

October 1, 2019

The Honorable Donald Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Regional Administrator Tony Robinson  
FEMA Region 6  
Denton, TX

RE: Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration – Major Disaster

Dear Mr. President,

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Texas as a result of severe weather and flooding that began on September 17, 2019, and continued through September 27, 2019.

In response to the current situation, I have taken the appropriate action under state law by directing the execution of the state's emergency management plan and by declaring a state of disaster on September 19, 2019, for the following 13 Texas counties: Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, and San Jacinto counties.

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.36, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster. I am requesting Individual Assistance, Direct Federal Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation statewide for the following counties:

Chambers, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, and Orange counties.

As we are able to assess damages to the other affected counties, including infrastructure damage, I reserve the right to request additional types of federal assistance and for additional counties in Texas.

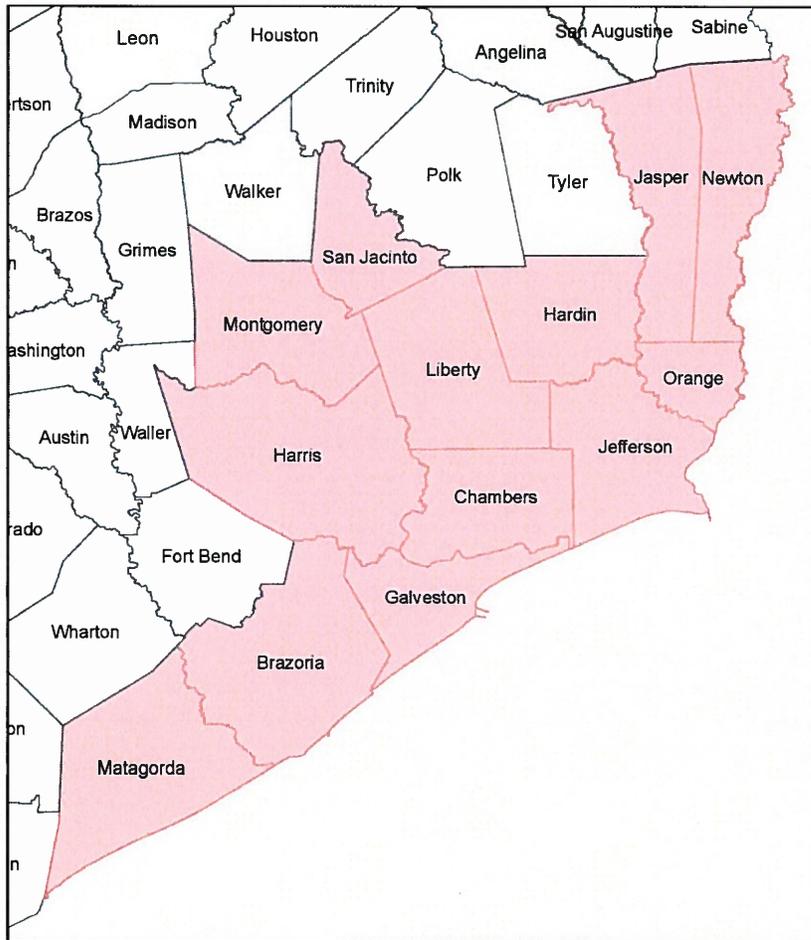
The state continues to struggle with catastrophic Hurricane Harvey recovery and the other nine major disasters to strike the state in the last four years. The state has also fought aggressive wildfires, with eight Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) declared in the last four years, four in 2018 alone and one in 2019. Of the 254 counties in Texas, 183 counties have been included in at least one of these major disaster declarations. These counties together make up 86 percent of the state's population and represent a population greater than that of 38 other states.

The thirteen counties impacted by Tropical Storm Imelda (Imelda) are still recovering from previous disasters, including Hurricane Harvey, for which they were all included in the major disaster declaration. The population of the counties affected by Imelda is over 7.59 million people, representing 26 percent of the total population of Texas.

Texans, first responders across the state, local officials, and volunteer organizations are exhausted. Volunteer organizations in particular are suffering from fatigue and little money coming into their organizations to assist Texans. The last several years have taken a toll on the people and the property of this state. Texans are resilient, but few can recover without assistance when disasters hit one right after another, especially when the affected locations are recovering from previous disasters. Texans will overcome these challenges, but assistance is needed from the federal government.



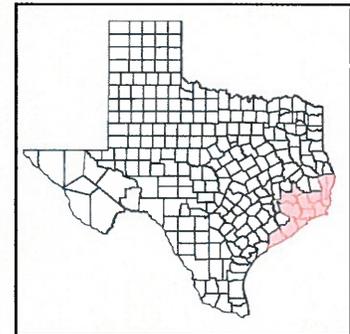
# Counties Under Governor's Declaration 19-0029 September Severe Weather



**Texas Division of  
Emergency Management**

Data Sources: TxDOT, NOAA, TDEM Date: Sept. 22, 2019  
Author: M. Jurens TDEM Technology Services GIS

