA – WCT

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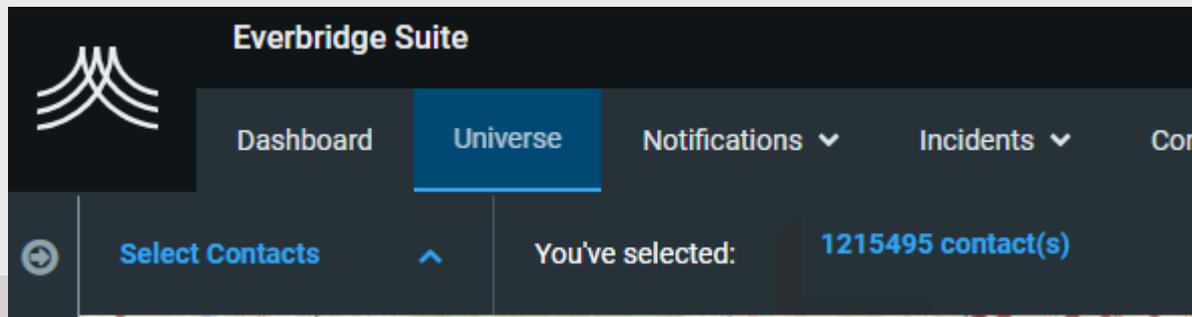


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# IPAWS – WEA – WCT

- To send a Warn Central Texas message takes a substantial effort to effectively communicate the message
  - The message has been to be sent multiple times to convey the information in English and Spanish, via phone, text and email
  - Thousands of people call 311 and many call 911 when they receive a message
  - Thousands call the number back that calls them to convey the message
  - Media receive calls about the utilization of the system
  - Hundreds opt out every time we utilize the system citywide



# Questions & Answers

