



**Texas Department of  
Public Safety**

**Division of Emergency  
Management**

**Newly Elected County Judges &  
Commissioners**

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January 15, 2015



**TDEM Initiatives**

- Ensure the state and its local governments **prepare** for, **respond** to and **recover** from emergencies and disasters.
- Increase **public awareness** about threats and hazards.
- Provide **specialized training** for emergency responders and local officials.
- Administer disaster **recovery** and hazard **mitigation** programs.




### Major Disaster Declarations Since 1953

- 10. Iowa 55
- 9. Missouri 56
- 8. Kentucky 57
- 7. Alabama 58
- 6. Louisiana 60
- 5. Florida 67
- 4. New York 70
- 3. Oklahoma 75
- 2. California 80



### Major Disaster Declarations Since 1953

- 1. Texas 88
- The Lone Star State's covers over 268,000 square miles (second only to Alaska in size), and **one major disaster is declared nearly every year.**
- Texas has dealt with tornadoes, floods, wildfires, droughts, winter storms, hurricanes and man-made disasters.




## Disasters in Texas

- Federally Declared Disasters in Texas from 1989-2015.
  - Total – 288
    - **Emergency** Declarations - **13**
    - **Major** Disasters – **40**
    - Fire Management Assistance Declaration (**FMAG**) – **235**



## Texas by the Numbers

- Four of the most populous cities in the U.S.
  - #4 Houston
  - #7 San Antonio
  - #9 Dallas
  - #13 Austin





## Texas by the Numbers

- Texas hosts eight of the fastest-growing large cities from April 1, 2010 – July 2011.
  - #2 Round Rock
  - #3 Austin
  - #4 Plano
  - #5 McKinney
  - #6 Frisco
  - #7 Denton
  - #13 McAllen
  - #14 Carrollton



## Texas Population Growth

- Large and growing population compounds disaster numbers.
- 2010 Texas population: 25,145,561
- 2013 Texas population *estimate*: 26,448,193
- *Estimated* population increase of 1,302,632 residents.



## Texas State Law

- **Governor** appoints Public Safety Commission (PSC)(5 members)
- **Director**, Department of Public Safety (DPS) is appointed by the PSC
- **Chief**, DPS, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is appointed by the DPS Director, with approval of the Governor



## Incident Management in Texas

- Incidents typically begin and end locally, and are managed on a daily basis at the **lowest 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.



## 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.
- Emergency or major disaster declaration.
- 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.



## 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.



## Appointment Task - TDEM-147

- Sec. 418.101. ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS SERVED. (b) The presiding officer of the governing body of each political subdivision shall notify the division of the manner in which the political subdivision is providing or securing an emergency management program, identify the person who heads the agency responsible for the program, and furnish additional pertinent information that the division requires. The person so designated shall accomplish training prescribed by the division.
- <http://www.dps.texas.gov/InternetForms/Forms/TDEM-147.pdf>

## Texas Government Code

Sec. 418.108. DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER.

(f) The county judge or the mayor of a municipality may order the evacuation of all or part of the population from a stricken or threatened area under the jurisdiction and authority of the county judge or mayor if the county judge or mayor considers the action necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery.

(g) The county judge or the mayor of a municipality may control ingress to and egress from a disaster area under the jurisdiction and authority of the county judge or mayor and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that area.

(h) For purposes of Subsections (f) and (g):

**(1) the jurisdiction and authority of the county judge includes the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county; and**

**(2) to the extent of a conflict between decisions of the county judge and the mayor, the decision of the county judge prevails.**







## Texas Government Code

- Sec. 418.102. COUNTY PROGRAMS. (a) Each county shall maintain an emergency management program or participate in a local or interjurisdictional emergency management program that, except as otherwise provided by this chapter, has jurisdiction over and serves the entire county or interjurisdictional area.



