

Memorial Weekend Flood Response and Recovery

Kharley Smith

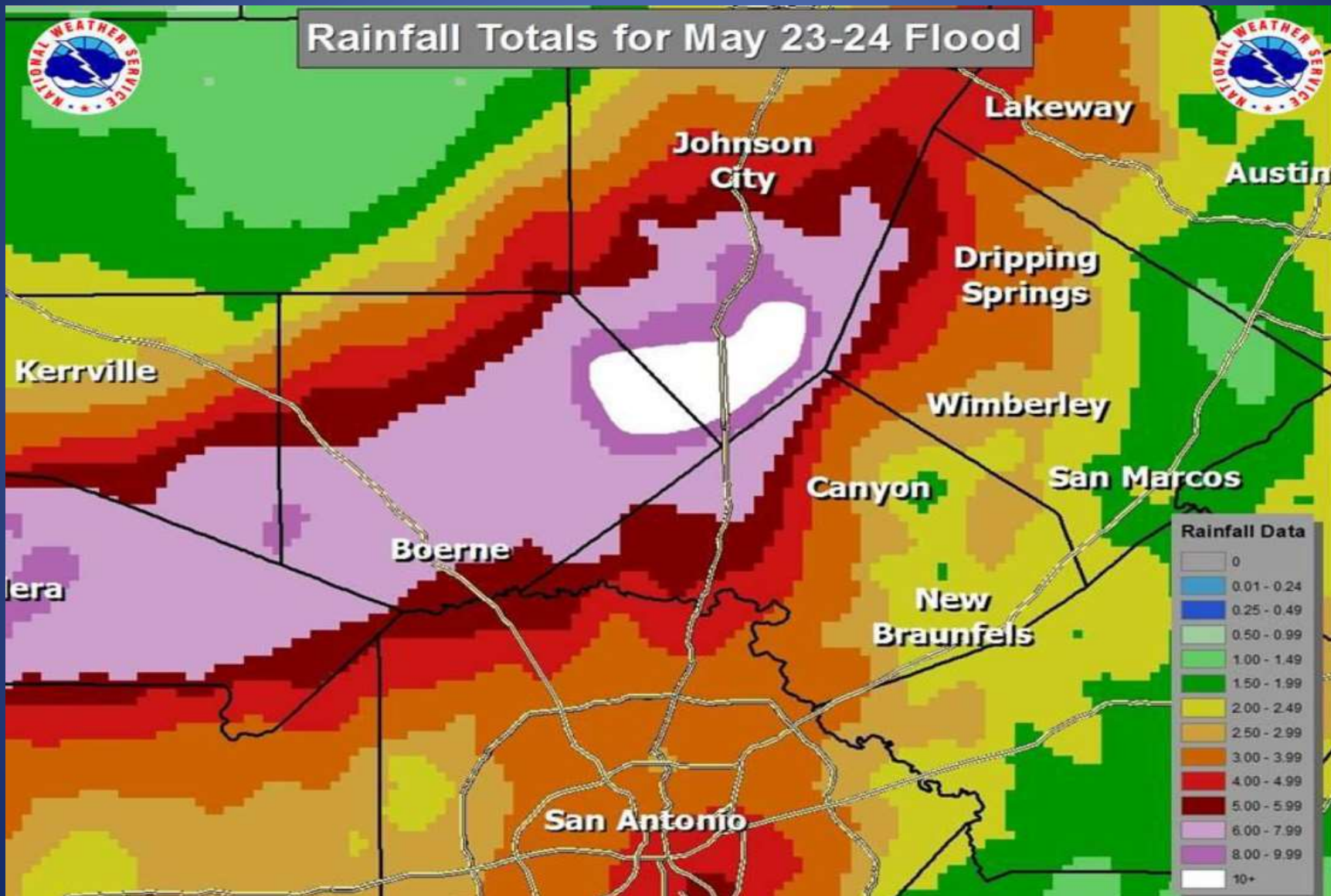
Emergency Management Coordinator

Hays County

Hays County Blanco River May 23, 2015



Then this happened...





1:03 AM CDT



FLASH FLOOD WARNING

BLANCO RIVER at WIMBERLEY, TEXAS

- * 39.22 feet as of 12:45am CDT
- * All-time record was 33.30 feet on May 28, 1929
 - * Flood stage is 13 feet above normal
- * Catastrophic flood damage is likely occurring now