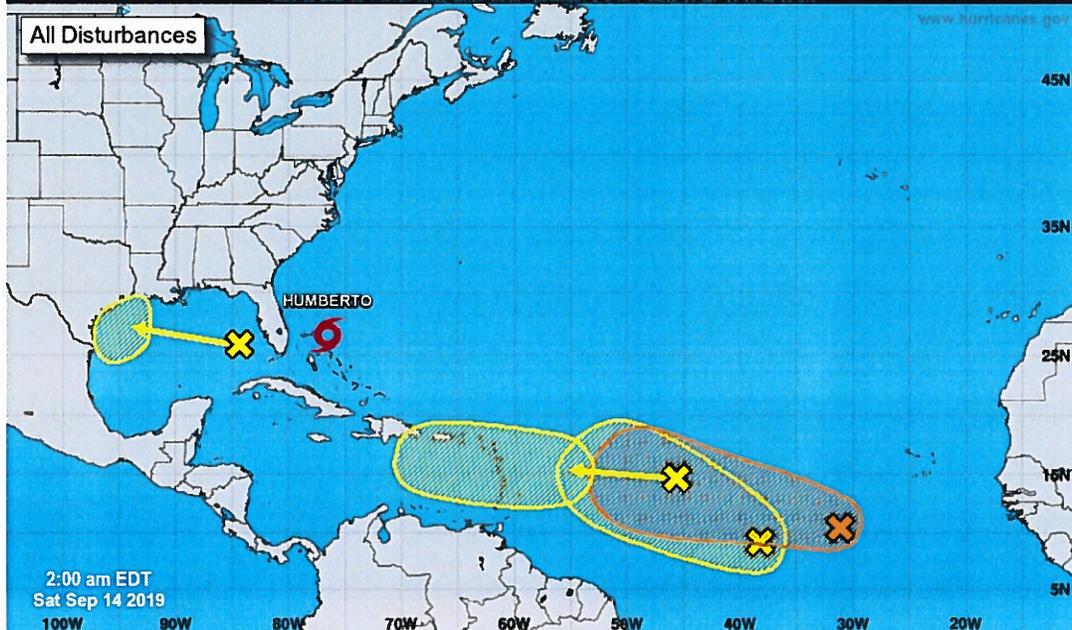
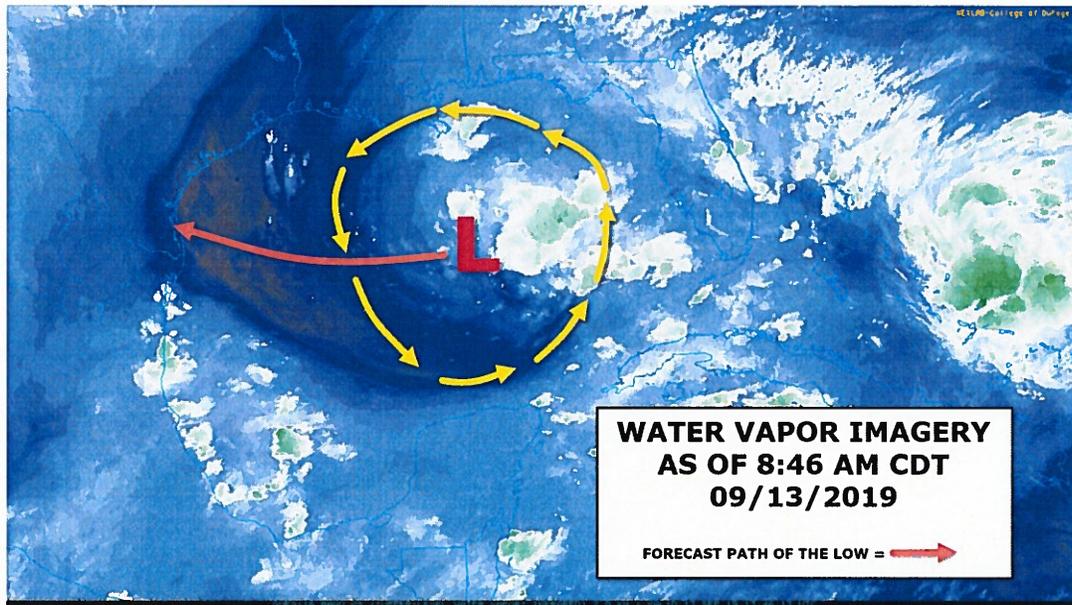
□ County Boundary  
■ Governor Declared



**Counties Declared on the Governor's Declaration**

# INCIDENT OVERVIEW

During the week of September 8th, an upper-level low-pressure system slowly worked its way southward from the southeastern U.S. into the Gulf of Mexico. During this time, computer weather forecast modeling began to indicate that the system could develop into a tropical depression and affect the State of Texas. By September 14, 2019, the National Hurricane Center began to indicate that from September 14th to the 19th, there was a low chance for a tropical cyclone to develop near the Texas coast in the northwest Gulf of Mexico.

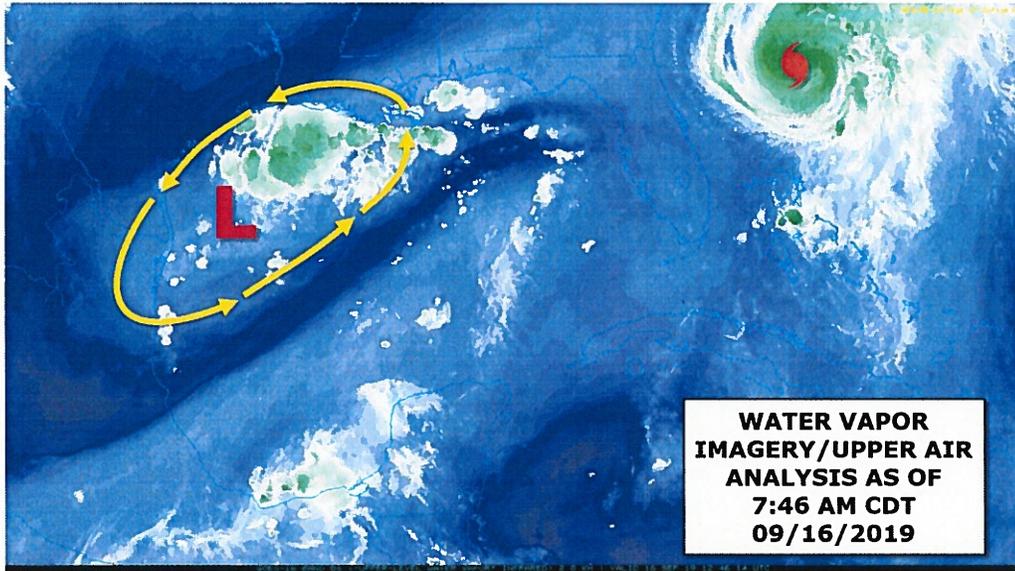


Current Disturbances and Five-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: < 40% 40-60% > 60%