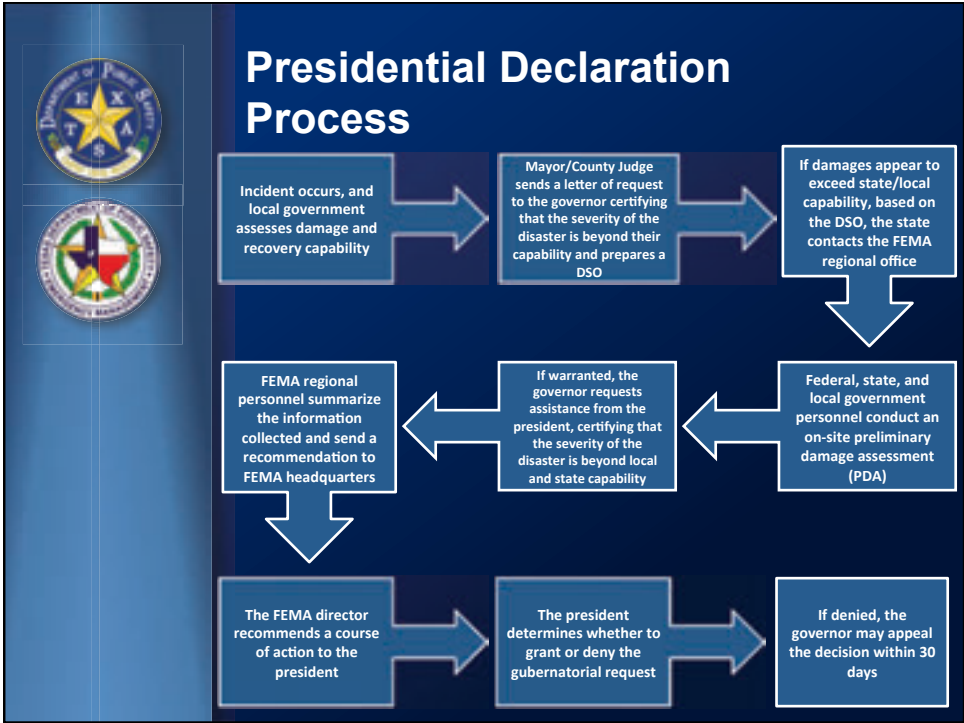
## Local Plans



- Texas jurisdictions develop emergency operations plans that consist of a basic plan and functional annexes and appendices.
- The Basic Plan outlines a jurisdiction's approach to emergency operations, and provides general guidance for emergency management activities.



## The Basic Plan



- Includes methods of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Describes the emergency response organization and assigns responsibilities for various emergency tasks.





## Recovery Operations

- Chief elected official of a jurisdiction has overall authority for local recovery activities.
- Responsible for submitting a written request for assistance and completing the Disaster Summary Outline (DSO).



## Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Mistakes

- Incomplete data fields on the DSO.
- Not reaching out to stakeholders for damage reports.
- Lack of documentation to support DSOs.
- Stopping collection of damage assessments once thresholds are met.
- Deciding to not submit DSO/asking for PDAs even though there is extensive damage, but less than the threshold.



## Regional Disaster Finance Coordinators



- Work with local government chief financial officers, budget directors, finance directors, and auditors.
- Work with other state agencies involved in recovery to assist local jurisdictions, non-governmental and non-profit organizations.
- Stationed in each DPS region.



## DPS State Regions



- Texas is divided into 6 DPS regions.
- Region 7 is the Capitol Complex.
- Field Response State Coordinators oversee a team of District Coordinators.





## State Disaster Districts

- Texas has 24 disaster districts
- Each disaster district has a TDEM District Coordinator



## DDC, SC & DC

- Disaster District Chair (DDC)
  - Texas Highway Patrol (THP)
    - Captain/Lieutenant
- TDEM Regional State Coordinator (SC)
- TDEM District Coordinator (DC)

## Requesting State Assistance through DDCs

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



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    A[Local Elected Officials] --> B[Local Emergency Management]
    B --> C[Disaster District Committees (DDC)]
    C --> D[State Operations Center]
  
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## Emergency Management Council

- Adjutant General's Department
- American Red Cross
- Department of Information Resources
- General Land Office
- Texas Division of Emergency Management
- Texas Public Utility Commission
- The Salvation Army
- State Auditor's Office
- State Comptroller of Public Accounts
- Texas Animal Health Commission
- Texas Attorney General's Office
- Texas Procurement and Support Services
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Commission on Fire Protection
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas Department of Insurance
- Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Engineering Extension Service
- Texas A&M Forest Service
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
- Texas Workforce Commission
- Texas Department of Family Protective Services
- Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- Texas Office of Court Administration






## State Operations Center (2015)



## The Four Challenges






**The Four Challenges**

- **Be the expert**




**The Four Challenges**

- **Be the expert**
- **Stay in your lane**



## The Four Challenges

- Be the expert
- Stay in your lane
- **Collaborate at all cost**



## The Four Challenges

- Be the expert
- Stay in your lane
- Collaborate at all cost
- **Make a decision!**



## 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?



## Texas Department of Public Safety

## Division of Emergency Management



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@TX\_Alert  
s  
@chiefkidd