

Emergency Management Operations

City of Austin Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM)

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Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

VISION

A disaster-prepared and resilient community.

MISSION

To serve as the coordinating focal point for preparedness, response, recovery, and education in any emergency or disaster that disrupts the community.



Phases of a Disaster



Future of Emergency Management

- This is not a political statement
 - Presidentially declared disasters are happening more frequently and with greater severity than earlier in my career
- How do we plan, prepare, and respond given what we know about how severe and frequent disasters have been recently?



Recent Disasters



- 2023 Winter Storm Mara
- 2021 Winter Storm Uri
- August 2020 Hurricane Laura
- 2020-2023 COVID-19 Pandemic
- October 2018 Boil Water Notice
- March-April 2018 Serial Bombings
- August 2017 Hurricane Harvey
- **Special Events**





Austin Emergency Operations Plan

- Four types of plans:
 - Emergency Operations Plan – Basic Plan
 - Annexes
 - Special Operations Plans
 - Policies and Procedures

Combined Transportation, Emergency & Communications Center (CTECC)



Emergency Operations

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- Austin-Travis County Emergency Operations Centers (A-TCEOC)
 - Multi-agency Coordination
 - Planned Events, VIP Visits, Disasters
 - Back-up EOC
 - EVOC
 - HSEM Duty Officer



Providing Service During a Disaster

- Each emergency is unique, and it impacts a segment of the population differently
- How we provide services must be in a hierarchy
 - Life Safety
 - Critical infrastructure
 - Community lifelines
 - Most vulnerable
 - General population



Public Information

It is critical for emergency personnel to be able to communicate to affected communities during public safety events, such as:

- Floods
- Wildfires
- Hazardous Materials
- Evacuations
- Food/Water Impacts & Distribution



Partners

- Our office has been 13 people – We are the second smallest department in the City of Austin
- We rely heavily on an all hands and all community approach to disasters
- We cannot meet the needs of everyone in a disaster, but that's okay
- We are lucky to have incredible partners that dedicate themselves to helping during disasters

