



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 13, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. 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, Texas

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), 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 severe weather, straight-line winds, hail, and tornadoes that impacted the state beginning October 20, 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 October 21, 2019, for 16 Texas counties.

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. I am requesting Public Assistance Categories A through G, including Direct Federal Assistance, for the following counties:

Cameron, Dallas, and Erath counties.

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

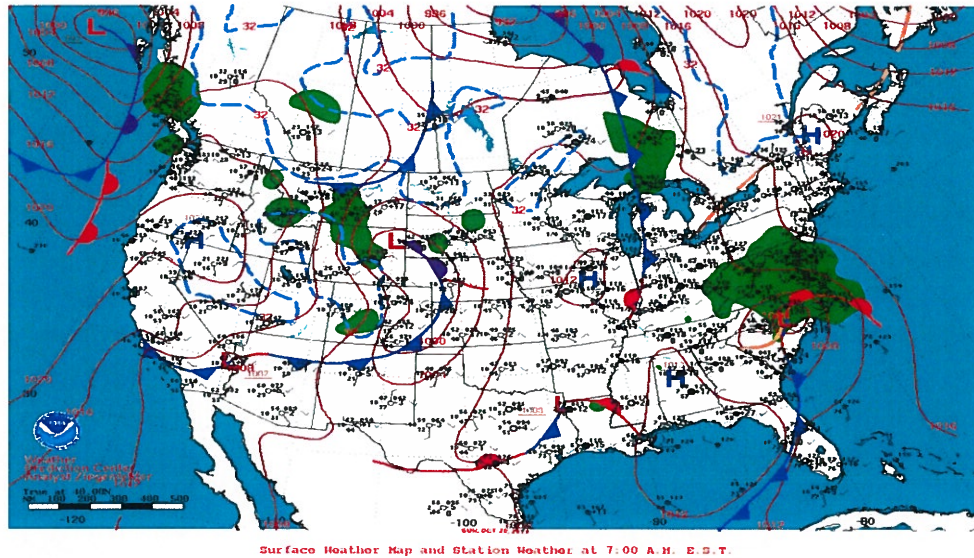
The state continues to struggle with catastrophic Hurricane Harvey recovery and the other ten major disasters to strike the state in the last four years. The state has also fought aggressive wildfires, with eight Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) declared in the last four years, four in 2018 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.

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.

## **INCIDENT OVERVIEW**

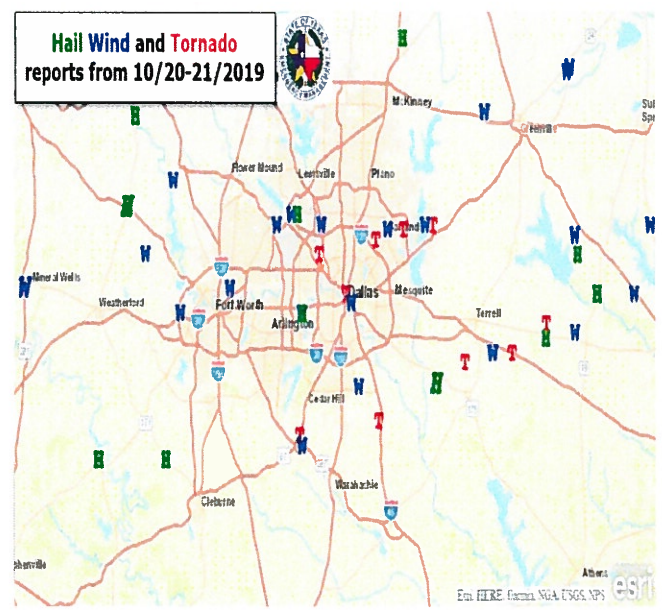
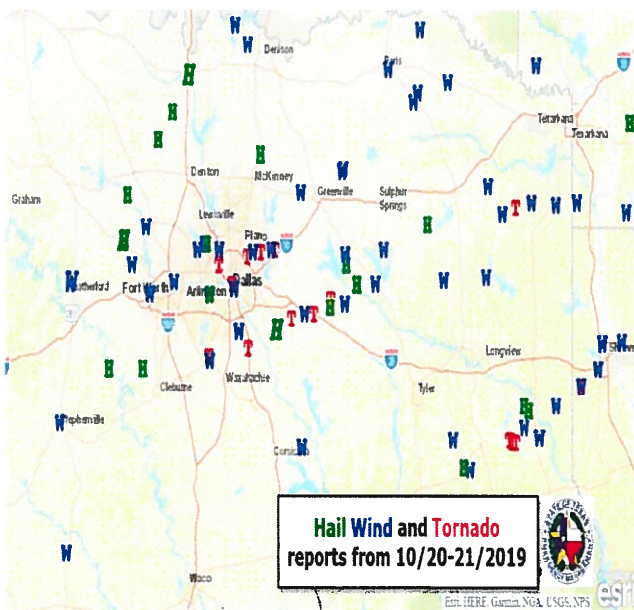
Two years after the historic devastation of Hurricane Harvey, and with four additional major flooding events in the interim, Texas unfortunately finds itself suffering from yet another severe weather event that has caused widespread and severe property damage. The devastation has been tremendous for Texas citizens, local governments, and first responders. Texas has not received a substantial break from tropical storms, flash flooding, severe weather, and river flooding in over a year. The most recent catastrophic weather event is recounted below, as described by the Texas Division of Emergency Management's (TDEM) Meteorologist and the National Weather Service.

