



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

May 15, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D. C.

Through: Tony Robinson  
Regional Administrator  
DHS/FEMA Region 6  
800 N. Loop 288  
Denton, TX 76209-3698

Subject: 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), as implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Texas as a result of the April 2024 Severe Storms and Flooding.

Beginning on April 25, 2024, I directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to prepare state emergency response resources ahead of severe storm and flooding threats. TDEM alerted all Texas Emergency Management Council members to be prepared to support response and recovery operations across the state. On May 1, I directed TDEM to increase the readiness level of the Texas State Emergency Operations Center to Level II (Escalated Response) to support local response efforts for severe weather and flooding impacts.

Beginning April 30, 2024, I took the appropriate action under state law with respect to the April 2024 Severe Storms and Flooding by directing the execution of the state's emergency management plan and declaring a state of disaster for twenty-nine (29) Texas counties. As of May 7th, the severity of the disaster was substantial, and I found it necessary to further expand

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the state's disaster declaration to include additional counties in areas at risk for severe weather and flooding. The amendments to the disaster declaration included the following ninety-two (92) counties: Anderson, Angelina, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Baylor, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Bosque, Brazos, Burlison, Burnet, Caldwell, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Coleman, Colorado, Comal, Coryell, Dickens, DeWitt, Eastland, Ellis, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Galveston, Gillespie, Gonzales, Grimes, Guadalupe, Gregg, Hamilton, Hardin, Harris, Haskell, Hays, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Houston, Hunt, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Karnes, Kaufman, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Knox, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Llano, Madison, Mason, McLennan, Medina, Milam, Mills, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Van Zandt, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wichita, Williamson, Wilson counties. I am taking action to add an additional six counties with impacts from these storms, bringing the total to 98. Those counties include: Brown, Concho, McCulloch, Menard, San Saba, and Sutton.

Of the aforementioned impacted 98 Texas counties, 27 counties have met the thresholds for Public Assistance and Individual Assistance, with six counties meeting the criteria for both programs.

I am requesting all Individual Assistance programs – Mass Care/Emergency Services (MC/EA), Individuals and Household Program (IHP), Disaster Case Management (DCM), Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, Disaster Legal Services (DLS), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) – for these seven (7) counties: Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker counties.

I am requesting all parts of Public Assistance Categories A through G, including Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) for these twenty-six (26) counties: Bosque, Concho, Coryell, Eastland, Falls, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hardin, Hill, Houston, Kaufman, Lampasas, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Madison, McCulloch, Milam, Mills, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, San Saba, Trinity, and Walker Counties.

Additionally, I am requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide and the U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program for physical and economic loss for all counties requested.

As we assess damages in the other affected counties, I reserve the right to request assistance for additional counties in Texas.

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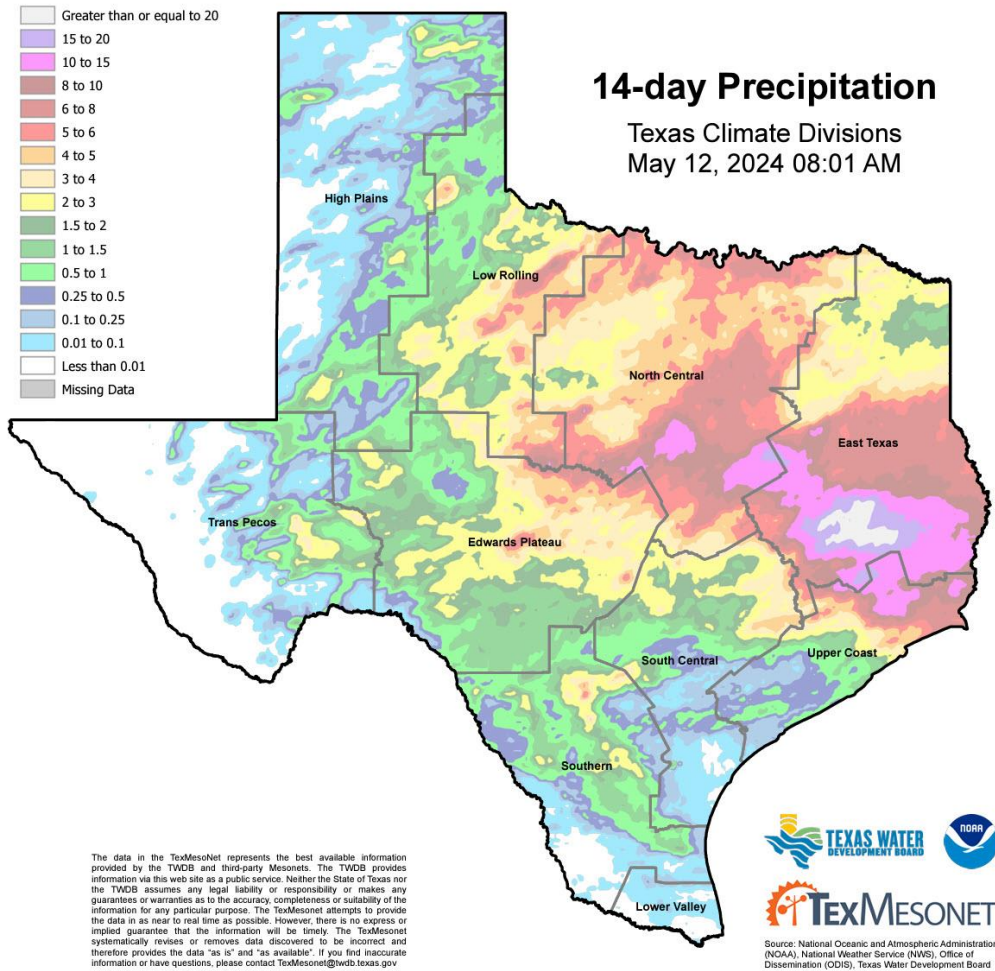
Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.36, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster.

