

# CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## New Limits on Ozone Place Austin Area in Jeopardy of Nonattainment Designation

On March 12th the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lowered the federal standard for ground-level ozone from 0.08 parts per million (ppm) to 0.075 ppm. A list of counties that may fail to meet the new standard includes Travis County in the CAPCOG region. The current monitored design value for the Austin area is the lowest it has been in years at 0.080 ppm, but is still 5 parts per billion above the new standard. While the only regulatory air monitoring stations in the region are located in Travis County, EPA would most likely include additional counties in the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as part of a nonattainment area designation.

EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson said, in setting the new standard, that his decision was based solely on health sci-



ence assessments, while pointing out that the Clean Air Act prevents EPA from considering costs of emission control

measures when establishing health-based standards. Ground-level ozone is the primary constituent of smog, and is a strong irritant that damages lung tissue and can aggravate respiratory problems and cause asthma attacks, especially in the very young and old segments of the population.

Formal nonattainment designations under the new standard will take some time due to the following factors:

- States are required to make their recommendations to EPA by Mar. 2009 for the areas that should be designated attainment (meets the standard), nonattainment (not meeting standards) and unclassifiable (insufficient data to classify).
- EPA will issue its final designations in Mar. 2010 (unclassifiable designations will be issued by Mar. 2011).
- States must submit State Implementation Plans by 2013 outlining how the nonattainment areas will meet the standards. (See *NONATTAINMENT* p. 4)

### Homeland Security Grant Program Eligibility Criteria Announced

The State of Texas has announced the eligibility criteria for the FY2008 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). These grants are intended to build regional capacity to respond to major incidents, especially those resulting from terrorist attack.

Since its inception, CAPCOG has administered the HSGP. To date, over \$15 million has been allocated to Homeland Security preparedness activities in the CAPCOG region. This includes: upgrading the telecommunications systems used by public safety agencies to coordinate their activities; equipping four strike teams to respond to incidents involving the use of weapons of mass destruction of all sorts—chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive;

purchasing additional equipment for the Austin Police Department's Explosive Ordnance Detail (Bomb Squad) that serves the 10-county CAPCOG region; training personnel in the techniques and procedures needed for emergency response; implementing a regional Emergency Notification System to provide local officials with the ability to provide timely warning information over telephone lines to threatened homes and businesses; and conducting a wide range of planning activities to ensure that all agencies within the region have a framework for cooperation in responding to major events.

To be eligible for FY2008 funding, cities and counties must have: (See *GRANT* p. 4)

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# Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Application Prioritization

Each year, states and territories receive VOCA funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, to support community-based organizations that serve crime victims. Approximately 5,600 grants are made to domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, child abuse programs, and victim service units in law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, hospitals, and social service agencies. These programs provide services that include crisis intervention, counseling, emergency shelter, criminal justice advocacy, and emergency transportation.

Priority is given to programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Additional funds must be set aside for underserved victims such as survivors of homicide victims and victims of drunk drivers.

In Texas, the administrative agency for VOCA funding is the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD). Each year, CJD contracts with the 24 regional councils of governments (COGs) to facilitate CJD's grant application process within each region, provide planning and prioritization for local governments, distribute information to potential grant ap-

plicants about CJD's application process and deadlines, facilitate local community-planning groups, and provide technical assistance throughout the grant year.

On Mar. 5, 2008, CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) reviewed 18 applications from around the CAPCOG region and prioritized them for recommended funding through the CJD. CAPCOG's Executive Committee reviewed and approved the prioritization order on Wed., Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>. Final award notification is expected from CJD sometime late in July 2008. The table below lists the applicants, programs, and recommended funding amounts.

