



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 24, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D. C.

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 April 17, 2016, and continues as many rivers remain in a major flood stage.

In response to the current situation, I have taken the appropriate action under state law by directing the execution of the state's emergency plan and by declaring a state of disaster for the counties listed below on April 18, 2016.

I am requesting that you declare the following counties as a disaster for Individual Assistance: Fayette, Grimes, Harris and Parker.

In the last 11 months, the State of Texas has received four major disaster declarations for severe weather. Of the 254 counties in Texas, 151 counties have been declared in one of these disasters. Of those 151 counties, 42 of them have been declared in two or more of these disasters. The population of these counties, under four declarations, is over 19.7 million people, who are 72 percent of the total population of Texas. Those 19.7 million people living in a Texas county hit by disaster is greater than the populations of 48 states. It has been a challenging year.

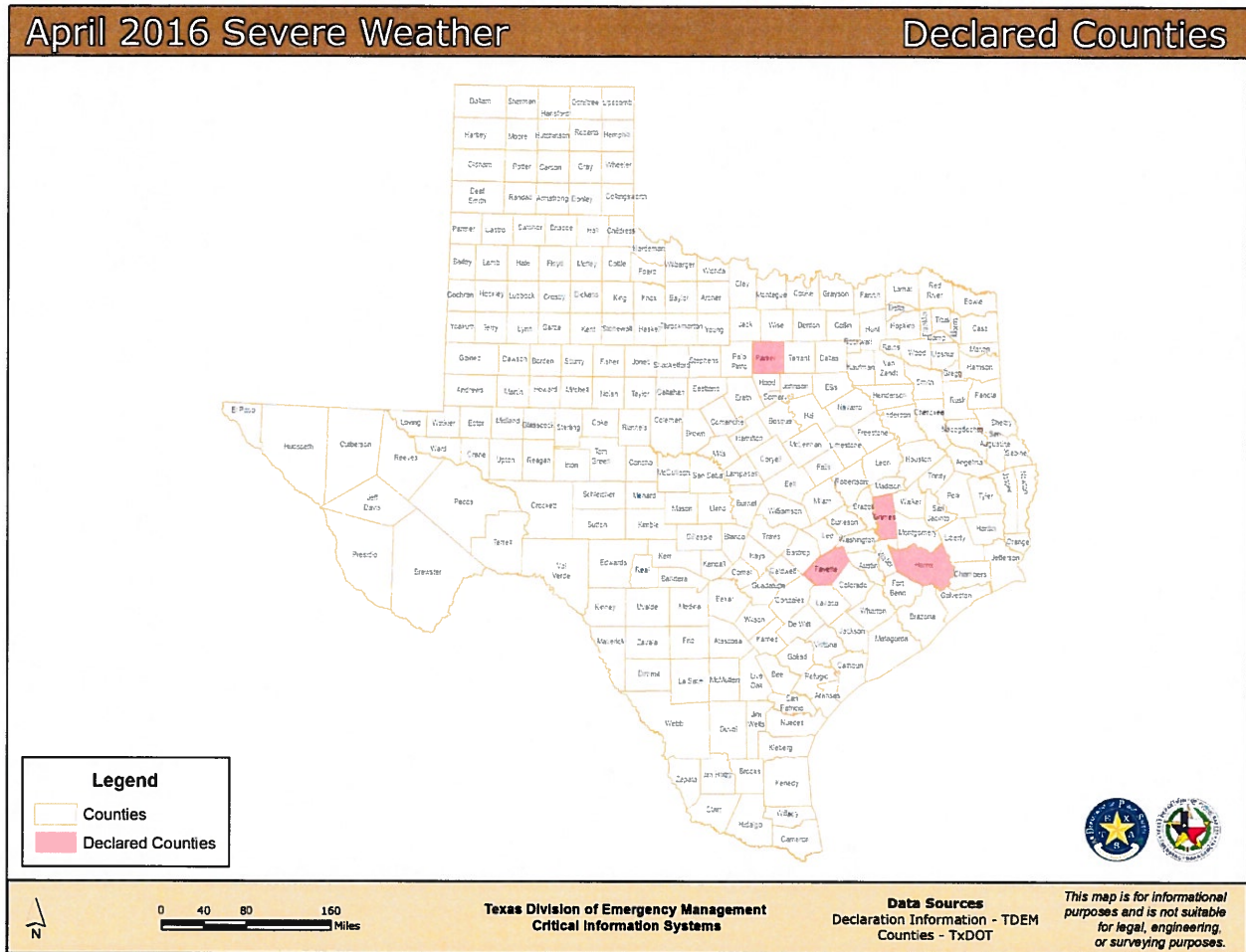


Figure 1. Counties Requested in this Major Disaster Declaration

## INCIDENT OVERVIEW

After a year of being devastated by severe weather and flooding, Texas, yet again, faced another round of storms. Almost four weeks after severe flooding hit Texas, creating the need for state and federal assistance, a large and slow-moving upper level storm system headed towards Texas just before the weekend of April 16, 2016. This large system produced an environment for severe weather and widespread flooding to develop across the state.

