



## Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

### New Information in Blue Text

<b>Event Name</b>	<b>24-0004 21JAN Severe Weather</b>
<b>Date</b>	January 27, 2024
<b>Time</b>	10:00 AM
<b>Operational Period</b>	8:00 AM January 26 to 8:00 AM January 27, 2024
<b>Report Number</b>	5

Regions Affected	
<b>TDEM Regions Affected</b>	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8
<b>DDs Active</b>	5, 6, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** On January 25, The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) provided an update on Texas' response to excessive rainfall and flooding in Central, East, and Southeast Texas. TDEM also urged Texans to report property damage by submitting an online damage assessment survey.

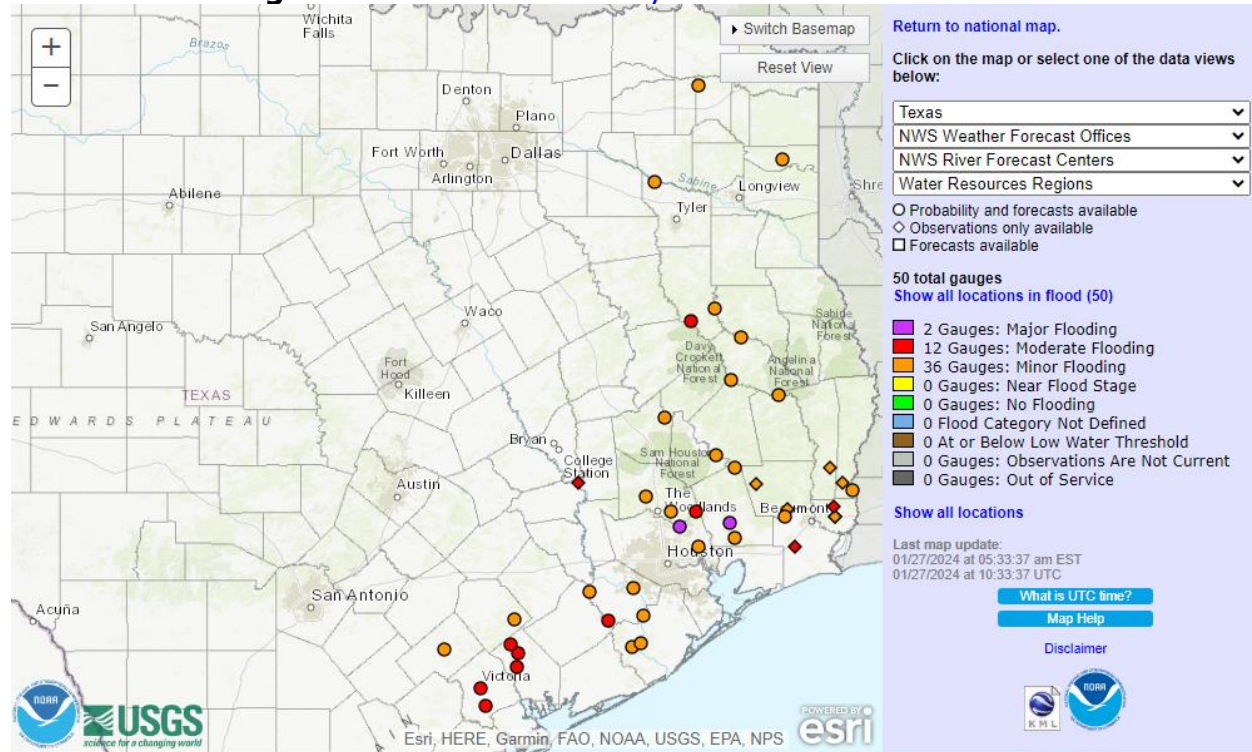
Texans can report weather damage to homes and businesses using the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) damage survey. The iSTAT damage survey can be filled out in English and Spanish online by visiting [damage.tdem.texas.gov](https://damage.tdem.texas.gov) and clicking on "January 21st - Ongoing Flooding Event." The details provided to TDEM in the iSTAT damage survey help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that have occurred and identify any immediate resource needs. Survey information also aids officials in determining whether the state meets federal requirements for various forms of disaster assistance.