Beginning on October 20, 2019, a low-pressure system moved from the Rocky Mountains and traversed the Central Plains, pulling a cold front behind it. The cold front arrived in North Texas in the late afternoon of October 20<sup>th</sup> and began to produce scattered showers and thunderstorms. Dynamics associated with this system also caused a thunderstorm complex to develop in South Texas late in the day, which led to extensive damage in Cameron County.





Around 7:00 pm Central Daylight Time (CDT), thunderstorms in North Texas began to reach severe levels, producing large hail and damaging wind gusts. The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Fort Worth began to issue tornado warnings at approximately 9:00 pm CDT.

During the pre-dawn hours of October 21, 2019, local jurisdictions across the state were reporting storms producing large hail, damaging wind gusts, and tornadoes. Texas counties spanning from the Texas/Oklahoma state line to the Rio Grande Valley experienced impacts, including widespread and severe property damage and conditions threatening loss of life.





Tornadic activity occurred in TDEM Region One, with the most severe storms occurring in Dallas County. The majority of tornadoes from this incident were classified as having EF-0 to EF-1 winds on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

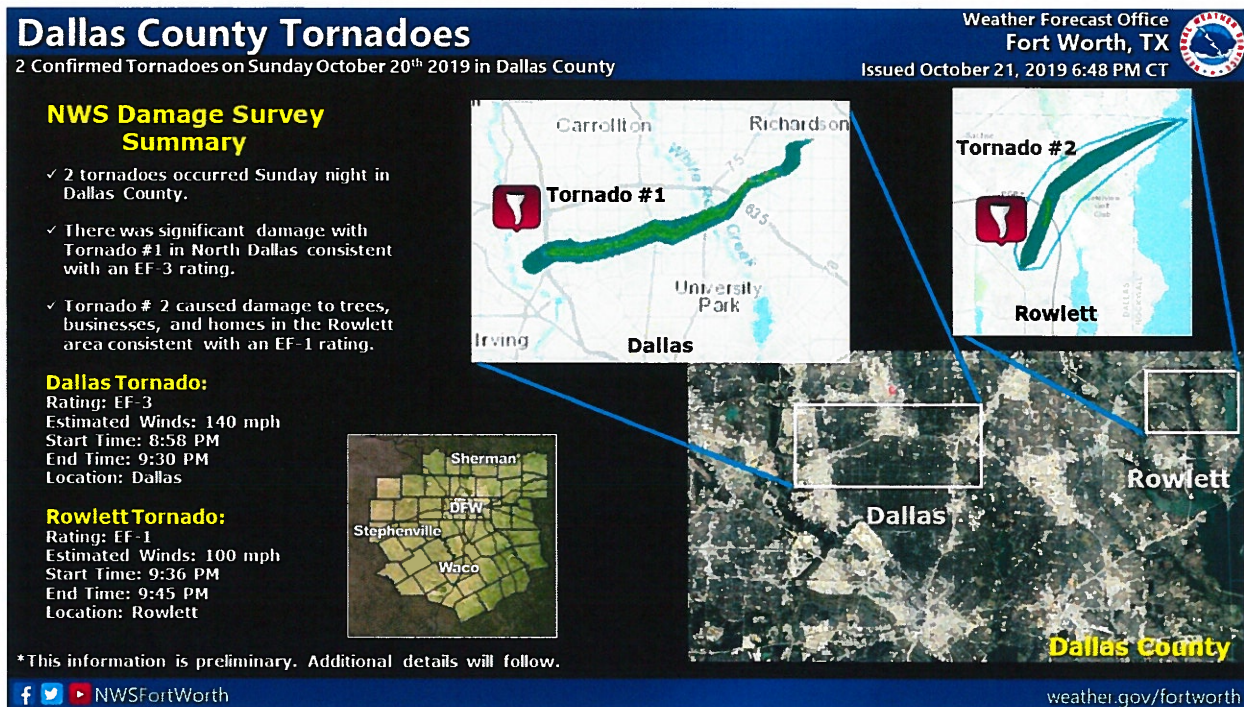
EF Rating	Wind Speeds	Expected Damage	
<b>EF-0</b>	65-85 mph	'Minor' damage: shingles blown off or parts of a roof peeled off, damage to gutters/siding, branches broken off trees, shallow rooted trees toppled.	
<b>EF-1</b>	86-110 mph	'Moderate' damage: more significant roof damage, windows broken, exterior doors damaged or lost, mobile homes overturned or badly damaged.	
<b>EF-2</b>	111-135 mph	'Considerable' damage: roofs torn off well constructed homes, homes shifted off their foundation, mobile homes completely destroyed, large trees snapped or uprooted, cars can be tossed.	
<b>EF-3</b>	136-165 mph	'Severe' damage: entire stories of well constructed homes destroyed, significant damage done to large buildings, homes with weak foundations can be blown away, trees begin to lose their bark.	
<b>EF-4</b>	166-200 mph	'Extreme' damage: Well constructed homes are leveled, cars are thrown significant distances, top story exterior walls of masonry buildings would likely collapse.	
<b>EF-5</b>	201-254 mph	'Massive/incredible' damage: Well constructed homes are swept away, steel-reinforced concrete structures are critically damaged, high-rise buildings sustain severe structural damage, trees are usually completely debarked, stripped of branches and snapped.	