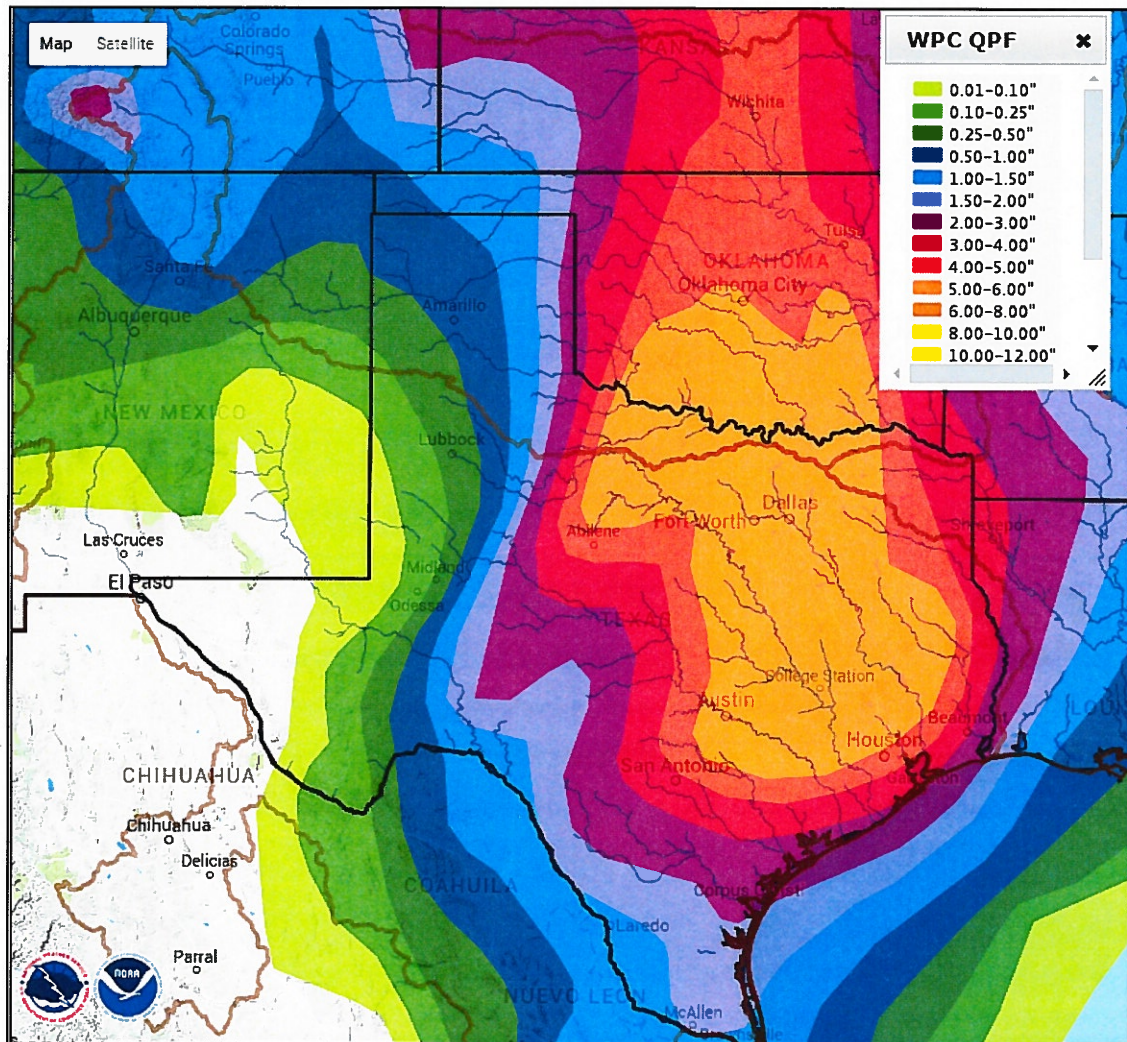


Figure 2: Seven-day rainfall forecast the morning of April 16, 2016

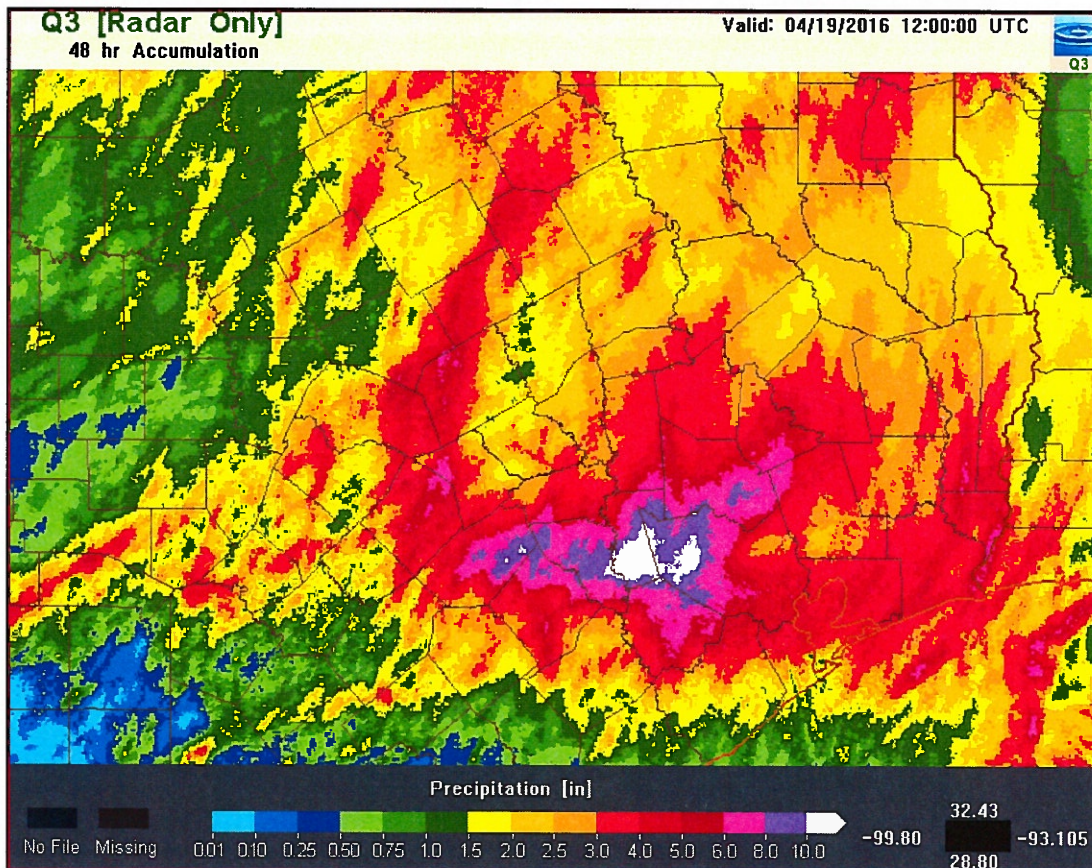
Beginning late in the day Sunday, April 17, 2016, a complex of slow-moving showers and thunderstorms produced widespread heavy rain and devastating flooding across southeast Texas, including areas in and around Houston. Rainfall totals between 5 and 10 inches were common, with some locales receiving as much as 18 inches of rain in a period less than 24 hours. The excessive and historic rainfall prompted the National Weather Service (NWS) Houston/Galveston Weather Forecast Office to issue rare flash flood “emergency warnings.” An “emergency warning” means that significant, widespread damage is possible with a high likelihood of numerous fatalities. The criteria require a confirmed large and catastrophic storm, which will continue and will have a high impact and/or affect a highly vulnerable population. These warnings were on target. The flooding was so severe that first responders themselves required rescue from dangerous swift water conditions while trying to rescue citizens.