The ongoing response and recovery efforts for this disaster are in addition to the other major disasters over the last two years, including the March 2024 Wildfires, which resulted in the largest wildfire in the state's history; the January 2023 Severe Winter Weather; and the 2022 Wildfires. The State of Texas has had more federal disaster declarations than almost any other state, which does not account for the numerous state disasters that did not meet federal thresholds and requirements.

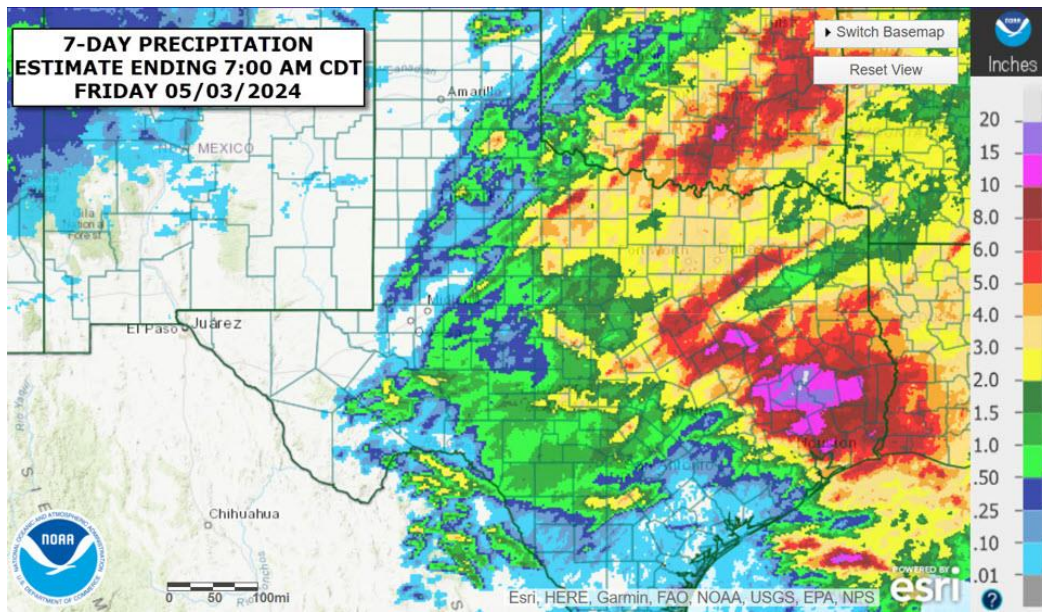
### **INCIDENT OVERVIEW**

Over the course of the last week of April and continuing to present-day, waves of thunderstorms have dropped extreme amounts of rainfall leading to catastrophic flash flooding and river flooding – primarily in the eastern third of Texas.

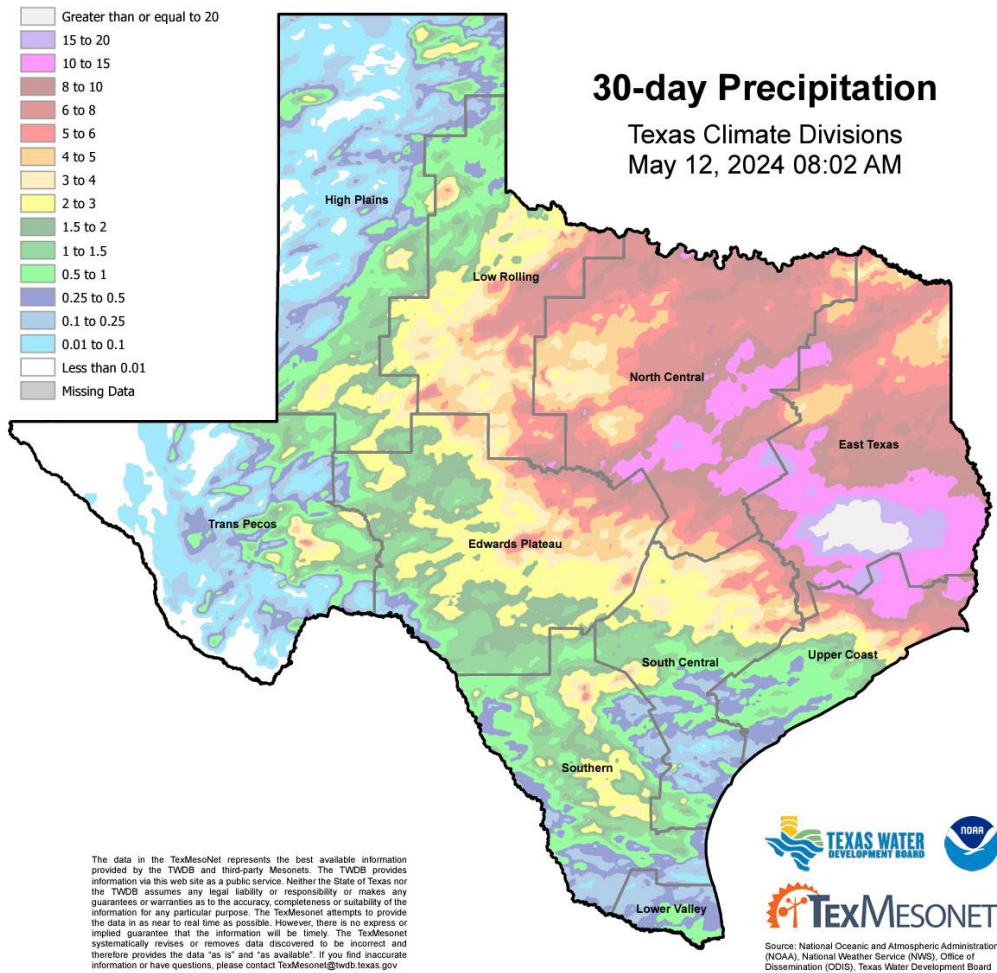
Fourteen-day rainfall estimates as of 8:00 am CDT Sunday, May 12 show a large area of 5-10" rainfall, with pockets of more than 10", and a large area of 15-20" of rain. Isolated totals of more than 20" have occurred.



