



**Texas Division of Emergency Management  
State Situation Report**

**New Information is in Blue Text**

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Event Name</b>         | 20-0013 August Tropical Weather |
| <b>Date</b>               | October 17, 2020                |
| <b>Time</b>               | 0800                            |
| <b>Operational Period</b> | October 16 to October 17, 2020  |
| <b>Report Number</b>      | 55                              |

**Regions Affected**

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| <b>DPS Regions Affected</b> | 2    |
| <b>DDCs Active</b>          | None |

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** The State of Texas continues to assist Louisiana with sheltering and basic needs, while volunteer organizations active in disaster (VOADs) continue providing recovery assistance to Texas residents who were also affected by Hurricane Laura.

On September 30, Governor Abbott sent a letter to President Donald Trump requesting a major disaster declaration for Ten Texas Counties to assist in recovery efforts following Hurricane Laura. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) previously granted the state's request for a Federal Emergency Declaration ahead of Hurricane Laura's landfall in Texas.

In his letter, the Governor specifically requested Individual Assistance for individuals and households, crisis counseling, disaster unemployment assistance, disaster case management, disaster legal services, and Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster assistance. The Governor also requested Public Assistance for Debris Removal (Category A), Emergency Protective Measures (Category B), Permanent Work (Categories C-G), and Direct Federal Assistance for the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, and Shelby. The Governor also requested the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.

On September 22, Governor Abbott renewed the disaster declaration for Hurricane Laura.

On September 15, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has received federal approval to automatically provide replacement benefit's for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients for food lost or destroyed due to Hurricane Laura in eight of the impacted counties: Hardin, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby and Tyler. Those eight counties met federal criteria for mass replacements of benefits based on the severity of storm impacts in their area.

FEMA has approved the emergency declaration for the State of Texas (FEMA-3540-EM) for the counties of Anderson, Angelina, Aransas, Bexar, Bowie, Brazoria, Calhoun, Cameron, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Cherokee, Dallas, Ellis, Fort Bend, Franklin, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Kenedy, Kleberg, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Matagorda, Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Panola, Polk, Red River, Refugio, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Shelby, Smith, Tarrant, Titus, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Willacy and Wood for reimbursement for eligible emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct Federal assistance and reimbursement for mass care including evacuation and shelter support.

#### **OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:**

1. Recovery
2. Sheltering and Mass Care
3. Accurate Damage assessments
4. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
5. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

To view the summaries of disaster declarations, letters to the Governor or Disaster Summary Outlines go to: <https://tdem.texas.gov/disaster-summary-outline-2/>

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

**Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM):** The Daily Operations staff continues to process disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), preparing Snapshots and the State SITREP. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the alternate State Operations Center, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners to assist with any unmet needs and resources.

**TDEM Mass Care / Disaster Recovery Task Force:** TDEM Mass Care continues to coordinate the state-supported non-congregate shelters for evacuees throughout the state. TDEM is working with the state of Louisiana on the repopulation of their residents.

As of [Friday, October 16th](#), there are [1,453 \(-233\) evacuees in 2 non-congregate shelters throughout the State of Texas in 642 \(-105\) hotel rooms.](#)

[Louisiana concluded Phase 1 and started Phase 2 of their proposed 2-phase repopulation plan as of Friday, October 16:](#)

- Phase 1 ([Concluded](#)) – Evacuees with Major/Destroyed Properties – Receive notification on October 13 that the NCS – Hilton Anatole would be closing as a shelter on October 16 and that all evacuees would need to transition back to a Louisiana shelter.
  - [On October 15 Louisiana transported 31 shelter residents to New Orleans non-congregate HUB shelters.](#)
  - [Seven evacuees needed approval to extend their stay until Monday check out for medical, transportation, and new lease start date.](#)

- Phase 2 ([Active](#)) – Evacuees with Affected/Minor Properties – Receive notification on October 16 of an October 19 transition back to a Louisiana shelter.
  - [38 evacuees with Affected/Minor have been upgraded to Major/Destroyed post Hurricane Delta. Red Cross will notify these evacuees by phone of their new hotel location in Louisiana.](#)

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** TCEQ staff are conducting weekly inspections on twelve authorized Temporary Debris Management Sites (TDMS) in Newton, Orange, Sabine, and Jasper Counties.

**Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs):**

**Supporting Organizations:** Trusted World, Catholic Charities, Dallas County VOAD, Tarrant County VOAD, Collin County VOAD, Denton County VOAD, Central Texas VOAD, McCares Montgomery County, Lions Club International. Crisis Response Ministries, St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, North Texas Food Bank, Central Texas Conference UMC, North Texas Conference UMC, Children’s Disaster Services, United Way Houston, Austin Disaster Relief Network

Local, State and National mission-driven organizations, to include VOAD member agencies are working in coordination to support the ongoing sheltering efforts and identified evacuee unmet needs in Region 1. Assistance to include: clothing, hygiene and comfort kits, baby items, personal items, emotional and spiritual care, transition support

**American Red Cross (ARC):** American Red Cross will be updating their Social Media sites to provide information transition instructions for evacuees headed back to Louisiana. Providing funding through the Shelter Transition Program for transportation needs back to Louisiana.

**FINAL COMMENTS:** The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional 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/situation-reports/>

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