

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 11, 2026

Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee

TO Cara Mendelsohn (Chair), Jesse Moreno (Vice Chair), Laura Cadena, Maxie Johnson, Jaime Resendez, William Roth, Kathy Stewart

SUBJECT **Final Operational Preparedness Update: Public Safety and Emergency Management Planning for FIFA World Cup 2026**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a final pre-event status update on the public safety and emergency preparedness efforts for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. It reflects the coordinated posture of the Office of Emergency Management & Crisis Response (EMCR), Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR), and the Dallas Police Department (DPD).

After 18 months of coordinated planning, training, and interagency exercises, Dallas is entering final operational readiness for the FIFA World Cup with established command structures, venue-specific plans, and regional & Federal coordination systems in place.

Interagency Coordination Structure

EMCR, DPD, and DFR are operating with a coordinated framework that includes regional local public safety agencies, multiple state partners, and federal entities including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The FBI is leading a Joint Operations Center (JOC) to serve as a central coordination node across all federal, state, and local agencies during the tournament.

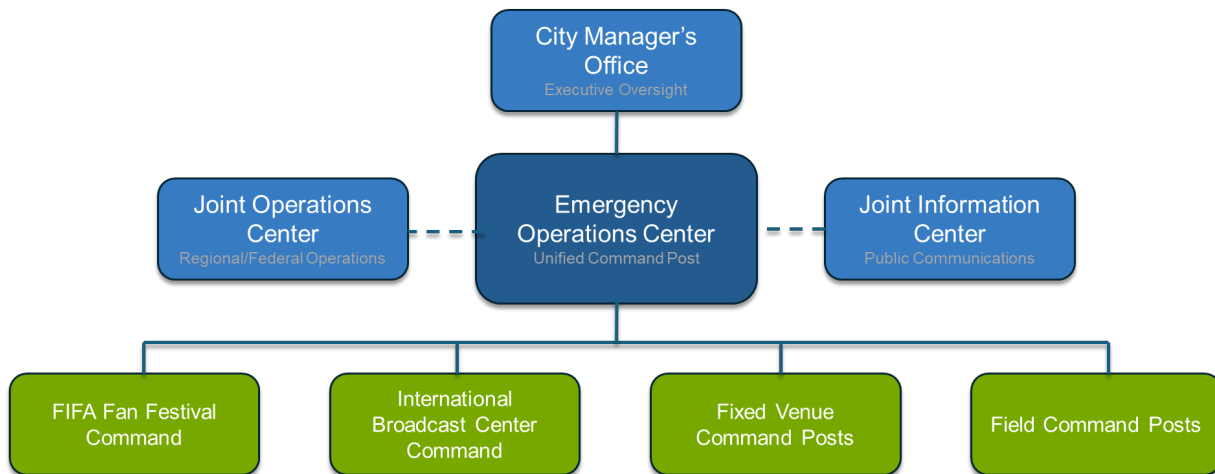
Internally, EMCR is activating the city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) beginning June 11th to serve as Dallas Command. The EOC will operate each day of the tournament and provide command and control for all FIFA-related operations within the City of Dallas. Key departments represented in the EOC Incident Management Team (IMT) include EMCR, DPD, DFR, Transportation & Public Works, and Communications & Customer Experience.

The Joint Operations Center will coordinate Federal and regional intelligence, while the City's Emergency Operations Center will serve as Dallas' central area command.

The IMT will operate under a set of standing objectives that will guide our overall response throughout the tournament.

1. **Protect Life and Ensure Public Safety:** Maintain coordinated law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical response capabilities across all City of Dallas FIFA World Cup venues, event sites, and public gathering areas.
2. **Sustain Situational Awareness and Unified Command:** Operate a continuously staffed EOC with real-time information sharing across all activated command posts, partner agencies, and the JOC to support timely, informed decision-making for the duration of the event.
3. **Preserve Continuity of City Services:** Maintain routine city services continuity including traffic management, public communications, neighborhood impacts, and quality of life.
4. **Enable Rapid Consequence Management:** Maintain activation-ready response plans for credible threat scenarios with clearly defined escalation triggers, notification protocols, and resource mobilization procedures.

City of Dallas Incident Management Team Organizational Structure



The City Manager maintains executive oversight, with the EOC serving as the City's primary area command that interfaces with the Federally-managed JOC and regional JIC.

Training and Exercise

Over the last 18 months, the city has conducted a significant volume of training and exercise activity in direct preparation for World Cup operations. This work spanned individual skill development, multi-agency coordination, and full-scale scenario exercises across multiple venues and command levels.