Rank	Grant Number	Agency Name	Program / Project Name	FY 2009 Requested Amount	CJAC Recommended Amount	Difference	
1	1997001	Williamson County Crisis Center - B	Nonresident Victims of Family Violence and Sexual Assault	\$32,516	\$29,048	\$3,468	
2	2011301	Hays County Women's Center - B	Comprehensive Services to Victims of Sexual Assault - Adult and Child	\$150,000	\$104,600	\$45,400	
3	1366410	Hays County Women's Center - A	Comprehensive Shelter Services to Victims of Family Violence	\$150,000	\$138,000	\$12,000	
4	1400510	SafePlace - A	Crisis Services for Domestic & Sexual Violence Victims	\$150,000	\$141,144	\$8,856	
5	1377510	Williamson County Crisis Center - A	Victims of Family Violence and Sexual Assault	\$150,000	\$125,850	\$24,150	
6	1352810	Bastrop County Women's Shelter, dba Family Crisis Center - A	Victims Assistance Program (Non-Residential Program)	\$141,500	\$125,238	\$16,262	
7	2007401	Bastrop County Women's Shelter, dba Family Crisis Center - B	Victims Assistance Program (Residential Services)	\$133,500	\$118,758	\$14,742	
8	1366810	Highland Lakes Family Crisis Ctr	Family Violence/Sexual Assault Serv	\$83,278	\$75,050	\$8,228	
9	1357910	Children's Advocacy Center Serving Bastrop, Lee & Fayette Counties	Child Abuse Intervention and Treatment Program	\$75,000	\$60,900	\$14,100	
10	1401110	Center for Child Protection	Project Connect	\$88,512	\$80,013	\$8,499	
11	1367010	Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center	Crime Victim Assistance	\$93,943	\$82,419	\$11,524	
12	1400710	Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center	Child Abuse Intervention	\$124,296	\$106,342	\$17,954	
13	1754904	City of Austin, Austin Police Dept	On-Scene Crisis Response	\$134,604	\$102,738	\$31,866	
14	2009401	SafePlace - B	Counseling Services for Domestic & Sexual Violence Victims	\$150,000	\$131,644	\$18,356	
15	2011201	Hays County Women's Center - C	Comprehensive Outreach Services to Victims of Family Violence	\$140,000	\$104,700	\$35,300	
16	2010401	SafePlace - C	Case Management for Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims	\$150,000	\$129,972	\$20,028	
17	1696005	Austin Children's Shelter	Emergency Shelter for Victims of Child Abuse Project	\$114,500	\$102,034	\$12,466	
18	2000801	Travis County Juvenile Probation Department	Domestic Family Violence Mediation	\$24,906	\$18,269	\$6,637	
**The total amount of VOCA funding for FY 2008 was \$1,746,513, \$30,206 less than what is being recommended for FY 2009.				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,086,555</b>	<b>\$1,776,719</b>	<b>\$309,836</b>

## CAPCOG Hires New Training Coordinator

Elizabeth Mansfield joined CAPCOG in mid-February as the new Training Coordinator under CAPCOG's Regional Training Academy. Elizabeth will work with Criminal Justice, Emergency

Communications, Homeland Security, and other CAPCOG departments to schedule and coordinate a variety of in-service and general training events on and off-site of CAPCOG.

All training events are posted on the CAPCOG website at [www.capcog.org](http://www.capcog.org). Click on the

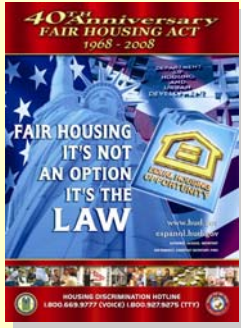
Training link to the left of the screen to access training opportunities. Information on the Basic Peace Officer Certification (BPOC) course can also be accessed through this link.

For specific training opportunity questions, [emansfield@capcog.org](mailto:emansfield@capcog.org), or by phone at 512-916-6162.



## April is Fair Housing Month

This year marks the 40th annual celebration of Fair Housing Month (1968 – 2008). Each April, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



commemorates this occasion and celebrates the strides it has made in furthering this landmark civil rights law. The 2008 Fair Housing Month theme is "Fair Housing: It's Not an Option, It's The Law."

The Fair Housing Act ensures that every person, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or familial status, can obtain the housing of their choice. What's more, the Act promotes the establishment of safe and secure communities where everyone, regardless of nationality, can live free from discrimination.

## First Telecommunicator Academy Graduates Nine

The first CAPCOG Basic Telecommunicator Training Academy (BT<sup>2</sup>) graduated nine students on April 4, 2008. For nine weeks the students completed 344 hours of intense training in the principals of Emergency Communications. The nine students who graduated represent 100% of those who started the class on Feb. 4, 2008.

CAPCOG Emergency Communications' staff, working with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE), 9-1-1 Districts, Home Rule Cities, other Councils of Governments (COGs), and local Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) supervisors, developed the in-depth curriculum that resulted in each individual learning the necessary skill sets to answer a 9-1-1 call for service, determine the nature of the call, and respond the proper emergency first responders. The intense course work detailed every aspect of Emergency Communications Telecommunications and the overall expectations of the profession. In addition

## CAPCOG Revamps Grant Alert Format

This month CAPCOG will begin publishing its popular *Grant Alert* Newsletter on a weekly basis. Historically a monthly publication, the new CAPCOG *Grant Alert* will target a broader audience with more RFPs oriented to various city and county departments as well as non-profit community organizations. The email-based format will require less research and will feature more grant applications that could be easily completed by city/county staff. Subscribers are encouraged to forward the newsletter onto department staff for review and follow-up.

The monthly CAPCOG *Grant Alert* will also have a new look. Whereas the previous *Grant Alert* had only one or two grant announcements under each category, members will now receive a document with 23 agency and foundation grant sites, each with a multitude of grant opportunities in categories ranging from Aging to Transportation. By clicking on the link at each site, you will be directed to the funder's grant site where you can hopefully find a grant to suit your community's needs.

