REGION4 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

Office of Emergency Management and School Safety

SUPERINTENDENT'S MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2025

See
handout

HB 2: SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL TEAMS

- Administrator or Safe and Supportive School Team must provide notice to each member of the teaching staff, including teacher aides (paraprofessionals), directly affected by a threat
  - Includes threats by social media

- Notice must state the existence of the threat and pertinent details to ensure the safety of students and staff

- Must be provided as soon as safe and practicable after receipt of information regarding a threat made against a campus.

HB 6: SAFETY AND DISCIPLINE
Threat Assessment Team

- Campus Behavior Coordinator must serve on the Safe and Supportive Schools Program team for that campus

- Campus Behavior Coordinator must report to the Safe and Supportive Schools Program team any student who engages in:
  - Terroristic threat
  - Unlawfully carrying a weapon
  - Prohibited weapons
  - Exhibiting, using, or threatening to use a firearm
  - Behavior or behavior trends that may pose a risk of serious violence to self or others

Source:

Ellen H. Spalding
Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois

HB 6: SAFETY AND DISCIPLINE

Threat Assessment/Special Education Student

- If a student in special education is the subject of a threat assessment, the team conducting the assessment must consist of a person who has knowledge of the student's disabilities and manifestations of the same:
  - Diagnostician
  - Behavior Specialist
  - Special education teacher (assigned to the student)
  - Licensed behavior analyst
  - Licensed clinical or licensed master social worker
  - Licensed specialist in school psychology

Source:

HB 33: UVALDE STRONG ACT
Facility Security Review

- As soon as practicable after a school district constructs, acquires, renovates, or improves a facility, the district must conduct a security review to determine:
  - Whether the facility meets school safety and security requirements as determined by the Commissioner
  - Identify security vulnerabilities in the event of an active shooter incident
  - Describe strategies to mitigate each identified vulnerability
- Three-year safety and security audit must include a security review for each facility as described above

Source:

Ellen H. Spalding
Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois

HB 33: UVALDE STRONG ACT
Facility Security Review

- Must have available on each campus for use during an active shooter event
  - Breaching tool
    - Minimum recommendation (8lbs. Sledgehammer / Handle Length 34 in)
  - Ballistic shield
    - Minimum recommendation (Level IIIA / 20in x 30in)

Source:

Ellen H. Spalding
Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois

HB 33: UVALDE STRONG ACT
Public Information Officer

- Must employ "Public Information Officer"
  - Someone whose duties include communicating with the public during a disaster regarding the disaster
  - Certification from the Texas Department of Emergency Management
  - Continuing education
  - Texas Department of Emergency Management
- Applies to the school district and the police department

Source:

Ellen H. Spalding
Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois

HB 33: UVALDE STRONG ACT
Interagency Preparedness

- DPS and the sheriff of any county where there is a primary or secondary school facility to determine which agencies are reasonably likely to respond to an active shooter event

- DPS, sheriff, and identified agencies must
  - Participate in a tabletop exercise every odd-numbered year
  - Participate in at least one drill every even-numbered year

Source:

Ellen H. Spalding
Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois

HB 33: UVALDE STRONG ACT
Interagency Preparedness

- The sheriff of a county where a public school is located shall hold an annual meeting to discuss school safety matters
  - Now must also include a discussion of each school district's EOP and implementation
- Now also applies to counties with a population of 350,000 or more and differing rules for each
- In counties with a population of 350,000 or more, required school district participants:
  - Police chief or designee
  - Chief administrative officer for SRO or designee
  - Superintendent*
  - Any other person the sheriff identifies

Source:

Ellen H. Spalding
Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois

HB 121: SCHOOL SAFETY
Good Cause Exceptions

- Armed Security Officers good cause exception
  - Expires on the first anniversary following the date a school board claims an exception
  - Board must re-evaluate the need for the exception and renew if necessary by board action
- Facilities Standard good cause exception
  - Expires on the fifth anniversary following the date a school board claims an exception
  - Board must re-evaluate the need for the exception and renew if necessary by board action