Much of this rain fell in a short period between May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.



The 30-day rainfall record shows even larger areas of 5-10” plus rainfall totals for the 30 days leading up to May 12, 2024.



Extreme amounts of rain pushed many rivers and their tributaries in the eastern third of the state to major flood levels not seen since Hurricane Laura (2020), Tropical Storm Imelda (2019), and Hurricane Harvey (2017).

In addition to the flooding in this event, destructive weather from strong to severe thunderstorms included extremely large hail (in excess of 6" in diameter in some cases), damaging wind gusts, and tornadoes that destroyed property and injured residents.



*Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. May 2, 2024*

## **RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

Beginning April 26, 2024, Texas was impacted by a severe weather system, leading to widespread flooding and significant storm damage throughout the state. Major rivers including the Trinity, San Jacinto, Navasota, and Neches experienced major flooding, while moderate to minor flooding was reported across a number of impacted counties. Leading up to the current incident, a series of severe weather events, including tornadoes and damaging storms, impacted multiple counties across the state.

The floods forced evacuations in many communities, with Polk and parts of Harris County under mandatory evacuation orders in addition to voluntary evacuations in other areas. Hundreds of water rescues were carried out by first responders and volunteers and over 750 search and rescue missions were conducted. High waters and severe storms caused widespread transportation issues, with dozens of road closures and multiple train derailments reported.

The State of Texas launched a coordinated response, mobilizing various teams and organizations to assist affected constituents. Additional emergency response resources were rostered from five other states under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). These out-of-state

resources include more than 115 responders and more than 25 boats to support the State of Texas' response efforts. These resources remain in the state and continue to help with the response to this event.

In response to the floods, Texas agencies mobilized to provide support and assistance to affected communities. More than 600 state emergency responders have supported response and recovery efforts to date. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has focused on helping livestock owners meet disaster needs as well as assess agricultural damage. The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and its Public Works Response Team have concentrated on evaluating infrastructure damage and supporting essential services such as water systems recover from the impacts of flooding and severe storms. The Texas Animal Health Commission has played a crucial role in animal welfare efforts, locating lost livestock and sheltering stray animals. Meanwhile, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TEEX's Texas A&M Task Force One swiftwater boat squads, the Texas Military Department's Ground Transportation Platoons, and the Texas Department of Public Safety's Tactical Marine Unit and Aviation Division have supported rescue operations, using various means to reach those stranded and assess the overall impact of the floods.

As the floodwaters continue to slowly recede, the focus has shifted to damage assessment and recovery. The state's transportation department has identified numerous road closures and has begun repairs on impacted highways and farm-to-market roads. By May 10th, 24 state roads remained impacted by flooding, but progress was slowly being made. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has also provided support by extending emergency medical task forces and delivering vaccines to residents in impacted areas.

### **State Agency Summaries**

**Texas Division of Emergency Management:** TDEM staff coordinated statewide situational awareness, response, and recovery efforts in support of state agencies and local partners. TDEM District Chiefs and other regional staff worked with local emergency management partners to assist with any unmet needs and response and recovery resources. Mass Care staff have collaborated with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and locally impacted counties to support their needs. State Operations Center (SOC) personnel continue to support recovery efforts for this disaster, and the Texas State Emergency Operations Center continues to be activated at Level 2 (Escalated Response Conditions).

**Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension (AgriLife):** The AgriLife SOC Liaison activated 20 Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Agents to assist with damage assessments across impacted jurisdictions. The AgriLife Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Unit rostered



four DAR Strike Teams, one being assigned to support the TAMU Veterinarian Emergency Team (VET). Three AgriLife Extension Liaisons were activated in the affected regions to increase response posture. A DAR agent was also assigned to coordinate with the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and County Extension Agents to assist landowners with livestock affected by the flooding.

**Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): Texas A&M Public Works Response Team (TX-PWRT):** TX-PWRT deployed drone teams to conduct aerial damage assessments in the affected area. TX-PWRT assigned two boats with operators to evaluate flooded areas in coordination with the Incident Support Team (IST) and Texas Task Force 3 (TX-TF3). TX-PWRT also assisted the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality with water and wastewater monitoring for impacted areas. Public Works and Engineering Teams assisted multiple impacted areas during the incident.

**Texas A&M Task Force 1 (TX-TF1):** TX-TF1 provided search and rescue personnel as well as swiftwater boat squads and flood water boat squads, totaling over 25 squads at the peak of the response. These resources from TX-TF1, Texas Task Force 2 (TX-TF2), and Texas Task Force 3 (TX-TF3), included more than 150 personnel and more than 100 vehicles. These responders assisted local agencies with 2,701 search missions. TX-TF1 evacuated 127 survivors and 118 pets and rescued 60 individuals.

**Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):** TAMFS supported this incident with more than a dozen responders including staff in the field and at the State Emergency Operations Center. Texas A&M Forest Service and All Hazard IMT personnel assisted in the impacted areas. TAMFS Saw Crews provided support for debris removal on roadways in multiple impacted areas. TAMFS implemented State Engine Strike Teams and four Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid Strike teams to the Texas panhandle due to potential fire weather. Aviation resources supporting TAMFS included large air tankers, single engine air tankers, and air attack units.

**Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team (VET):** The Texas A&M VET supported four Search and Rescue (SAR) canines as part of the Texas A&M Task Force mobilized to affected counties. The Texas A&M VET deployed a Type 4 team with one veterinarian, two technicians, one medical vehicle, and one support vehicle.

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** TxDOT assigned a liaison officer (LNO) to support the SOC and had crews perform damage assessments on roads and bridges. The assigned LNO processed State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs) from several counties to assist with roadway materials. Crews including 250 personnel began repairs on multiple highways in the affected area. More than 100 roadway locations were impacted by flooding including dozens of road closures reported across the state. 13 state roads remained closed due to flooding.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):** TPWD performed 260 rescues, 144 evacuations, and 117 animal evacuations for a total of 521 responses for this incident across the impacted area.

**Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):** The DPS Tactical Marine Unit (TMU) deployed eight flat boats to southeast Texas. DPS Aviation conducted patrols in low-lying areas in search of possible water rescues needed and identifying high-water areas. Throughout the disaster, DPS Aviation conducted reconnaissance flyovers to view the affected areas. DPS Aviation Operations Division had four helicopter teams stationed across different geographical regions of Texas - Dallas, Austin, El Paso, and Edinburg. DPS also relocated a helicopter with hoist capabilities from Austin to Houston. Texas Highway Patrol's Tactical Marine Unit (TMU) had rescue specialists assigned to hoist capable helicopters in Austin and Dallas, and flood water boats throughout the state.

**Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):** TAHC tracked animal shelters populations in the impacted counties. Eastern Texas animal shelters rescued six goats, three horses, 43 dogs and 20 cats throughout the event.

**Texas Military Department (TMD):** TMD provided more than 60 personnel including, a SOC Support Team, three Ground Transportation Platoons (GTP), one Ground Transportation Company Headquarters (GTCHQ), and two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters with crews. The Rotary Wing Medium MRPs were staged in affected areas and College Station with TX TF-1 Rescue Swimmers. 61 personnel, 19 vehicles, and two aircraft were activated in support of this incident. TMD performed 30 rescue operations, assisting 76 people and 12 pets.

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** TCEQ had staff available to respond to any air, water, or waste-related issues, including drinking water and wastewater issues and/or emergency response activities. TCEQ tracked 33 water systems that were on boil water notices, five water systems that became inoperable, and 42 water systems which reported sanitary sewer overflows. In addition to water system issues, several dams required monitoring during this incident. TCEQ also assisted with the approval of sites for debris management and providing local authorities with information regarding the debris management process.

**Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):** On May 4, 200 doses of the Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (TDAP) vaccine were sent to Montgomery County Health Department. DSHS had Liaison Officers (LNOs) assigned to the SOC and an Ambulance Strike Team (AST) in Hardin County. DSHS extended the Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Severe Weather Package (SWX PKG) and the Catastrophic Medical Operations Center (CMOC).

**Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):** HHSC supported 24-hour operations in the affected portions of the state, and Regulatory Services reported impacts to four long-term care facilities.

**Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUC):** PUC monitored electrical outages with a peak impact of 160,000 customers without power as the severe weather continued throughout the state as the second line of storms pushed through southeast Texas. Outages started rising as the newest lines of storms moved through southeast (SE) Texas. The largest outage counts were in Montgomery, Liberty, and Harris Counties.

PUC also restored power to over 150k customers. PUC continued to provide utility restoration as needed throughout the disaster.

**Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ):** Multiple Agricultural Operations Units sustained bridge, fence, road, barn, levee, and crop field damage (estimated \$550,930.00 crop loss). Rising floodwaters from the Trinity River entered TDCJ's Ellis Unit maximum security facility in Walker County. Steps were taken to ensure the safety of the inmates and the general public.

**Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR):** DIR monitored the clear and dark web for threats related to this weather activation.

**Texas Education Agency (TEA):** TEA supported impacted school districts with guidance and assistance amid more than 40 school district closures due to severe storms and flooding.



*Source: Texas A&M Task Force 1. May 5, 2024.*

## **Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) Summaries**

State officials worked with volunteer organizations, including the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army, to provide shelter, meals, and other essential services to those displaced by the floods. These organizations have provided over 40,000 meals, snacks, and drinks to impacted survivors.

Local, state, and national mission-driven organizations, including Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) member agencies and established Long Term Recovery Groups, have been engaged in response and recovery efforts for the April 2024 Severe Storms and Flooding.

**American Red Cross (ARC):** ARC opened ten shelters and sheltered 216 people. An Incident Management Team (IMT) deployed a basecamp and a field kitchen to Houston. As of May 14th, the ARC distributed 6,086 snacks and 8,956 meals. This number will continue to rise, as operations are ongoing.

**The Salvation Army (TSA):** TSA conducted feeding operations in coordination with Southern Baptist Texas Convention (SBTC). As a whole, TSA provided community feeding operations and mobile feeding units in the affected area. The field kitchen operations provided 3,500 meals daily. As of May 13th, a total of 17,332 meals, 1,583 snacks, and 10,070 drinks were distributed. As operations continue, these numbers will also increase.