Confirmed tornadoes include:

Name	EF	Length	Width	Start Location	End Location
Cass	1	9.12 Miles	150 Yards	Marietta	Douglass
Dallas	3	15.75 miles		Dallas	Dallas
Ferris	0			Ferris	Ferris
Elmo	1	.5 Miles	.50 Yards	Elmo	Elmo
Garland	2	2.48 Miles	265 Yards	Garland	Garland
Midlothian	1	2.9 Miles	380 Yards	Midlothian	Midlothian
Panola	0	.8 Miles	150 Yards	Beckville	Beckville
Rockwall	1	1.96 Miles	100 yards	Rockwall	Rockwall
Rowlett	1	6 Miles	500 Yards	Rowlett	Lake Ray Hubbard
Wills Point	0	.63 Miles	200 Yards	Wills Point	Wills Point

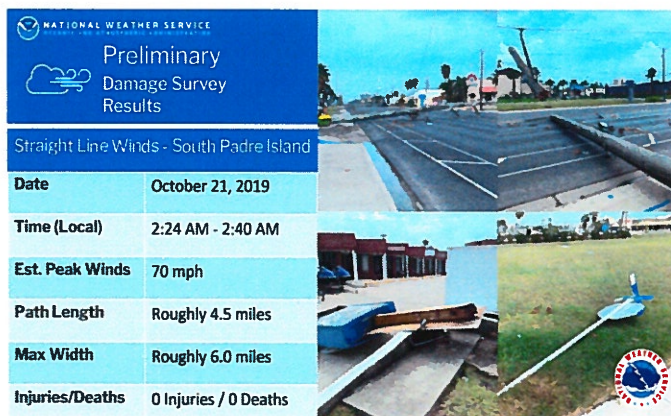
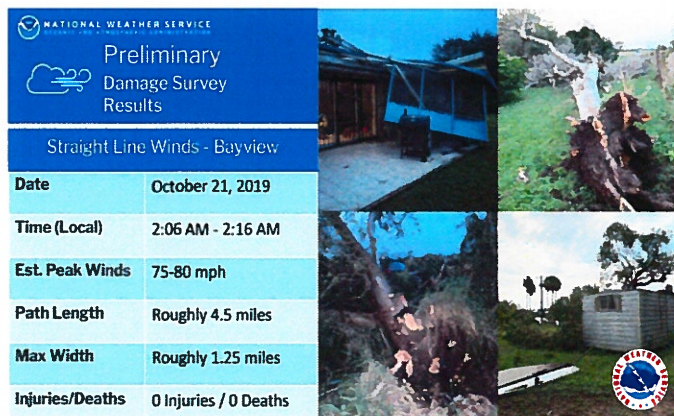
The most significant tornado touched down at approximately 8:58 pm CDT in Dallas County and was rated as an EF-3. This specific tornado traveled in a southwest-to-northeast path for roughly 15 miles and was on the ground for more than half an hour through a densely populated area of North Dallas.





Within days, the Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) estimated that the insured damages from the tornadoes alone would be approximately \$2,000,000,000, making this disaster the costliest tornado outbreak in Texas history. The ICT further estimates that approximately 30,000 home and auto claims will be filed because of the storms.

As noted previously, this weather system also produced a thunderstorm complex in South Texas, resulting in severe storms that led to extensive damage in Cameron County. Wind gusts in excess of 70 mph occurred in the county on October 21, 2019, between 2:00 am and 2:45 am CDT. This caused widespread damage to homes and businesses, downing dozens of trees and power transmission poles.

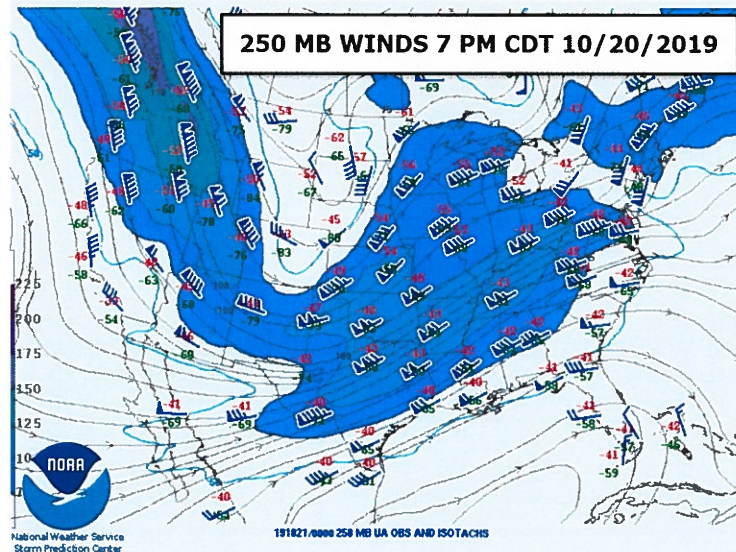
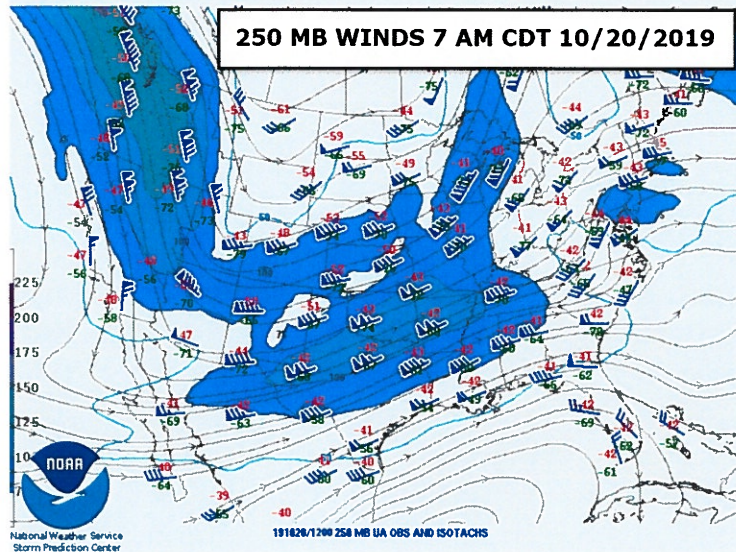