Source:

Ellen H. Spalding
Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois

HB 1522: MEETING POSTING REQUIREMENTS

- Notice must be posted at least **three business days** before the scheduled date of the meeting, overriding the previous 72-hour requirement.
- The notice of a meeting at which a governmental body will discuss or adopt a budget for the governmental body must include:
  - a physical copy of the proposed budget unless it is made clearly accessible on the homepage of the governmental body's website; and
  - a taxpayer impact statement showing, for the median-valued homestead property, a comparison of the property tax bill in dollars pertaining to the property for the current fiscal year to an estimate of the property tax bill in dollars for the same property for the upcoming fiscal year if the proposed budget is adopted.

Source:

Ellen H. Spalding
Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois

SB 571: CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

- Definition of abuse amended to add "improper relationship between educator and student"
  - ***already included "encouraging child to engage in sexual conduct"
- Child abuse reporting requirements are now **24 hours**, not 48 hours
- Reports made to TDFPS (CPS) OR law enforcement agency…But
  - Reports made to law enforcement agencies must be made to law enforcement agencies of a municipality, county, or state
  - <mark>ISD law enforcement is not acceptable.</mark>

Source:

Ellen H. Spalding
Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois

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Source:

Ellen H. Spalding
Spalding Nichols Lamp Langlois

TEXAS ★ STATE ®

TEXAS SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER

2025-2026 EOP REVIEW CYCLE

30 Day Submission Window

Sep 2, 2025
EOP Review Cycle Begins

Oct 2, 2025
Initial Submission Deadline

Resources and Tools

Basic Plan Toolkit
Active Threat for Schools Toolkit

Evaluation Criteria Checklists

Templates and Examples

Online Courses and Trainings

2025-2026 EOP REVIEW CYCLE

TEXAS ★ STATE ®
TEXAS SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER

Keys to Compliance

- **Video: Keys to Compliance 2025-2026 EOP Review Cycle**
- **Submit ONLY the Basic Plan and Active Threat for Schools Annex**
- **Separate the Basic Plan from the Active Threat for Schools Annex**
- **Documents *must* be in PDF format**
- **The TxSSC will upload compliant Basic Plans into Sentinel**

New Initiatives

- **Active Threat for Schools Tabletop Exercises (August 2025)**
- **Texas School Emergency Response Map Submission**

Need additional assistance? Contact your Regional Specialist

Heather Hernandez
512-408-7026
pth48@txstate.edu

Junior Colleges: Regions 1 - 10

INTRUDER DETECTION AUDITS
FOCUS AREAS FOR ~~2025~~ SCHOOL YEAR

FENCING:
If a fenced area includes any type of gate (ex., a maintenance gate), it must have at least one designated emergency egress gate in order to qualify as a secured area.

INELIGIBLE CAMPUS:
LEAs may notify TEA of a possible ineligible campus on Sentinel

DOOR PROPS:
Any object near exterior doors that could be used as a prop will be considered a flag.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT:
Let ESC 4 and Ask TED know of changes in the Superintendent position, and we will notify Sentinel.

INTRUDER DETECTION AUDITS
FOCUS AREAS FOR 2025 SCHOOL YEAR

✓ **NEW CAMPUSES/CLOSED CAMPUSES/CHANGED ADDRESSES:**
Update new, closed, or changes of address for campuses in Ask TED.

✓ **NEW PRINCIPALS:**
Update new principals in Ask TED.

✓ **DESIGNEES:**
Add/make changes for district or charter designees in Sentinel (Superintendent account only).

✓ **CALENDARS:**
Update school calendars in Sentinel

INTRUDER DETECTION AUDITS
FOCUS AREAS FOR ~~2024-25~~ SCHOOL YEAR

✓ **DOOR SWEEP LOG:**
It is **highly recommended** to use Sentinel for Door Sweep Logs. The school can use the Sentinel door template or upload its own system's records.

✓ **STAAR TESTING:**
IDAs **will continue** through STAAR testing or any other types of events that may be occurring on the campus. However, be sure to let the inspector know that testing is occurring and areas to avoid, causing a disruption.