**Highest Recorded 24-Hour Rainfall Measurements by County from NWS Houston/Galveston (official data pending)**

County (TX)	Location (TX)	Amount (inches)	Time	Date
Fort Bend	2 S Katy	<b>9.98</b>	0541 PM	4/18/16
Harris	Little Mound Crk @ Mathis Rd	<b>17.60</b>	0600 PM	4/18/16
Montgomery	FM 2978	<b>11.00</b>	0120 PM	4/18/16
Waller	Buffalo Bayou at US 90	<b>11.24</b>	0154 PM	4/18/16

The significant rain began the evening of Sunday, April 17, 2016, and reached its peak early Monday morning, April 18, 2016. This catastrophic rain event was the sixth event over the last 12 months where parts of southeast Texas received 10 inches of rain or greater within a 24-hour period.



**Figure 3: NWS Houston/Galveston 48-hour rainfall estimates for southeast Texas April 18 and 19, 2016**

It continues to be a record-setting year for disasters hitting Texas. April 2016 is now the wettest April on record for the City of Houston. Rainfall on April 18 is now the second wettest day on record for the City of Houston, which is second only to rainfall produced by Tropical Storm Allison in 1989. The cities of Katy and Sugarland also set new monthly rainfall records. Overall rainfall amounts and flooding for the area topped the disastrous weather system that produced catastrophic flooding less than a year ago on Memorial Day weekend 2015.

### Flooding Reports

City (TX)	County (TX)	Time	Date	Impacts
Jersey Village	Harris	1234 AM	4/18/16	Water rescues in the Addicks area
Tomball	Harris	0106 AM	4/18/16	Water rescues at Barker Cypress and Spring Cypress intersection
Jersey Village	Harris	0129 AM	4/18/16	Several homes flooded in the Bear Creek Village area
Sealy	Austin	0230 AM	4/18/16	Highway 36 at Interstate 10 flooded
Bellville	Austin	0233 AM	4/18/16	FM2 429 closed south of Bellville due flooding
Bellville	Austin	0233 AM	4/18/16	Water over FM 529 and FM 331 east of Bellville
Todd Mission	Grimes	0259 AM	4/18/16	Water rescues in the Todd Mission area
Waller	Waller	0316 AM	4/18/16	Highway 290 at the Harris-Waller County Line closed; FM 362, FM 359, and FM 527 flooded
Bellville	Austin	0409 AM	4/18/16	Roads closed across a large part of the county, especially central and north
Columbus	Colorado	0424 AM	4/18/16	FM 109 bridge at Brooms mill washed out; numerous roads and bridges closed and water rescues conducted across the northern parts of the county
Magnolia	Montgomery	0430 AM	4/18/16	Flooding along FM 1774 along Montgomery and Waller County line

Houston	Harris	0450 AM	4/18/16	60 high water rescues across parts of Harris County
Jersey Village	Harris	0454 AM	4/18/16	Numerous water covered roads; water in homes in and around the Addicks area
Todd Mission	Grimes	0505 AM	4/18/16	Major flooding along County Road 311; water halfway up street signs
Jersey Village	Harris	0510 AM	4/18/16	Rain gauge near the intersection of Huffmeister and Highway 6 North surpassed more than 20 inches; the Copper Grove Subdivision with thigh-deep water in the roads with water up to the side windows of many vehicles
Houston	Harris	0532 AM	4/18/16	At least 40 subdivisions in and around the Houston area reporting flooding
Houston	Harris	0651 AM	4/18/16	Up to 70 different subdivisions in and around the Houston area report flooding
Meadows	Harris	0705 AM	4/18/16	Reports of house flooding on Brays Bayou near US Highway 59
Houston	Harris	0719 AM	4/18/16	Water starting to overtop Interstate 10 at White Oak Bayou
Sugarland	Fort Bend	0730 AM	4/18/16	The Brazos River turnaround at Highway 59, the Highway 90A underpass between Richmond and Rosenberg and Highway 90A at 99 all impassable due to high water
League City	Galveston	0830 AM	4/18/16	Numerous roads under water within the League City limits
Galveston	Galveston	1023 AM	4/18/16	Water inundating numerous roadways within the city of Galveston



