



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: March 8, 2012

Prepared By/Phone Number: Danny Hobby/854-4416

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Danny Hobby

Commissioners Court Sponsors: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

PRESENTATION REGARDING TRAVIS COUNTY WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVES.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

As a result of the LABOR Day Wildfires in Travis County, preparedness initiatives have been developed among various departments and agencies to assist in future wildfire events or emergencies. This presentation will highlight the initiatives to the Court and to the public.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

N/A.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

N/A.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

N/A

TRAVIS COUNTY

Wildfire Preparedness Initiatives

March 8, 2012

TCSO/Emergency Services PIO Partnership

TCSO has approved a new job description for their current PIO position, making the position a Public Information Officer Sr – Public Safety. This position will supervise the new Public Information Officer – Public Safety position within Emergency Services. Both positions will assist Emergency Services with PIO duties and will serve as backup when the Senior PIO is out.

The Court has now approved a job description and slot number for a PIO position for Emergency Services departments (*STAR Flight*, EMS, Fire Marshal's Office, Office of Emergency Management, Wireless Communications, and Medical Examiner's Office), Emergency Services Districts, Small Cities and Villages, TCSO, TNR Natural Resources & Environmental Quality, and TNR Parks. The new PIO within Emergency Services will office at Airport Blvd. and will be funded out of STAR Flight, department 59. The position has now been filled and started in February.

The Austin Fire Department has offered to assist with both the TCSO and the ES PIO positions as desired. This would be in day-to-day responsibilities and setting up special communication sites (press conferences) when needed during major events.

The First Responder agencies within Travis County will be using, under their current incident command structure, their staffing for a PIO representative during events. These assigned personnel will coordinate with CTECC, the CRC contact, and our PIOs during events. The Austin Fire Department has expressed interest in assisting with training if needed for these representatives.

Additional Duties Assigned to STAR Flight Program Director

Court approval has been completed to assign additional emergency medical duties to the *STAR Flight* Program Director. A salary adjustment was recommended for these additional duties. The duties will include serving as the liaison with the Emergency Services Districts, the Small Cities and Villages, the City of Austin EMS Department, and the Office of the Medical Director. Also, the *STAR Flight* Medical Director was moved from the City of Austin to Travis County in the last budget cycle, and will now fall under this assignment and directly answer to the *STAR Flight* Program Director.

STAR Flight has added resources and tools to enhance their fire response capabilities. Pumpkins (portable water tanks), an added hoist for the third aircraft, and iPads for mapping, photographs and coordinates use.

Facebook Page/Twitter for Emergency Services

A Facebook page and Twitter account have now been set up for Emergency Services. This will provide communications channels to emergency services providers, support

agencies who work with emergencies, state and federal agencies in emergency services, elected officials, citizen groups, and the general public. This availability will allow access to government information and services while providing for feedback and suggestions from our resident community in Travis County. The ES PIO will assist with both the Facebook page and Twitter account. Volunteer staffing will be established for the Facebook Page and Twitter during events, so recruiting and training of folks will need to be set up through the ES PIO and the Office of Emergency Management.

Channel 17 Links for Information and News

Discussions are underway with Records Management staff to decide on implementation steps for getting information and news out the general public (prevention, education, awareness, contact agencies, press releases and press conferences) regarding emergency situations.

Communication Lines Established

A media line (TV, radio, newspapers) into the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is in place for emergency events. A Joint Information Center (JIC) line is in place for response agency PIOs to notify Emergency Operation Center contacts during events. Citizens will be encouraged to sign up for the "Citizen Observer" website (www.citizenobserver.com) which will provide direct access to emergency information during major events. Citizens will continue to be encouraged to register their cell phones for reverse 9-1-1, the Emergency Notification System (ENS), by going to the CAPCOG website and signing up free of charge.