**Southern Baptist Texas Convention (SBTC):** As of May 14th, SBTC provided 3,300 volunteer hours, 17,385 meals, 33 shower units, and multiple laundry units in the affected area. This number will also continue to rise as SBTC operations are ongoing for this event.

**Texans On Mission (TOM):** As of May 13th, TOM deployed Incident Management Teams to affected areas and provided electrical support, showers, 59 loads of laundry, 503 meals, 1,356 boxes, and 6,344 volunteer hours. Due to the ongoing nature of this incident, it is expected that these numbers will continue to increase.

## **Other Community Organization Response**

Additionally, VOAD member agencies provided tarps, hygiene kits, medicine, and medical supplies. Organizations have also helped with muck-and-gut operations, feeding, case management, damage assessments, and internet connectivity restoration.

The state agencies and VOAD organizations described above have worked tirelessly since the April 2024 Severe Storms and Flooding began, but the residents and local governments in Texas are in desperate need of additional federal assistance to enable a quick and complete return to normalcy. Flood waters are still receding in many affected areas, and VOADs and their staff are stretched as a new system of storms will impact current operations and ability to move resources where needed.

### **Behavioral Health Impacts**

Research indicates that children who have survived a disaster are particularly vulnerable after a 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 experience was to the individual and the extent of damage and loss.

Seniors 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.

Both the children and adults may need behavioral health support, as many may face housing and/or financial issues as they return to their homes or while displaced from 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.

Three confirmed casualties have deeply impacted these close-knit communities. Experiencing a natural disaster leaves profound scars on mental health. Initially, shock and grief overwhelm, but the aftermath brings a cascade of enduring challenges. From shattered homes and businesses to the loss of loved ones, survivors wrestle with persistent mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety.

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 physical 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. 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.

## **LOCALIZED IMPACT**

### **Casualties**

As of May 6, 2024, multiple confirmed deaths include a member of the City of Conroe Police Force, who died after a tornado hit his home in Trinity County; and a man who drowned in rushing water from flash flooding in Bosque County.

On May 5th, a 4-year-old boy was swept away by rising floodwaters in Johnson County. According to local officials, despite the family's efforts to cling to trees and debris, they found themselves repeatedly submerged in the floodwaters for hours. Exhausted and facing increasing waves, the child became separated from his family and tragically drowned.

### **Recent Multiple Disasters**

Texas has seen more than its share of disasters in recent years. In the past 6 months alone, several counties have been involved in multiple severe weather patterns, which brought devastating damage and destruction across the state that did not obtain federal assistance for affected public infrastructure and community members.

Considering the scope of these disasters and the recent economic issues caused by the previous weather pattern, Texans affected by April 2024 Severe Storms and Flooding are in dire need of federal assistance. The barrage of disaster-caused damages on community infrastructure and individual homes far exceeds the financial resources available to these communities to recover from this widespread and catastrophic event.

Multiple incidents resulting in disaster declarations over the past two years in the requested counties are listed below:

- 2024 FM-5488 Texas Smokehouse Creek Fire
- 2024 FM-5487 Texas Windy Deuce Fire
- 2023 DR-4705 Winter Storm Mara

- 2022 FM-5443 Texas Hard Castle Fire
- 2022 FM-5428 Texas Wheat Fire
- 2022 FM-5427 Texas Kidd Fire

Aside from disaster declarations, the requested counties have experienced other significant events that did not result in disaster declarations.

### **State Fiscal Capacity and Resource Availability**

The State of Texas is using its already limited resources to respond to the April 2024 Severe Storms and Flooding. As of May 14th, the state alone has spent \$8.3 million on response and recovery related to this incident. Additionally, a significant amount of state resources continue to be dedicated to supporting ongoing weather and wildfire threats across the entire state as well as border operations. The Texas State Operations Center has been staffed and operational since April 7, 2024.

### **Volunteerism and Donations Impacts**

Historically, Texas has had the good fortune of drawing upon the goodwill of the American people from non-impacted states during our natural disaster response and recovery operations. However, extreme incidents such as the 2023 Winter Storm, 2024 March Wildfires, and the repeated, recent severe storms and flooding that have occurred this year have exhausted much of the state's resources.

Currently, mission-driven organizations providing support for Texas communities impacted by the April 2024 Severe Storms and Flooding, including VOADs, are experiencing limited capacity in feeding, bulk distribution, emergency food boxes, clean-up kits, personal care/comfort kits, disaster cleanup services, and immediate home repairs. It is important to note that each capability is dependent upon the goodwill of volunteers and the individual agency's severe weather and flooding guidelines. Due to the disaster impacting geographically separated rural communities, maintaining a steady supply of volunteers has been challenging.

### **Damage Assessments**

Immediately after the April 2024 Severe Storms and Flooding began, the state began coordinating damage assessments with local jurisdictions in the affected areas. This involved coordinating and surveying damage to public infrastructure and residences across the state. The

state also provided training and assistance in using the damage self-reporting app, which allowed for preliminary damage assessments.

Assistance is warranted. Texas state agency partners and volunteer organizations partnered with local jurisdictions and participated in reporting damages and capturing imagery across the disaster-affected area for reports to be validated and transmitted to FEMA.