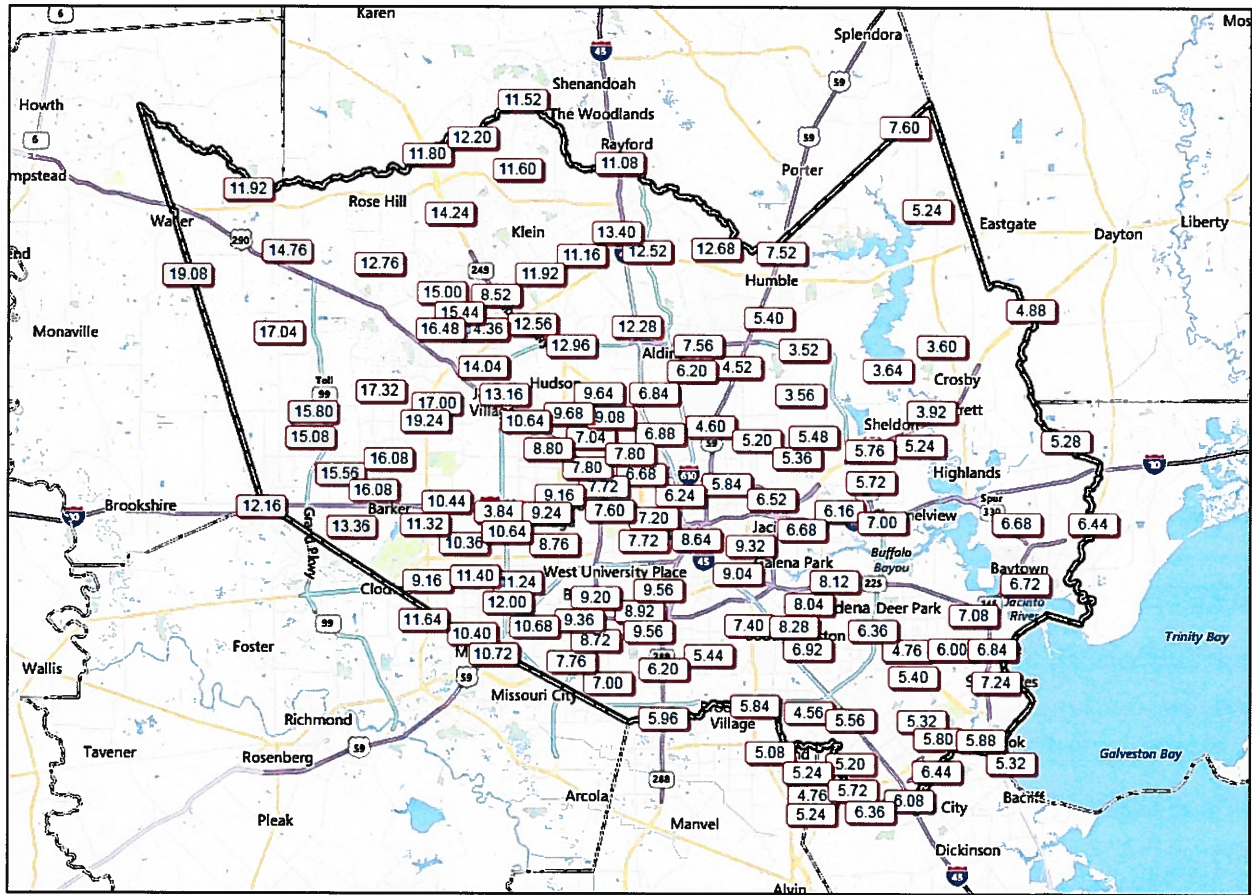


Figure 4: Harris County seven-day rainfall gauge data as of April 22, 2016

Heavy rainfall produced significant river flooding across Texas, which continues today. Flooding affected several rivers and creeks in southeast Texas as well as 13 of 22 watersheds in Harris County. Near record and record flooding occurred at several locations. Numerous gauges along rivers and creeks recorded crests above major flood stage. The NWS West Gulf River Forecast Center (WGRFC) recorded over 100 river points that exceeded NWS defined criteria and produced major river flooding on the Lavaca-Navidad, Colorado, San Bernard and San Jacinto (including Cypress Creek and Spring Creek) rivers and tributaries to the Brazos River System (Little River).

### Major River and Creek Flooding Points

River (TX)	Location (TX)	Crest (feet)	Time	Date	Major Flood Stage (feet)
Colorado	Columbus	45.2	0630 PM	4/18/16	43.0
Colorado	Wharton	48.33	1200 AM	4/22/16	43.0
San Jacinto	Cypress/Katy-Hockley	162.37	0215 PM	4/18/16	160.6
San Jacinto	Cypress/Grant Road	127.52	0530 AM	4/19/16	125.0



San Jacinto	Cypress/Westfield	90.47	1245 AM	4/20/16	85.9
San Jacinto	Cypress/Spring	103.72	1200 AM	4/20/16	100.0
San Jacinto	West Form/Humble	57.29	0730 PM	4/20/16	52.3
San Bernard	East Bernard	28.45	1100 PM	4/19/16	28.0
Navidad	Sublime	31.84	0915 AM	4/19/16	26.0
Little River	Rockdale	36.12	1230 PM	4/18/16	35.0
Peach Creek	Splendora	20.87	0800 AM	4/18/16	17.0

The heaviest rainfall occurred north and west of Houston, where widespread rainfall totals in excess of 10 inches fell. This includes Harris, Montgomery, Waller, Austin, Fort Bend, Fayette and northern Colorado counties.

Impacted watersheds in southeast Texas will take weeks to drain, including Lake Houston and the Addicks and Barker reservoirs. An active weather pattern over the next two to three weeks will bring additional rainfall potential to already swollen rivers, creeks and lakes. The normal spring showers and thunderstorms that typically do not have major impacts will easily aggravate waterlogged areas in southeast Texas.