Reporting damage through the iSTAT tool is a voluntary activity and is not a substitute for reporting damage to your insurance agency. It does not guarantee disaster relief assistance. English and Spanish tutorial videos explaining how to fill out iSTAT surveys are available at <https://damage.tdem.texas.gov/>.

Texans are encouraged to remain prepared and informed, continue to monitor local weather reports, and follow instructions from local officials. Texans can access additional flood safety information by visiting [www.TexasReady.gov](http://www.TexasReady.gov).

While the bulk of the forecasted rain has ended, runoff is expected to continue to create moderate-to-major flood stages across Texas rivers, which could impact Texas communities and property owners. To view the latest flood gauge data visit [www.TexasFlood.org](http://www.TexasFlood.org) .

### NWS Flood Gauges: as of 4:30AM January 27.



### River Flooding:

Major flood stage is being reported along the West Fork of the San Jacinto River near Humble in Harris County, which is forecast to crest on January 27.

Major flood stage is being reported along the Trinity River near Liberty in Liberty County, which is forecast to crest on January 28.

Moderate flood stage is being reported along the Brazos, Guadalupe, Lavaca Navidad, Neches, San Bernard, San Jacinto, and Trinity Rivers.

Minor flood stage is being reported along the Angelina, Brazos, Guadalupe, Navidad, Neches, Sabine, San Bernard, San Jacinto, and the Trinity Rivers.

## **OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:**

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

### **Region 3 (Includes DDs 5, 6, 14, and 15)**

**DD 14 – Lufkin** (Includes Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties)

Polk County: The Polk County EOC is at Level III. On January 24, the Polk County Judge issued a voluntary evacuation order for the low-lying areas along the Trinity River below Lake Livingston Dam. Locally heavy rainfall along with the increase in discharge from the dam could impact areas below the dam including roadways, impeding ingress and egress into subdivisions and residential areas.

Polk County is urging citizens in these areas to take precautions.

### **Region 4 (Includes DD 16)**

**DD 16 – Houston** (Includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton Counties)

Austin County: Austin County OEM continues to coordinate with TxDOT and county resources about the roadways being affected by the flooding from Mill Creek.

Harris County: The County has activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions).

Liberty County issued a mandatory evacuation order on January 25 for the East Fork RV Resort in Cleveland. A shelter was activated at the Plum Grove Assembly of God Church in Splendora. [As of 10:00 PM January 26, the East Fork RV Resort in Cleveland is still under water. All the recreation vehicles were moved out of the park to other locations.](#)

Montgomery County: The County has increased its EOC to Level I (Emergency Conditions). Montgomery County Judge issued a Disaster Declaration on January 25. Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is reporting water over several roads and bridges in the county.

[On January 26, the San Jacinto River Authority has reduced the discharge rate from the Lake Conroe Dam from 19,435 cubic feet per second \(cfs\) down to 13,650 cfs.](#)

## **Region 6 (Includes DDs 17, 18, and 24)**

**DD 17 – Victoria** (Includes Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Lavaca, Jackson, and Victoria Counties)

The TDEM District Chief reported several road closures throughout the district due to flooding.

DeWitt County: The city of Yorktown is reporting 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets closed due to high water. A few other low-water crossings continue to have water over the roadways but are passable.

Lavaca County: The County OEM continues to report road closures due to flooding, also including some streets in the city of Hallettsville.

### **RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS**

**Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM):**

**TDEM Mass Care:** Mass Care was activated at the SOC.

The state and VOAD partners remain on standby ready to support Mass Care services at the local level.

**The Incident Support Task Force (ISTF)** is also activated at the SOC with two personnel. HQ and regional staff are actively assessing the weather and communicating with locals for any unmet needs.

**Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) / Texas A&M Public Works Response Team (TX-PWRT):** The TX-PWRT Liaison continues to support and coordinate operations remotely. Standing by and monitoring WebEOC to fulfill any STAR requests for service. Strike teams are rostered, and availability is noted.

**Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Texas Task Force 1 & 2 (TX-TF1 / TX-TF2):** TEEX activated ten TX-TF1 Type III Swift Water Boat Squads, two high-profile vehicles (HPV), and two water group supervisors.

On January 24, to support TMD GTP High Profile Vehicles, TX-TF2 activated two Water Mission Ready Packages (MRPs), and TX-TF1 Region 3 activated a flood boat squad.

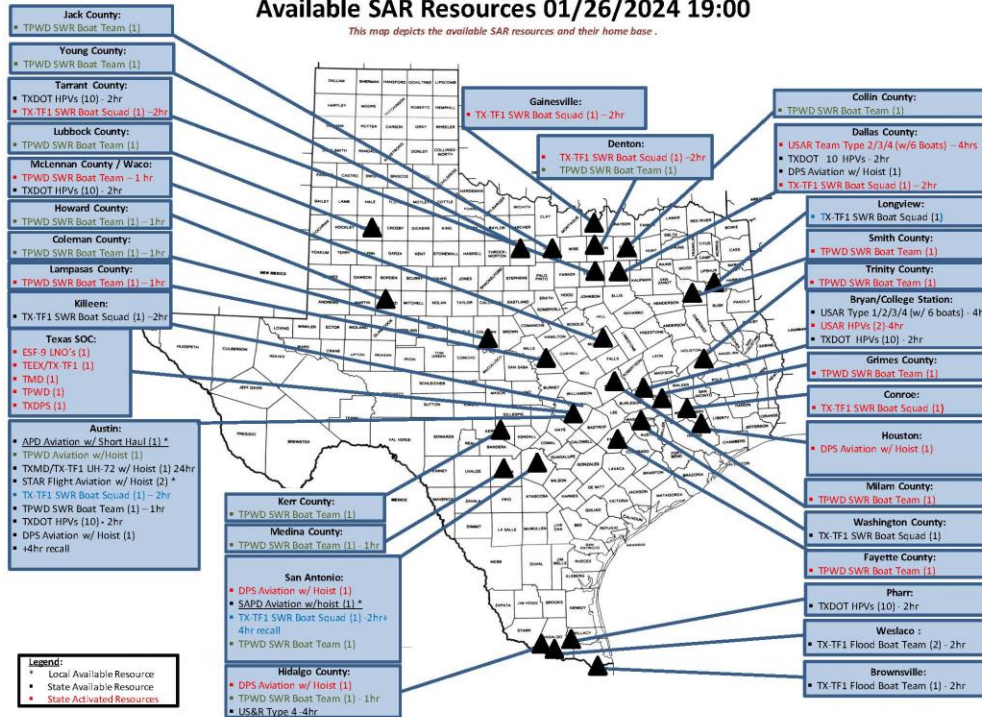
On January 24, TX-TF1 personnel assisted local resources throughout the state, including the evacuation of 1 adult and 2 pets from a flooded home in TDEM Region 4. There are currently 130 personnel assigned to support this activation.

On January 25, there were two vehicle rescues reported in Cleveland, Liberty County. The rescues were conducted on County Road 3812 and Farm to Market Road 1725.

On January 26, over the last 24 hours, TX-TF1 resources have been very active completing 42 evacuations from vehicles and neighborhoods.