At the tactical level, first responders completed Federal Interagency Hazmat training, establishing a shared baseline for managing complex, multi-hazard incidents. The MetroX regional exercise tested coordination across jurisdictions on mass casualty and

transportation scenarios specific to the tournament footprint. An executive seminar convened senior leaders from across the city to align on command priorities and decision-making protocols. DPD and DFR also conducted a series of joint command-level active shooter training courses. DFR also updated procedures and training to include Intentional Mass Casualty response that enhances the survivability of individuals impacted by violent acts.

Additionally, several tabletop exercises have occurred or are planned between now and the tournament start. These include venue specific exercises that focus on the Fan Festival, the International Broadcast Center, and the JOC.

Emergency Management

EMCR's role is focused on coordination, continuity, and consequence management. Within the city's Emergency Operations Plan, risk scenarios accounted for include mass casualty events, civil unrest, severe weather, and security threats. In each of these, EMCR is the convening entity across all relevant responding agencies and ensures that command-level strategy can be communicated to the field for tactical implementation.

The EOC escalation and notification framework is built for daily command operations, with a tiered activation model that scales based on incident type and severity. In addition to the in-person representatives, many additional departments and agencies will be connected virtually so that we reduce the time it takes to communicate critical information to our partners.

Law Enforcement

DPD is implementing several safety and security measures designed to improve public safety, reduce risk, and support safe venues and movement while minimizing disruption. DPD operational planning covers venue security, crowd and traffic management, pedestrian safety, contingency planning, and dignitary and Very Very Important Person (VVIP) escort protocols across all 9 matches and related event sites. Intelligence operations are central to DPD's approach: the department is integrating its Fusion Center, Real Time Crime Center, and intelligence partnerships to build and maintain continuous situational awareness throughout the tournament. This includes fan and team threat assessments, fan behavior profiles, and coordination with the FIFA Team Security Liaison Officers (TSLO) and the FBI's International Police Cooperation Center (IPCC), which facilitates information sharing with foreign law enforcement agencies traveling with their national teams.

DPD is also expanding its technological footprint in support of World Cup operations. The department is launching its Drone as First Responder program, which will provide aerial

situational awareness for match-day operations and large crowd events. CCTV coverage is being extended around key venues to enhance monitoring capability. Physical security enhancements, including additional barriers, are being procured and positioned at event sites in coordination with venue security teams and federal partners.

Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Public Health

DFR is building a sustained operational model calibrated to 39 days of elevated activity. Heat emergency protocols are a non-negotiable planning element for a June–July tournament in North Texas. DFR has developed specific heat mitigation procedures for outdoor venues and high-density crowd environments, in coordination with the FIFA Fan Festival site management team. Hazardous materials and special operations resources, including Preventative Radiological and Nuclear Detection (PRND) assets, are staged in accordance with credible risk scenarios across the tournament footprint. Venue inspections are ongoing and will continue through the tournament period to identify and mitigate life safety concerns.

Public health planning is coordinated with Dallas County Health and Human Services and reflects the unique considerations of a large international visitor population, including disease surveillance and communicable illness monitoring.

Specialized Threat Domains

DHS has designated all 78 U.S.-based FIFA matches as Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) I and II events. This rating determines what level of federal security support, intelligence sharing, and interagency coordination the event receives, with a SEAR I event being the highest. The Dallas Fusion Center will provide real-time intelligence and threat monitoring across federal, state, and local partners. DPD’s operations plan is built to evolve in response to intelligence developments throughout the tournament.

The FAA has designated all official World Cup event spaces as No Drone Zones, and a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) will be active over the FIFA Fan Festival. Passive counter-UAS detection and mitigation technology is being deployed across venues. This capability is funded in part through the federal Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) Grant Program. City Council accepted an award of \$10,382,400.00 through this program on April 8, 2026.

Transportation and Crowd Movement

Match-day transportation management is a shared responsibility coordinated across the Department of Transportation & Public Works DPD, DFR, EMCR, , DART, TXDOT, and

other key agencies. Planning has been calibrated through 18 months of tabletop exercises that specifically modeled transit times and traffic flow between Dallas, Arlington, and Fort Worth.

Traffic management and road closure protocols are in place around Fair Park for match days and Fan Festival operations. Pedestrian flow management plans cover the entertainment districts most likely to see sustained crowd pressure before and after matches. Public transit surge coordination with DART is ongoing, with route and frequency adjustments planned for match days. Airport operations at DFW International and Dallas Love Field will face sustained pressure throughout the 39-day period; coordination with airport operations and TSA is underway to manage the international arrival and departure surges associated with team travel and fan movements.

Conclusion

Dallas is prepared to serve our residents and welcome the world to our city during this global event. The interagency planning teams that have collaborated over the last two years have resulted in clear areas of responsibility and relationships that will enable us to rapidly respond to emergent hazards or threats.

Service First, Now!



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