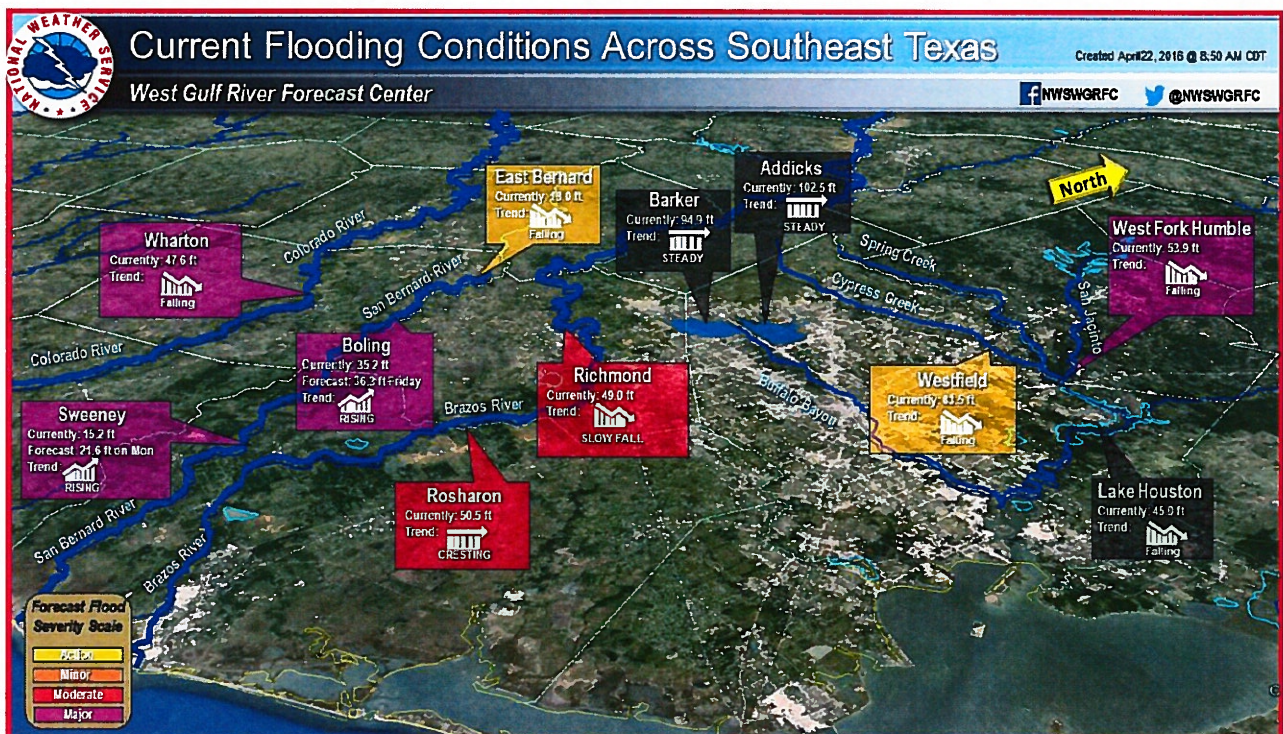


Figure 5: WGRFC flooding conditions on April 22, 2016



In order to support the Texas jurisdictions affected by this devastating storm, on April 17, 2016, at 7:00 a.m., the State Operations Center (SOC) increased its response level to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions). On April 21, 2016, at 4:00 p.m., the SOC returned to readiness Level IV (Normal Conditions).

## **IMPACT SUMMARY**

The main impacts of this weather system hit Texas hard from April 17 through April 21, 2016, and still continues. The four counties included in this request include a population of 4,716,692.

A quick breakdown of the severe weather components includes:

- Up to 18 inches of rain across portions of southeast Texas
- NWS Houston/Galveston suspects two EF-0 tornadoes and one wind damage event
- Currently nine fatalities attributed to these storms
- 53 local jurisdictions impacted
- Approximately 11,365 homes impacted in the storm
- 10 hospitals in southeast Texas reported flood-related issues, including water in buildings, backup generator failure and staffing issues due to personnel that could not report to work because of floodwaters
- Three nursing homes in Houston were evacuated
- Texas 2-1-1, a program of Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) that provides disaster information, received 1,698 disaster related calls from April 17–April 22, 2016 in the four counties
- At the peak of the heaviest rain, over 134,600 utility customers were without power

Preliminary data on the heavy rain/flooding component shows:

- A majority of the heavy rainfall fell over southeast Texas
- Heavy rainfall generated major flooding along the Colorado, San Jacinto, San Bernard, Lavaca-Navidad and Little rivers
- Heaviest rainfall fell north and west of Houston with rainfall totals over 10 inches in parts of Harris, Montgomery, Waller, Austin, Fort Bend, Fayette and Colorado counties
- Multiple road closures affected Harris, Austin, Colorado, Montgomery, Grimes, Waller, Fort Bend and Galveston counties, including major interstate highways like Interstate 10
- Multiple school districts closed and remained closed through the end of the week

Search and Rescue (SAR) data:

- Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) performed 38 rescues and assisted with 419 evacuations and 209 shelter in place missions.
- Texas Military Department (TMD) personnel evacuated 217 individuals

Shelter data:

- 13 shelters, including independent shelters, with a peak population of 450 on April 19



## 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. Many residents have been evacuated, including residents of six assisted living and care facilities.

### Search and Rescue

**Texas Task Force 1, Texas Task Force 2, Texas Military Department and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)**

TMD activated 158 personnel. They assigned 48 High Profile Vehicles, 6 hoist-equipped aircraft teamed with TX-TF 1 rescue swimmers, 2 LUH 72s, and 4 UH 60s. Ten Ground Transportation mission ready packages were assigned to Houston, Huntsville, Wharton, Palo Pinto County and Hood County. The TMD Ground Transportation Platoon in Horseshoe Bend, Palo Pinto County, conducted recon and evacuations, 5 people and 16 domestic animals were rescued. Texas Task Force 1 made 27 rescues (plus 17 animals), made 435 evacuations (plus 62 animals), made 5 assists and made contact with 253 people choosing to shelter-in-place. Harris County conducted 3 missions with a total of 75 evacuations. TMD Ground Transportation Platoons assisted local authorities with flooding operations in Wharton.





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

TxDOT continues to provide debris cleanup with crews monitoring barricades and assisting with isolated road closures. TxDOT crews are assessing infrastructure damage as the flood waters recede.

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

TCEQ continues to monitor the operational status of the public drinking water and wastewater facilities in the impacted flood areas. As of April 22, 2016, 17 boil water notices were issued in the impacted areas and several sanitary sewer overflows were reported.

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

Texas Highway Patrol (THP) assisted with road closures and traffic direction. THP had approximately 75 troopers working flood-related incidents. DPS Aviation activated three helicopters for reconnaissance and hoist activities. The Texas Division of Emergency Management continues to support coordination of the state response for the disaster from the State Operations Center in Austin with field staff providing support in the affected areas.

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

TFS has provided Incident Management Teams (IMTs) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

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

HHSC agencies such as the Department of Aging and Disability Services are in contact with home health agencies serving individuals in the impacted areas. Multiple home health agencies are coordinating evacuation efforts for their clients. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is conducting assessments to determine if there are any environmental, epidemiological or social services needs in the impacted area. DSHS has provided assistance to address some access and functional needs in shelters, provided vaccines as requested, and provided crisis counseling teams to assess the behavioral needs of survivors impacted by the severe weather.

