



## INTERVIEW – Jason Carriere and Irving Flood Control District Section 3

### Jason Carriere, Emergency Management Coordinator for the [City of Irving](#)



Jason Carriere has been with the City of Irving since May 2004 and currently serves as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Active in all aspects of Emergency Management, his duties include developing disaster preparedness and homeland security policies, planning for all Natural and Man-made disasters, coordinating response, and working with the community, business and industry along with local, state, and federal agencies in case of a disaster.

He is also a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and has received the designation as Certified Emergency Manager (CEM), the Emergency Management Association of Texas (EMAT) and has received his Certified Texas Emergency Manager (TEM), and is a certified Associate Business Continuity Planner (ABCP). Mr. Carriere holds a Bachelor's of Science in Emergency Management from the University of North Texas.

---

### **IFCD3: Tell us a little bit about Irving's Office of Emergency Management and your role in the department.**

**Jason:** The City of Irving's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) mission is to serve the citizens of Irving by directing and coordinating programs to prevent/mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

For the Office to be successful in carrying out this mission for the community, several essential elements must be brought together to form a comprehensive emergency management program. This includes planning, training and exercises that involve emergency management partners at the city, county, regional, state and federal levels of government. Our approach integrates people, processes and technologies into each phase of the Emergency Management Cycle.

Additionally, the Office serves as the coordination point for regional, state and federal disaster assistance, recovery efforts and promulgations of lessons learned/corrective actions after an incident to incorporate into future mitigation and preparation efforts.

The Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) serves as the Division Head of Irving Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The EMC oversees this department and ensures that the office provides a comprehensive emergency management program for the City. The EMC also serves as the principal point of contact and manages the Homeland Security Grant Programs, has direct management responsibilities for the department's full time employees and indirect management responsibilities for a number of full or part-time employees and volunteers. Primary responsibilities include the Outdoor Warning System, operation of the Mobile Command Vehicle and Emergency Operations Center. This is a 24 hour on call position, serving 365 days a year.

**IFCD 3: Among other things, it seems like the weather could really keep your office on their toes. How do you plan for weather events, expected and unexpected?**

**Jason:** Severe weather is the most common hazard that we respond to and the City of Irving takes planning seriously. Central to this is our comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan, which is an all-hazards plan, designed to provide general guidance for emergency management activities and an overview of the emergency management methods of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. By taking the all-hazards approach, we focus on the consequences and not the cause of the event. This better enables us to direct staff and resources to address issues by taking a forward-leaning posture to pre-position staff and resources to better serve the citizens of Irving. We also provide City staff and partner agencies with training, as well as exercises to test our planning components to verify capabilities.

**IFCD 3: It sounds like flood control is critical to help prevent or mitigate rain events in Irving. What would be the impact of not having an active flood control system in place?**

**Jason:** Though not all impacts from flooding can be mitigated against, having a comprehensive flood control system is key to reducing the impacts that are caused by flood waters. By not having flood control measures in place throughout IFCD 3, home developments, park lands, schools and businesses would not be possible due to the inundation of flood waters whenever the Elm Fork of the Trinity River rises out of its banks. Development along the Elm Fork of the Trinity River would not be possible without an active flood control system in place, nor would recreational opportunities or simple enjoyment of the aesthetic beauty be possible.

**IFCD 3: The District is in the process of finalizing installation of emergency generators at the IFCD 3 pump station<sup>1</sup>. From your perspective as Irving's Emergency Coordinator, what kind of value do you see in adding uninterruptable power to the facility?**

**Jason:** While it is nearly impossible to predict and plan for a complete loss of an area's electrical infrastructure, it does happen from time to time, so reliability and redundancy of power systems to operate pumps is important. Installation of emergency backup generation is the best way to mitigate against the loss of power and still provide the mission critical function of flood control for IFCD 3 in providing continuity of operations to the residents and businesses in the Valley Ranch area.

**IFCD 3: Since your day job keeps you busy preparing for disasters and emergencies, how do you relax to keep a balanced lifestyle and fresh perspective?**

**Jason:** When not at work, I am spending time with my wife and young son. We enjoy doing anything that involves being outdoors.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Background:* Later this spring, on-site power generation capabilities at the IFCD 3 pump station will be completed with the addition of twin diesel-powered generators. This will make the availability of electrical power to drive the five pumps completely redundant to commercial power. Having this capability removes the risk of losing utility provided electricity when it is needed most – during major storm events, when power loss always is of general concern. Additionally, locally generated power can be used to reduce overall electricity costs, when appropriate. This has been a multi-year project, delivered through careful budgeting and without the incurrance of additional debt.