*Source: Hamilton County – Public Assistance State of Texas Assessment Tool. May 8, 2024*



*Source: Robinson Police Department. May 3, 2024*



### Damages to Public Property

As the April 2024 Severe Storms and Flooding resulted in additional river cresting, emergency protective measures were taken to ensure the safety of Texans. Several state resources, including a significant number of personnel, were mobilized. In addition to state and federal resources, local jurisdictions have incurred numerous expenses. To date, the requested counties have costs exceeding \$5 million for emergency work, which includes debris operations and emergency protective measures. Damage in permanent work categories for those jurisdictions is now estimated to be over \$53 million. This brings the total reported dollar amount as of May 13, 2024, in damages to public infrastructure in the disaster-affected area to over \$58 million, with expected increases as additional damages are reported. This is shown in the table to the right.

COUNTY	REPORTED DAMAGES (\$)	Liberty County	\$406,828.00
Bosque County	\$3,889,342.00	Leon County	\$307,229.00
Concho County	\$5,000,000.00	Limestone County	\$1,358,500.00
Coryell County	\$4,113,010.00	Madison County	\$146,250.00
Eastland County	\$266,000.00	McCulloch County	\$80,000.00
Falls County	\$589,500.00	Milam County	\$190,000.00
Freestone County	\$1,239,000.00	Mills County	\$2,173,000.00
Grimes County	\$595,808.00	Montgomery County	\$2,776,790.00
Hamilton County	\$2,089,450.00	Polk County	\$7,518,160.00
Hardin County	\$518,500.00	San Jacinto County	\$3,904,236.00
Hill County	\$2,268,250.00	San Saba County	\$963,975.00
Houston County	\$127,732.00	Trinity County	\$3,554,473.00
Kaufman County	\$2,078,500.00	Walker County	\$11,932,013.00
Lampasas County	\$743,000.00	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$58,829,546.00</b>

Table showing total dollars of public property damage in the requested counties as of 5/13/2024.

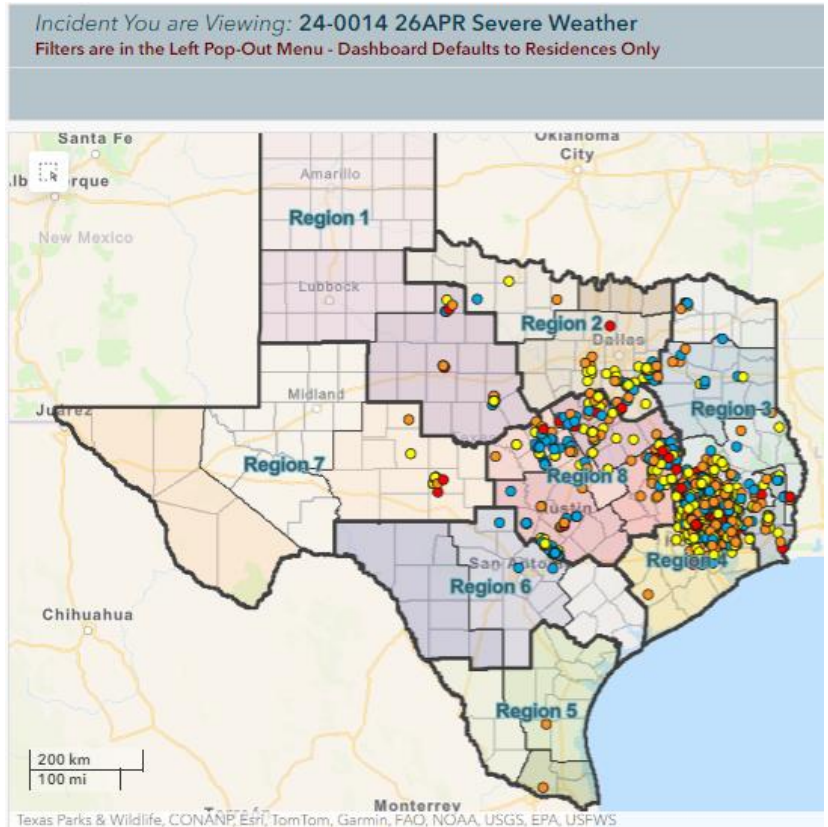


Source: Trinity County – Public Assistance State of Texas Assessment Tool. May 6, 2024

### Damages to Homes

With the dangerous river crests, high windspeeds, large hail size, and excessive rainfall, many homes across Texas were damaged. The damage ranges from homes with shingles missing and vegetative debris in yards to homes that were destroyed.

As of May 13, 2024, of the damage surveys received and validated by TDEM, 629 residences were affected, 786 had minor damage, 611 sustained major damage, and 46 were destroyed. This storm is yet another time many Texans in this area will need to repair their homes, or worse, start over again.



Affected Homes	Minor Damage	Major Damage	Destroyed Homes
629	786	611	46

Table showing numbers of homes by categories of damage as of 5/13/2024.



*Source: Montgomery County resident via the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool. May 5, 2024*

### Insurance Data

Many of the destroyed homes in previous federally declared disasters were in low- to medium-income neighborhoods where survivors struggled to rebuild, make mortgage payments, or pay rent in a market where there was a lack of affordable and available rental resources. The personal and economic impact on these communities means it will take them a significant amount of time and effort to recover. Long-term recovery from such devastation is the most difficult part of a disaster. Federal assistance will be key to a rapid and resilient recovery.



Source: Montgomery County resident via the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool. May 5, 2024

As of May 13, 2024, 2,817 self-reported damage surveys were submitted to TDEM from across Texas. 2,465 respondents indicated they were the property owner, 231 indicated they were renters, and the status of the remainder is unknown. Of this population, only 1,016 respondents indicated they were insured, 1,071 indicated they were not insured, and 729 people did not respond to the question. It should also be considered that even those who are insured may have losses not covered entirely by insurance.

