



## **City of McKinney Press Release**

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**Media Contact:**

Stacie Durham

McKinney Fire Department

[sdurham@mckinneytexas.org](mailto:sdurham@mckinneytexas.org)

Office: 972-547-2893 Mobile: 972-658-3575

## **Emergency Management Leaders Recognized**

### **McKinney Program Manager Receives Distinguished Service Award**

**McKINNEY, TEXAS (Feb 20, 2013)** – At around 10:30 p.m. on May 9, 2006, an F3 tornado swept through Westminster, leveling and damaging many homes, and killing 3.

Coordination of the response and recovery were overseen by Emergency Management and public safety personnel from across the County, including Collin County Department of Homeland Security, Collin County Sheriff's Office, and McKinney Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management.

Emergency Managers are tasked with protecting their communities by coordinating and integrating all activities to build, sustain, and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters. McKinney is recognized as a leader in the State of Texas in the field of Emergency Management, due in large part to the leadership of Emergency Management Coordinator Karen Adkins.

With a B.S. Degree in Emergency Management from the University of North Texas, Adkins was recently recognized for her leadership and influence on emergency management capabilities in Texas. Nominated by peers from across the State, Adkins was presented with the Emergency Management Association of Texas (EMAT) Distinguished Service Award at the EMAT Annual Conference held recently in San Marcos.

According to McKinney Fire Chief Danny Kistner, "The Distinguished Service Award is the highest award EMAT gives to honor emergency management professionals who, through their long-term efforts, have clearly influenced the field in a positive manner. Recipients are considered the top in their field and provide leadership that inspires and promotes excellence. The City of McKinney is excited that Karen has been recognized by her peers and thanks her for her continued efforts on behalf of not only our citizens; but, the entire state of Texas."

“This is such an honor to be recognized by my peers. EMAT has many deserving members working hard to ensure their communities are prepared to meet the challenges brought on by disaster,” commented Adkins. “Emergency Management is one of the most important roles government plays in the welfare and safety of its citizens. It is a term that was unfamiliar to most people prior to the events of Sept. 11, 2001. But, as McKinney has seen in recent years, Emergency Management is imperative in the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation of not only local disasters; but, of disasters from other parts of the country, such as providing for the shelter and other needs of Hurricane Katrina evacuees in 2005.”

The City of McKinney offers opportunities for citizens to learn more about Emergency Management and disaster survival through the McKinney Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. If you are interested in this program, or in obtaining additional information about preparing your friends and family for response to disasters, please visit [www.mckinneyfire.org](http://www.mckinneyfire.org) or call 972-547-2866.

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### **About McKinney**

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., McKinney has a current population of more than 141,000. Incorporated in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers rolling hills, lush trees, a historic downtown square and unique neighborhoods and developments, and it was recently ranked as the #2 Best Places to Live by Money Magazine in 2012. Visit the city's website at [www.mckinneytexas.org](http://www.mckinneytexas.org).

