The Disaster Declaration: How Does It Start?

What is the Treasurer’s Role?
The Disaster Declaration
How does it Start?

- Emergency Management begins at the local level.

- When a disaster occurs and a jurisdiction is not able to fully respond with their local resources they may seek state and, if necessary, federal assistance for additional resources throughout all phases of the disaster.
Disaster Declaration

A local disaster may be declared for any of the following reasons:

1. To exercise extraordinary powers
2. To formally implement provisions of emergency plans
3. To provide additional liability protection to government agencies and special or volunteer emergency workers
4. To formally request general assistance from the state and federal governments
5. To activate preparedness, response, and recover aspects of any and all applicable local emergency management plans.
Effects of Declaring

- Economic stabilization measures such as price, wage and rent controls
- Curfews
- Commandeering of facilities, equipment, materials, etc
- Controlling access to specific geographical areas
- Issuing time warrants for the payment of the cost of any equipment, construction, or improvements
- Suspension of selected codes and ordinances
Declaration Process

When the decision has been made to declare a local disaster, the following steps should be followed:

1. Ensure the emergency management director (Mayor or County Judge) is aware of the need to declare a disaster
2. Complete and submit a Local Declaration of Disaster
3. Complete and submit a Disaster Summary Outline (DSO)
4. If assistance is needed beyond local capability contact your local Disaster District Committee Chair and/or District Coordinator

(examples provided in Executive Guide)

An EMERGENCY is the occurrence or imminent threat of a condition, incident, or event that requires immediate response actions to save lives, prevent injuries, protect property, public health, the environment and public safety; or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster.
A DISASTER is the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from:

- fire
- flood
- earthquake
- wind
- storm
- wave action
- oil spill or other water contamination
- volcanic activity
- epidemic
- air contamination
- blight drought
- infestation
- explosion
- riot
- hostile military or paramilitary action
- extreme heat
- energy emergency
Local Government Responsibilities

Local governments are responsible for their emergency management programs, to include:

• Emergency planning

• Training emergency responders & officials

• Conducting drills & exercises

• Providing emergency facilities & equipment, with good communications with emergency power; establishing back up EOC facilities

• Developing mutual aid agreements

• Responding to emergencies
Federal Declaration Process

- Event exceeds capability of local jurisdiction
- Additional resources are needed
- Chief Elected Official issues a declaration (Mayor or Judge) to State
- Must meet county’s monetary threshold
- State has met their monetary threshold
- Governor issues a declaration to FEMA
- Requesting assistance from federal government
- FEMA Region IV receives and review request
- If approved submitted to Washington, D.C. for approval by President
- Multiple type of Federal Disaster Declarations
Robert T. Stafford Act
Assistance and Emergency Relief Act
Public Law 93-288

- This statute authorizes:
  - The President to declare an emergency or major disaster in the state, if requested by the Governor
  - Makes federal assistance to individuals, states, local governments, and certain other public sector agencies to supplement state and local resources
Emergency Management in Texas

FEMA

EMAC

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SOC
Emergency Management Council

DDC
Disaster District Committee

MACC/MOC

City/County EOC

LOCAL RESPONSE

DISASTER!
You are a part of the team!
State of Texas
Disaster Declaration Threshold

To qualify for federal assistance after a disaster, states must meet a pre-established population based damage threshold. ($1.46 per capita)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thresholds</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Federal Match</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>$36,712,519 ($40,679,390)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>$4,169,763 ($4,273,195)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>$6,482,722 ($6,694,782)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>$5,364,432 ($5,610,692)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>$2,944,626 ($2,975,8851)</td>
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</table>
County Disaster Declaration Thresholds

- Thresholds are determined on a per capita basis
  - Based on last OFFICIAL (decennial) census; not projections
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) determines a Statewide and Countywide Indicator each Federal fiscal year (Oct – Sept) based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEMA Public Assistance Countywide (Statewide) Indicators</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY15: $3.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \text{County Population} \times \text{County Indicator} = \text{County Threshold} \]

\[ \text{County Indicator} = \$3.68 \]

\[ \text{County Threshold} = \$ \]
Tracking and Accountability

How are expenditures tracked?
- Day to Day
- Disaster/Emergency

Can the accounting system track all departments (separately) working on the event?
- Work Order
- Project Code
- Internal Order

Who reconciles an event?
- Departmental
- Finance Section
- Both

Are these procedures in writing?
What Costs to Track?