Response/Recovery Groups

- Local Churches and Schools
- Austin Disaster Relief Network
- Austin Pets Alive
- Local Charity Organizations
- Local Government Agencies
- State and Federal Agencies

Joint Wildfire Task Force

- Wildland Fire Recovery Action Plan
- Ready, Set, Go!
- Four Working Groups (Preparedness, Prevention, Response, Recovery)
- Establish Information Portals
- Hazard Mitigation Project
- ICC International Wildland Urban Interface

Emergency Services Contacts:

Danny Hobby, County Executive, Emergency Services; (o) (512) 854-4416; (c) (512) 538-7003; danny.hobby@co.travis.tx.us

Lisa Block, Emergency PIO, (o) (512) 854-7954; (c) (512) 762-7180; (p) (512) 935-0010; lisa.block@co.travis.tx.us

Casey Ping, STAR Flight Program Manager, (o) (512) 854-6460; (c) (512) 970-5906; casey.ping@co.travis.tx.us

Pete Baldwin, Emergency Management Coordinator, (o) (512) 974-0472; (c) (512) 633-8202; (p) (512) 802-1472; pete.baldwin@co.travis.tx.us

Stacy Moore-Guajardo, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator, (o) (512) 974-0473; (c) (512) 633-8204; (p) (512) 802-1473; stacy.moore@co.travis.tx.us

Patrice Resisen, Emergency Planner, (o) (512) 974-0474; (c) (512) 968-7653; (p) (512) 802-1474, Patrice.resisen@co.travis.tx.us

Preston Doege, Hazardous Materials Coordinator, (o) (512) 974-0476; (c) (512) 522-7570; (p) (512) 802-1475; preston.doege@co.travis.tx.us

TNR Activities

Planning activities:

- 1) Distribute educational brochures at County buildings and through existing permitting processes*
- 2) Seek grants for hazard mitigation projects, implement successfully funded projects, and update Travis County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- 3) Include nationally accepted prevention and mitigation principals in subdivision design standards* Develop Public-Private emergency prevention, protection, and response initiatives* (Activities could include but are not limited to the assisting property owners with improving road access for emergency responders and evacuation routes into and out of subdivisions; creating defensible space around structures and implementing fuel reduction programs) .
- 4) Provide GIS mapping support showing high risk areas for flood and fire events*

TNR Contact Information for Planning Activities:

- 1) Stacey Scheffel, Permits Program Manager, (512) 854-7565, stacey.scheffel@co.travis.tx.us (Planning Activity #1)
- 2) Environmental Quality(EQ) Project Manager, Melinda Mallia, (512) 854-4460, melinda.mallia@co.travis.tx.us: Manages hazard mitigation grants, mitigation planning, and county contract with external consultant. Jeffrey S. Ward & Associates is available to assist with grant planning and development, background analysis and assessments including benefit/cost analyses for grant preparation. Coordinates with State agencies and FEMA on an as-needed basis. These activities are ongoing in advance of any disaster or may be prompted in response to grant opportunities following a disaster declaration (Planning Activity #2)

- 3) Anna Bowlin, Division Director Development Services, (512) 854-7561, anna.bowlin@co.travis.tx.us (Planning Activity #3)
- 4) GIS Program Manager, David Shore, David.Shore@co.travis.tx.us (Planning Activity #4)

Response activities (magnitude of response determined on a case-by-case basis):

- 1) Respond to requests for fire-fighting support from EOC Commander. (TNR assesses need and capabilities and mobilizes to site of the event.)
- 2) Field check safety of county roads throughout the event and close roads or eliminate hazardous conditions when possible
- 3) Respond to County road safety issues raised by the public or TCSO. (Calls routed through TNR Dispatch during normal working hours and through TCSO after normal working hours)

TNR Contact Information for Response Activities:

- 1) ART (After-hours Response Team), 974-0845 (TCSO Dispatch) . TNR Road Maintenance Teams that provide wildland fire support via use of heavy equipment to construct fire breaks, fuel and equipment support (Response Activity #1)
- 2) On-Call Supervisor, (After Hours), 974-0845 (TCSO Dispatch. TNR Road Maintenance Supervisor that can direct multiple ART members and direct resources as required by the type of event.(Response Activity #1, 2, and 3)
- 3) Howard Herrin, Road Maintenance Right-of-Way Section Manager, 844-5494. Manager in charge of Right-of-Way programs and directs resources from Right-of-Way programs as required by the type of event during normal work hours (7:00 am to 3:30 pm M-F).(Response Activity #1, 2, and 3)
- 4) Eddie Jones, Road Maintenance Roadway Section Manager, 848-7626. Manager in charge of Roadway Programs and directs resources from Roadway programs as required by the type of event during normal work hours (7:00 am to 3:30 pm M-F).(Response Activity #1, 2, and 3)
- 5) Don Ward, Director Road Maintenance and Fleet Services, 854-9317. Director in charge of Road Maintenance and Fleet Services Division. In charge of all Road Maintenance programs and can direct resources as required by the type of event. (Response Activity #1, 2, and 3)

Recovery activities: (Establish TNR as the lead agency for beginning the coordination of the recovery process among county agencies.)

