

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address April 19, 2013  
“Tragedies Among Us”

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Hello. This is your congressman, Michael Burgess. This has been a tough week in America. This past Monday there was a cruel attack in the heart of Boston, taking innocent lives and injuring many people.

On Wednesday, tragedy struck again closer to home in the city of West, Texas. A massive blast at a fertilizer plant killed and wounded more precious lives. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims in Boston and West.

As a doctor for over 25 years, I know that the first hour in a trauma response is critical. In Boston, trained personnel, as well as participants and spectators, became part of an ad hoc mass casualty team, taking many of the severely wounded and injured to hospitals within the first 15 minutes of their injury. If needed, patients were immediately brought into surgery. Many victims' lives have been saved because of the immediate response and prompt reaction of emergency and medical personnel.

At home, in West, victims were swiftly taken to major hospitals in Waco, Temple, and Dallas by EMS personnel. Firefighters, some willing to sacrifice their lives, rushed to the massive fire to tame any further damage. So many emergency personnel volunteered that the public safety department actually asked for no further assistance.

Our country's efforts in response to the two catastrophes in Boston and West, Texas has renewed a sense of resolve in many Americans, myself included. The quick reaction of the first responders, the physicians, the firefighters, the local communities have been impeccable. They are national heroes, and I am ever so grateful for their selflessness. If you are able to donate blood for the victims in West, please check with your local hospital or bank.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information about this issue and other issues before the United States Congress, please visit my website at [burgess.house.gov](http://burgess.house.gov). May God bless you and your family, hold them close today, may God bless our first responders, and as always, may God bless Texas.