	<b>Residences</b>	<b>% Insured</b>	<b>% Uninsured</b>	<b>% Unknown</b>
<b>Owner</b>	2,465	39.8%	39.4%	20.8%
<b>Renter</b>	231	10.4%	37.2%	52.4%
<b>Unknown Own/Rent</b>	121	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,817	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table showing insurance data for homes taken from self-reported damage assessments as of 5/13/2024.

In addition to homeowner’s insurance, FEMA Region 6 has estimated only 200 National Flood Insurance Program claims in the 27 requested counties.

### **Disaster Impacted Population Profile**

Those living in the affected area contribute to the quickly recovering economies of Texas and the United States. The area includes counties that are home to petroleum refineries, one of the busier ports in the United States, manufacturing companies, and much more. Texans living in the affected area are no stranger to disasters, but many have reached their breaking point given repeated incidents in this year alone.

These affected areas of the state are also home to many vulnerable population groups. In some of the affected counties, many households speak a language other than English at home. These language barriers can hinder Texans from accessing the emergency assistance they desperately need. Additionally, in many counties, the percentage of the population under 65 years of age and with a disability is higher than 8.9 percent, the national average. Also, persons under the age of 18 and persons aged 65 and older make up a significant portion of the disaster area, as outlined in the sections below.

## Population Statistics

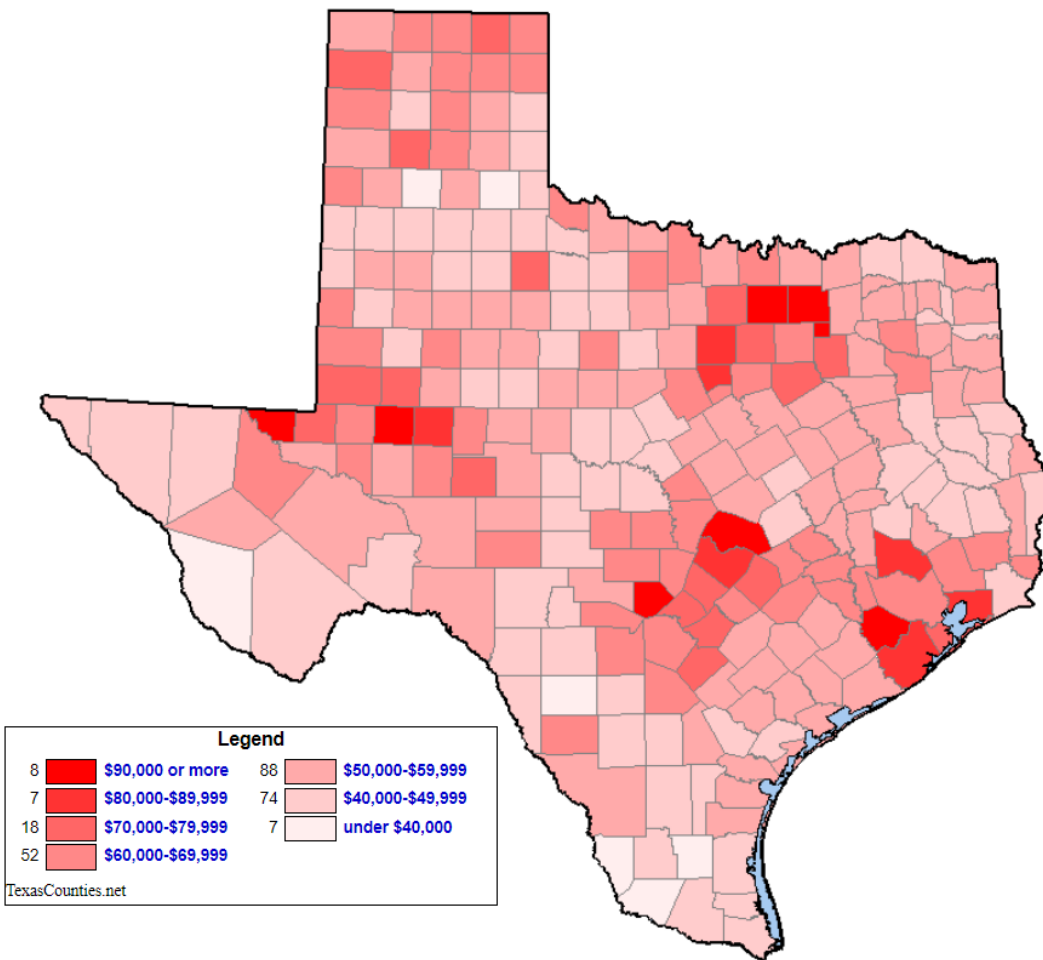
Among the 27 counties for which federal assistance is being requested, the population exceeds 6.18 million and is home to Texans of varying demographics. The population of disabled individuals aged 65 and older, as well as those without health insurance, is high in the majority of affected counties. Moreover, the majority of affected counties have higher than national and state poverty level rates.

