



Texas Department of Public Safety



Division of Emergency Management

NALEO Policy Institute on Emergency Planning and Preparedness

April 21, 2017



TDEM Initiatives

- Texas Government Code Chapter 418 endows TDEM with a variety of powers and duties, including:
 - 418.042 - Prepare and keep current a comprehensive **state emergency management plan**
 - 418.043(6) - Establish and operate **training programs** and programs of public information or assist political subdivisions and emergency management agencies to establish and operate the programs



TDEM Initiatives

- 418.043(13) - Cooperate with the federal government and any public or private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of this chapter and in **implementing programs for disaster mitigation, preparation, response and recovery**



Texas Population Growth

- Large and growing population compounds disaster numbers
- **2010** Texas population*:
25,145,561
- **2016** Texas population *estimate*:
27,862,596
- *Estimated* population **increase** of
2,717,035 residents

* U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census



Disasters in Texas

- 2010 – Present:
 - **Federally** Declared Disasters – 11
 - **Emergency** Declarations – 2
 - Fire Management Assistance Declaration (**FMAG**) – 58
 - **State** (only) Declared Disasters – 10



Disaster Declaration Threshold

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

Thresholds	
Texas	\$ 35,958,152
Arkansas	\$ 4,169,763
Louisiana	\$ 6,482,722
Oklahoma	\$ 5,364,432
New Mexico	\$ 2,944,626



Major Disaster Declarations Since 1953*

• 10.	Iowa	58
• 9.	Alabama	59
• 8.	Arkansas	61
• 7.	Kentucky	62
• 6.	Louisiana	64
• 5.	Florida	69
• 4.	New York	70
• 3.	Oklahoma	80
• 2.	California	84

*As of April 12, 2017



Major Disaster Declarations Since 1953

- 1. TEXAS 94
 - EMER 13
 - FMAG 236
 - **TOTAL 343**
- The Lone Star State has recorded 94 **Major Disasters** in 63 years.
- 1 EVERY 8.1 MONTHS



Incident Management in Texas

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



Flooding in central El Paso – November 2016



How We Respond in Texas!

- Local level
- State level
- Federal 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 for **state 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



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



Local Plans

- TDEM Preparedness Section provides assistance to local governments with three plans units:
 - Local and regional plans unit
 - Plans management unit
 - State and federal unit
- Reviews over 2,000 **local** plans a year
- **Assists** integrating federal requirements into plans
- **Provide** tools, templates and guidance to assist planners



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)



Texas State Law

- **Governor** appoints Public Safety Commission (PSC) (five 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



DDC, SC & DC

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



DPS State Regions

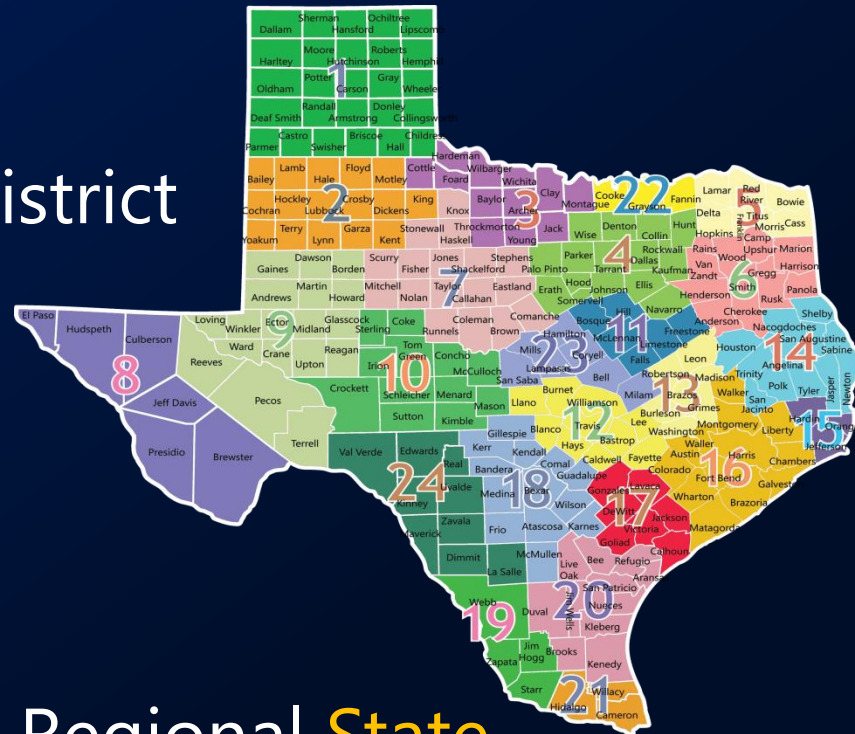
- Texas is divided into 6 DPS regions
- Region 7 is the Capitol Complex
- Each region has a TDEM Field Response Regional State Coordinator