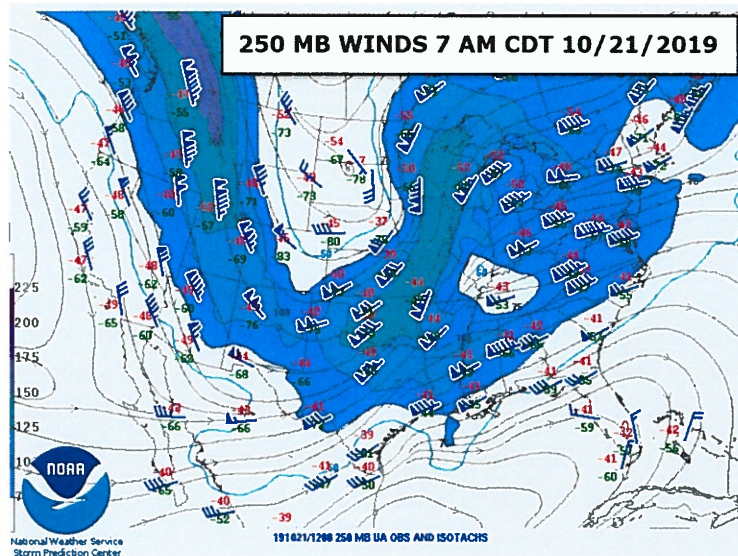
Immediately following the storm, roughly 16,000 homes and businesses were without power, and downed power transmission poles blocked access to South Padre Island, and to the main thoroughfare on the island, through the morning of October 23, 2019.



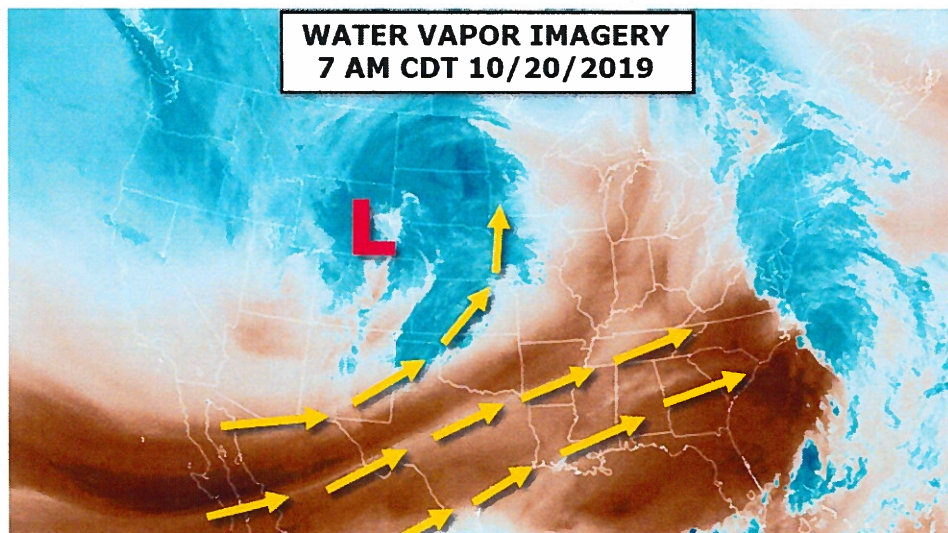
The size of the upper-level system that traversed the nation's midsection on October 20, 2019, enhanced the jet stream over South Texas. This system was largely responsible for fueling the thunderstorm complex to a level capable of producing the scale of damages created during this disaster. Absent this effect, thunderstorms in Cameron County are generally incapable of generating the wind speeds that were recorded.



