



PRESENTED BY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

# ***TAMEST*** NATURAL HAZARDS SUMMIT

*Responding  
to and  
Mitigating  
the Impacts*

PART I: VIRTUAL SUMMIT

10.19.2021

#NATURALHAZARDSSUMMIT

# *Theme Two:*

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Moderated by:

CHANDRA FRANKLIN WOMACK, P.E.

**Owner and Chief Executive Officer, Aran & Franklin**  
**Board Chair, Texas Windstorm Insurance Association**



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# Plenary:

## *Emergency Response and Mitigation*



**SUZANNAH JONES**

**Deputy Chief**

*Texas Division of Emergency Management*

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# Texas Division of Emergency Management

TDEM is charged with carrying out a comprehensive all-hazard emergency management program for the state and for assisting cities, counties, and state agencies in planning and implementing their emergency management programs. A comprehensive emergency management program includes pre and post-disaster mitigation of known hazards to reduce their impact; preparedness activities, such as emergency planning, training, and exercises; provisions for effective response to emergency situations; and recovery programs for major disasters.

Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code lays out an extensive set of specific responsibilities assigned to the Division.

# Major Disaster Declarations Since 1953

The state of Texas has recorded 102 **Major Disasters** in 68 years. This is tied for the most Major Disasters for the same period across the United States and equals 1 Major Disaster every 8 months.

Texas Major Disasters: 102

Texas Emergency Disasters: 18

Texas Fire Management and Suppression Disasters: 243

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**Total: 363**



# Changes in Emergency Management

Emergency management is a constant cycle and TDEM seeks to lead the nation in capability, speed and function across all phases.

Preparedness and Response activities in Texas now specifically focus on incorporating recovery and mitigation centric objectives and staff into all plans and response activities.



# Every Day is Recovery Day

Since Hurricane Harvey, TDEM includes recovery experts in all state-level disaster responses and preparedness activities.

Texas jurisdictions are now able to transition quickly to recovery efforts that allow Texans to get back to their normal lives after a disaster and local governments are better equipped to process complex recovery programs immediately following a disaster.

Hazard mitigation actions taken during the public assistance process elevate new construction to current codes and standards, and provide opportunities for not only restoring destroyed infrastructure but enhancing hazard mitigation efforts.

# Every Day is Recovery Day

Evolutions in Texas disaster response, recovery, and hazard mitigation activities that include:

- Immediate deployment of damage assessment tools (iSTAT & pSTAT)
- Formation of the Disaster Recovery Task Force
- Development of Recovery common operating tools
- Recovery staffing in the State Operations Center (SOC)
- State agency integration into the Recovery mission (TAMU Agrilife)
- “Sequencing and layering” of a variety of federal and state hazard mitigation funding opportunities.
- Development of an Texas Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan which will increase the amount of funding available to Texans in the future.
- Focus hazard mitigation efforts at the regional and watershed levels, encouraging longer-term reduction of risks and hazards.



# Implementing Tools, Programs & Practices

Response, Recovery and Mitigation efforts for COVID-19 and Winter Storm Uri are still very active, but TDEM's implementation of new tools, programs and practices has allowed Texans to begin rebuilding and restoring their lives after these disasters.

For example:

- COVID-19 response is still ongoing, but over \$8.25 billion in Public Assistance funding has been obligated.
- CARES/CRF Funding
- ARPA/CLFRF Funding
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (\$~40M for Texas Winter Storms and Hurricane Laura, and COVID funding.
- Through expedited damage assessments, 413,164 Texans received fast federal assistance for Winter Storm Uri damages.