IDA Phases

1
The Intruder Detection Phase
The inspector will check three (3) randomly selected exterior doors. If unauthorized entry is gained, it will result in a finding.

2
The Exterior Door Phase
a. Physical check of all exterior doors of instructional facilities
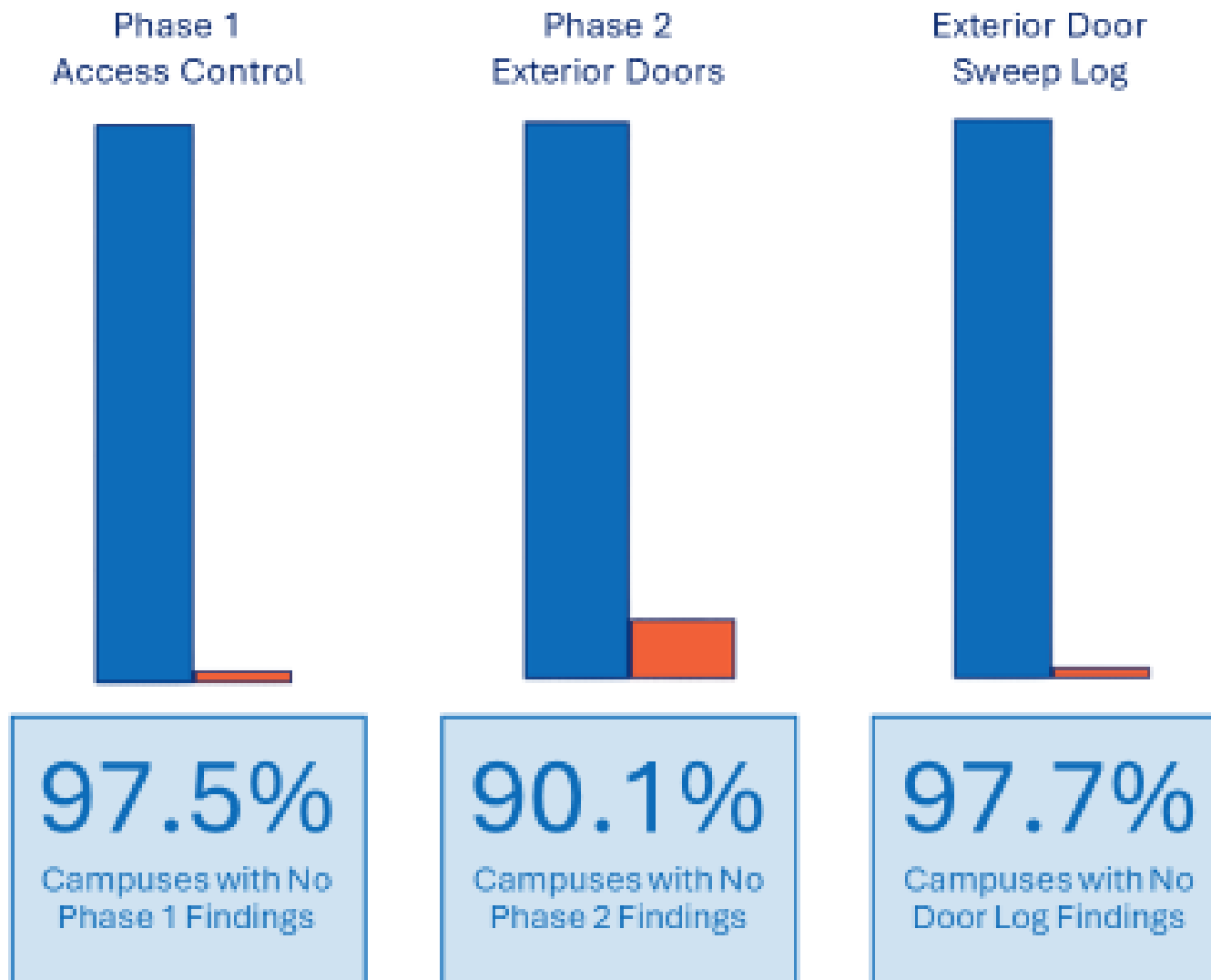b. Observation of the Weekly Exterior Door Sweep documentation

3
The Classroom Door Phase (if applicable)
If the district has an interior door locking policy or directive, the inspector will inspect up to ten (10) random doors. Any doors that are unlocked or open will result in a flag to the district as local non-compliance. Flags do not result in a corrective action and is for local informational purposes only.