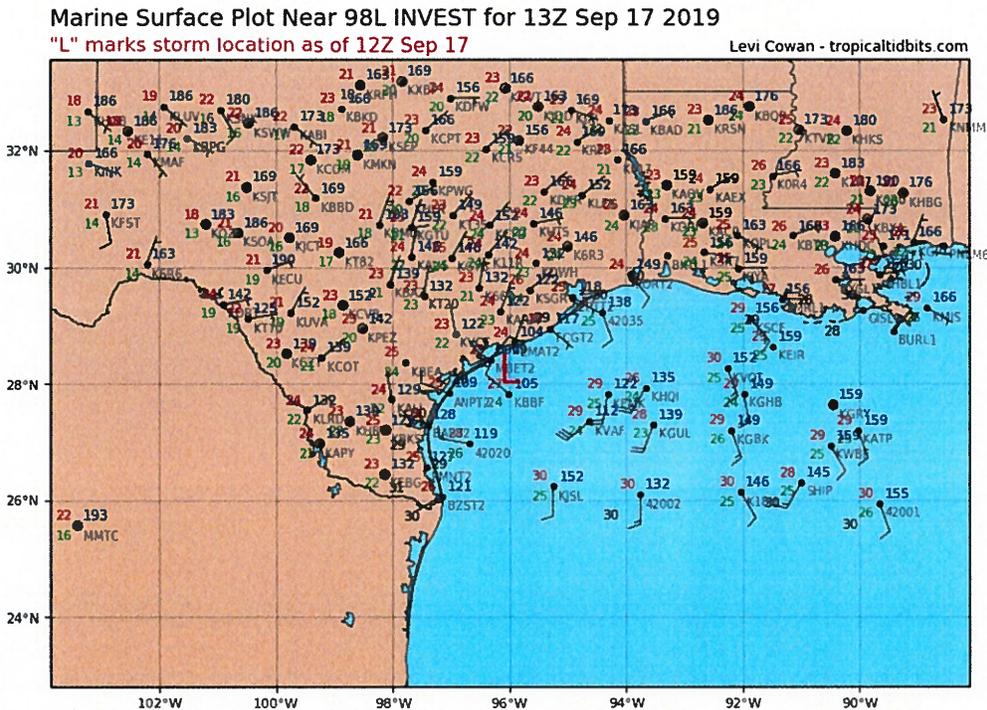
Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: Depression Storm Hurricane

Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants

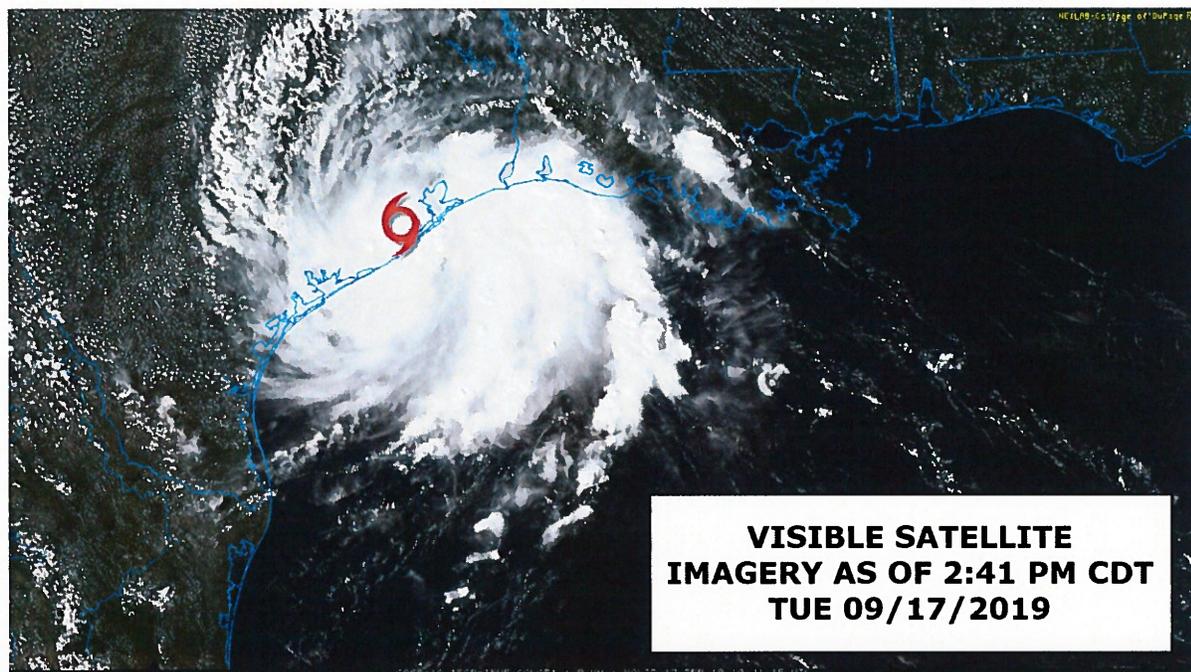
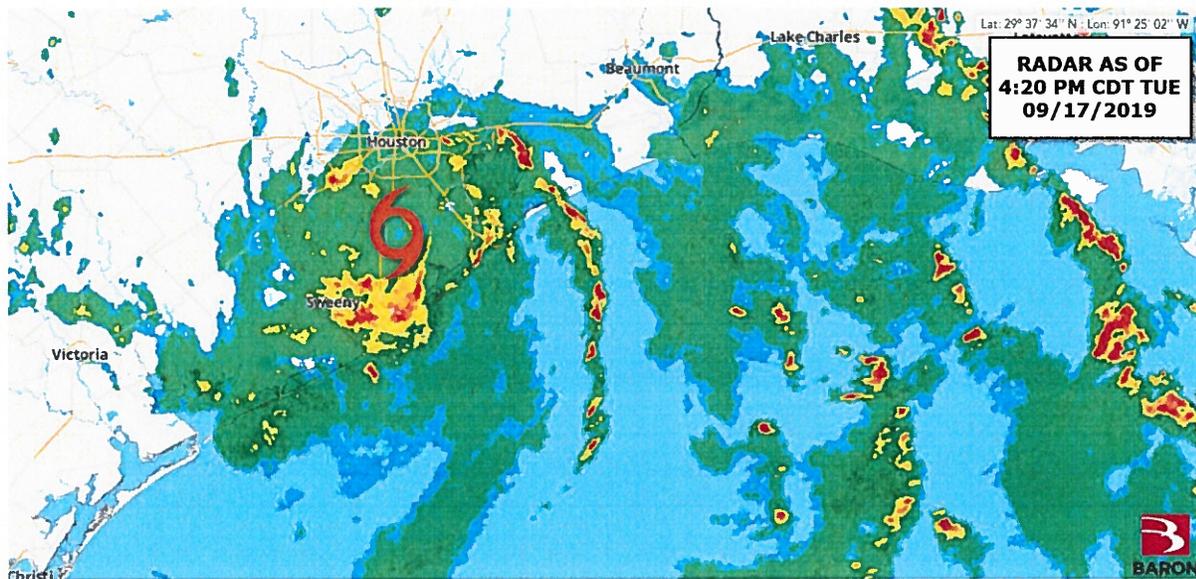
By September 16, 2019, the upper low was over the northwest Gulf of Mexico.



