Technology, Hydrology and Meteorology - Tools to Flood Mitigation in the Texas Medical Center

Bill Wheeler, Director
Preparedness Services, Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas

Abstract
Discussion of the 60 year development of the Texas Medical Center as it relates to urban development on a coastal flood plain and the introduction of high tech infrastructure to grow and operate in this environment. The basic flood history of the area will be discussed as well as the first flash flood mitigation concepts will be described. A step by step description of the approach to developing the current day philosophy of how to handle flash floods in the Texas Medical Center area will be outlined and brief descriptions of the technologies used will be presented.

“Where do we go from here?”, this topic will cover the new technologies that are under development that will enhance the hardened flood infrastructure of Texas Medical Center as well as be examples of how others can duplicate these efforts to protect vital infrastructure in their own communities. Finally the topic of Vigilance will be discussed so we can understand that you we are never finished studying flooding on coastal plains.