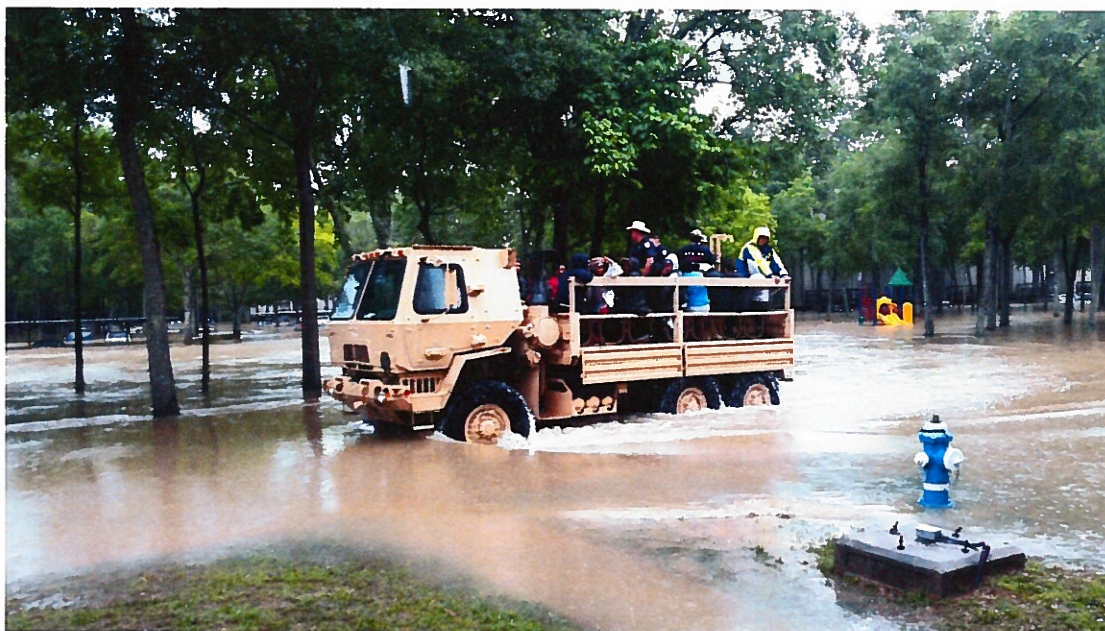
### **Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)**

TAHC activated two horseback emergency response teams and two animal response teams and has also provided livestock inspectors to continue to provide animal needs assessments in the impacted counties. TAHC is working with local animal care and sheltering facilities and organizations to



determine their operational status and needs. They are actively conducting local animal agriculture damage and needs assessments in impacted counties.

Many other state agencies and organizations have provided support to survivors including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The University of Texas at Austin Center for Space Research, Civil Air Patrol and the Public Utility Commission of Texas.







### ***Local Government***

Local law enforcement, fire, EMS, public works, public utilities and emergency management spent countless hours evacuating residents, responding to debris clearing, stranded motorists/travelers and weather-related rescues. Human services operations continued to support locals through ongoing flooding concerns. Officials in Wharton issued a mandatory evacuation effective 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 21, due to the flooding of the Colorado River that affected approximately 850 residents and 350 homes.

### ***Fatalities***

To date, there are nine fatalities related to this severe weather event. Harris County confirmed seven fatalities related to the flooding, including one man found in a submerged 18-wheeler, a female inside a vehicle in a flooded underpass, a female found in a submerged vehicle in a ditch, and three men and one woman found inside four separate submerged vehicles. Waller County confirmed one fatality of a male found inside a submerged vehicle. Austin County confirmed one fatality of a female that drove into high waters and drowned. In addition, a tugboat capsized in Galveston Bay resulting in one fatality. The U.S. Coast Guard has not confirmed that the incident was weather related.

### ***Voluntary Agency Assistance***

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) have been very active throughout Texas, providing many services for the April severe weather event, as well as recovery efforts for the 2015 May/June severe weather, 2015 Eagle Pass flooding, 2015 Hidden Pines wildfires, 2015 October flooding events, 2015 December severe storms and tornadoes and 2016 March severe weather event. Due to the large number of disasters throughout Texas in 2015, many VOAD resources (financial and personnel) are depleted and operating with little to no funding. Resources are mostly donor-based and dependent upon the economic climate.

VOADs provided mass care sheltering, feeding, bulk distribution, reunification, damage assessments, emergency food boxes, shower units, clothing distribution, clean-up kits, direct financial assistance such as gift cards, personal care and comfort kits, medical kits, blankets and many more services throughout the response. These resources, however, are not a long-term recovery solution.

Voluntary Agency statistics through April 22, 2016:

- Thirteen shelters, including independent shelters, with a peak population of 450 on April 19
- More than 3,000 clean up and comfort kits distributed.
- More than 26,000 meals, snacks and drinks served.
- More than 9,500 bulk distribution items.
- More than 2,500 estimated client cases.

**The following voluntary organizations continue to assist:**

**Convoy of Hope**

Convoy of Hope is helping with distribution and muck-outs in the Houston area.

**Crisis Cleanup**

Crisis Cleanup has launched an incident, "SW TX Floods April 2016," for the Houston-area floods.

**Latter-day Saints**

Church of the Latter-day saints is coordinating with Bastrop Long Term Recovery to provide assistance.

**Samaritan's Purse**

Samaritan's Purse is mobilizing equipment and personnel, beginning to send volunteers into the field.

**Texas Baptist Disaster Recovery**

Texas Baptist Disaster Recovery is beginning the mobilization process for volunteers to assist and is working with World Vision to provide flood buckets and cleaning supplies.

**Texas Baptist Men**

Texas Baptist Men have "mudout" units working to clean out mud and debris from houses.

**The Salvation Army (TSA)**

TSA is providing food and hydration services to those affected by the recent flooding in south Texas with five feeding units. It is also conducting bulk distribution of cleaning supplies and food boxes and providing emotional and spiritual care.

**American Red Cross (ARC)**

The ARC opened shelters, providing food and hydration services, distributing clean up kits, comfort kits and bulk distribution. ARC is also providing representatives in state, county and city EOCs.





### ***Behavioral Health Impacts***

Due to the flooding, it was several days before forensic staff could get out into the field and once activated confirmed nine fatalities in Harris, Waller and Austin counties. Many schools and businesses were closed and remain closed, or with delayed openings, due to current dangerous conditions. Several nursing homes, apartment complexes and hundreds of houses and businesses were evacuated with both mandatory and voluntary evacuations taking place in multiple counties. Some evacuations occurred with little warning forcing residents to flee or be rescued with few possessions. There are many survivors missing a pet, which causes severe distress.