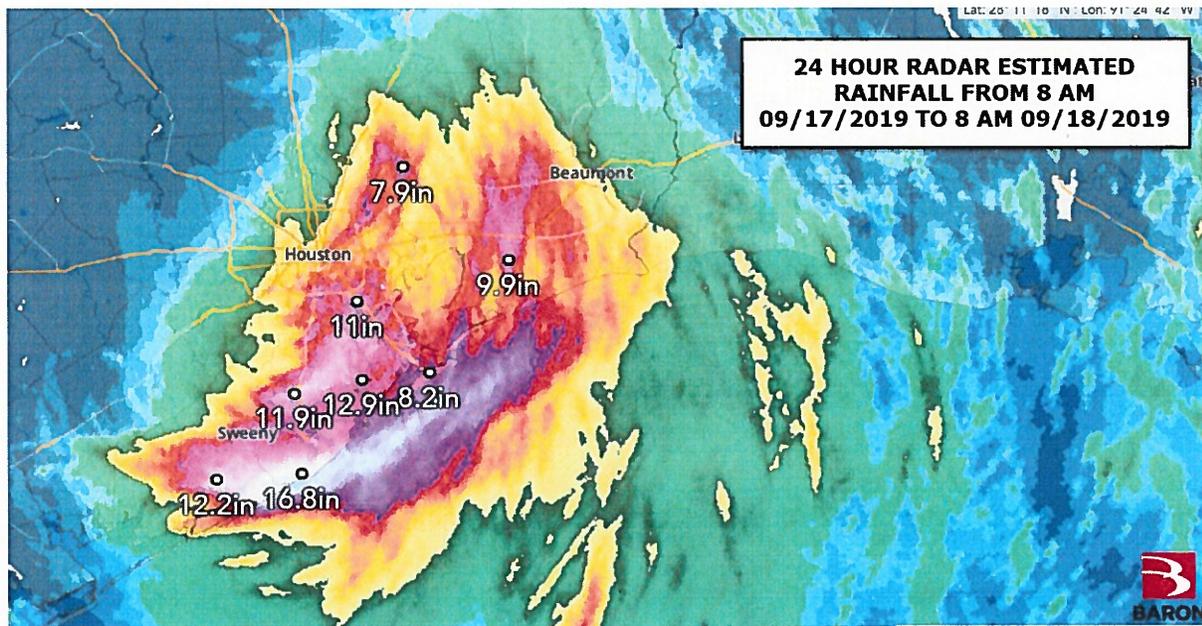
In the early morning hours of September 17, 2019, a well-defined area of low pressure was identified on radar and on the surface analysis. At this point, an argument could be made that a tropical depression had formed.



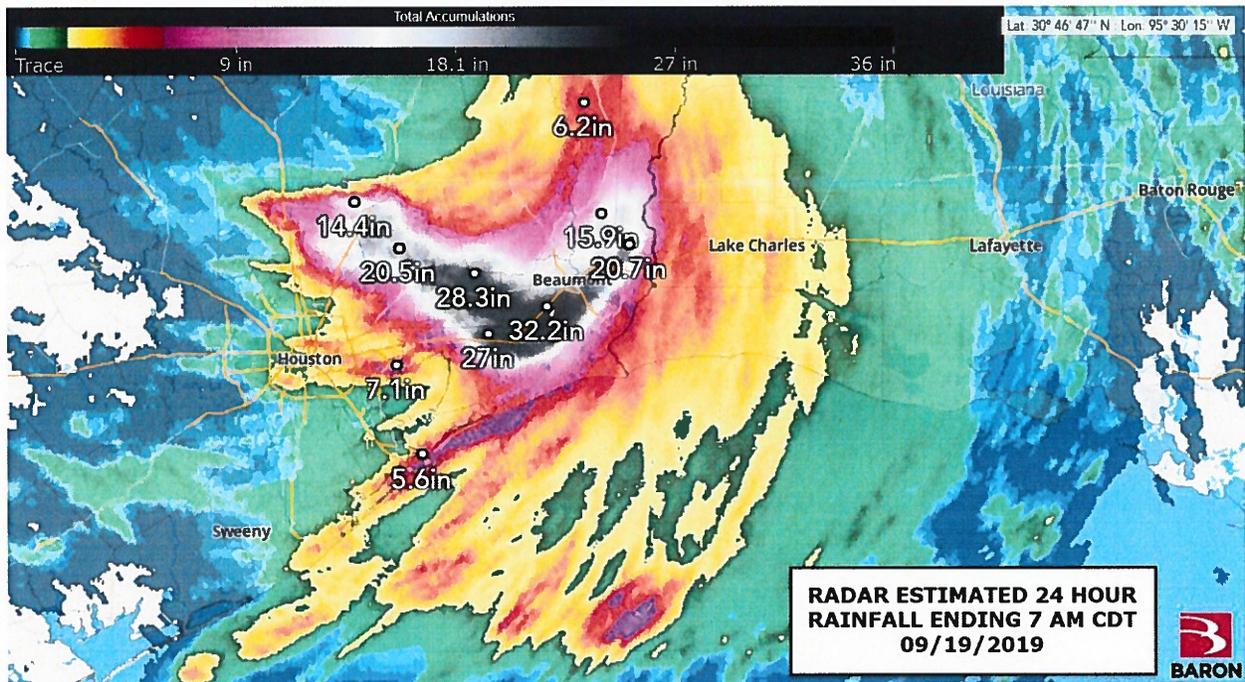
On that same morning, the National Hurricane Center adjusted its forecast of the chance for tropical storm development, increasing from a 30 percent chance to a 50 percent chance. Just before noon CDT, the National Hurricane Center declared that “Tropical Depression 11” had formed, and approximately 45 minutes later, the system was designated as Tropical Storm Imelda. Approximately 15 minutes later, Imelda made landfall near Freeport, Texas.



The Texas Division of Emergency Management was monitoring this system as a catastrophic rain and flood threat, and by the morning of September 19, 2019, radar estimated that a wide area, including Matagorda, Brazoria, Galveston, Chambers, Harris, Montgomery, Liberty, Jefferson, and Hardin counties, had received 8 to 16 inches of rain. The community of Sargent, in Matagorda County, had a rain gauge that recorded more than 20 inches of rain that day.