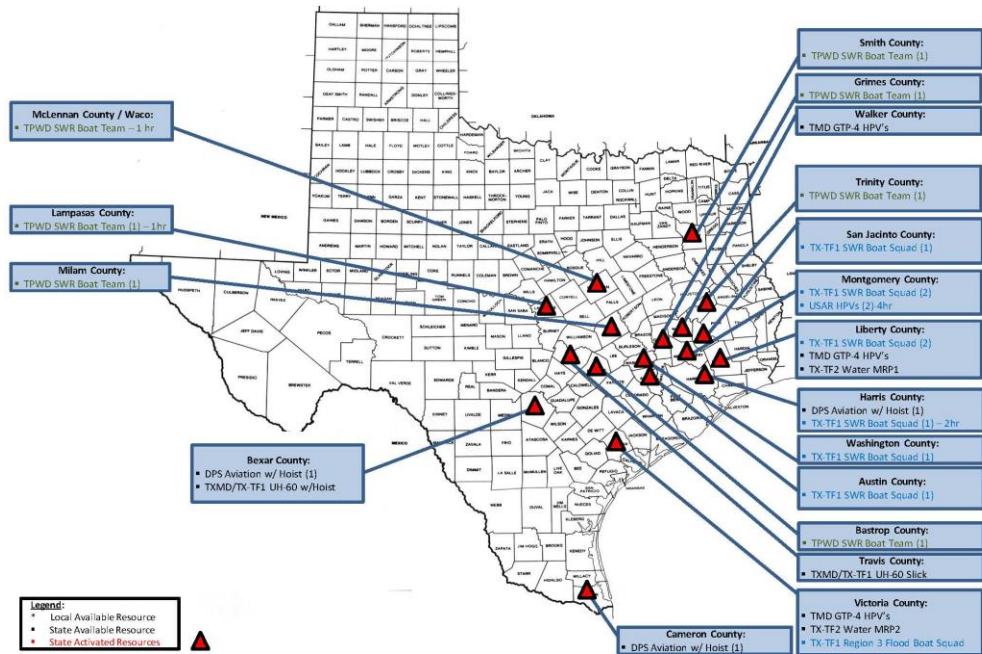
## Available SAR Resources 01/26/2024 19:00

This map depicts the available SAR resources and their home base.



## Assigned SAR Resources Location 01/26/2024 19:00

This map depicts a snapshot in time. Resource locations are fluid based on response needs. Use normal resource request process for SAR assistance.



**Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):** TAHC began staffing the SOC for this event on January 22, 2024. ESF 11 is paying close attention to forecasts and areas that may be potentially impacted by flooding, monitoring for resource requests, and is maintaining a readiness posture to respond to unmet needs as they present.

TAHC received word on January 24 & 25 of animal water rescues in Montgomery & Austin Counties. Both incidents were handled at the local level with no additional needs or issues reported.

On January 25, TAHC and the Montgomery County Sherriff's Office Livestock Deputies responded to assist an owner with the retrieval of eight sheep & goats, one cow, and three horses from flood water. These animals were moved to dry land where they remain on the property for the owner to provide care while the waters recede. TAHC, AgriLife Extension and DAR Agents identified the Montgomery County Fairgrounds as a potential shelter site and built makeshift pens for smaller livestock, if additional rescues are needed. There have been no requests for further assistance as needs are currently being met at the local level.

Additionally, TAHC EM Specialist & Texas A&M AgriLife Ext Agent have worked with industry partners and producers in Liberty County to communicate the urgency for movement of livestock from the river bottom due to the increased threat of flooding.

TAHC will continue to monitor impacts from rising waters and flooding over the next few days in areas where livestock may be affected. All ESF11 assets and resources remain on standby. Currently, TAHC has not received any requests for resources and reports no unmet needs.

TAHC, Texas A&M Veterinary, and Texas A&M AgriLife have assisted Liberty County with pre-identifying locations in their plan to shelter large animals. With several waterways in the county, a shelter location may be appropriately selected at the fairgrounds or sale barns, as needed.

**Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS):** TXDPS is coordinating with TX-TF1 and TMD for aviation and marine unit response.

