

Juan Ortiz Bio

A native Texan, born in Rio Hondo and raised in Brownsville Texas, Juan attended the University of North Texas in Denton. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning in May 1994.

Juan began his career in 1994 with the City of Fort Worth Office of Emergency Management as an Emergency Management Officer until the summer of 1998, when he accepted the position of Emergency Management Coordinator with the City of Corpus Christi. In 2003, Juan accepted the position of Emergency Management Coordinator with the City of Fort Worth where his primary duties included the coordination of response to major emergencies and disasters through a joint City and County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In 2005, Juan coordinated the EOC operations in response to both Hurricane Katrina and Rita, and in 2008 coordinated all city operations in response to both Hurricane Gustav and Ike. In 2011, Juan coordinated the Fort Worth EOC operations in support of Super Bowl 45 and record-setting winter storm.

In 2017, Juan accepted the position of Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the City of Austin. He has been responsible for the City of Austin's response to Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and Hurricane Laura in 2020, the Colorado River Flood in 2018, Winter Storm Uri in 2021 and the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020-2021.

Juan retired from the United States Coast Guard Reserve in 2015 as a Chief Petty Officer with 28 years of service. Juan's military services included Coast Guard Reserve Unit Port Isabel, Reserve Unit Dallas, and Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi, among others.

In 2001, the University of North Texas recognized Juan as a Distinguished Alumni for his contribution to the profession of emergency management. Juan has completed the City of Fort Worth Leadership Development Program and the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) Executive Leadership Development Program. He is a founding member of the Fort Worth Hispanic Leadership Organization.

Juan is a member of the Emergency Management Association of Texas, the International Association of Emergency Managers, International City/County Management Association, and the Local Government Hispanic Network.