Imelda continued to be a very slow-moving system with its center of circulation located just to the north of Houston for most of the day on September 18, 2019. While rain continued to fall throughout much of the region on that day, it remained at mostly manageable rates during the daylight hours. However, during the overnight hours, a wide, heavy band of rain fell on Harris and Montgomery counties and extended to the Louisiana border. The band of rain did not move for hours and did not dissipate until the afternoon of September 19, 2019. This phenomenon resulted in another area (roughly the size of Connecticut and Massachusetts combined) experiencing 24 hours of rainfall estimated by radar to be between 20 and 35 inches – with some isolated total rainfall in excess of 40 inches, as confirmed by gauges.



This extensive rainfall resulted in dozens of roadways, including interstate highways, being closed across the region, as well as hundreds of water rescues and evacuations. Based on reports, a minimum of five fatalities are attributed to Imelda (pending confirmation by state officials). At the storm's height, nearly 80,000 customers lost power.

During the day on Friday, September 20, 2019, Imelda lost its structure as it moved into Oklahoma, but it continued to draw moisture out of the Gulf of Mexico resulting in numerous showers and storms that produced heavy rainfall and additional flooding.

By Saturday, September 21, 2019, Imelda ceased to generate additional weather threats, but river flooding continued on several rivers and tributaries throughout Southeast Texas.

## **RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

State agencies have been coordinating through the Texas Division of Emergency Management to provide assistance as requested and needed by local jurisdictions. Evacuations and rescues have been a focus in all affected areas. In total, state agencies supported and assisted local jurisdictions in conducting rescues in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, and San Jacinto counties.

### **Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS)**

TFS provided support to the State Operations Center (SOC) in Austin, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Southeast Texas Regional Operation Center (ROC), Disaster District Center (DDC) 15, and Hardin County Emergency Operation Center (EOC). TFS also deployed one Short Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) to Hardin County Office of Emergency Management, another to the Jefferson County EOC, and one planning module to DDC 15. TFS also had Saw Squads, an All-Hazard IMT and three chainsaw teams on standby.

### **TFS – Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS)**

TIFMAS deployed nine high-profile vehicles to Hardin and Jefferson counties for rescue and evacuation operations. Two engines, one water tender, and a strike team leader were assigned to Orange County to support the City of Vidor Fire Department. TIFMAS has also sent three water tenders to Galveston County to support firefighting missions.

### **Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF 1)**

TX-TF1 sent sixteen boats and two high-profile vehicles to assist in evacuation efforts in Chambers County. TX-TF1 also activated search and rescue aircraft, four ground transportation platoons, and a command element. TX-TF1 has rescued 406 individuals, evacuated 1205 individuals and 38 animals, and conducted over 535 welfare checks. TX-TF1 swift water squads assisted with hay delivery for stranded livestock in Jefferson and Chambers counties.



**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife)**

AgriLife deployed a strike team to support two animal shelter operations in Chambers and Jefferson counties. Two agents were assigned to Jefferson County and three to Chambers County. Five agents assisted with windshield surveys in Orange County.

**Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team (TAMUVET)**

TAMUVET was assigned to Chambers County to assess and treat the medical needs of livestock and small animals, including 27 horses, 8 cattle, 45 dogs, and 2 cats.

## **Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)**

The SOC raised its readiness level in order to coordinate resources and information in support of state agencies and local jurisdictions. The SOC Logistics Section, Mass Care Unit, and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) planned and coordinated Points of Distribution operations and supported Mass Care Operations. TDEM's Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Program activated High Frequency (HF)/Very High Frequency (VHF) networks and VHF repeater networks in support of severe weather operations. The SOC coordinated statewide conference calls to provide daily weather briefings, situational awareness, and recovery efforts in support of state agencies and our local partners. The SOC reviewed Disaster Summary Outlines, coordinated Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) in the impacted areas, and coordinated the deployment of the Disaster Support and Recovery Task Force.

## **Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)**

TAHC staff were activated to support animal sheltering operations. TAHC coordinated with local and regional partners to assess availability, capability, and operational status of large animal holding facilities and animal shelters in the affected area. TAHC representatives staffed the SOC to help coordinate statewide animal issues operations. TAHC personnel were in contact with agency partners, stakeholders, Non-Governmental Organization partners, and various veterinary organizations to determine capabilities and respond to post-storm animal issues. TAHC communications department monitored social media, updated the TAHC website with information regarding livestock and small animal flooding resources, and shared this information with other agriculture partners and stakeholders. TAHC worked with Texas Military Department, Air Operations Center, and TX-TF1. TAHC sheltered more than 30 dogs and cats, 45 livestock, and 80 small animals. Texas Department of Agriculture-Hay Hotline was used to locate hay resources and to fill incoming State of Texas Assistance Requests (STAR). TAHC Public Information Officers updated TAHC's website with livestock and animal flooding resource information, and monitored social media.



### **Texas Military Department (TMD)**

TMD activated 159 personnel in support of local jurisdictions through search and rescue (SAR) support of TX-TF1, aircraft support of SAR, and hay delivery operations and points of distribution (POD) response.

### **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)**

TPWD coordinated game wardens to assist with SAR operations. TPWD has rescued 381 individuals and evacuated 195 individuals and 25 animals throughout Southeast Texas.

### **Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)**

DSHS provided Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccines to those in need. Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (TX EMTF) supported local emergency management services/fire departments with increased call volumes, backfill, 911 coverage, evacuations,

and triage/transport of rescued evacuees. TX EMTF encountered over 200 patients and evacuated one nursing home.

### **Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**

HHSC's SOC Liaison collected, documented, and shared situational awareness information, responded to inquiries, and monitored state requests for HHSC-provided assets. HHSC received nine STARs for water/ice.

Evacuated long-term care facilities began repatriating patients on September 20, 2019. Several individuals in home and community-based services programs evacuated their homes during flooding; HHSC monitored the situation. Disaster Behavioral Health Tri-County Services (Liberty, Montgomery, and Walker counties) responded to mental health needs in local shelters. HHSC collected documentation and prepared to initiate the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) in impacted counties as needed.

### **Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)**

TxDOT provided staffing at the SOC and assisted local jurisdictions as needed, including actively updating drivetexas.org as road conditions changed. Local TxDOT offices provided courtesy patrols to assist stranded motorists and provided alternate routes for Interstate Highway 10 (I-10) motorists. TxDOT crews monitored flooded roadways and provided traffic control and detour assistance, including barricades and cones for the points of distribution. TxDOT reported that up to 91 roadways were affected by flooding and 33 were closed. Portions of I-10 from Katy to Beaumont were closed, as were portions of I-45 and I-69.

