



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

The Boundary Marker

Spring 2017



USIBWC Employees CPR Certified

More than 50 employees from the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) became cardiopulmonary resuscitation certified, commonly known as CPR, on Feb. 27 and 28 at Headquarters. Luise Martinez, Lead Public Safety Officer from the Amistad Dam Field Office, instructed employees from the Zacarias Dominguez/Fort Hancock, Texas, Las Cruces, N.M., American Dam/Carlos Marin, and the Headquarters office in El Paso, Texas.

Martinez has been with IBWC seven years, and is certified to teach the class. During the two-day class, employees became trained and certified in CPR, Automated External Defibrillator, or AED, first aid, and bloodborne pathogens. While the CPR, AED and first aid certification is valid for two years, the bloodborne certification is valid for only one year.

Martinez said that many employees work at remote sites, so they might not have an emergency response team that can arrive in a reasonable amount of time needed, so the quicker someone can perform CPR and compressions, it's more likely for the person to recover.

"They have a greater chance of recovering and saving that person's life instead of waiting for help to arrive," said Martinez.

Martinez said the morning portion of the class was instructional on how to give chest compressions, how to perform first aid, and how to use an AED. In the afternoon, employees practiced chest compressions on a mannequin.



USIBWC employees practice chest compressions on mannequins during CPR training Feb. 27-28 at Headquarters. Photo by Lori Kuczanski/IBWC Public Affairs Officer

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Common Heart Attack

Warning Signs

1. Pain or discomfort in the chest
 2. Lightheadedness, nausea, or vomiting
 3. Jaw, neck or back pain
 4. Discomfort or pain in arm or shoulder
 5. Shortness of breath
- (American Heart Assoc)

The employees heard a clicking sound if they were properly doing chest compressions.

“It’s important to give CPR, or at least chest compressions, because in just 10 minutes, a person begins to lose brain functions, so the quicker you begin CPR, the better it is for the casualty,” said Martinez.

Martinez said with the range of employees’ age, physical abilities and working in the field, it’s good to have multiple employees CPR and first aid trained.

“If we have a couple of employees CPR certified in each office, it helps,” said Martinez.

Martinez said the employees enjoyed the training and the class size proved that.

“Everyone participated well,” said Martinez.

Hayley Goodstein, Language Specialist, participated in the training partly



Jennifer Rossin, Lead Public Safety Officer, American Dam, practices chest compressions during the practical exercise portion of the CPR training held Feb. 27 & 28 at Headquarters. (Photo by: Lori Kuczanski/IBWC Public Affairs Officer)

because of how long it has been since the last time she was certified.

“It’s been 15 years since I’ve taken CPR and it’s good to get a refresher course,” said Goodstein.

“Stuff has changed, such as the AED; we didn’t use them years ago,” said Goodstein.

Lastly, a 30-question written exam was given to the employees.

A passing grade of 70 percent was required to earn the certification.

Martinez said everyone in the class passed the test and is now CPR certified.

“Just because you sit in an office doesn’t mean you don’t need to know CPR,” said Martinez.





U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina, left, and Mexican Commissioner Roberto Salmon, shake hands after signing Minute 321—Official Means of Identification of Vehicles and Other Equipment Crossing the International Boundary on Official Business of the Commission or of Either Section, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on January 19, 2017. (Courtesy Photo)

2 Minute Signings in One Day



From Left: Mexican Secretary Jesus Luevano, Mexican Commissioner Roberto Salmon, U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina, and U.S. Secretary Sally Spener after signing Minute 322— Extension of the Temporary Emergency Delivery of Colorado River Water for Use in Tijuana, Baja California, on January 19, 2017 at the U.S. Section, El Paso Texas. (Photo by: Lori Kuczanski/IBWC Public Affairs Officer)

Restoration Site Visit

Elizabeth Verdecchia, USIBWC Natural Resource Specialist, took members of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Elephant Butte Irrigation District, environmental groups, contractors, and a member of the USIBWC's Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board, on a site tour of the Rio Grande Canalization Project (RGCP) on January 18-20.