This prolonged event will require a behavioral health response in the weeks to come, not just as it is happening. Many people have not even had the chance to take stock of their situation with abandoned vehicles still under water, unsafe conditions for re-entry and potential flooding due to rising rivers or potential dam releases.

The emotional impact from this weather event is and will continue to be significant. In Harris County, the state anticipates impact to thousands of homes. Harris County has experienced multiple weather events over the past year with many survivors experiencing their second or third flooding event in the past 12 months. This event will impede their efforts to rebuild both physically and emotionally.

Individuals who experience multiple traumatic events in such a short period are at risk for depression, isolation and hopelessness.

Many survivors in the impacted counties lost everything or, at best, returning to damaged homes. As people wait to return home, many will be anxious about what they might find. Up to 13 shelters were open at one time and there are many displaced and evacuated people still living in shelters or staying with friends and relatives as they wait for rivers to crest and conditions to become safe enough to return to their homes, schools and businesses.

The elderly and other vulnerable populations evacuated from nursing homes in several counties are now in temporary locations until damage assessments determine the condition of those facilities. Although resilient, the disruption to their stability and routine can adversely affect the frail and elderly who are often dealing with chronic health problems while living on fixed incomes. This type of disruption can actually be life threatening physically while simultaneously exacerbating pre-existing behavioral health issues.

In multiple counties, schools closed and delayed due to flooding the entire week. Many of the children living in these communities are displaced from their homes for an undetermined amount of time, may be living in shelters or even forced to leave the area. Survivors may still be vigilant as they wait for rivers and waterways to crest and make their way downstream. Some areas continue to face the possibility of more flooding in the coming weeks.

Children are particularly vulnerable after a disaster and their reactions and emotional recovery can be influenced by both their age and personal circumstances. With communities and responders still involved with response activities, their personal stories and experiences have not yet been told. Many children in the Houston area witnessed and experienced previous flooding events. This most recent flooding may disrupt their sense of personal and familial safety, which can affect their school performance as well as their interpersonal relationships. Both the children and adults who work at these schools will need behavioral health support as many of the teachers and administrators are going survivors themselves. Their parents will need support as well as many may face both housing and 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 affect cognitive functioning for making decisions and problem solving.

First responders from around the state have been working long hours with little down time. With potential flooding due to cresting rivers, responders remain vigilant increasing their fatigue and stress. They too will benefit from behavioral health support after the adrenaline subsides. As stated, there were nine deaths and over a thousand water rescues. These types of incidents put responders at great personal risk and witnesses to destruction and/or traumatic images. These factors can contribute to stress related symptoms such as difficulties sleeping, anxiety, depression and isolation.

Counseling staff in Harris County were able to reach some survivors over the course of the week. Their documented encounters reflect some of the more salient circumstances and reactions being reported. Counselors described survivor reactions centering around sadness/tearful, anxious/fearful, irritable/angry and despair/helpless.



Below are the reactions and experiences reported according to preliminary data:

- 58% Sadness/tearful
  - 40% Anxious/fearful
  - 38% Irritable/angry
  - 37% Despair/hopeless
  - 23% Fatigue/exhaustion
  - 10% Isolation/withdrawal
- 
- 82% Home damage
  - 77% Other financial loss
  - 70% Evacuated quickly with no time to prepare
  - 51% Sheltered in place or sought shelter due to immediate threat of danger
  - 38% Vehicle or major property loss
  - 11% Assisted with rescue/recovery

Though this is a small sample, the state feels this reflects the true need for disaster behavioral health services. Behavioral health support after a disaster serves to link survivors and responders to social support systems at home, work, and in the community while encouraging and exploring effective and healthy coping strategies and problem solving skills. This type of support mitigates the stress related symptoms experienced by survivors after a disaster lowering their risk of depression, grief and isolation.

Strong and resilient individuals create strong and resilient communities, which is why behavioral health support will be particularly important in the upcoming months as these communities begin the long recovery process. Providers of behavioral health services have a limited number of qualified staff that can invoice for billable hours. When staff is utilized for disaster response and recovery operations the responding local mental health authority must redirect services, shift or reassign staff workloads to ensure that service delivery is not affected and the center's ability to generate revenue is not jeopardized.

Without federal assistance, Texas does not have the ability or resources to meet or absorb the disaster behavioral health related response and recovery needs and expenses associated with providing crisis-counseling services. If these costs are to be absorbed by the local provider, a direct negative impact will be experienced on both service delivery and the state's disaster response plan because funds designated for services to Texas' priority populations will be redirected to disaster response and recovery operations and not for the fund's intended purpose.



***Residential and Business Impacts***

Initial local assessments for Fayette, Grimes, Harris and Parker counties have estimated 2,124 homes destroyed or received major damage and 9,241 homes affected or received minor damage. The American Red Cross damage assessments for Grimes, Harris and Parker counties have validated 1,375 homes destroyed or receiving major damage and 1,852 homes affected or receiving minor damage. The American Red Cross damage assessment in Harris County is 30 percent complete. The American Red Cross completed assessments in Grimes and Parker Counties and assessments have not yet begun in Fayette County. Preliminary estimated business losses include four with major damage.

	<b>Destroyed and Major</b>	<b>Minor and Affected</b>
<b>Local Assessments (DSO)</b>	2,124	9,241
<b>*American Red Cross Damage Assessments</b>	1,375	1,852

*\*American Red Cross damage assessment data includes Grimes, Harris, and Parker Counties only and is not complete.*