As of September 23, 2019, I-10 was reopened east and westbound from the San Jacinto River to the Louisiana border. I-10 at the San Jacinto River was closed while the United States Coast Guard, along with the barge company, removed the barge that impacted and caused significant damage to the bridge. Engineers assessed the condition of the eastbound bridge on I-10 at the San Jacinto River, and it remains closed for the foreseeable future.

### **Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC)**

PUC monitored outages in the affected areas. On September 20, 2019, CenterPoint (electrical utility company) reported 4,500 outages and a rolling restoration total of 88,000

customers, with an estimated 40 homes potentially unable to receive power. Entergy (electrical utility company) reported 16,000 outages and a rolling restoration total of 37,000 customers, with an estimated 1,000 homes potentially unable to receive power.

### **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)**

City of Rose City (Orange County) issued a boil water notice. TCEQ prepared hazardous materials (HAZMAT) contractors to respond. TCEQ staff contacted drinking-water and wastewater-treatment plants to assess operational impacts. TCEQ Staff conducted air reconnaissance in the areas of the major refineries and chemical plants, and performed assessments of state superfund sites in the affected areas.

### **Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)**

TDA facilitated the movement of hay bales to feed cattle and horses in Chambers and Jefferson counties. Approximately 600-700 square bales of hay were delivered to Chambers County. TDA continues to coordinate efforts to provide additional hay to Jefferson County.

### **Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)**

DPS, Texas Highway Patrol Tactical Marine Unit (THP/TMU) provided flood boat rescue teams and rescue swimmers assigned to DPS Aircraft for callout, and also provided aircraft for aerial view and reconnaissance.

### **Texas Office of Attorney General (TXOAG)**

TXOAG provided legal support and authority for the state and the citizens of Texas to aid local and state law enforcement agencies with safeguarding lives and property as requested, investigating, addressing any complaint of price gouging occurring in the state following a disaster declaration by the Governor, and maintaining safe evacuation shelters.

### **Texas Civil Air Patrol (CAP)**

CAP collected 753 low-altitude, high-resolution photographs of flood-damaged properties.

### **Texas Information and Referral Network (2-1-1 TIRN)**

2-1-1 TIRN received a 14 percent increase in calls to provide information regarding issues like sheltering, crisis clean-up, rumor control, crowd relief, and disaster relief.

## **Voluntary Agency Assistance**

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) have been very active throughout Texas since the beginning of 2019. VOADs provided many services for the April, May, and June severe weather events throughout Texas, as well as their continued assistance of our federal partners with the ongoing influx of immigrants along the United States Border.

Since September 17, 2019, VOADs have been providing mass care sheltering, feeding, bulk distribution, damage assessments, emergency food boxes, clean-up kits, personal care and comfort kits, blankets, and many more services to the residents of East Texas. These resources, however, are not a long-term recovery solution.

Voluntary agency statistics through September 22, 2019:

- 18 shelters opened, with a peak population of 1,229 on Friday, September 20.
- The Salvation Army, Southern Baptist Convention, and the American Red Cross have provided over 42,736 meals and snacks across East Texas since September 19, 2019.
- Crisis Cleanup has identified 1,509 households in need of muck and gut teams.

**American Red Cross**, at the peak of the storm, had 11 shelters open with a total population of 1,229 individuals. Licensed and trained health and mental health workers continue to assist residents with the replacement of medications and durable medical equipment at shelter locations. To date, at least 334 cases have been opened, serving 820 people. American Red Cross continues to support local recovery centers with case workers, and the disaster health, mental health, and spiritual care teams have served over 3,627 people.

**The Salvation Army** is currently providing meal support at multiple locations throughout East Texas and is coordinating with VOAD partners to respond to recovery requests.

**Southern Baptist of Texas Convention** provided a shower trailer in support of shelter operations. The organization is also coordinating muck-out teams and working with VOAD partners to identify homes in need.

**Texas Baptist Men** provided a shower trailer in support of shelter operations and set up one feeding unit in Jefferson County. The organization is coordinating muck-out teams with VOAD partners to identify homes in need.

**United Methodist Committee on Relief** is coordinating muck-out teams with VOAD partners to identify homes in need.

**Convoy of Hope** provided two tractor-trailers with water, food, and cleaning supplies, and continues to coordinate with local churches and assess current needs.

**Crisis Cleanup** coordinates with relief organizations in affected areas to serve residents more efficiently in relation to clean-up.

**All Hands and Hearts** provided three assessment teams to assess needs throughout the impacted areas.

**Lutheran Church Missouri Synod-Texas District** provided muck and gut services in the City of Beaumont and conducted assessments in Kingwood and Conroe.

**One Star Foundation** is working in collaboration with TDEM and Texas VOAD to provide coordination support.

**United Methodist Committee on Relief** mobilized muck-out teams and provided supplies in the City of Beaumont.

**Society for St. Vincent de Paul** is conducting needs assessments in Chambers and Liberty counties.



## **Behavioral Health Impacts**

In September 2019, two years after Hurricane Harvey, East Texas experienced catastrophic flooding and devastation from Imelda. Some areas received up to 40 inches of rain in just a matter of hours. Initial estimates put the devastation at over 3,000 homes destroyed due to rising floodwaters. It is also important to underscore that all of the counties covered by this request were also included in the major disaster declaration for Hurricane Harvey, for which recovery will take a decade or more. But many Texans who purchased or were provided National Flood Insurance policies (NFIPs) after Hurricane Harvey have again sustained damages. Those who purchased NFIP policies may not be covered by FEMA if a disaster declaration is granted.

According to reports from Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) providing disaster-related crisis counseling services to evacuees, emergency responders, and disaster survivors, Imelda has triggered traumatic memories for those who survived Hurricane Harvey, many of whom are still repairing their homes, businesses, and schools, as well as restoring their communities. In many areas, critical behavioral health services were delayed or interrupted by the storm. One LMHA alone has reported that 19 of its facilities were damaged by flooding and high winds, including the total destruction of a data and communications center. Others have had consumers and staff report personal property and vehicle loss and damage, or report being displaced by the storm. Partner LMHAs located outside the impacted counties have deployed three mobile clinics to provide support facilities for staff, offer clinical services, and support community outreach efforts.