REGION 4 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER | Office of Emergency Management and School Safety

SCHOOL SAFETY EXPO

OCTOBER 30, 2025

Keynote Speaker

Kevin L. Foust, Retired Associate Vice President for Safety and Security

Topic: Virginia Tech: Lessons from April 16, 2007

Kevin Foust shares insights from the tragic Virginia Tech shootings, examining the shooter's background, law enforcement response, mistakes made, and critical lessons learned. This powerful session explores how threat assessment processes evolved after the event and challenges attendees to reflect on their own preparedness and decision-making in crisis situations.

WE HAVE SESSIONS FOR:

1. Superintendents
2. Assistant Superintendents
3. School Board Members
4. Directors of Safety and Security
5. Directors of Student Services / Support Services
6. Directors of Facilities / Operations
7. Principals (Elementary, Middle, High School)
8. Assistant Principals
9. School Resource Officers (SROs) or Campus Police
10. School Safety Coordinators
11. School Counselors / Mental Health Coordinators
12. Behavior Intervention Specialists
13. School Nurses

Register Here

FREE!

OCTOBER 2025 IDA NOTIFICATIONS

- ALDINE ISD

- ALIEF ISD

- ALVIN ISD

- ANGLETON ISD

- ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY

- BARBERS HILL ISD

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OCTOBER 2025 IDA NOTIFICATIONS

- BRAZOSPORT ISD

- CHANNELVIEW ISD

- CLEAR CREEK ISD

- CLEVELAND ISD

- COLUMBIA-BRAZORIA ISD

- CROSBY ISD

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OCTOBER 2025 IDA NOTIFICATIONS

- CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD

- DAYTON ISD

- DEER PARK ISD

- DICKINSON ISD

- FORT BEND ISD

- GALENA PARK ISD

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OCTOBER 2025 IDA NOTIFICATIONS

- GALVESTON ISD

- GOOSE CREEK CISD

- HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - HOUSTON NORTH

- HOUSTON GATEWAY ACADEMY INC

- HOUSTON ISD

- HUFFMAN ISD

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OCTOBER 2025 IDA NOTIFICATIONS

- HUMBLE ISD

- INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS (ILTEXAS)

- KATY ISD

- KIPP TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- KLEIN ISD

- LA PORTE ISD

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OCTOBER 2025 IDA NOTIFICATIONS

- LAMAR CISD

- PASADENA ISD

- PEARLAND ISD

- PREMIER HIGH SCHOOLS

- RAUL YZAGUIRRE SCHOOLS FOR SUCCESS

- ROYAL ISD

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OCTOBER 2025 IDA NOTIFICATIONS

- SHELDON ISD

- SPRING BRANCH ISD

- SPRING ISD

- STAFFORD MSD

- TEXANS CAN ACADEMIES

- TEXAS CITY ISD

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OCTOBER 2025 IDA NOTIFICATIONS

- TEXAS COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMIES

- THE RHODES SCHOOL FOR PERFORMING ARTS

- TOMBALL ISD

- WALLER ISD

- YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS INC

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EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER | Office of Emergency Management and School Safety

SUPERINTENDENT'S WEATHER CALL

Our partnership with the National Weather Service and Harris County Flood Control District allows Region 4 Education Service Center to support your school community during severe weather events. Below are the steps and procedures Region 4 employs to provide reliable and timely information so you can make the best decisions for your school community.

Severe Weather Alerts to Superintendents

These alerts are sent to Superintendents from
Region 4's Executive Director, Dr. Rodney Watson.