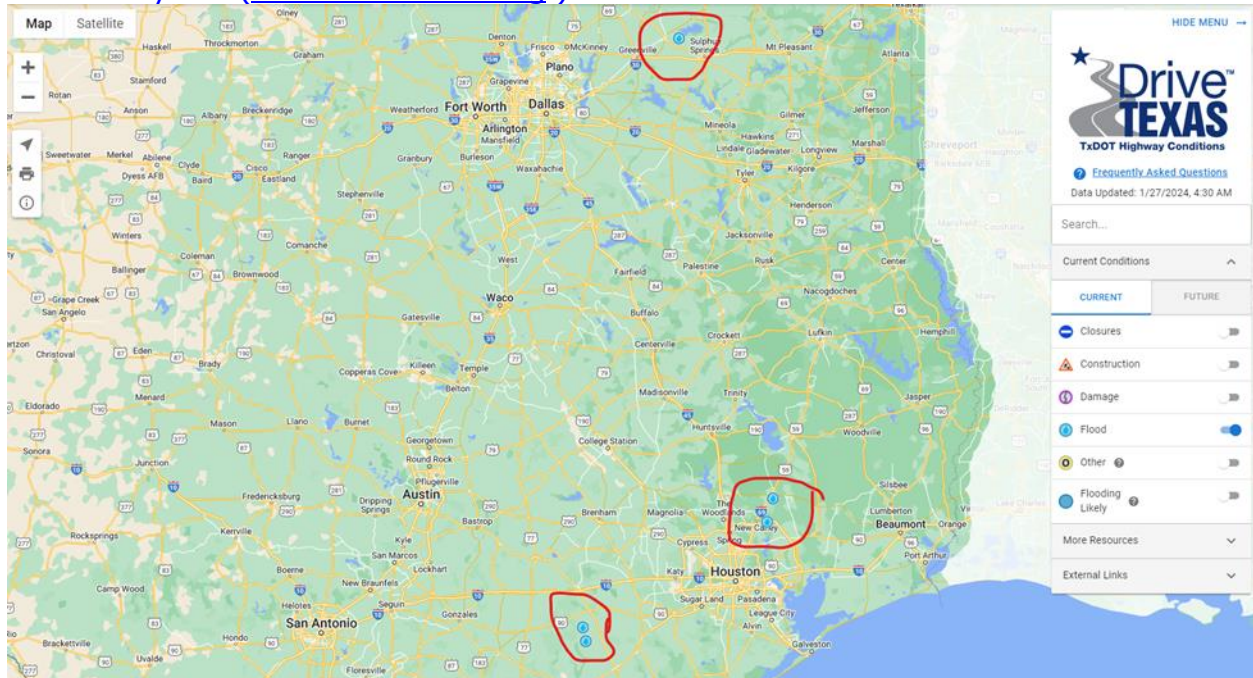
TXDPS Aviation Operations Division (AOD) has three H-125 hoist-equipped helicopters stationed in Houston, San Antonio, and Edinburg are ready for immediate response.

The Texas Highway Patrol (THP) Tactical Marine Unit (TMU) has flat bottom boats available in the following counties: three in Hidalgo County, one in Aransas County, one in Victoria County, one in Galveston County, three in Montgomery County, one in McLennan County, and one in Medina County.

**Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):** DSHS has assigned two LNO to the SOC. The Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF): [DSHS Emergency Medical Task Force \(EMTF\) resources returned to normal operations effective January 26.](#)

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** TxDOT SOC Liaison and the EMC have been staffing the SOC since January 22.

TxDOT is reporting roadways affected by high water due to flooding: As of 4:30 AM on January 27. ([www.drivetexas.org](http://www.drivetexas.org))



**Texas Military Department (TMD):** TMD has activated three Ground Transportation Platoons to support TX-TF1. [TMD has activated 47 personnel, 15 vehicles, and three aircraft.](#) Units are staged in Huntsville, Liberty, and Victoria. Rotary Wing Mixed (1x UH-72A with hoist ([Sealy](#)), 1x UH-60M with hoist ([Conroe](#)), 1 UH-60L with hoist ([Ellington Field](#)), and One Air Operation Support. TMD is also supporting the State Operation Center.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):** TPWD continues to have Texas Game Wardens and State Park Police Officers prepared to respond to areas affected by the severe weather event and support boat rescue or evacuation operations as needed. Also, TPWD personnel are continuing to be advised of the current weather conditions and are maintaining a state of readiness.