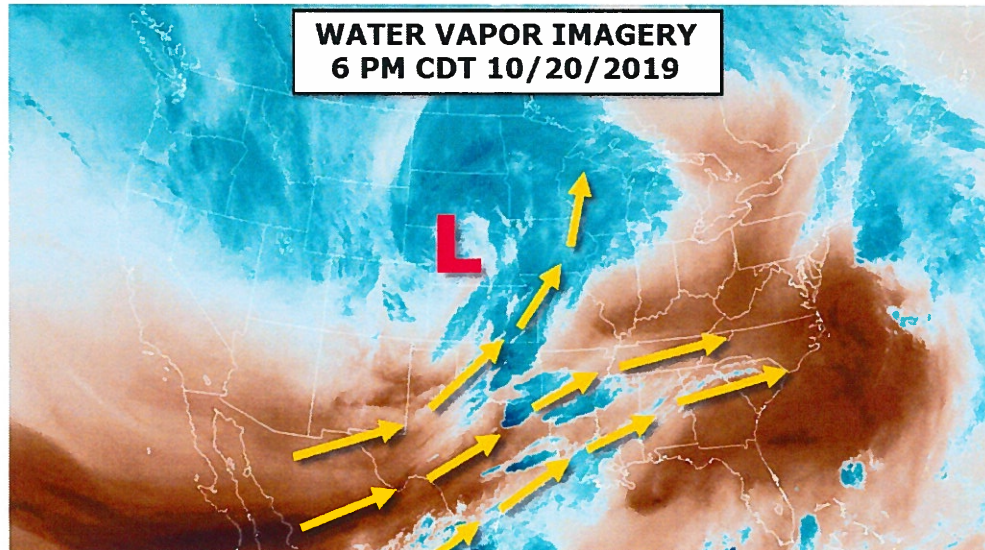
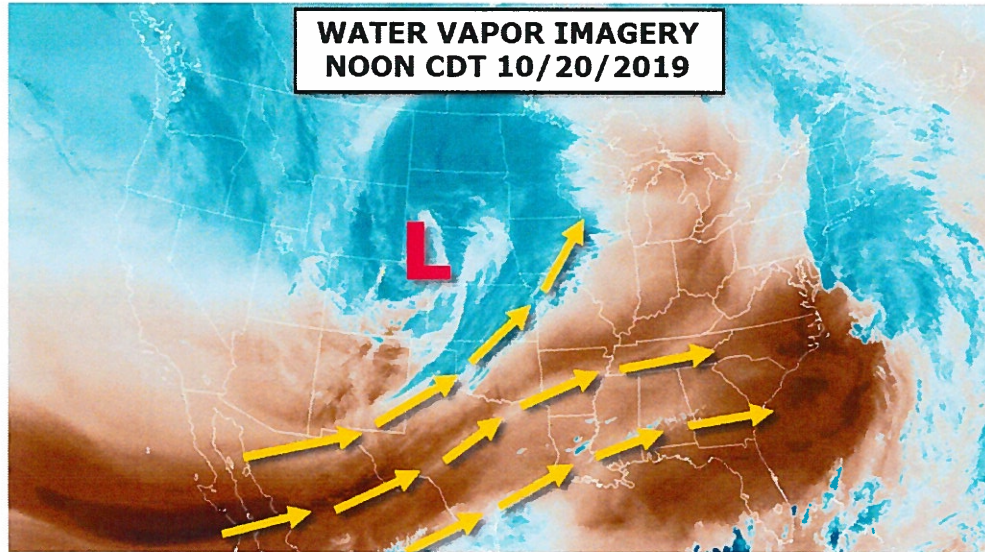


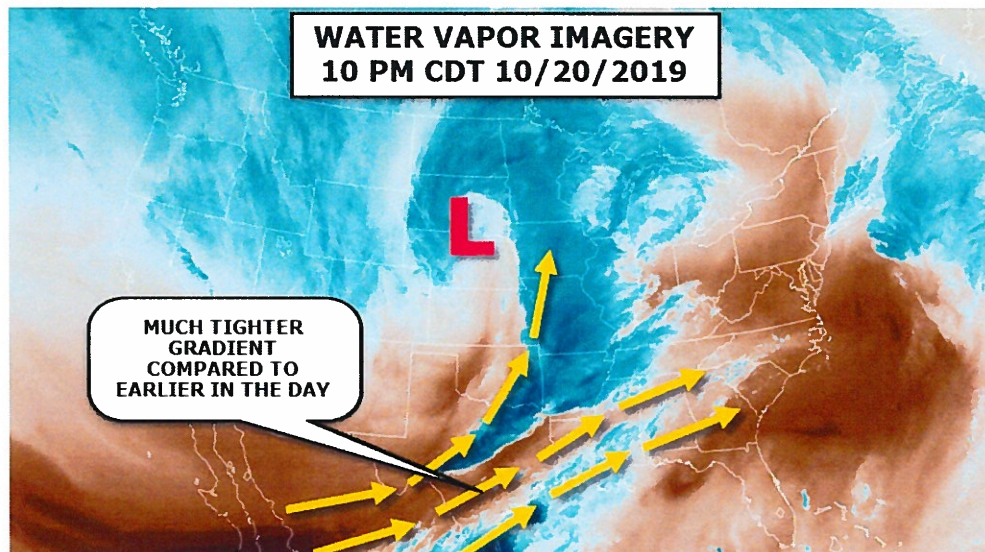
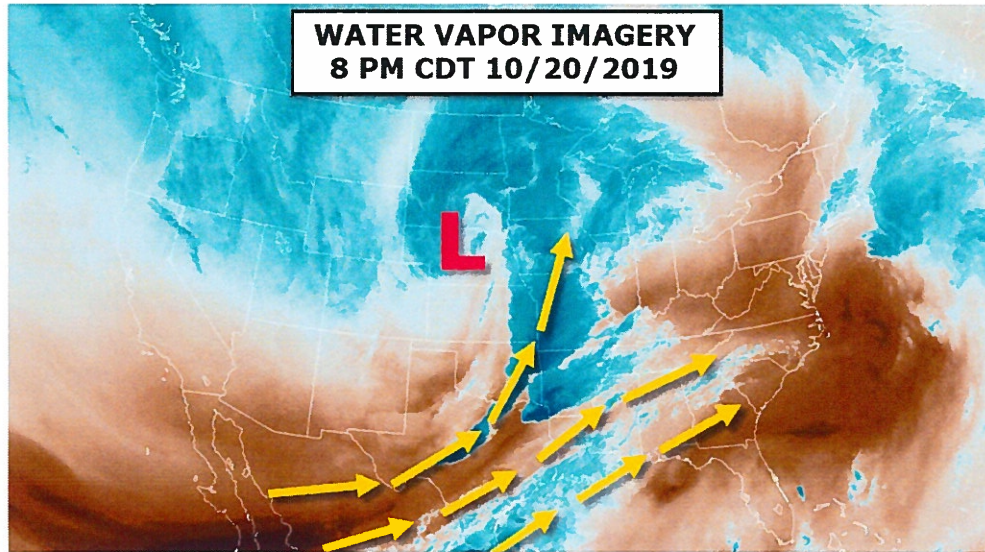


