

Texas DPS releases threat assessment

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) has released the 2013 Texas Public Safety Threat Overview, a state intelligence estimate that offers a review of current public safety threats to Texas. DPS Director Steven McCraw highlighted the report's key findings this week at the 2013 Texas Emergency Management Conference in San Antonio.

"DPS relies on an arsenal of tools to combat the myriad public safety and homeland security threats facing our state, ranging from natural disasters to organized crime and cyber attacks," said DPS Director McCraw. "It is paramount that DPS and our law enforcement partners be prepared when the unthinkable happens, and this assessment specifically identifies the most significant threats that we must contend with."

The report draws on the information and perspectives of multiple law enforcement and homeland security agencies, whose contributions were invaluable to developing this assessment.

The report also details the state's systematic approach to detecting, assessing and prioritizing public safety threats within seven separate categories: crime, terrorism, motor vehicle crashes, natural disasters, public health threats, industrial accidents and cyber threats.

The report identifies Mexican drug cartels as posing the most significant organized crime threat to the state. Six of the eight cartels currently have command and control networks operating in the state, moving drugs and people into the United States, and transporting cash, weapons and stolen vehicles back to Mexico.

"The impact of cartel crime is painfully obvious when we look to our neighbors in Mexico, with some 60,000 deaths since 2006 and continued cases of brutal torture," said Director McCraw. "It is a top DPS priority to severely obstruct the range and power of Mexican drug organizations to affect the public safety of Texas citizens."

Additional significant findings include:

- Statewide prison gangs pose the second most significant organized crime threat in Texas. Many gangs now work directly with the Mexican cartels, gaining substantial profits from drug and human trafficking. Prison gangs

operate within and outside the prison system, and are responsible for a disproportionate amount of violent crime.

- Criminal aliens, who may not be affiliated with cartels and gangs, also pose a threat. From October 2008 to December 2012, Texas identified a total of 141,982 unique criminal alien defendants booked into Texas county jails. These individuals are responsible for at least 447,844 individual criminal charges, including 2,032 homicides and 5,048 sexual assaults.

- Criminal organizations and individuals are engaging in the exploitation and trafficking of children for financial gain. These heinous crimes subject children to violence, extortion, forced labor, sexual assault and prostitution. Some children are more vulnerable to exploitation, including unaccompanied alien children, as well as those who are lost, missing or abducted. There are currently 76,272 sex offenders registered in Texas, and at least 60,871 of these offenders had a child victim.

- Most recently, terrorism has become disaggregated with individual and would-be terrorists acting alone engaged in jihad. Nidal Hasan is the most prominent example of this type of terrorist, killing 13 U.S. servicemen at Fort Hood on November 5, 2009. Over the past five years in Texas, there have been four other Islamic extremist plots and two anti-government terrorist plots. In addition, there have been documented incidents of foreign nationals with links to terrorism entering the United States from Mexico using existing human trafficking and human smuggling networks operated by the cartels, though not in an active conspiracy with the cartels.

- Motor vehicle crashes killed 3,353 people in Texas in 2012. Of all the contributing factors to motor vehicle crashes, driving under the influence of alcohol stands out for



4-H Shooting! Kaden Austin prepares for his shot during the Coke County 4-H Shooting Match. The competition was held this past weekend.

the number of deaths that it causes.

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4-H shooters take aim in Coke County

On Saturday March 30 Coke County 4-H hosted the very first Coke County 4-H Shooting Match. The event had 50 participants ranging from Pecos to Granbury and everywhere in between coming together at Red Canyon Gun Club in Robert Lee. The Day started with Coke County 4-H shooting sports coordinator Richard Johnson giving an overview of gun safety and the schedule of the events throughout the day. At the conclusion of orientation the light rifle match started that consisted of the participants shooting at targets at a distance of 50 feet with a 22 long rifle. As light rifle match completed lunch was provided by Cindy's of Robert Lee for all participants and their families. The afternoon match was a silhouette match that gave the shooters a chance to demonstrate their skills at ranges of 40, 60 and 75 meters.

Of the 50 participants that competed in the event 7 were from Coke County that performed very well in the competition with Aaron Cervenka of Bronte receiving 2nd in the intermediate silhouette that was followed by Garrett Knight

of Robert Lee who was awarded 3rd place in the silhouette. Other participants that did well were Yulissa Peraza receiving 6th place in the senior light rifle, In the Intermediate light rifle Coke County shooters did very well with Garrett Knight earning 5th place, Kaden Austin 7th place rifle and Jonathan Skipworth placed 8th. In the junior light rifle Casey Skipworth of Coke County place 4th.

In Texas 4-H shooting sports has approximately 10,000 youth actively participating in the events vary from rifle, shotgun, air rifle and archery. Coke County currently has a rifle team that has been practicing weekly since September and after Saturday's match they will go on to the Texas 4-H shooting Sports extravaganza and the district seven rifle contest. If anyone is looking for more information on 4-H shooting sports please contact the Extension office.

... CRP Sign-Up

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Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP, a voluntary program available to ag producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on September 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Producers that are accepted can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Open this weekend
Saturday, April 6, 2013

Robert Lee Convenience Center

1st & 3rd Saturdays • 8 a.m. to noon
Fern Havins Park - next to wastewater plant

Now receiving for disposal bulk items furniture, beds, pallets, dishwashers, microwaves, plastic pipe, plastic trash cans, scrap metal, stoves, washers, dryers, metal trash cans and more.

This is a FREE service to all Robert Lee and West Coke County residents.

For more information, please call Robert Lee City Hall 453-2831.

FISH DAY

It's Pond Stocking Time! 4-6" Catfish.....\$45 Per 100
6-8" Catfish.....\$65 Per 100
8-11" Catfish.....\$100 Per 100

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