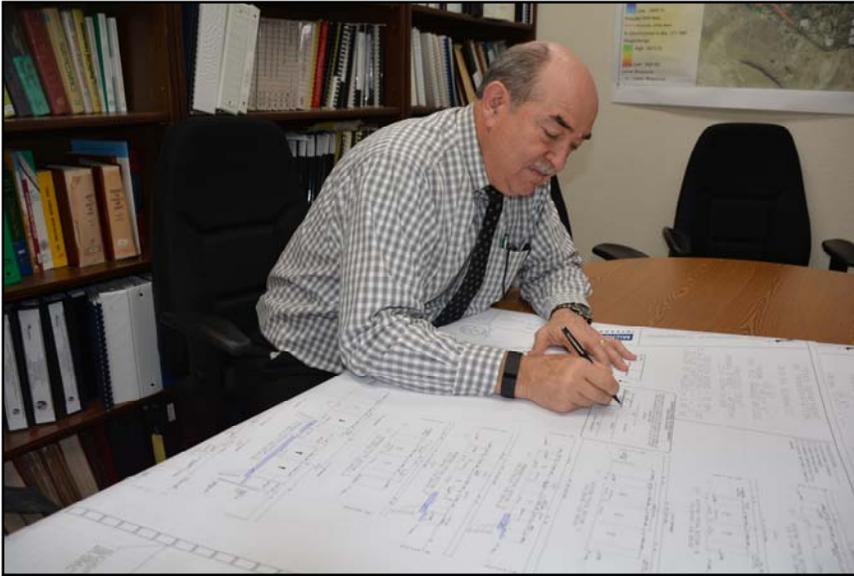
USFWS came down from Albuquerque for several days to tour the RGCP and discuss river management, including habitat restoration and ongoing maintenance, with USIBWC and stakeholders. USIBWC is updating its Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation documentation (the first step of which is called a Biological Assessment) to ensure that river management actions do not have adverse effects on endangered or threatened species. One reason for updating the consultation is because USIBWC finalized its River Management Plan in December 2016, including a chapter outlining channel maintenance. Another reason is because the USFWS recently listed the yellow-billed cuckoo as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The USIBWC showed the USFWS and other participants the ongoing river management activities, including USIBWC's habitat restoration sites and areas of anticipated channel maintenance (such as islands that might need to be removed). The group also assessed areas of the floodplain that USIBWC has stopped mowing to see if there might be suitable habitat for endangered or threatened species.



Liz Verdecchia, Natural Resource Specialist, shows the group the restoration sites along the Rio Grande in El Paso, Texas. (Photo by: Lori Kuczanski/IBWC Public Affairs Officer)

Commissioner Signs Bridge Plans



Commissioner Edward Drusina signs the Conceptual Plans for the Presidio, Texas—Ojinaga, Chihuahua International Bridge (also known as the Road Bridge), a 2-lane highway, on March 15, 2017. Now that the plans have IBWC approval, TxDot will begin construction with Texas Pacifico Transportation Ltd.

(Photo by: Lori Kuczanski/
IBWC Public Affairs Officer)

Staff Members from the House Oversight and Government Reform, Interior Subcommittee Visit IBWC

Staff Delegation from the United States House of Representatives, Oversight and Government Reform, Interior Subcommittee, visited USIBWC in El Paso, Texas, to learn about our mission and how we settle land and water differences with Mexico, should they arise.

Ms. Sally Spener, Foreign Affairs Officer, briefed the six Staff Members during their visit.

After the meeting, the Staff Delegation walked to Monument 1 and took a picture with their feet on the border of the U.S. and Mexico.

(Photo by: Lori Kuczanski/IBWC Public Affairs Officer)



Who is the IBWC?

The International Boundary and Water Commission was first established in 1889 as the International Boundary Commission. The IBWC has the responsibility for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling differences that may arise out of these treaties.

The mission of the United States Section of the IBWC is to provide sensitive, timely, and fiscally responsible boundary, water, and environmental services along the United States and Mexico border region. We pledge to provide these services in an atmosphere of binational cooperation and a manner responsive to public concern and our stakeholders.

The 1944 Water Treaty distributed between the United States and Mexico the waters of the Colorado River as well as the waters of the Rio Grande from Fort Quitman, Texas to the Gulf of Mexico; authorized the joint construction and operation of international storage dams on the Rio Grande, and entrusted the Commission to give preferential attention to the solution of border sanitation problems. In addition, the treaty changed the name of the International Boundary Commission to the International Boundary and Water Commission to reflect the Commission's expanded role. The IBWC also has an active role in the operation of international wastewater treatment plants, water quality monitoring, regional water planning, enhancing boundary demarcation, flood control, including maintenance of levees and floodways, silt removal, and the operation of dams and hydroelectric plants.



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