Jurisdiction	Median household income in dollars	Pre-disaster unemployment (Feb 2024)	Persons below poverty level	Persons 18 yrs and younger	Elderly (age 65 and older)	Disabled (under the age of 65)	Without health insurance (under age 65)	Speak a language other than English
National	\$ 75,149.00	3.60%	11.50%	21.70%	17.30%	8.90%	9.30%	21.70%
Texas	\$ 73,035.00	4.00%	14.00%	16.90%	29.30%	8.20%	18.90%	35.10%
Bosque	\$ 63,868.00	4.00%	12.40%	20.70%	25.10%	12.90%	21.60%	15.30%
Concho	\$ 55,750.00	3.20%	20.20%	18.40%	26.10%	10.50%	17.40%	35.60%
Coryell	\$ 63,281.00	4.90%	12.20%	22.10%	11.30%	14.60%	15.20%	15.00%
Eastland	\$ 52,902.00	5.90%	14.90%	21.20%	22.20%	12.70%	23.20%	12.10%
Falls	\$ 45,172.00	4.50%	21.40%	21.20%	19.20%	13.30%	20.30%	15.50%
Freestone	\$ 55,902.00	5.50%	15.70%	22.10%	20.60%	13.60%	20.90%	11.40%
Grimes	\$ 63,484.00	4.60%	15.50%	22.50%	19.00%	9.20%	22.20%	20.20%
Hamilton	\$ 54,890.00	4.00%	13.70%	20.90%	25.70%	13.40%	22.80%	11.50%
Hardin	\$ 70,164.00	4.90%	13.20%	24.60%	17.70%	13.20%	16.30%	4.60%
Harris	\$ 70,789.00	4.60%	16.40%	25.70%	11.70%	7.20%	23.80%	44.80%
Hill	\$ 60,669.00	4.30%	15.60%	22.80%	20.90%	11.90%	21.60%	15.20%
Houston	\$ 51,043.00	3.80%	20.10%	19.80%	23.00%	16.60%	20.50%	9.50%
Kaufman	\$ 84,075.00	4.50%	8.60%	28.40%	10.70%	8.00%	19.00%	20.30%
Lampasas	\$ 73,269.00	4.30%	13.00%	21.20%	20.60%	18.10%	19.40%	10.70%
Leon	\$ 57,363.00	5.10%	14.00%	22.60%	24.60%	15.90%	22.90%	11.80%
Liberty	\$ 59,605.00	5.80%	19.90%	29.50%	12.20%	11.40%	23.20%	27.50%
Limestone	\$ 53,102.00	4.60%	18.70%	22.10%	21.30%	11.30%	22.30%	19.30%
Madison	\$ 65,768.00	4.90%	16.70%	22.10%	15.50%	11.30%	24.10%	19.20%
McCulloch	\$ 53,214.00	4.10%	18.60%	20.80%	24.50%	15.80%	24.50%	25.60%
Milam	\$ 56,985.00	4.90%	16.60%	22.80%	21.20%	10.30%	20.80%	17.00%
Mills	\$ 59,315.00	4.30%	15.00%	19.90%	28.20%	7.10%	27.50%	16.30%
Montgomery	\$ 95,946.00	4.40%	8.50%	25.60%	13.90%	6.90%	17.90%	23.30%
Polk	\$ 57,315.00	5.80%	18.70%	20.20%	18.80%	18.90%	20.20%	13.60%
San Jacinto	\$ 54,839.00	5.10%	16.80%	20.90%	23.20%	16.40%	23.30%	15.30%
San Saba	\$ 54,087.00	4.00%	18.90%	19.00%	22.70%	11.40%	27.60%	21.90%
Trinity	\$ 51,165.00	5.40%	15.90%	19.70%	26.60%	15.90%	20.30%	11.40%
Walker	\$ 47,193.00	5.10%	20.00%	14.40%	14.40%	8.00%	20.10%	17.10%

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

## Income and Poverty

Based on the U.S. Census Data from 2022, Texas ranks near the bottom half (24<sup>th</sup>) of the United States in median household income totaling \$732,035. Compared to the median US household income, Texans bring in \$2,114 less than the national average. The heat map shown below shows that 221 of 254 counties make less than the US median household average.



*Map showing shows household median income by county. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.*

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 27 of the counties impacted by April 2024 Severe Storms and Flooding have median household incomes less than the national level of \$75,149. In addition to incomes lower than the median household income, many residents in the affected area rely on assistance for nutrition. According to data from the Texas Department of

Health and Human Services, individuals receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for the month of April in these counties range from 8 to 20 percent which exceeds both state and national rates. Additionally, the affected counties include 13 to 43 percent of the population aged 65 or older receiving Social Security Income as reported in 2019 by the U.S. Social Security Administration.

### **CLOSING**

The State of Texas will build back and recover from the tremendous flooding and severe storm impacts, but Texas communities are overextended. The repeated occurrence of record-breaking storms is affecting our first responders, depleting our resources, and causing undue mental and financial stress to Texans.

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.36, I believe 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 to protect property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster.

As a result of this disaster, the State of Texas is specifically requesting a major disaster declaration for all programs within Individual Assistance (IA) for the following seven counties:

Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker.

The State of Texas is also requesting all categories of Public Assistance (PA) for the following 26 counties:

Bosque, Concho, Coryell, Eastland, Falls, Freestone, Grimes, Hamilton, Hardin, Hill, Houston, Kaufman, Lampasas, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Madison, McCulloch, Milam, Mills, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, San Saba, Trinity, and Walker.

Additionally, I am requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide and the U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program for physical and economic loss for all counties included in this request.

I have designated Chief Nim Kidd as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Paula Hanson and Warren Weidler as Alternate GARs. Nim Kidd is designated as the State Coordinating Officer (SCO), and Paula Hanson is designated as the Deputy State Coordinating

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

May 15, 2024

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Officer (DSCO) for this request. Chief Kidd will work with FEMA and provide further information and justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

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

Greg Abbott  
Governor

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