Severe Weather Superintendents' Planning Calls

These calls are led by Dr. Watson, the National Weather Service
and Harris County Flood Control District.
Most calls are scheduled for 3:00 a.m. or 4:00 a.m.

Severe Weather Alerts to Police Chief, Emergency Management, or School Safety Leaders

These alerts are sent to Superintendent's designees from
Region 4's Office of Emergency Management and School Safety.

Be Prepared Before the Storm

For Superintendents, ensure Dr. Watson has your direct email address
and cell phone number before the weather call.

For the designees, ensure Director Culbreath has your contact information
email address and cell phone number) before the weather call. We want
to ensure that we allow only superintendents and their designees on the calls.

Office of Emergency Management and School Safety

Ken Culbreath, Director

281.794.2518 | ken.culbreath@esc4.net

Last Updated:10/03/24

In accordance with House Bill 33 (89R Legislative Session), effective September 1, 2025, each school system must have at least one breaching tool and one ballistic shield available at each campus. The following is guidance related to these required tools.

Breaching Tools

Breaching tools are devices designed to break through doors, windows, gates, and other barriers, allowing access to restricted or fortified spaces. These tools are commonly used by emergency responders to access buildings, vehicles, and other locked enclosures. Manual breaching tools can include, but are not limited to:

- Halligan Tool
- Sledgehammers, with the recommended weight ranging from 8 to 12 pounds
- Door rams, and
- Pry bars

School systems should determine which tool or combination of tools would best meet their needs during an active incident. Tool examples are provided below.

Ballistic Shields

Ballistic shields are designed to stop or deflect projectiles. A recommended feature of ballistic shields includes a carrying system that allows them to be held long-term without fatigue. The recommended sizes for ballistic shields vary based on intended use, with common sizing being between 20x30 inches and 24x36 inches.

The materials used to fabricate a shield are engineered to stop specific ballistic threats. Ballistic shields are rated according to the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Threat Protection Levels IIA – IV. Level IIA is the lightest and most maneuverable armor, and Level IV is the heaviest but most protective shield available. NIJ's recommended minimum protection level for ballistic shields is Level IIIA. For enhanced protection against rifles, school systems should consider Level III or higher. Shield examples are provided below.

Device Storage

Proper storage ensures that tools will remain in good condition and are ready for use when needed. When storing equipment, school systems should:

- Keep items in a cool, dry place
- Do not stack other items on top of the equipment
- Store ballistic shields in protective carry bags when not deployed

School systems should conduct a district-wide assessment to determine the appropriate area for storage, ensuring ease in access by first responders during a crisis event. School systems are encouraged to consult with local law enforcement when deciding on an appropriate storage location.

Funding Options

School Safety Allotment

Ballistic shields and breaching tools are allowable purchases with School Safety Allotment funds.

SAFE Grant Cycle 2, Tier 2

Ballistic shields and breaching tools are allowable purchases for the SAFE Grant Cycle 2, Tier 2.

Note: School districts must be compliant with the School Safety Facilities Standards, 19 Texas Administrative Code, §61.1031, to be eligible to purchase Tier 2 items.

City of Houston

Office of Emergency Management
Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 28, 2025

[View this email in your browser](#)

REMINDER: City of Houston to Conduct city-wide Wireless Emergency Alert System Test on Friday, September 5

HOUSTON – August 28, 2025 – The City of Houston Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will conduct a city-wide test of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system on **Friday, September 5, at 11:00 a.m. Central Time**. This test is part of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), a nationwide capability designed to deliver critical public safety alerts. At the scheduled time, individuals in the Houston area with WEA-mobile capable devices will receive the following message:

"TEST Wireless Emergency Alert from the City of Houston Office of Emergency Management: No Action Required. TEST ALERT. For more information visit HoustonOEM.org."

An alert will also go out in Spanish, for those who have their phone settings set to Spanish. The alert in Spanish will say:

"PRUEBA de Alerta Inalámbrica de Emergencia de la Oficina de Manejo de Emergencias de Houston: No se requiere acción. ALERTA DE PRUEBA. Para más información, visite HoustonOEM.org."