## FY 2008 Solid Waste Grant Awards

Fourteen local governments will receive solid waste grants this year through CAPCOG's Solid Waste Grant Program, according to Kelly Freeman, Solid Waste Program Coordinator. The funds are from solid waste pass-through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Twenty-two applications were received with a total of \$817,450 requested; however, available funding for this year is \$442,000. The following is a list of local

government projects that will receive solid waste pass-through funding from TCEQ through CAPCOG:

Fayette County – baler; Burnet County – one day HHW event; Llano County – local enforcement equipment; Bastrop County – one day HHW event; Liberty Hill – community collection event; Lee County – recycling equipment; Cedar Park – one day HHW and cleanup event, environmental education and local enforcement officer training; Lockhart – one day HHW event, baler and local enforcement equipment; Hays County – building and equipment (*See SOLID WASTE p. 4*)

to learning customer service, penal code, and call-taking techniques, students learned how to speak on emergency radio systems, track field units, and respond to radio requests. They also became certified in Emergency Medical and Fire Dispatching (EMD, EFD), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).

The materials presented in the Academy represent the TCLEOSE-required curriculum for the Basic and Intermediate Telecommunicator Certificates. The only remaining requirement for each of these certificates is the actual time/experience of performing the tasks (one year for Basic and two years for Intermediate). Having these classroom skills at the onset of employment is a great asset not only for the Telecommunicator, but for the agency as well.

Students attending the Academy provided valuable feedback on the materials and timeframes associated with the materials to assist staff in fine tuning for future classes. In addition, staff will be surveying both the students and their PSAP supervisors in 60 days for input about the (*See TELECOMMUNICATOR p. 4*)

## New PSAP in CAPCOG Region

On Mar. 6, 2008, the Kyle Police Department (KPD) became the newest Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in the CAPCOG Region. CAPCOG and the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) have established criteria which allow cities experiencing high growth rates to be considered for a PSAP rather than having another agency answer their calls.

Kyle now receives 9-1-1 calls generated from within their city limits directly; (*see NEW PSAP, p. 4*)



First Telecommunicator Academy

**NONATTAINMENT** (cont'd from p. 1)

The EPA will then provide deadlines for the nonattainment areas to achieve attainment based on the severity of their air quality problem.

Counties and cities within the five-county Austin/Round Rock MSA have focused, for the past five years, on implementing a suite of proactive emission reduction measures, as committed to in the Early Action Compact, designed to reduce ground-level ozone. While this has been a very successful effort as reflected in the monitored design value being reduced by 4 parts per billion over the period, it will take a much more concerted effort, both in the MSA counties and for the Eastern 110 Counties in Texas, to achieve attainment of the new standard.

For more information about the new standards, you may visit the following website:

<http://www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/standards.html>

**GRANT** (cont'd from p. 1)

met the state's intermediate-level requirements for maintaining an Emergency Management Plan; complied with the 2007 National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements for local governments including formally adopting NIMS as their standard for conducting emergency planning and response

activities; and enrolled in the Texas Regional Response Network (TRRN).

CAPCOG's Homeland Security staff are working with cities and counties to correct any shortfalls in meeting these eligibility requirements. The CAPCOG Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) develop, review, and recommend funding priorities to CAPCOG's Executive Committee for approval. Due to the regional focus of the HSGP, HSTF members representing each of the CAPCOG counties are directly involved in setting funding priorities for their counties.

For more information about the HSGP or other CAPCOG Homeland Security activities, contact Ed Schaefer at 512-916-6026 or [eschaefer@capcog.org](mailto:eschaefer@capcog.org).

**SOLID WASTE** (cont'd from p. 3)

for recycle center; Austin – one day HHW collection event; Blanco – recycling facility improvement; Granite Shoals – collection event and local enforcement equipment; Hutto – education and outreach for curbside recycling program; and Burnet County – equipment for countywide recyclable collection.

By providing funding to projects such as those listed above, the Solid Waste Grant Program supports regional efforts toward waste reduction and the cleanup of litter and illegal dump sites. Through this support, the Grant Program contributes to a cleaner environment and better

quality of life for all Central Texans. CAPCOG will take applications for 2009 funding in May with scoring in June.

**TELECOMMUNICATOR** (cont'd from p. 3)

first Academies and to determine the effectiveness of the overall concept. The next BT<sup>2</sup> is tentatively set for Sept. 8, 2008. In the meantime, all of the Intermediate Certification courses will be offered through the Spring and Summer for current Telecommunicators to take so that our Region can achieve the goal of having all of our Emergency Service Telecommunicators TCLEOSE-certified as either Basic or Intermediate Telecommunicators.

**NEW PSAP** (cont'd from p. 3)

previously the calls were received by the Hays County Sheriff's Office and transferred back to KPD on a non-emergency line which puts the caller in "voice-touch" with a dispatcher but doesn't include the 9-1-1 data (telephone number and street address) of the caller. According to CAPCOG Emergency Communications Director Becky Stewart, the goal regionwide is to have identification information attached to every 9-1-1 call so that the caller can receive assistance even if he is unable to speak or the call is dropped.

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