- 1) Remove debris from County rights-of-way using County forces or Job Order Contracts.
- 2) Coordinate in the field with FEMA on damage assessment.
- 3) Maintain communication with Travis County Emergency Services on reports that document need for disaster declarations.
- 4) Coordinate with Travis County Emergency Services during the disaster declaration process to obtain information needed to scope mitigation projects, hire

external consultants, if needed, to assist with disaster documentation, and prepare notices of interest to the State.

- 5) Communicate with the general public and affected persons in affected areas. Coordinate with recovery groups and the Court to clarify public policy and to establish protocols for debris removal from private properties
- 6) Manage solid waste from disaster cleanup (identify appropriate sites and secure approval from TCEQ for Temporary Debris Management Sites, providing chipping services; collection and hauling services; and, hazardous materials collection services
- 7) Establish streamlined permitting process, including waiving permit fees if approved by Court
- 8) Provide guidance to communities for reducing impacts upon water quality*
- 9) Complete damage assessments and prepare documentation for potential financial relief offered by state or federal agencies.

TNR Contact Information for Recovery Activities:

- 1) Calls routed through TNR Dispatch during normal working hours and through TCSO after normal working hours (Recovery Activity #1)
- 2) Stacey Scheffel OSSF Program Manager & Floodplain Administrator (512) 854-7565) and staff. (Recovery Activity #2)
- 3) Melinda Mallia, EQ Project Manager (512) 854-4460 and Stacey Scheffel OSSF Program Manager & Floodplain Administrator (512) 854-7565). (Recovery Activities #3 and 4.)
- 4) NREQ Division Director, Jon White (512) 854-7212, jon.white@co.travis.tx.us, EQ Program Manager, Thomas Weber, (512) 854-4629, thomas.weber@co.travis.tx.us, Natural Resources (NR) Program Manager, Rose Farmer, (512) 854-7214 rose.farmer@co.travis.tx.us, Permits Program Manager, Stacey Scheffel, 512-854-7565) (Recovery Activity #5)
- 5) EQ Program Manager, Thomas Weber, (512) 854-4629, thomas.weber@co.travis.tx.us, Environmental Quality Project Manager, Keith Coburn, (512) 656-6700, keith.coburn@co.travis.tx.us, Environmental Specialist, Vacant Slot 0385 (Recovery Activity #6)
- 6) Stacey Scheffel, Permits Program Manager, (512) 854-7565 (Recovery Item #7)
- 7) Environmental Quality Project Manager, Dave Fowler, (512) 854-7590, dave.fowler@co.travis.tx.us (Recovery Activity #8)
- 8) EQ Project Manager, Melinda Mallia, (512) 854-4460, melinda.mallia@co.travis.tx.us, Stacey Scheffel, Permits Program Manager, (512) 854-7565). (Recovery Activity #9)

*New TNR initiatives

Additional Information on TNR Staff Roles

Jon White, NREQ Division Director, (512) 854-7212, jon.white@co.travis.tx.us,
Provides broad oversight, direction and coordination for NREQ staff activities

listed below as well as communication with elected officials, other agencies, jurisdictions and the public. Becomes involved immediately following disaster.

Thomas Weber, Environmental Quality Program Manager, (512) 854-4629, thomas.weber@co.travis.tx.us. Manages staff activities pertinent to recovery including actions related to debris collection and disposal, identification of suitable collection sites, assessment of water quality issues and other environmental quality issues as they may arise. Becomes involved immediately following disaster

Rose Farmer, Natural Resources Program Manager, (512) 854-7214) rose.farmer@co.travis.tx.us). Manages Natural Resources staff activities on any issues relating to the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) as well as providing advice on issues relating to natural resource protection. For events affecting the BCP (e.g. fires, floods, etc.) may need to become involved while the event is ongoing. For other events, she will become involved immediately afterward.

Melinda Mallia, Environmental Project Manager, 854-4460: Manages hazard mitigation grants, mitigation planning, and county contract with external consultant. Jeffrey S. Ward & Associates is available to assist with damage assessments, consultations with disaster victims, coordination with State and FEMA, grants and mitigation on an as-needed basis.