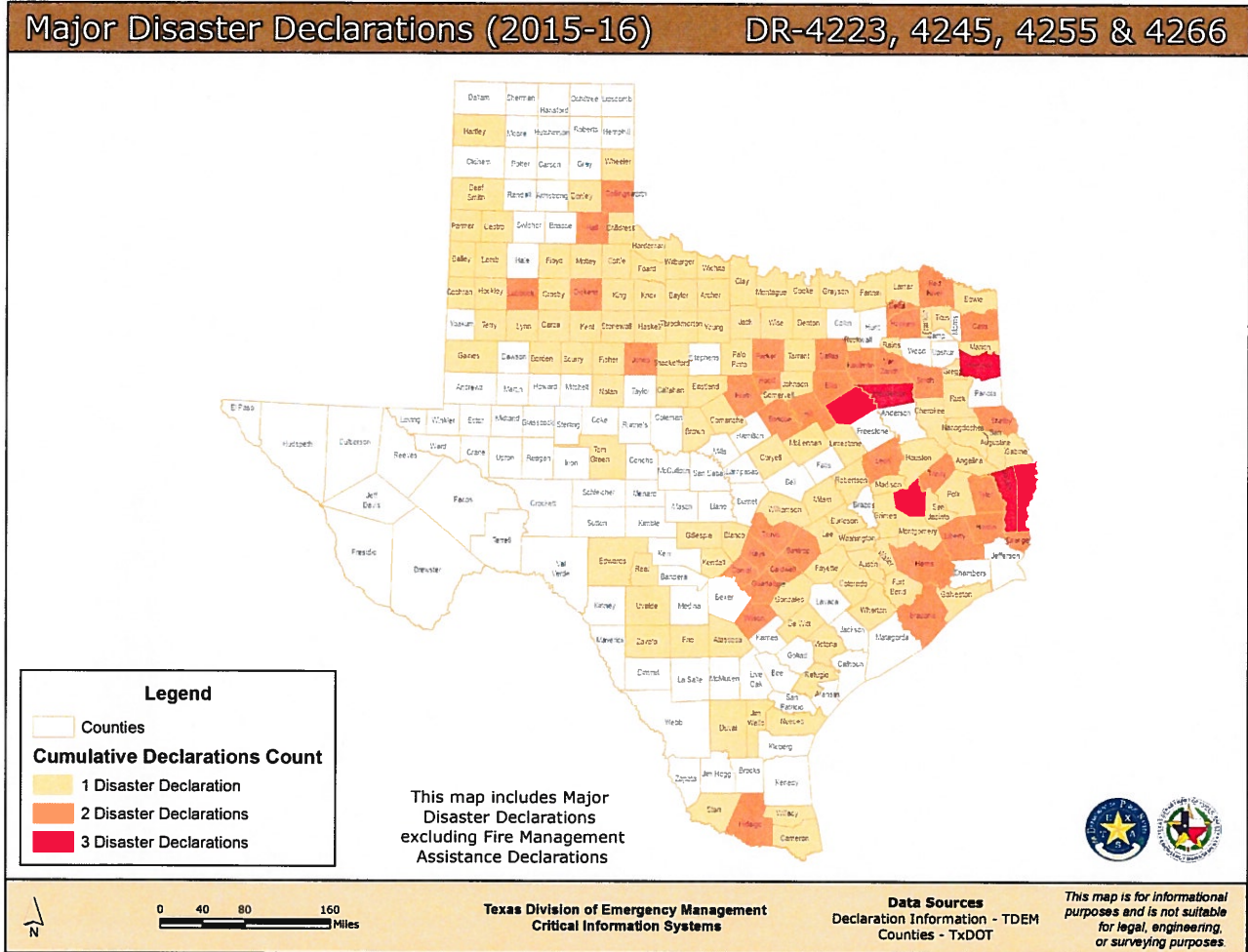
***National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Data***

The following table provides a brief analysis of historical NFIP percentage of insurance in affected counties.

County Name	2010 Census Data (housing units)	NFIP Percentage of Insurance	Total Policy Count
Fayette	13,868	1.32	183
Grimes	10,917	1.54	168
Harris	1,598,698	15.05	240,559
Parker	46,628	1.33	622
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,670,111</b>	<b>14.46</b>	<b>241,532</b>

The following is detailed information on the impacted population, percentage below poverty level, median household income, and percentage of elderly, disabled and pre-disaster unemployment rates.

<b>April 2016 Severe Weather and Flooding Event</b>					
	Average of Persons Below Poverty Level in percent	Median Household Income in dollars	Percent of Elderly (Age 65 and Older) in percent	Percent of Disabled (Under the Age of 65) in percent	Percent Pre-Disaster Unemployment (March 2016)
<b>National Average</b>	15.4	<b>\$53,046</b>	14.1	8.4	5.0
<b>State Average</b>	17.6	<b>\$51,900</b>	11.2	8.2	4.5
<b>Counties</b>					
Fayette	10.9	<b>\$48,711</b>	<b>23.8</b>	7.9	2.9
Grimes	<b>18.6</b>	<b>\$46,652</b>	13.8	<b>8.8</b>	4.4
Harris	17.3	\$53,822	9.2	6.6	4.3
Parker	9.9	\$64,979	<b>14.8</b>	<b>9.0</b>	4.0



**Figure 6. Most of the highly populated areas in Texas have been hit with a disaster in 2015 and 2016, with many affected by more than one.**

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Texas has received one presidential disaster declaration in 2016 for the severe weather events from March 7 to March 29, 2016 (DR-4266-TX). Texas received three presidential disaster declarations in 2015 for the severe weather events from May 4 to June 22, 2015 (DR-4223-TX); October 22 to October 31, 2015 (DR-4245-TX); December 26, 2015, to January 21, 2016 (DR-4255-TX); and a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG 5116) for the Hidden Pines Fire (Bastrop County) in October 2015. The state continues to work DR-4223-TX, DR-4245-TX, DR-4255-TX and DR-4266-TX, in addition to 10 open disasters, including major disasters such as Hurricanes Dolly, Rita and Ike, and the most destructive wildfires in Texas history, the 2011 wildfires. The assistance received because of these earlier federal disasters has been vital, and many of the same communities are still in the recovery process from these earlier disasters, but assistance is still needed. In the past 12 months, the state has experienced numerous local flooding, tornado and wildfire events that in other states would have been considered major disasters.



## 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.

As a result 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 for Fayette, Grimes, Harris and Parker counties to include Hazard Mitigation Statewide.

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 Chief Nim Kidd as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Paula Logan, Mike Miller, Tom Polonis, and Sandra Fulenwider as Alternate GARs. Nim Kidd is designated as the State Coordinating Officer and Traci Brasher is designated as the Deputy State Coordinating Officer for this request. Chief Kidd will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and provide further information and justification on my behalf.



The Honorable Barack Obama  
April 24, 2016  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Abbott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Greg Abbott  
Governor

Enclosures:  
OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13  
Individual Assistance  
IHP Cost Projection Worksheet  
State Disaster Declaration