

Ricardo Saldaña

Emergency Management Coordinator, Hidalgo County



Ricardo Saldaña is a distinguished figure in the field of emergency management, renowned for his extensive experience and exceptional leadership skills. With a career spanning over 30 years as an Emergency Management Coordinator and previous tenure as Chief of Fire, Saldaña has become synonymous with effective crisis response and disaster preparedness.

His journey in emergency services commenced with a passion for firefighting, where he dedicated himself to protecting lives and property within his community. His leadership during times of crisis has been nothing short of exemplary. Saldaña helped lead the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, Hidalgo County became one of the nation's most afflicted COVID hot spots and Saldaña not only handled the county's response to that virus, he simultaneously coordinated the logistical

response to Hurricane Hannah and its subsequent flooding. Saldaña was also at the forefront of coordinating the response to the Valentine's freeze of 2021 that left major pockets of Hidalgo County without electricity and usable water for up to a week. He was involved in logistical coordination for Hurricanes Ike, Dolly and the local response to Harvey as well as other local major incidents within the region.

Prior to becoming Hidalgo County's Emergency Management Coordinator Ricardo Saldaña worked with the Mission Fire Department for 33 years – 17 of those years as Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Mission.

Beyond his official duties, he is a passionate advocate for community engagement and resilience-building initiatives. He recognizes the importance of fostering strong relationships with municipalities and empowering individuals to take an active role in emergency preparedness efforts. He currently serves on the Texas Emergency Management Advisory Committee, LRGVDC Homeland Security Advisory Committee, and other local committees.