Keith Coburn, Environmental Quality Project Manager, (512) 656-6700, keith.coburn@co.travis.tx.us. Involved with debris collection and disposal, identification of suitable collection sites, water quality issues and other environmental quality issues as they may arise. Becomes involved immediately following disaster

Environmental Specialist, Vacant Slot 0385). Involved with debris management and cleanup. Identifies hazardous wastes to be cleaned up. Supports Emergency Management in handling of hazardous wastes. Supports Road and Bridge staff in correct handling of solid and hazardous waste in debris. Becomes involved immediately after event (Environmental Specialist, Vacant Slot 0385, will be included by Dispatch if hazardous materials are involved)

Stacey Scheffel, Permits Program Manager, 512-854-7565 stacey.scheffel@co.tavis.tx.us Coordinates in the field with FEMA on damage assessments. Oversee permitting of rebuilding efforts.

Health and Human Services and Veterans Service – (512)854-4100

Health and Human Services and Veterans Service provides a wide continuum of services to individuals and families in need in Travis County. Emergency response is catered toward the needs of the affected population with direction of the Commissioners Court

and in conjunction with partners that may include the City of Austin, FEMA, Red Cross and area non-profits.

Programs to support recovery may include emergency food, rental and utility assistance, mental health services, and indigent burial. The department can generally provide or facilitate access to clothing items and other needed supplies in an emergency situation at the direction of the Travis County Commissioners Court.

The After Hours Recovery and Assistance Contact for Health and Human Services and Veterans Service is Sherri E. Fleming, County Executive, at (512)694-3198 (cell) and-or sherri.fleming@co.travis.tx.us.

HHS/VS Department Recovery Activities may include:

1. Emergency food and food vouchers
2. Emergency clothing and clothing drive coordination
3. Trained Shelter Managers
4. Social Workers for short term personal crisis management
5. Limited access to overnight or very short term hotel/housing vouchers
6. Coordination with the City of Austin Health department for management of health hazards
7. Coordination with the City of Austin for management of domesticated animals
8. Coordination with Travis County AgriLife Extension for large animal sheltering
9. Coordination of Crisis Mental Health Services with Austin-Travis County Integral Care
10. Other services as required and in coordination with Travis County Emergency Management

Key Department contacts include:

Deborah Britton, Director, Community Services Division, (512)854-4109.

Deborah.Britton@co.travis.tx.us Provides access to senior citizen volunteers through the Coming of Age program and American Sign Language interpreting services for persons who are deaf and-or hard of hearing.

Andrea Colunga Bussey, Director, Office of Childrens Services, (512)854-4102.

Andrea.Colung@co.travis.tx.us Provides access to mental health supports for children and families.

Blanca Tapia Leahy, Director, Research and Planning Division, (512)854-4274

Blanca.Leahy@co.travis.tx.us Provides planning support for community problem solving. The division also has significant local data resources.

Jim Lehrman, Director, Family Support Services Division, (512)854-9879.

Jim.Lehrman@co.travis.tx.us Provides access to emergency food, utility and rental assistance. Social Work services are also available for short term services planning.

Olie L. Pope, Director, Veterans Service, (512)854-4136.

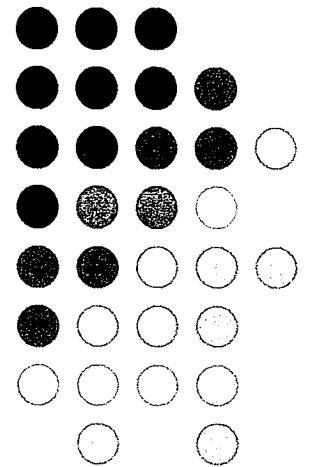
OlieL.Pope@co.travis.tx.us Provides access, assistance and advocacy for Veterans seeking benefits from the Veterans Administration and other services tailored to former military service personnel.

Dolores Sandman, County Director, Travis County AgriLife Extension, (512)854-9605

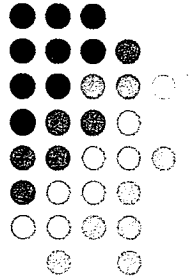
Dolores.Sandman@co.travis.tx.us Provides a wide variety of services and supports for local residents which includes, but is not limited to, agriculture and farming, pest control, wildlife management, drought management, nutrition and financial literacy. Also provides access to a variety of subject matter experts through the Texas A&M University system.