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





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)
- Federal Government (FEMA, USGS, NWS)
- Media (TV, Print, Social)



Emergency Management Council (EMC)

- Texas Military Department
- American Red Cross
- Department of Information Resources
- General Land Office
- Texas Division of Emergency Management
- Public Utility Commission of Texas
- Railroad Commission of Texas
- 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 Aging and Disability Services
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas Department of Insurance
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service
- Texas A&M Forest Service
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

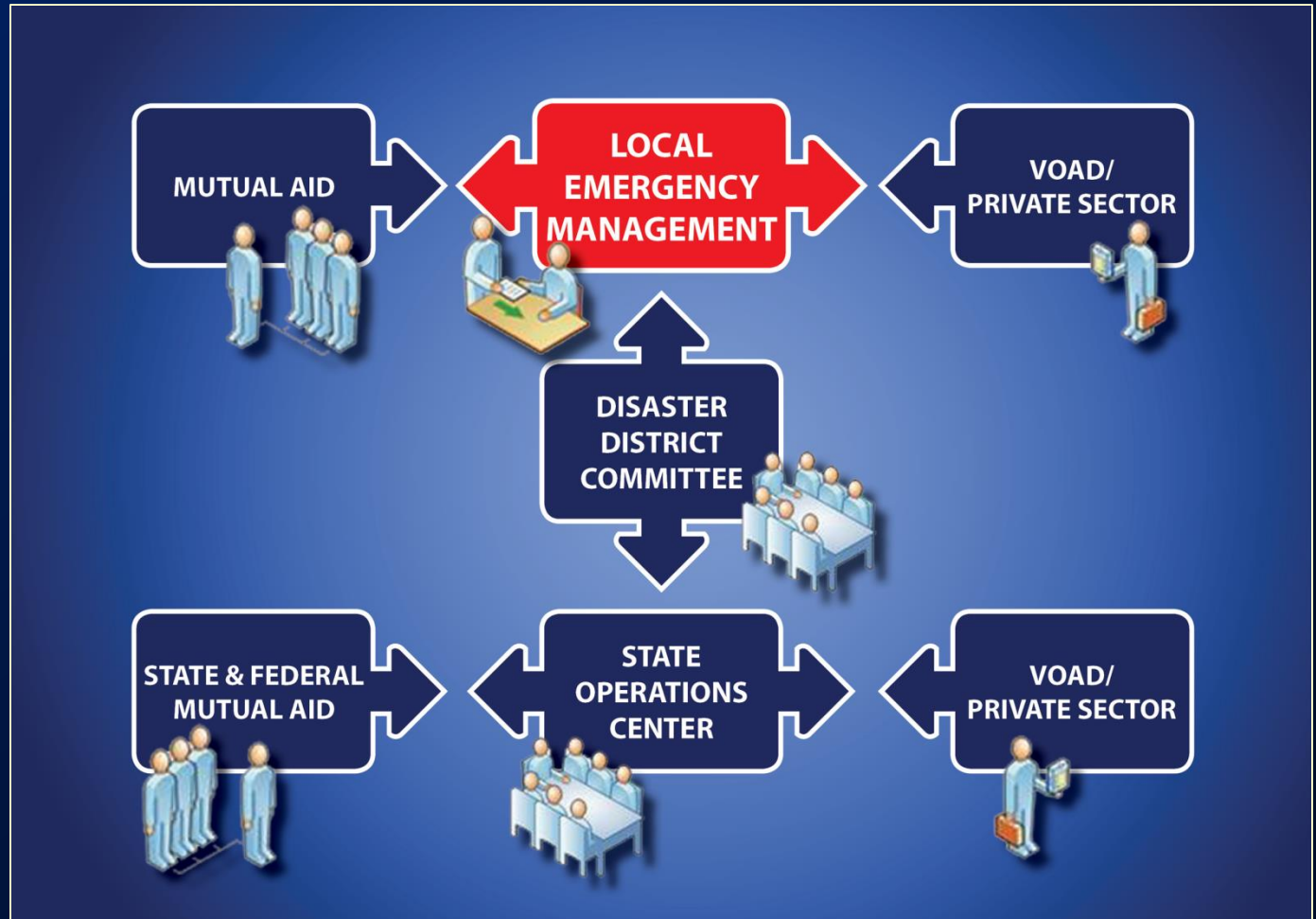


Federal Government

- 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

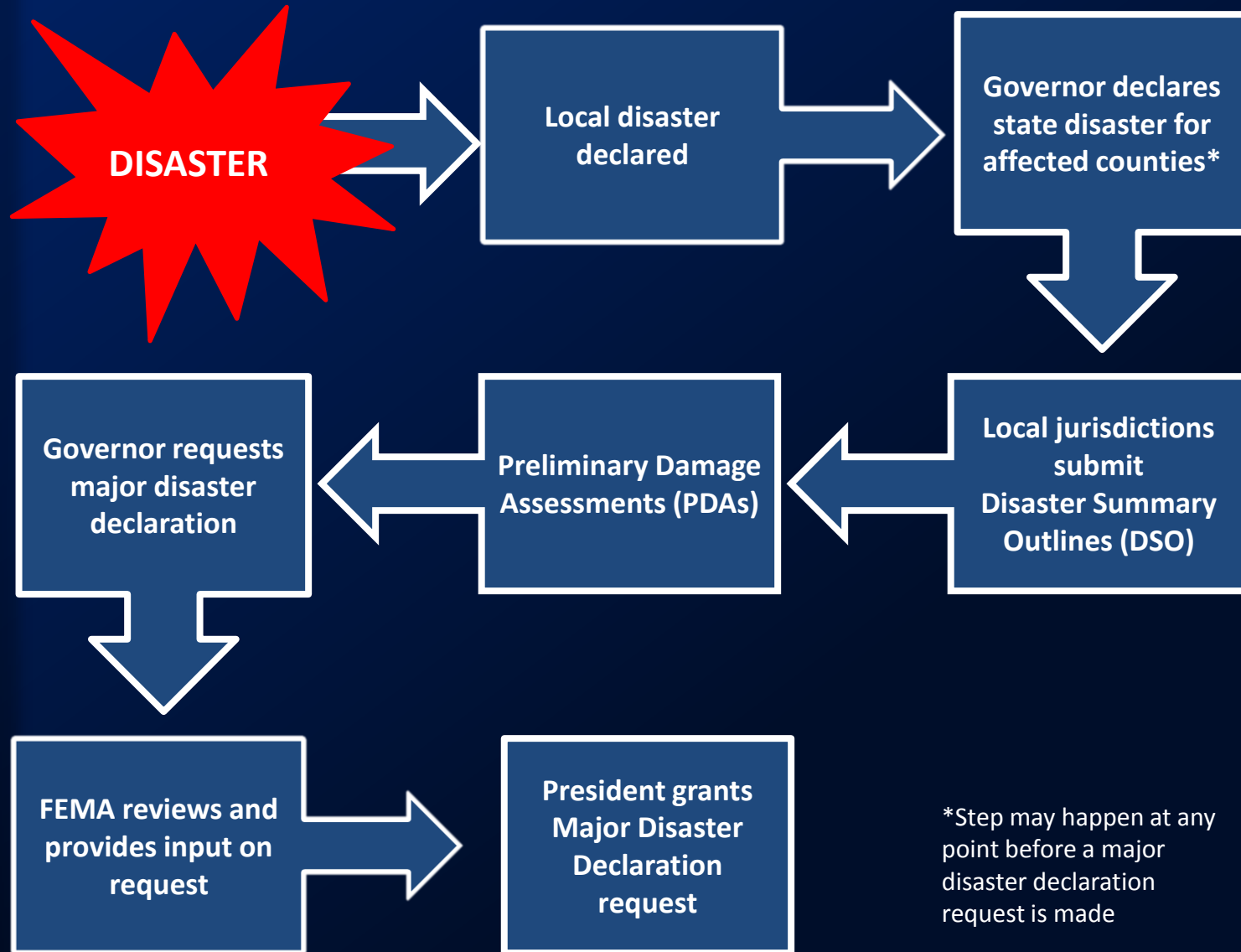


Requesting Assistance





Presidential Declaration Process





Preparedness Resources

- Hurricane Resources -
 - Texas DPS
https://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/ThreatAwareness/weather_aware_hurricane.htm
 - National Hurricane Center
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
 - Texas Hurricane Evacuation Routes
<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/safety/weather/hurricane.html>



Preparedness Resources

- Flood Resources -
 - Texas DPS
<https://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/ThreatAwareness/flashFloodAwareness.htm>
 - National Weather Service
<http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/index.shtml>
 - River Forecast Centers
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps/rfc/rfc.php>



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?



The Four Challenges

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



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