COUNTIES: Hays

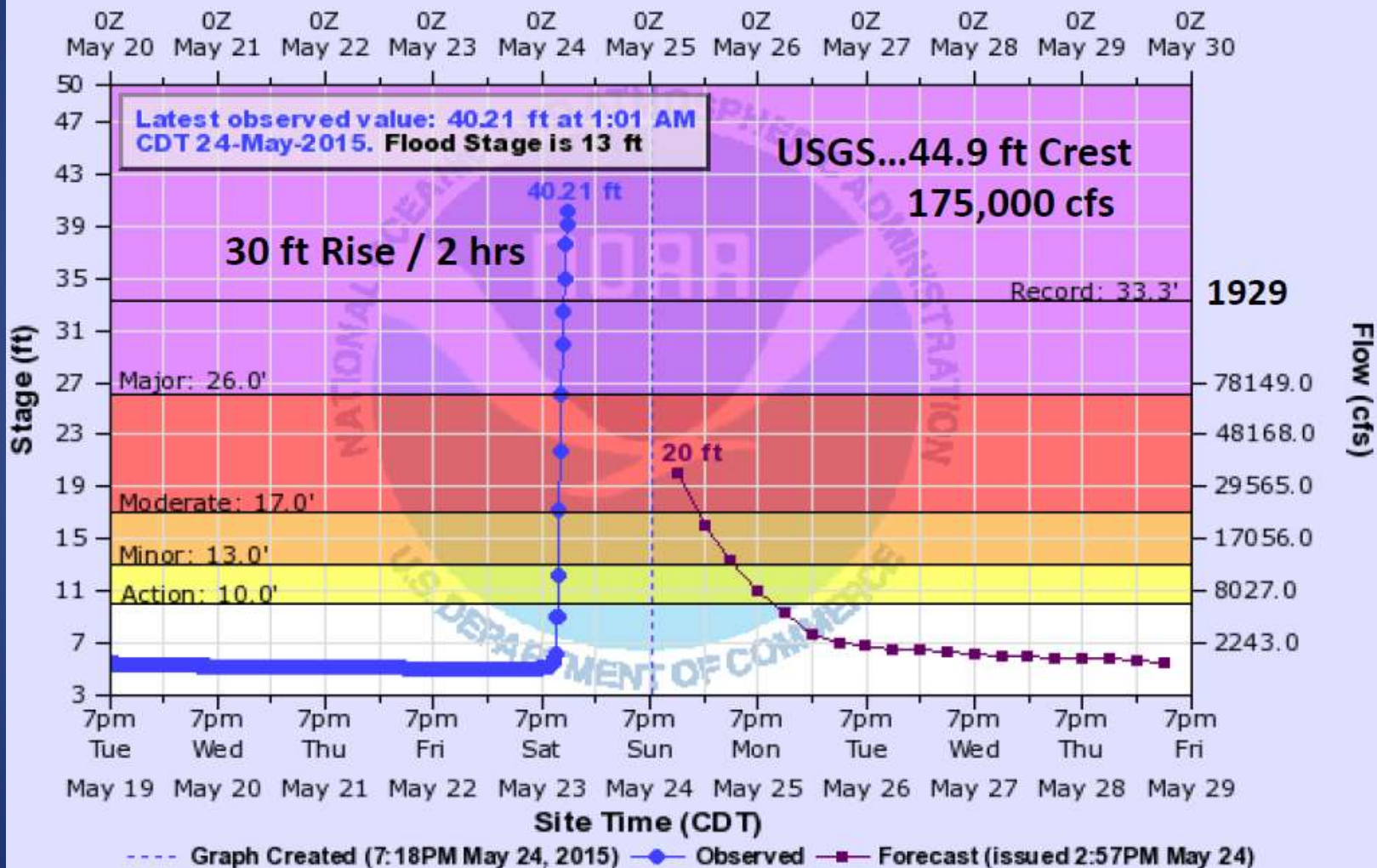
CITIES: Wimberley, Woodcreek

UNTIL: 5:15 AM CT



BLANCO RIVER AT WIMBERLEY

Universal Time (UTC)



Hays County Blanco River May 24, 2015



Emergency Response

- 911 Center Processed over 3600 calls for help
- Emergency Operations Center Activated
- Mutual Aid Agreements Activated
- Emergency Shelters Opened
- Hundreds of Residents Evacuated

Established Relationships are Essential!

Emergency Operations

- Disasters affect all areas of County Government
- Trust the System (Govt Code Chapter 418)
- Accurate Damage Assessments are Crucial
- Know what to ask for when offered help
- Transition from Response to Recovery is sooner than you think

Documentation Documentation Documentation!

IMT Response

- Instrumental in planning and documentation
- Facilitated communication between response agencies and locals
- Reinforced the structure and schedule
- Helped to keep me 'sane' (Thanks Robert!)

IMT and PIRT

The need for both in a coordinated response is evident!

Post Incident Response Team (PIRT)

- Professionals with Emergency Management experience that can facilitate the Recovery Phase
- Recovery planning and implementation must start during the response phase
- Subject Matter Experts in everything from finance to donations to volunteers are needed to assist the Locals

Volunteer Management

- Establish a Volunteer Resource Center (VRC)
- Have a system to receive requests for volunteer assistance
- Register All Volunteers
 - Track Job Assignments and Hours
 - Liability Waivers
- Volunteer hours count toward your soft match

Documentation Documentation Documentation!

Donation Management

- The Disaster After the Disaster
- You cannot 'un-ask' for donations
- Set parameters and do not wavier
- Remember that receiving and distributing are two very different functions
- Have an established closing date
- Store additional donations to be turned over to long term recovery

Documentation Documentation Documentation!

Long Term Recovery

- Utilize your local organizations
 - Faith Based
 - Non Profit
 - Business
 - Have Oversight but NOT Direct Involvement
 - this organization should function independent of County Government
 - Expected to be in Long Term Recovery for years
- ❖ Actually, just call Anna Tangredi!!!



BLANCO RIVER
Regional Recovery Team

- Collaboration of the EMCs from Blanco County, Hays County, Caldwell County, Guadalupe County, and the City of San Marcos
 - Selected Transitional Board Members
 - Identified the committees and/or functions that needed to be addressed
- Comprised of Faith Based Organizations, Non-Profits, local business, community members
- Established 501c3

Stay Strong. Stay Kind. Stay Texans