Water vapor imagery from October 20, 2019, shown below, also illustrates how the same broad upper-level low, which helped produce the severe weather in North Texas, drove the dynamics over South Texas. The trough of low pressure crossing the state enhanced lift, while at the same time tightened the pressure gradient over South Texas as that afternoon progressed into evening.









### **RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

Due to this severe weather event, I declared a gubernatorial disaster for Cass, Cameron, Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Erath, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Panola, Rains, Rockwall, Rusk, Tarrant, Van Zandt, and Wood counties.

The State Operations Center activated to Level III (Increased Readiness) at 9:00 am CDT on October 21, 2019, in response to the severe weather disaster that affected the state from Sunday evening into Monday morning. This disaster caused widespread and severe property damage to hundreds of residences and buildings, as well as significant power outages for more than 184,000 customers at the peak.



Response information listed in this document is current as of November 6, 2019. State agencies are coordinated through TDEMto provide assistance as requested and needed by local jurisdictions.

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

TFS deployed three incident management teams to help increase the effectiveness of response through shared management and common communications among all levels of response. TFS also deployed two saw teams to aid in the immediate recovery efforts of local jurisdictions.







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

TCEQ provided technical assistance for public works infrastructure and environmental issues in the disaster-affected area. TCEQ has processed multiple requests for temporary debris management sites and will continue to do so through the duration of the recovery effort.

### **Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)**

DMV suspended the oversize and overweight permitting requirements under the Texas Transportation Code until the expiration of the Governor's Disaster Declaration.

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

DPS provided ten Highway Patrol Troopers and one sergeant to the City of Richardson, as well as 25 Highway Patrol Troopers and two sergeants to the City of Dallas, in order to assist with security in the disaster-impacted areas. Two Highway Patrol units were deployed to South Padre Island to integrate into the city's traffic operations in response to the wind damages sustained on the island.

In addition, Texas DPS Aircraft were activated to provide aerial situational awareness of the disaster area to local first responders and the Texas State Operations Center.



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

DSHS provided technical assistance and support to affected jurisdictions requesting public health and medical-related assistance. Two hospitals, Medical City Dallas Hospital in Dallas and Texas Health in Allen, were placed on back-up generator power during the disaster. The End Stage Renal Disease Network reported that their facilities sustained physical damage and power outages. All patients were quickly accounted for and transferred to nearby dialysis facilities.

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

TXDOT assisted the City of Dallas with traffic management operations and the provision of temporary traffic signals. TXDOT also provided debris operations support and will continue to do so through the duration of the recovery effort.



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

TDEM coordinated statewide situational awareness and recovery efforts in support of state agencies and local partners. TDEM 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.



TDEM District Coordinators and Disaster Finance Coordinators, across the affected areas, coordinated with local emergency management partners, and monitored and shared information between all levels of the response and recovery effort.

The TDEM Geographic Information System (GIS) team assisted in building maps, common operating pictures, and spatial analysis for first responders and government officials.



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

TPWD provided Game Wardens to support the disaster-affected counties in North Texas. In addition, local TPWD Game Wardens piloted Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in Ellis County. TPWD Game Wardens launched two UAVs and successfully provided local officials with aerial surveys of the damaged areas in the City of Ferris and the City of Midlothian.



## **Voluntary Agency Assistance**

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) have been very active throughout Texas since Hurricane Harvey and the South Texas floods. Due to the catastrophic nature of Hurricane Harvey and the South Texas floods that necessitated a disaster declaration for Individual Assistance, many VOAD resources (financial and personnel) are depleted, and they are operating with little to no funding. Resources are mostly donor-based and dependent upon the economic climate; Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence, Michael, and Dorian, as well as other extreme weather natural disasters, have stretched those resources to the brink.