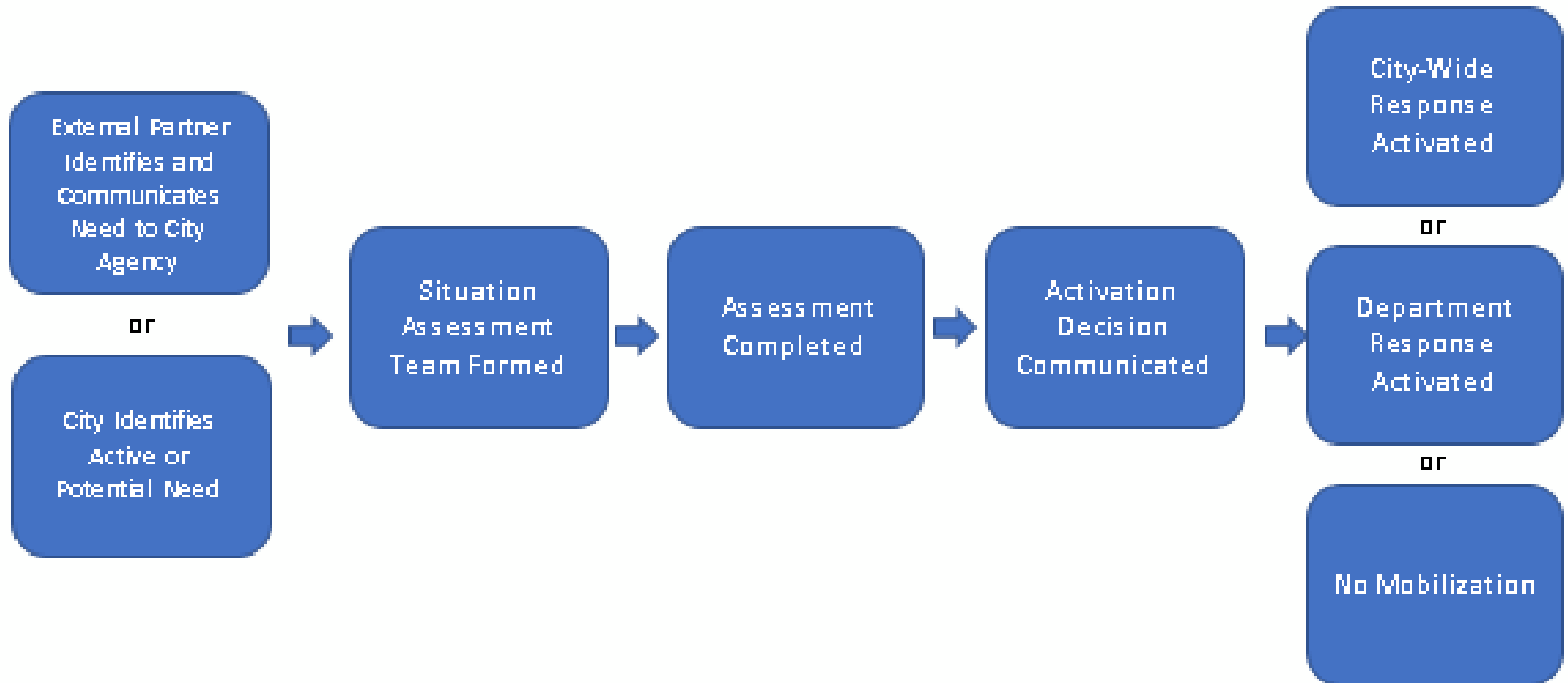


Disaster Food Access & Drinking Water Appendix

- Supplement to City of Austin Emergency Operations Plan and Shelter & Mass Care Annex
- Adaptable and provides processes to various types of disasters with food and water resources that will be needed
- Activated for address emergency/disaster related food and drinking water needs