Many of the children living in these communities have again been displaced from their homes and may be staying in shelters, with family members, or in temporary housing. Research indicates that children who have survived a disaster are particularly vulnerable after another disaster, and their reactions and emotional recovery can be influenced by their age, developmental level, prior experiences, and personal circumstances. The length of recovery depends on how frightening the storm and/or evacuation experience was and the extent of damage and loss. Some families may have lost a loved one or beloved pet. Recovery is also strongly affected by school closings or changes in school schedules.

Senior citizens are also a particularly vulnerable population due to physical or emotional disability or frailty, loss of or damage to property that is often sentimentally or economically valuable, lack of reliable transportation, economic disadvantage, and isolation from families. These factors intensify existing vulnerabilities during disasters and during the often-lengthy recovery process. According to 2010 U.S. Census data, 12.6 percent of the state's population is over 65 years of age. In the 13 counties included in the state disaster declaration, 15.4 percent of the population is over 65 years old.

Both children and adults will need behavioral health support, as many will face long-lasting housing and financial issues while displaced from their homes and as they return to their

homes. These types of conditions lead to feelings of being overwhelmed, which can influence cognitive functioning for making decisions and problem solving. Physiological and emotional changes are common reactions in both children and adults.

Emergency responders provide critical services to communities during and in the aftermath of disasters. Their routine exposure to traumatic incidents and chronic trauma-inducing situations put them at high risk of experiencing a range of health and behavioral health consequences. These situations can contribute to traumatic stress-related symptoms such as intrusive thoughts or memories of the incident, difficulty sleeping, fear, irritability, anger, anxiety, depression, withdrawal and isolation, Acute Stress Disorder (ASD), and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Responders also may be at risk for burnout, compassion fatigue, and increased alcohol and substance use. Emergency responders in East Texas have been working long hours with little down time. More than 2,000 rescues and evacuations were performed by emergency responders during Imelda. Frantic calls to 9-1-1 for rescues overwhelmed some local communication centers.

Prior events have taught us there will be an increased need for behavioral health services as recovery efforts begin after this type of disaster, especially because of the number of disasters over the past year that allowed little reprieve for disaster survivors and emergency responders. Therefore, crisis counseling services are needed to assist survivors and communities in accessing and learning healthy coping strategies while continuing to build resilience. Services provided by crisis counseling staff help teachers effectively work with students exhibiting disaster-related stress reactions, assist parents in managing their own stress reactions and understanding how those may impact their children, and help children by providing age-appropriate educational materials that teach them how to express their reactions and seek assistance.



## **Southeast Texas – Socioeconomic and Economic Factors**

Since 2015, the six counties covered by the request herein have been included in six major disaster declarations for storms and flooding. Notably, in August of 2017, this area was significantly impacted by Hurricane Harvey and suffered devastating flooding. Then, in the summer of 2018, an unnamed storm system brought more flooding to the Orange County area. Imelda is the first named storm to hit the area since Hurricane Harvey. Imelda is also the second wettest tropical storm to hit the U.S. mainland in the last forty years, surpassed only by Hurricane Harvey. The spirit of the Texans living in these counties is strong, but repeated disasters severely undermine the area's ability to recover.

The percentage of the population of these counties that is over the age of 65 is generally higher than the state average, as is the percentage of the population reporting a disability. Median household income in these areas is generally below the state and federal average, and unemployment rates across the region are higher than the state average. These factors will make recovery more difficult for the affected counties.

The following is detailed information on the impacted population, specifically the percentage below poverty level, the median household income, the percentage of elderly, disabled, pre-

disaster unemployed, youth, and uninsured population, and those populations that speak a first language other than English.

September 2019 Tropical Storm Imelda								
	Persons Below Poverty Level in percent	Median Household Income in dollars	Percent of Elderly (Age 65 and Older)	Percent of Disabled (Under the Age of 65) in percent	Percent Pre-Disaster Unemployment (July 2019)	18 Years and Younger	Percent without health insurance (under the age of 65)	Speak a Language Other than English
<b>National</b>	12.3%	\$57,652	16%	8.7%	3.7%	22.4%	11.1%	21.3%
<b>Texas</b>	14.7%	\$57,051	12.6%	8%	3.6%	25.8%	19.4%	35.3%
<b>Counties</b>								
Chambers	9.5%	\$74,368	11.8%	8.7%	5.0%	28%	16.4%	18.2%
Harris	15.9%	\$57,791	10.5%	6.4%	4.0%	26.6%	22.1%	43.7%
Jefferson	18.6%	\$46,315	14.4%	9.3%	6.4%	24.0%	20.2%	22.7%
Liberty	15.5%	\$48,344	12.8%	12.6%	5.4%	26.5%	21.7%	18.9%
Montgomery	8.9%	\$74,323	13.1%	7.1%	3.6%	26.4%	17.2%	21.0%
Orange	13.7%	\$53,667	16.1%	11.8%	5.6%	24.8%	15.1%	5.4%

Data from U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Numbers in red identify outliers from the national and Texas averages

\*Unemployment statistics for counties are from July 2019 averages

**Personal Income by County**

As you will note from the table below, this measurement, which the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Affairs provides, includes income that people receive from wages, proprietors' income, dividends, interest, rents, and government benefits. This measurement for certain affected counties is below average, as compared to the state and national levels.

Personal Income for the U.S., State and Counties	
<b>National</b>	<b>\$51,640</b>
<b>Texas</b>	<b>\$47,362</b>
<b> </b>	
Chambers	<b>\$51,832</b>
Harris	<b>\$53,188</b>
Jefferson	<b>\$42,338</b>
Liberty	<b>\$35,840</b>
Montgomery	<b>\$57,585</b>
Orange	<b>\$43,412</b>

Numbers in red identify outliers from the national and Texas averages

**Preliminary Damage Assessments**

FEMA, state, and local preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) were conducted on September 23, 2019, and are ongoing in affected areas. The official results determined hundreds of homes were destroyed or received major damage, and many more were affected or received minor damage. Currently, for the six counties listed below combined, 884 homes sustained major damage or were destroyed and uninsured.

<b>IA PDAs</b>	
<b>County</b>	<b>Destroyed and Major</b>
Montgomery	53
Liberty	31
Orange	239
Chambers*	136
Jefferson*	409
Harris*	22
<i>*These PDAs are ongoing and reflect homes verified as destroyed or as receiving major damage.</i>	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>884</b>

These numbers reflect the official numbers from the FEMA, state, and local Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments conducted September 23, 2019, and are ongoing.

