



Lori Upton, RN, BSN, MS, CEM, Director of Preparedness, SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council

Lori Upton is the Regional Director of Emergency Management Operations for the SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council. In that capacity she coordinates and prioritizes planning, and response objectives to meet Federal preparedness grant requirements and acts as the Medical Operations Chief in the Catastrophic Medical Operations Center (CMOC) for a 25 county region that includes over 140 hospitals and 500 nursing homes in 178 cities.

Lori Upton is a Certified Emergency Manager through the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas and a Master's Degree in Emergency Management from Touro University.

Ms. Upton has an extensive background in clinical operations and leadership of Emergency Departments and Trauma Centers and has been involved in emergency management since 1997. She has assisted in the development and execution of community and facility-specific exercises and drills as well as participated in numerous tabletop, functional and full scale exercises. Curriculum development includes hospital incident command systems, decontamination, pediatric specific disaster response, and the Disaster Chapter in the Emergency Nurses Association ENPC Manual 4th Edition. Actual disaster response experience includes: World Trade Center (2001), Hurricane Katrina (2005), Hurricane Rita (2005), Hurricane Gustav (2008), Hurricane Ike (2008), H1N1 Spring Outbreak (2009) and the West Texas Explosion (2013).

Ms. Upton serves on many emergency preparedness planning groups and committees at the local, state and national level including the Governor's Emergency and Trauma Advisory Council Disaster Committee, the Department of State Health Services Preparedness Coordinating Council, and has served on several workshop panels with the Institute of Medicine in the areas of disaster response, regionalization, evacuation, and pediatric disasters. She has published several papers on regional medical responses to disasters and speaks nationally and internationally on this subject.