



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NET Health Receives Statewide Award for Emergency Preparedness Services in Van Zandt County

Tyler, Texas (January 2, 2018) – The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) for NET Health provides planning, logistics and operational support for natural disaster preparedness in 7 East Texas counties – Henderson, Rains, Van Zandt, Wood, Gregg, Smith and Anderson counties. Vicki McAlister, the PHEP County Coordinator who serves Henderson, Rains & Van Zandt counties, was recently recognized at the 2017 Preparedness Coalition Symposium in Galveston, Texas, with the 2017 Texas Preparedness Leadership Award.

“Vicki McAlister is the true definition of a leader and has made us all proud to work with her, not only in the Public Health role, but as the Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) for Van Zandt County,” says Russell Hopkins, Director of the NET Health PHEP Department. “She is well respected and known throughout our area as having a heart for her community and those she serves.”

Vicki McAlister’s jurisdiction covers 2,067 square miles, more than twice the size of Smith County. Approximately 144,250 people live in Henderson, Rains & Van Zandt counties, which include the cities of Athens, Emory, Canton, Van, Brownsboro, Chandler and Wills Point. On April 29, 2017, seven tornadoes touched down in Van Zandt County, two of tornadoes touched down in Henderson County, and one of those tornadoes traveled from Henderson County thru Van Zandt County and into Rains County.

Ever since these incidents, Vicki has worked many hours tirelessly serving as the EMC and as a Public Health Response Coordinator, and is still involved with the Van Zandt County Long Term Recovery Group, to ensure that those affected by the tornadoes have the assistance they need to begin to rebuild their homes and their lives.

If you would like to learn how your county can plan and prepare for tornadoes, flash floods and related natural disasters, then please call (903) 595 - 1350, or you can email us at ContactUs@netphd.org.

About the Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health)

Our Public Health services are provided to the citizens of Tyler include Vital Statistics, Environmental Health, Immunizations, Tuberculosis Control and a Regional Laboratory. NET Health also provide public emergency preparedness services to seven East Texas counties & our WIC offices assist families in 20 East Texas counties.

The mission of NET Health is to promote health, prevent illness and protect our community.

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