Following Tropical Storm Imelda in September 2019, Texas VOADs have 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. Now, following the North Texas tornadoes, their assistance, resources, and long-term aid are spread thin.

Voluntary agency statistics through November 13, 2019, include:

- The Southern Baptist Convention helped gut 55 homes in the affected area.
- Texas Baptist Men completed 196 clean-up projects involving chainsaw crews and provided roughly 2,700 meals.
- The American Red Cross provided monetary assistance in the amount of \$450 to eligible households affected by the disaster.
- Crisis Cleanup received clean-up requests from 155 households in the affected area.

**American Red Cross** operated a respite center to provide survivors of the North Texas tornadoes a place to receive services, such as meals and showers, and provided mobile feeding and damage assessment teams to the affected counties.

**The Salvation Army** provided canteen units, emotional and spiritual care, and donations management assistance.

**Texas Baptist Men** provided meals, muck and gut teams, shower and laundry units, and debris removal assistance to North Texas.

**Southern Baptist Convention** sent chainsaw and debris removal volunteers to the affected areas to assist residents with clean-up efforts.

**Dallas County VOAD** is coordinating area volunteer groups and providing long-term assistance in the area.

**Convoy of Hope** provided material support, transported resources, and donated items to the affected area.



### **Behavioral Health Impacts**

On October 20-21, 2019, North Texas experienced severe weather that brought damaging tornadoes through its communities. Initial estimates put the devastation at 190 homes destroyed or majorly damaged, and over 949 with minor damage due to damaging winds.

Many of the children in these communities have never experienced a tornado, and this may prove to be an extremely traumatic experience to many involved. 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 experience was to the individual and the extent of damage and loss.

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.

Both 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 decision-making and problem solving. Physiological and emotional changes are common reactions in both children and adults.

Emergency responders provide critical services during and after disasters, but their routine exposure to traumatic incidents and chronic trauma-inducing situations put them at high risk of a range of health and behavioral health consequences. In addition, first responders in North Texas have been working long hours with little down time. These factors can contribute to 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 after this type of disaster, especially because of the number of disasters over the past year that have allowed little reprieve for disaster survivors and emergency responders.



### **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 11 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, DR-4454, and DR-4466), and an additional eight FMAG designations.

One month prior to this disaster, Tropical Storm Imelda affected the state. Texas is still working to validate the full scope of damages from Tropical Storm Imelda, but it is estimated that over \$120,000,000 in public infrastructure damages occurred. Since this disaster, over 26,000 Texans have registered for Individual Assistance, and over \$64 million has been approved under the Individual and Households program. Additionally, over \$9 million has been approved under the Other Needs Assistance program, the Small Business Administration has approved over \$74 million in low-interest loans, and the National Flood Insurance Program has paid out more than \$500 million on all claims.

In addition to the major disaster declarations listed above, Texas battles natural disasters annually, including severe weather, flooding, fires, and winter weather events. Counties surrounding the



Dallas/Fort Worth area, which were most affected by this disaster, are susceptible to all of these natural hazards and may experience them multiple times per year.

Notwithstanding the level of residential, commercial, and public infrastructure damage, these events take a serious toll on communities, first responders, and the local non-profit sector. Texans are resilient and will continue to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against disasters, but in order to expedite this process, federal assistance is needed.

### LOCALIZED IMPACT

We believe 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.

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments have been ongoing in the affected area since October 28, 2019. The state made multiple requests to extend the declaration request period for this event due to the size of the impacted area, the complexity of the disaster, and the need to distinguish damages sustained during the incident period. FEMA, the state, and local jurisdictions have been working to ensure damage assessments are validated accurately and the full geographic scope of the disaster is realized. However, this process has been slow and taxing, preventing Texas communities from moving forward in their recovery efforts.

As of January 9, 2020, three Texas counties have exceeded their county disaster thresholds. The following damage totals have been reported:

	County / City	Debris Removal	Police / EMS	Roads & Bridges	Water Facilities	Buildings	Public Utility Systems	Other	County Totals	County Threshold
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,105,933</b>	<b>\$3,239,841</b>	<b>\$778,881</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$166,735,267</b>	<b>\$429,154</b>	<b>\$13,154,980</b>	<b>\$192,444,056</b>	<b>\$17,589,471</b>
1	Cameron County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	
1	City of Bayview	\$12,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,000	
1	City of South Padre Island	\$0	\$109,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,032,668	\$2,141,668	
	<b>Cameron County</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$109,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,032,668</b>	<b>\$3,163,668</b>	<b>\$1,535,512</b>
1	Dallas County	\$0	\$80,687	\$0	\$0	\$177,000	\$0	\$10,000,000	\$10,257,687	
1	City of Dallas	\$6,500,000	\$344,717	\$428,000	\$0	\$165,085,750	\$0	\$0	\$172,358,467	
1	City of Garland	\$61,043	\$2,565,437	\$24,827	\$0	\$0	\$29,154	\$85,612	\$2,766,073	
1	City of Richardson	\$1,532,890	\$140,000	\$316,054	\$0	\$1,017,517	\$400,000	\$36,700	\$3,443,161	
	City of Sachse	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	<b>Dallas County</b>	<b>\$8,093,933</b>	<b>\$3,130,841</b>	<b>\$768,881</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$166,280,267</b>	<b>\$429,154</b>	<b>\$10,122,312</b>	<b>\$188,825,388</b>	<b>\$8,951,565</b>
1	Erath County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$455,000	\$0	\$0	\$455,000	
	<b>Erath County</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$455,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$455,000</b>	<b>\$143,224</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,105,933</b>	<b>\$3,239,841</b>	<b>\$778,881</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$166,735,267</b>	<b>\$429,154</b>	<b>\$13,154,980</b>	<b>\$192,444,056</b>	<b>\$10,630,301</b>