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Data**

The following table provides a brief analysis of historical NFIP percentage of insurance in the six counties for which this declaration is requested.

<b>County Name</b>	<b>2019 Total Housing Units</b>	<b>NFIP Percentage of Insurance</b>	<b>Total Policy Count</b>
Chambers	16,151	26%	4,213
Harris	1,788,240	19%	333,197
Jefferson	108,771	26%	27,861
Liberty	31,735	8%	2,546
Montgomery	222,592	14%	30,270
Orange	37,735	35%	13,151
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,205,224</b>	<b>21% (average)</b>	<b>411,238</b>
<b>Approximately 21% (average) of the population has NFIP coverage in these 6 counties</b>			

## **ESTIMATED COST OF ASSISTANCE**

The estimated cost of assistance for the FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP) is \$29,129,078. The State of Texas has Total Taxable Resources (TTR) of \$1,704,800,000. The new evaluation of FEMA IA factors includes calculation of a Cost to Capacity (ICC) Ratio. The following calculation applies to this disaster.

IHP Estimated Cost of Assistance/TTR in millions = ICC Ratio

$$\$29,129,078/\$1,704,800 = 17.08$$

$$\text{ICC Ratio} = 17.08$$

## **HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

It has been two years since one of the most catastrophic disasters in history hit Texas: Hurricane Harvey. In the last four years, Texas has received ten major disaster declarations for severe weather events (DR-4223, DR-4245, DR-4255, DR-4266, DR-4269, DR-4272, DR-4332, DR-4377, DR-4416, and DR-4454), and an additional eight FMAG designations. Last year, this same area of eastern Texas experienced severe flooding from summer storms. Between recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey and subsequent flooding events, some of these jurisdictions hit by Imelda barely have the resources to house their residents or rebuild their communities, let alone the capability to recover from additional storms during hurricane season. Federal assistance is needed for these vulnerable populations.

## **CLOSING**

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.36 (Major Disaster), this incident is of such magnitude and severity that effective response is beyond state and local capability, and supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and protect property, public health, and safety. Because of this disaster, the State of Texas is specifically requesting a major disaster declaration for:

Individual Assistance including the Individuals and Households Programs (IA), Other Needs Assistance (ONA), Crisis Counseling, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Legal Assistance, Disaster Case Management; Direct Federal Assistance; and Hazard Mitigation statewide (the State of Texas has a current, standard State Hazard Mitigation Plan, approved in 2018) for the following counties:

Chambers, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, and Orange counties.

I am also requesting U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program for Physical and Economic Loss for all counties requesting Individual Assistance.

I have designated Nim Kidd as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Suzannah Jones and Mike Miller as the Alternate GARs. Nim Kidd is designated as the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and Suzannah Jones is designated as the Deputy State Coordinating Officer (DSCO) for this request. Chief Kidd will work with FEMA and will provide further information and justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Abbott", written in a cursive style.

GREG ABBOTT

Governor

Enclosure: OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

Preliminary Damage Assessment Table

IHP Cost Projection Worksheet

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
 Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION**  
**MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

OMB Control Number 1660-0009  
 Expires 09/30/2019

1. Request Date Oct 1, 2019

**Burden Disclosure Notice**

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.  Texas	2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). <u>25,145,561</u>
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3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Greg Abbott	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number W. Nim Kidd (512) 424-2436
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number  
 W. Nim Kidd (512) 424-2436

6. Declaration Request For:  Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401)  Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Sep 17, 2019 End Date Sep 27, 2019 or  Continuing

*If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).*

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

Drought     Earthquake     Explosion     Fire     Flood     Hurricane     Landslide     Mudslide  
 Severe Storm (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning)     Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data)     Straight-Line Winds  
 Tidal Wave     Tornado     Tropical Depression     Tropical Storm     Tsunami     Volcanic Eruption     Winter Storm  
 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.  
 Six counties were impacted by Tropical Storm Imelda. Tropical Storm Imelda produced 20-35 inches of rain within a 24 hour period with isolated rainfall totals up to 40 inches. This caused widespread flooding in Chambers, Montgomery, Harris, Liberty, Orange, and Jefferson counties including hundreds of flooded roads including, I-45 and IH69, and I-10 which was closed for several days. Local jurisdictions estimated that over 3,000 homes were considered major or destroyed due to flooding.

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.  
 Numerous state and local agencies assisted during the response including Texas Task Force I (TX-TF-1) which rescued 406 people, evacuated 1205 individuals and 38 animals, and conducted over 535 welfare checks. The Texas Military Department and Texas Animal Health Commission provided airdrops of hay to stranded animals. Over 19 other state agencies have responded as well as over 40 volunteer agencies that have supported the ongoing response and recovery efforts. At the peak of the disaster we had 18 shelters open with a population of 1229. The Texas Military Department in conjunction with the local jurisdictions operated 8 points of distribution, that provided water and ice to survivors.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

Individual Assistance    Dates Performed **Requested** Sep 20, 2019    **Start** Sep 23, 2019    **End** Ongoing

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
Chambers, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery and Orange

Public Assistance    Dates Performed **Requested** \_\_\_\_\_    **Start** \_\_\_\_\_    **End** \_\_\_\_\_

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance  N/A     Individuals and Households Program     Crisis Counseling Program     Disaster Unemployment Assistance  
 All     Disaster Case Management     Disaster Legal Services     Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation.  
Chambers, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery and Orange

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance  N/A  Debris Removal (Category A)  Emergency Protective Measures (Category B)  Permanent Work (Categories C-G)\* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

**Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity**

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold  harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

**Request for Direct Federal Assistance**

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:  
Debris, flood fighting, mosquito abatement and de-watering.

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

**Request for Snow Assistance**

N/A  I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation\*  Statewide OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date October 2023 b. Type of Plan  Enhanced  Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies  I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C**: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs for additional information in support of this request\*.

14. Findings and Certifications

I certify the following:

- a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.
- b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on Sep 19, 2019 in accordance with the Stafford Act.
- c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

Cover Letter  Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)\*  Enclosure B (Public Assistance)\*  
 Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs)  Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)  
 Additional Supporting Documentation \_\_\_\_\_

  
 Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

10/01/19  
 Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request