Some folks with older mobile devices may receive a shorter version of this message.

<u>**Who Will Receive the Test:**</u> Anyone located within the City of Houston jurisdiction with a WEA-capable mobile device on September 5 between 11:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. will receive the test. Each person will only receive one alert—either in English or in Spanish—based on their phone's language setting. No one should receive more than one alert. While the WEA test is intended only for people in the City of Houston, the system is based on cell

Why We Test: Testing public alert systems is essential to ensure they work properly in the event of a real emergency. Timely and accurate alerts can save lives during severe weather, chemical incidents, active threats, or other urgent hazards. The WEA system allows Houston OEM to send geographically targeted alerts to mobile devices in situations where immediate life-saving action is required. **These alerts are rare** and are only used during the most critical emergencies.

Understanding Houston's Emergency Alert Strategy: Houston uses a tiered approach to public alerting:

- **WEA Alerts (Wireless Emergency Alerts):**
  These are issued through the federal IPAWS system and go to all compatible cell phones in a defined area. **They are only used for life-threatening emergencies that require immediate lifesaving action.**
- **AlertHouston:**
  For less urgent but still important situations—like flash flood watches, roadway impacts, or severe weather awareness—OEM uses the **AlertHouston** system. This is a **free, opt-in** service where residents can receive texts, emails, or voice messages. To sign up, visit **HoustonOEM.org** or **text "AlertHouston" to 888777**.
- **Everyday Preparedness:**
  On clear "blue sky" days, OEM shares helpful tips and preparedness information through social media, community events, and education campaigns.
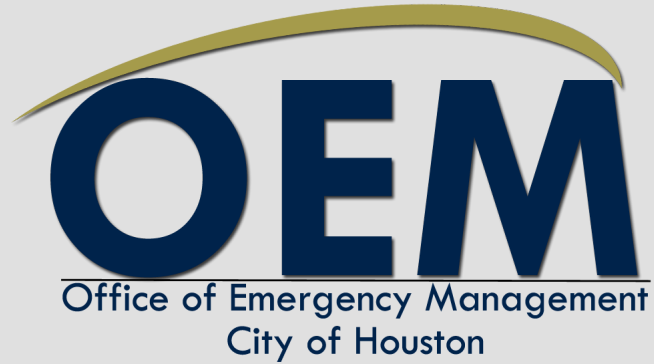
Check Your Emergency Alert Settings: We strongly urge residents to enable their emergency alerts in case of an imminent threat. **These alerts could save your life.** To receive Wireless Emergency Alerts, your phone must have alerts enabled in your device settings.

- **iPhone:**
  Go to **Settings** > **Notifications**, scroll to the bottom under **Government Alerts**, and ensure **Emergency Alerts** are turned **ON**.
- **Android:**
  Go to **Settings** > **Safety & Emergency** > **Wireless Emergency Alerts**, and make sure **Allow Alerts** are enabled.

Note: Houston OEM does not send AMBER Alerts**.** We only use the WEA system for critical emergency alerts impacting public safety. We strongly urge residents to enable their emergency alerts in case of an imminent threat.

For more information about emergency alerts and preparedness, visit HoustonOEM.org/respond and follow us on social media:

- **Twitter/X:** HoustonOEM
- **Facebook:** /HoustonOEM
- **Instagram:** Houston_OEM

About: The City of Houston Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is the chief coordinating agency for disaster response in the nation's fourth-largest City; OEM provides emergency response coordination and communication assistance to City agencies, and serves as liaison to regional, state and federal agencies during times of emergency. In addition, OEM engages with the local community to promote emergency preparedness through a variety of initiatives. More information can be found at houstonoem.org.

5320 North Shepherd Drive
Houston, Texas 77091
www.houstonoem.org

Contact:
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Email: Ruth.Tovar@houstontx.gov

Mary Benton | **Chief of Communications
and Senior Advisor** for Mayor John
Whitmire
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