Response Activation Process Overview



Example EOC Organizational Chart

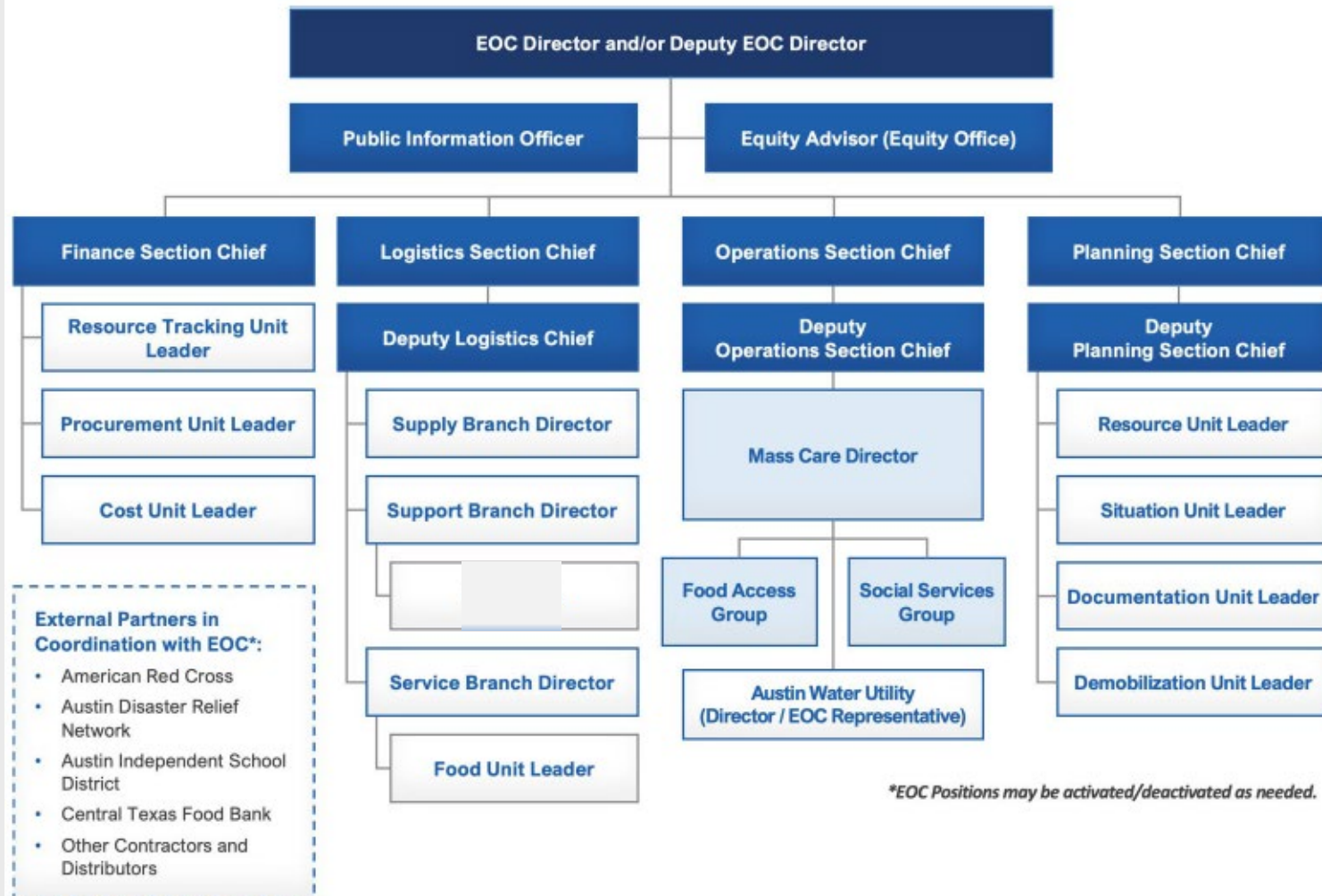


Figure 3: EOC Organizational Chart: Disaster Food and Water Operations



Potential Roles of External Partners

PERPAREDNESS

- Communicate significant concerns regarding food and water access due to an active or predicted disaster
- Increase organization's preparedness through emergency/continuity of operations planning and training initiatives
- Establish and maintain contracts, agreements, and/or MOUs with City agencies to formalize response roles

OPERATIONS

- Monitor and communicate community emergency food/water needs
- Participate in response coordination calls to provide updates, coordinate resources, and support equitable outcomes
- Provide emergency food/water, per organizational capacity:
- Source, prepare, and distribute food/water
- Provide on-site staffing
- Provide logistical support

DEMOBILIZATION

- Participate in after-action reviews to identify best practices and areas of improvement
- Incorporate any relevant lessons learned in organization's response plans
- Discuss organization's role in long term recovery
- Continue to build community, engage, and build preparedness



HSEM Items

- Hiring of HSEM Positions
 - Food Access Group
 - Mass Care Director/Coordinator
- Mass Care Improvements
- Travis County Engagement



Community Preparedness

Four Steps to Emergency Preparedness

- Make a plan
- Build a kit
- Know your neighbors
- Stay informed



make a basic emergency supply kit

- Basic first aid kit, seven-day supply of medications/medical items
- Map(s) of the area
- Extra cash (suggested: \$200 in small bills)
- Spare change of clothes
- Spare car/home key
- Family and emergency contact info (phone and email)
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, tags, food, bowl)
- Copies of personal documents in water-tight bag
- 1 gallon of water per person, per day (3-day supply)
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food, can opener
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Cell phone, charger(s), flashlight, extra batteries
- Sanitation, personal hygiene items, blankets
- Wrench or plyer
- Other tools or equipment you may need



Austin HSEM



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Visit www.austintexas.gov/HSEM
for more information.



Stay Informed

**SIGN UP FOR
EMERGENCY ALERTS IN
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
BY VOICE, TEXT OR EMAIL.**



Questions?



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