TPWD has activated four swift water rescue (SWR) boat teams in Central and East Texas.

Caddo Lake and Palmetto State Parks have closed areas due to flooding. Brazos Bend State Park is preparing for minor flooding.

TPWD SAR crews and field personnel have assisted with several incidents and rescues in the affected areas of the state.

### STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TDEM	ESF 6 Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TDEM	ISTF HQ Staff	2	0	Assigned	Austin
TDEM	VOAD	1	0	Assigned	Virtual
TEEX PWRT	SOC Liaison Remote	1	1	Assigned	College Station
TEEX PWRT	PWRT Strike Teams	16	0	Available	Statewide
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Squad	6	2	Released	Travis County
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Squad	6	2	Released	Bexar County
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Squad	6	2	Assigned	Nacogdoches County
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Squad	6	2	Assigned	San Jacinto County
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Squad	6	2	Assigned	Jasper County
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Squad	6	2	Assigned	Angelina County
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Squad	6	2	Assigned	Washington County
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Squad	6	2	Assigned	Austin County
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Squad	6	2	Assigned	Liberty County
TEEX TX-TF1	Swift Water Boat Squad	6	2	Assigned	Walker County
TEEX TX-TF1	Water Group Supervisor	2	1	Assigned	TDEM Region 4
TEEX TX-TF1	Water Group Supervisor	2	1	Assigned	TDEM Region 6
TEEX TX-TF1	HPV	7	2	Assigned	San Jacinto County
TEEX	ESF 9 Overhead	4	0	Assigned	Brazos County

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TX-TF1					
TEEX TX-TF1	ESF 9 SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TEEX TX-TF1	TX-TF1 Rescue Swimmers	3	0	Assigned	Travis County
TEEX TX-TF1	TX-TF1 Rescue Swimmers	2	0	Assigned	Bexar County
TEEX TX-TF1	HSART Manager	1	0	Assigned	Brazos County
TEEX TX-TF1	TX-TF2 Water MRP	18	3	Assigned	Walker County
TEEX TX-TF1	TX-TF2 Water MRP	17	4	Assigned	Victoria County
TEEX TX-TF1	TX-TF1 Region 3 Flood Boats	6	3	Assigned	Victoria County
DSHS	SOC LNO	2	0	Assigned	Austin
TXDPS	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin
TXDPS	Helicopter w/hoist	9	3	Activated	Houston, San Antonio, Edinburg
TXDPS	Flat Bottom Boats	22	11	Activated	Hidalgo, Cameron, Aransas, Victoria, Galveston, Montgomery, McLennan, Medina
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TMD	SOC MRP	5	0	Assigned	Austin
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	10	5	Assigned	Huntsville
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	10	5	Assigned	Victoria
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	10	5	Assigned	Liberty
TMD	1.5 Rotary Wing	11	3	Assigned	Sealy/Conroe/Ellington Field
TMD	Air Ops Support	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	SOC Liason	2	2	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	Game Warden SAR	14	21	Available	TPWD Regions 2,3,4,7,8

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TPWD	Game Wardens- State Park Police	270	270	Available	TPWD Regions 2,3,4,7,8
TPWD	Swift Water Boats / Airboats		48	Available	TPWD Regions 2,3,4,7,8
TAHC	SOC Representative	1		Assigned	SOC
TAHC	TAHC Emergency Management	1		Available/ on-Call	Virtual

**FINAL COMMENTS:** On January 22, at 12:00 PM, the SOC increased the activation level to Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) in response to the heavy rainfall and flash flooding threats for this week. The SOC will continue to provide situation reports as needed.

**The four levels of SOC activation are:**

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

*This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:  
<https://tdem.texas.gov/response/state-operations-center#tab-3>*

**W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM**

Chief – Texas Division of Emergency Management  
 Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services  
 Texas A&M University System

<https://tdem.texas.gov/>

Twitter: @TDEM

(512) 424-2208 (24/7)