Travis County

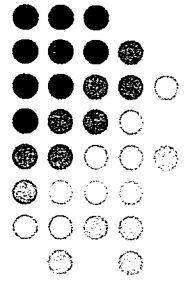
WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVES



Wildfire Preparedness Outline



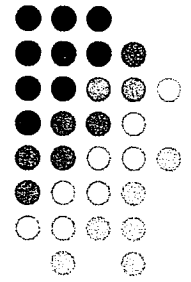
- Introduction of staff and guests
- Labor Day Fire Summary
- Joint Wildfire Task Force
- Ready-Set-Go Campaign
- Travis County Communication Links
- Open Discussion



Introduction of Staff and Guests

- Travis County staff
- City of Austin staff
- Emergency Services District Chiefs
- Guests

Labor Day Fire Summary



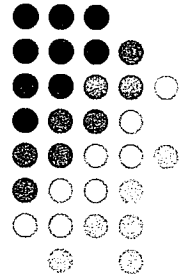
Travis County Fires:

- Pflugerville
- Steiner Ranch
- Spicewood/Pedernales
- Other

Long Term Recovery Committee:

- Spicewood/Pedernales

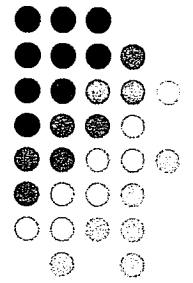
Joint Wildfire Task Force



Overview:

- Two working groups becoming one
- Purpose, Goals, and Objectives
- Projects Underway

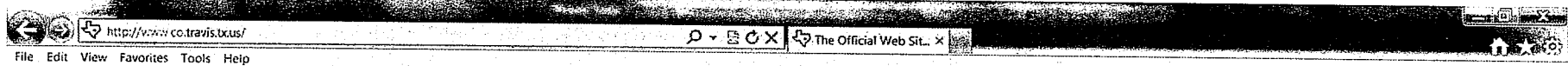
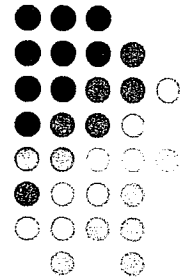
Ready-Set-Go Campaign



Summary:

- Development of booklet
- Purpose and content
- Distribution Plan for booklets
- Availability Training Resources

Ready-Set-Go Campaign



- DIRECTORY ▾
- GOVERNMENT ▾
- JUSTICE ▾
- BUSINESS ▾
- RESIDENT ▾
- ONLINE SERVICES ▾

Select Language ▾

This is Travis County, Texas.

READY, SET, GO!
Wildland Fire Action Guide
Saving Lives and Property through Advance Planning

Most Popular

- Jobs
- Inmate Search
- County Clerk
- Foreclosures
- Purchasing
- Sheriff's Office
- Travis County Parks
- Marriage License
- Bail & Bonds
- Jury Duty

Related Links

- State of Texas
- City of Austin
- Local Counties & Municipalities
- Texas Legislature
- Appraisal District
- Tax Office
- Central Health

Select a department ▾ | Pay for... ▾ | Apply for... ▾ | Get a copy of... ▾ | Report a... ▾

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Subscribe for updates
- Follow us on Facebook
- twitter

Burn Ban Lifted

The County Commissioners have lifted the burn ban. Please contact your local fire department if you plan to do any outdoor burning.

Ready, Set, Go! Wildland Fire Action Guide

The Ready, Set, Go! booklet will teach you how to protect property from wildland fires and what steps you can take to insure safety if an evacuation is ordered. More...

Gilleland Creek OSSF Training

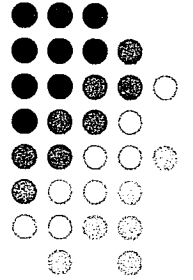
February 28, 2012, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.: On-Site Sewage Facilities Training; TCEQ Park 35 Campus, Building E, Room 2015 (the Agenda Room). Sign in with security at the building. Visitor's badges must be worn while on campus. (Map)

Meetings

- Commissioners Court**
Meets every Tuesday at 9:00 AM.
- Capital Idea Celebration of Achievements**
Tuesday, February 28, 2012.
- Commissioners Court Public Hearing**
February 28, 2012.
- Travis County Comprehensive Plan Sub-Committee**
February 29, 2012.
- Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force**
March 2, 2012.

