Each disaster begins and ends at the local level.

- Effective emergency management relies on the integration of emergency plans at all levels of government and non-government, including individuals and community organizations.

- The local government maintains control of all assets used in the response and recovery efforts, regardless of the source of those assets. Local governments must plan and prepare for this role with the support of the state and federal government.
Emergency Management State Laws

• The Texas governor is granted the authority to declare a state-level disaster (*Texas Government Chapter 418.014*).

• In Texas, mayors and county judges serve as emergency management directors, bearing the responsibility for maintaining an emergency management program within their respective jurisdictions in Texas. (*Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code and Title 37, Part 1, Chapter 7 Texas Administrative Code.*)

• A local emergency management director may declare a local state of disaster (*Texas Government Code Chapter 418.108*).
(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.

(b) The county program is the first channel through which a municipal corporation or a joint board shall request assistance when its resources are exceeded. Requests that exceed the county capability shall be forwarded to the state as prescribed in the state emergency management plan. (Texas Government Code Chapter 418.102).

Each county and incorporated city in Texas shall maintain an emergency management agency or participate in a local or interjurisdictional emergency management agency. (Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Chapter 7, rule §7.1).
The Stafford Act

• Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act 1988 (PL 93-288)

• Authorizes president to declare an emergency or major disaster in a state

• Requests to the president come from the governor

• Makes federal assistance available to supplement state and local resources
Where to Start:

1. Prepare an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that meets TDEM's planning standards.
2. Obtain the signature(s) of the presiding officer(s) of the jurisdiction(s) on the plan.
3. Local plans shall be reviewed annually and must have been prepared or updated during the last five years to be considered current.
4. A copy of each plan and any changes must be provided to TDEM.
Local Response

- Primary “first provider” of emergency response services.
- Activate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Emergency Management Plan.
- Coordinate the response with public and private organizations and agencies.
- Notify TDEM of the situation by regularly submitting Situation Reports (SITREP).
- Activate vital mutual aid compacts with local governments and organizations

- Activate response agreements with state and federal departments or agencies.

- Proclaim a local state of emergency to authorize:
  - Using local resources;
  - Expend local funds; and
  - Waiving the usual bidding process for goods and services.

- Complete and submit a Disaster Summary Outline (DSO) estimating damages sustained.
Codes to Know:

- Texas Government Code Chapter 418.102
- Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Chapter 7, rule §7.1
- Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Chapter 7, and Rule §7.12
People to Know: State Coordinators

Region 5
Brandi Ashby-Fisher

Region 4
Dave Marquez

Region 3
Tony Peña

Region 7
Eric Shuey

Region 1
Joshua Roberts

Region 2
Shaun Miller

Region 6
Jay Hall
TDEM district coordinators serve as local emergency management and homeland security liaisons. They work directly with local government officials, volunteer groups, and private sector partners to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond and recover from disaster.

dps.texas.gov/dem/FieldResponse
In Harvey’s aftermath, Governor Greg Abbott created the **Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas** headed by Texas A&M University System Chancellor, John Sharp.

The commission’s role was to “oversee the response and relief effort between the state and local governments to ensure victims of the storm get everything they need as quickly as possible” and to be “involved in the rebuilding process, focusing on restoring roads, bridges, schools and government buildings in impacted communities.”

“Eye of the Storm” offered to the Texas Legislature 44 wide-ranging recommendations to help Texas better prepare for future catastrophic storms in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

Chief Kidd remains Chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management and has also become Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services at The Texas A&M University System.

www.ospo.noaa.gov/Organization/History/Imagery/Harvey/index.html
Executive Order No. GA-05

Signed by Governor Abbott December 13, 2018, the GA-05 is a new Executive Order updating the Texas Emergency Management Council to include 39 different state agencies and volunteer organizations:

- American Red Cross
- Public Utility Commission of Texas
- Railroad Commission of Texas *
- State Comptroller of Public Accounts
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service *
- Texas A&M University System
- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service
- Texas A&M Forest Service *
- Texas Animal Health Commission *
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality *
- Texas Commission on Fire Protection
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Texas Department of Information Resources
- Texas Department of Insurance
- Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
- Texas Department of Motor Vehicles
- Texas Department of Public Safety *
- Texas Department of State Health Services *
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Division of Emergency Management
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Facilities Commission
- Texas General Land Office *
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas Military Department
- Texas Office of the Attorney General
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department *
- Texas State Auditor’s Office
- Texas State University System
- Texas Tech University System
- Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- Texas Workforce Commission
- The Salvation Army
- University of Houston System
- University of North Texas System
- University of Texas System
- University of Texas System

Added Dec. 13, 2018