



Texas Department of Public Safety

Division of Emergency Management

Facing the Storm:

January 22, 2016



TDEM Initiatives

- Coordinate the **state emergency management program**
- Increase **public awareness** about threats and hazards
- Provide **specialized training** for emergency responders and local officials
- Administer **disaster recovery** and **hazard mitigation** programs



Texas by the Numbers

- 254 *Counties* | 1,210 *Cities* | 1,025 *ISDs*
- Six of the most populous cities in the U.S.
 - #4 Houston
 - #7 San Antonio
 - #9 Dallas
 - #11 Austin
 - #17 Fort Worth
 - #19 El Paso





Major Disaster Declarations Since 1953*

• 10.	Iowa	56
	West Virginia	56
• 9.	Missouri	57
• 8.	Alabama	58
• 7.	Arkansas	59
• 6.	Kentucky	61
	Louisiana	61
• 5.	Florida	67
• 4.	New York	70
• 3.	Oklahoma	77
• 2.	California	81

*As of January 6, 2016



Major Disaster Declarations Since 1953

- 1. TEXAS 90
 - EMER 13
 - FMAG 236
 - **TOTAL 339**
- The Lone Star State has recorded 90 **Major Disasters** in 62 years
- 1 EVERY 8 ½ MONTHS



Disaster Declaration Thresholds

- To qualify for federal assistance after a disaster states must meet a pre-established, population based damage threshold.

Thresholds	
Texas	\$35,455,241
Arkansas	\$ 4,111,444
Louisiana	\$ 6,932,055
Oklahoma	\$ 5,289,405
New Mexico	\$ 2,903,442



Incident Management in Texas

- Incidents typically **begin and end locally**, and are managed on a daily basis at the **closest possible** geographical, organizational, and jurisdictional level.





Local Governments

- **Local governments** (counties, cities, or towns) respond to *emergencies* daily using their own resources
- They rely on **mutual aid** and assistance agreements with neighboring jurisdictions
- When local jurisdictions cannot meet incident response resource needs with their own resources or with help available from other local jurisdictions, they may ask the **state for assistance**



Local Authority in Texas

- **Mayors** and **county judges** serve as emergency management directors
- Responsible for maintaining an emergency management program within their respective jurisdictions
- Officials often appoint an **emergency management coordinator** (EMC)
- Mayor and county judge are authorized by the Texas Disaster Act to declare a **local** disaster when conditions exist or when there is an immediate threat



State of Texas

- States have significant resources of their own
- If additional resources are required, the state may request assistance from other states through interstate mutual aid and assistance agreements such as the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)



Federal Government

- If an incident is beyond local and state capabilities, the **governor** can request federal assistance
- The governor's request is made through the **FEMA** Regional Administrator and based on a finding that the disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, federal assistance is granted



Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)

- Provide structure for **coordinating interagency support** for response to an incident
- Functions are grouped together for **most frequently used** support during declared disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act



Texas – Strong **Partners** in Disaster Response

- Local jurisdictions
- Regional Organizations (RACs)
- Voluntary Organizations
- Special Response Teams (Emergency Medical Task Force [EMTF], Texas Task Force 1, Public Works Response Team [PWRT])
- Local volunteer special response teams (Search One, TEXSAR, TCSAR, AASAR)
- Private Sector
- State Government – TDEM and the Emergency Management Council



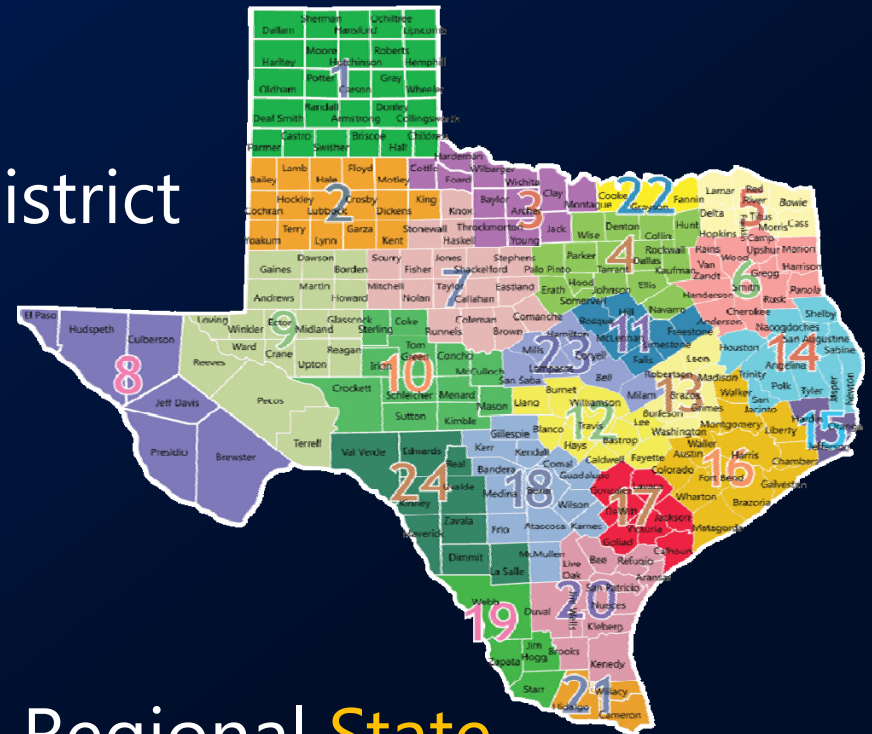
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State Disaster Districts

- Texas has 24 disaster districts.
- Each disaster district has a TDEM District Coordinator(s).
- Field Response Regional State Coordinators oversee the team of district coordinators.





Requesting State Assistance Through DDCs

- Staging areas
- Direction and control of resources
- Incident Management Team (IMT) support
- Facilities and equipment
- State and District Coordinator interface





Risks Change Rapidly!



May



October

Photo credit:
KXAN
Top – Shoal Creek Flood
May 25, 2015
Bottom – Hidden Pines Fire
October 14, 2015





Personal Responsibility

- Are you ready?
- Is your family prepared?
- Does your workplace have a plan?
- Does your church, place of worship or civic organization have a plan?
- Does your neighborhood have a plan?









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