- Repairs
- Personnel Cost
- Equipment
- Travel Cost
- Food
- Leases
- Operating Cost
- Contracts
- Fuel
- Other
Document, Document, Document!

- All personnel must help ensure proper documentation during emergency operations

- All incident/event documentation generated during the incident will be maintained as the official incident record

- During operations, there may be specific staff assigned to ensure adequate documentation and tracking of costs/expenses (County Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer)
KEEP CALM
HELP IS
ON THE WAY
Regional Disaster Finance Team
Texas DPS Regions = 7
Oversight/Staff

The program is overseen by a state coordinator and employs nine finance coordinators stationed throughout the state:

- One each in DPS Regions 3, 4, 5, and 6
- Two in DPS Region 1, 2
- One at DPS Headquarters in Austin to assist state agencies
Regional Finance Coordinators

State Coordinator
Quenya Evans 512-424-2288
Quenya.Evans@dps.texas.gov

Region 1 Finance Coordinator
Vacant – Garland
Vacant – Hurst

Region 2 Finance Coordinators
Michael Widtfeldt 281-517-1486
Michael.Widtfeldt@dps.texas.gov

Beth Strope, CPA 346-206-9783
Beth.strope@dps.texas.gov

Region 3 Finance Coordinator
Ivonne Garza 956-565-7122
Ivonne.Garza@dps.texas.gov

Region 4 Finance Coordinator
Vacant – El Paso

Region 5 Finance Coordinator
Becky Pursur 940-851-5530
Becky.Pursur@dps.texas.gov

Region 6 Finance Coordinator
Natasha Valentine 512-424-2446
Natasha.Valentine@dps.texas.gov

State Agency Finance Coordinator
Robin Sheard 512-424–7815
Robin.Sheard@dps.texas.gov
Regional Disaster Finance Program

Consists of an innovative, experienced team that delivers instruction designed to give local jurisdictions the financial tools needed to recover from disasters before they occur!

Finance Coordinators are a resource to use in times that require tracking and calculating cost and can be deployed during major events to assist local finance staff, as needed.

Finance Coordinators deliver training that facilitates collaboration and communication between disaster responders and financial managers.
Regional Disaster Finance Program Focus

Program efforts focus on systems used during a disaster such as:

- Accounting practices
- Current budget capabilities
- Compliance with federal rules
- Financial standard operating procedures
TO REQUEST REGIONAL DISASTER FINANCE ASSISTANCE

T-600 COURSE:
To request the T-600 course for your jurisdiction, contact the Finance Coordinator (FC) in your region directly via phone or email. The FC will coordinate with you on bringing the Basic Disaster Finance course to your area.

DURING A DISASTER:
To request a Finance Coordinator’s assistance with the initial tracking of cost during an emergency or disaster, a STAR must be submitted. Contact your District Coordinator first and they will guide you through the process of requesting this resource.
TRAINING AVAILABLE

T-600: Basic Course – Disaster Accounting 101

Module a: Accounting System
Module b: EOC / ICS
Module c: Planning Meeting
Module d: Resource Tracking
Module e: Exercise
T-600 Course

The T-600 course is an in-depth analysis of the financial capabilities of each jurisdiction during a disaster or emergency. It will:

- Analyze the accounting practices of individual finance departments during disasters and emergencies by reviewing accounting systems.
- Identify gaps in policies and procedures when accounting for a disaster or emergency.
- Establish financial standard operating procedures (SOPs) to be used during a disaster.
- Exercise financial SOPs.
We Are In This Together!
Contact Information

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em101@co.midland.tx.us

Becky Pursur – Regional Finance Coordinator
Texas Division of Emergency Management
(940) 851-5530
Becky.Pursur@dps.texas.gov