Commissioners Court

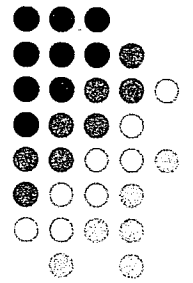
Travis County Communication Links



Emergency Services:

- PIO Partnership with TCSO
- Additional Duties for STAR Flight Director
- Facebook Page and Twitter Account
- Channel 17
- Communication Lines Established
- Response/Recovery Groups
- Joint Wildfire Task Force

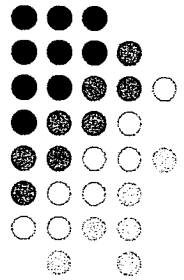
Social Media



Why Facebook and Twitter?

- Inform a large number of citizens quickly.
- Give the public access to emergency information via their cell phones and computers.

Social Media



Facebook:

- Find us online by searching Google for Travis-County-Emergency-Services.

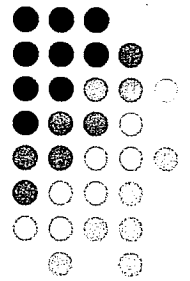
Twitter:

- Find us at Twitter.com and use your Twitter account to find: @TravisCountyES

Travis County and Emergency Services Homepage

- Links to our Facebook and Twitter pages will be available on our Web site home pages.

Emergency Services on Facebook



http://www.facebook.com/pages/Travis-County-Emergency-Services/333949426709469

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

facebook

Email Password [Log In](#)

Keep me logged in [Forgot your password?](#)

[Sign Up](#) Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.

Travis County Emergency Services [Like](#) [Create a Page](#)

Government Organization

Wall Travis County Emergency S... · Everyone (Top Posts)

Share: [Post](#) [Photo](#) [Video](#)

Write something...

RECENT ACTIVITY

[Travis County Emergency Services](#) joined Facebook · [Like](#) · [Comment](#)

There are no more posts to show.

Want to like or comment on this page?

To interact with Travis County Emergency Services you need to sign up for Facebook first.

[Sign Up](#)

It's free and anyone can join. Already a member? [Log In](#).

[Wall](#)

[Info](#)

[Photos](#)

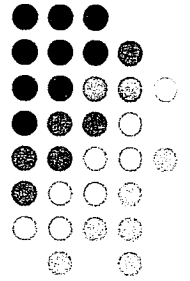
15 like this

2 talking about this

[Create a Page](#)

Facebook © 2012 · English (US) [Mobile](#) · [Find Friends](#) · [Badges](#) · [People](#) · [Pages](#) · [About](#) · [Advertising](#) · [Create a Page](#) · [Developers](#) · [Careers](#) · [Privacy](#) · [Terms](#) · [Help](#)

Emergency Services on Twitter

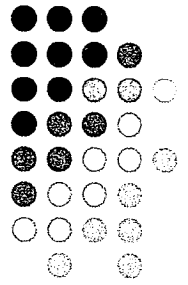


The screenshot shows the Twitter homepage for a user named Travis County E.S. The browser address bar displays "https://twitter.com/". The navigation bar includes "Home", "Connect", and "Discover" options, along with a search bar and user profile icons. The main content area is divided into three sections:

- Profile Section:** Features the user's profile picture, name "Travis County E.S.", and a link to "View my profile page". It shows 0 tweets, 0 following, and 0 followers. Below this is a "Compose new Tweet..." text box.
- Tweets Section:** A large empty box with the message: "Your timeline is currently empty. Follow people and topics you find interesting to see their Tweets in your timeline."
- Worldwide trends Section:** A list of trending topics including "#FeelAlive" (Promoted), "#BSP3", "#Mets90sBands", "#PraCimaDelesBrasil", "BTW Foundation Launch Tomorrow", "Bésnia", "Happy National Pancake Day", "iPad 3", "Ihop", and "Roscoe Dash".

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with copyright information: "© 2012 Twitter About Help Terms Privacy Blog Status Apps Resources Jobs Advertisers Businesses Media Developers". The system tray at the bottom right shows the time as 1:16 PM on 2/28/2012.

Communication Links Cont'd



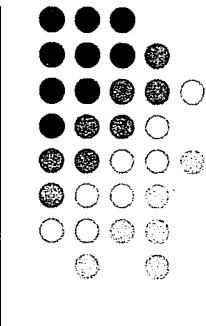
TNR:

- Planning Activities
- Response Activities
- Recovery Activities

Health and Human Services and Veterans Service:

- Recovery Activities

Travis County Wildfire Preparedness



OPEN DISCUSSION!