Cameron, Dallas, and Erath counties have reported \$192,444,056 in public infrastructure damage. Joint State and FEMA preliminary damage assessment teams are working hard to validate all damage estimates, but this process is expected to continue for an extended period of time. The state is still waiting on damage estimates to finalize recovery estimates for all three of these counties, but the true cost claims will be validated when work to rebuild critical infrastructure begins. The total cost to help these communities recover from this disaster is anticipated to continue to rise and ultimately exceed the state's disaster threshold.

Specifically, there are challenges in validating cost estimates related to Dallas Independent School District, which experienced extensive damage on multiple campuses. The school district reports over \$105,000,000 in damages, after insurance, which is in addition to over \$87,000,000 of infrastructure damages that have been reported by all three counties. The principal adjuster has listed one building as 100 percent destroyed, another building as 65 percent destroyed, and a third as 15 percent destroyed. This is before taking into account any required upgrades due to codes and standards enforced in the rebuilding process. FEMA is asking for the final adjusters' reports in order to validate these damages, but this process may take weeks or months due to the size and scope of the damages. Staff and students from two of the damaged campuses were able to move into other district sites, but this is causing an undue hardship on the community and is not a long-term solution.

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.48, the impact of the disaster at the county and local government level and the extraordinary concentration of damages may warrant federal assistance even if the statewide per capita is not met. This is particularly true where critical facilities are involved or where localized per capita impacts might be extremely high. Although the cost of this disaster is expected to exceed the state's disaster threshold, the disaster impacts experienced in the City of Dallas alone warrant consideration for a major disaster declaration.

Disaster recovery resources in Texas are thin and first responders, volunteers, and citizens are fatigued by continual disaster impacts. The cost of this disaster is anticipated to surpass the established state disaster threshold. We request that this process be expedited, to enable Texans to begin their recovery process from this catastrophic event.

### **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 Public Assistance Categories A through G, Hazard Mitigation Statewide, and Direct Federal Assistance for the following counties:

Cameron, Dallas, and Erath counties.



I have designated Chief Nim W. Kidd as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Suzannah Jones and Mike Miller as Alternate GARs. Chief 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 the Federal Emergency Management Agency 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

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 Jan 13, 2020

**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). 2,861,328

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

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 End Date  
Oct 20, 2019 Oct 21, 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 ☐ Snowstorm  
☒ (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning) ☐ (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.

Cameron, Dallas and Erath counties were impacted by severe weather, straight line winds, hail and tornadoes which impacted Texas from October 20, 2019 through October 21, 2019. During the pre-dawn hours of October 21, 2019, local jurisdictions across the state were reporting storms producing large hail, damaging wind gust and tornadoes. Texas counties spanning from the Texas/Oklahoma state line to the Rio Grande Valley experienced impacts, including widespread and severe property damage and conditions threatening loss of life.

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 assist during the response phase of this disaster. The State Operations Center activated to Level III (Increased Readiness). Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) deployed three incident management teams. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) provided 40 personnel for traffic control actions and aircraft for situational awareness. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) provided technical assistance and support to affected jurisdictions requesting Public Health and Medical related assistance. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) coordinated statewide situational awareness, and recovery efforts in support of state agencies and local partners. TDEM 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.



10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

☐ Individual Assistance      Dates Performed      Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Start \_\_\_\_\_ End \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
None

☒ Public Assistance      Dates Performed      Requested Oct 23, 2019      Start Oct 28, 2019      End Ongoing

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
No Accessibility issues are anticipated

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.

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	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debris Removal (Category A)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent Work (Categories C-G)* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)
<p>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.</p> <p>Cameron County, Dallas County, Erath County</p>			
<p>For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).</p>			
<p>Please see <b>Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance</b> for additional information in support of this request*.</p>			
Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity			
<p><input type="checkbox"/> I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 &amp; 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.</p>			
Request for Direct Federal Assistance			
<p><input type="checkbox"/> I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:</p>			
<p>a. I request the following type(s) of assistance: Debris removal; Emergency protective measures</p>			
<p>b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services. Disaster recovery resources in Texas are thin and first responders, volunteers and citizens are fatigued by continual disaster impacts. We are confident the cost of this disaster will surpass the established state disaster threshold. We are requesting to expedite this process to enable Texans to continue recovering from this catastrophic event.</p>			
<p>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.</p>			
Request for Snow Assistance			
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A      <input type="checkbox"/> I request snow assistance.</p>			
<p>Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).</p>			
<p>Please see <b>Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data</b> for additional information in support of this request*.</p> <p>*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request</p>			



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 Oct 21, 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

1/13/2020  
 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