



Montgomery County Leads Houston Area Deployment of i-INFO

More than 150 people attended educational sessions as part of the project kick off of the Houston Area Regional Information System (HARIS) Network held in Houston and Conroe, Texas, in mid May. During that same week, the project team, led by Summer Scheel, Homeland Security Planning Coordinator with the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management began the initial deployment of the Network.

The first stage of the project involves gathering organizational data about agencies and departments from across the region that would likely be involved or need information during preparedness, response or recovery. Agencies are sent messages inviting them to register their agency and enter supporting data into the HARIS Network. This registry process has moved forward quickly with over 160 agencies agreeing to participate within the first week.

Summer Scheel describes the success as “Fantastic. Our implementation team has sent invitations to dozens of jurisdictions across the county. As the initial group of organizations responds, they suggest more agencies for inclusion in the Network, so the initial list of organizations has grown, making our list of resource contacts even more complete.”

“The fact we have been planning and promoting this project for some time has worked for us,” Ms. Scheel said. “Because so many people knew the name i-INFO and were expecting to be invited to participate, we have had an excellent response. Organizations across Montgomery County are aware of the project and have a high level of interest. This also means they are willing not only to participate but many of them are already curious about our plans for future expansion and want to take advantage of all that the i-INFO system can offer.”

As the team completes the initial registration process, the next steps are already beginning. Data loads of mutual aid asset information and associated training will begin soon. Also, agencies are preparing to load personnel information to track skills and credentials of responders and volunteers from the area, allowing the creation of a common regional method of locating and identifying skilled personnel.

“Ms. Scheel and her team are doing an excellent job of moving the project forward”, Said Joe Abrams of Apex Innovations, Inc., the company that developed the i-INFO system. “They have broken the record in the initial speed deployment and we see this as a great model for others that follow. We look forward to the future, as Ms. Scheel and her team take an active role in helping us train other counties in the region as the HARIS Network expands.”

To learn more about the HARIS Project, Contact Summer Scheel at summer.scheel@mctx.org or call her at 936-582-3102, or contact Joe Abrams at joe.abrams@apex-innovations.com or call him at 913-461-6012.
