



City of Austin Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Department Overview

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Homeland Security & Emergency Management



Agenda

- Operating Environment
- Challenges
- Accomplishments
- Future Areas of Focus



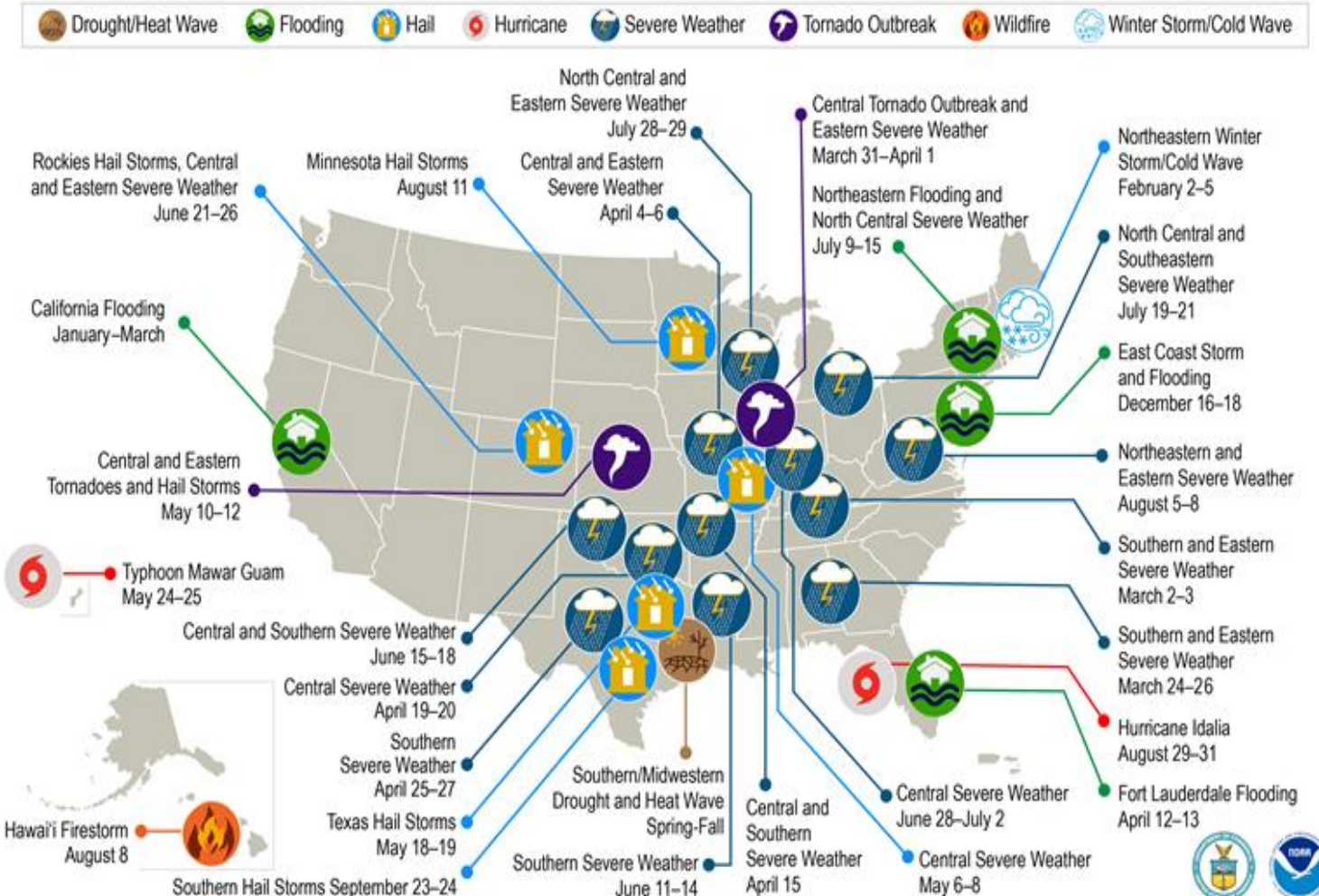
Operating in All-Hazard Risks Environment





All-Hazard Risks

U.S. 2023 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the 28 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States in 2023.

Climate Change

- Increased heat & drought
- Increased insect outbreaks
- Wildfires more numerous and severe
- Heat-related health impacts

Austin Growth

- 1.1 million by 2030
- 1.6 million by 2060



Challenges

- Difficulty in prioritization, progress tracking and meeting deadlines
- A lack of structured workflows and procedures which led to inefficiencies and employee fatigue
- Absence of clear communication channels and guidelines caused misunderstandings, confusion and misinformation leading to errors, delays and frustration
- Absence of role clarity
- Misaligned cultural identity and ideology regarding operational responsibilities and expectations
- Incident staffing



HSEM Requirements by Legislation

Texas Government Code Section 418.02

Reduce vulnerabilities – Prevent damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from natural or man-made catastrophes, riots, or hostile military or paramilitary action

Prepare for prompt and efficient rescue, care, and treatment of persons victimized or threatened by disaster

Provide a setting conducive to the rapid and orderly restoration and rehabilitation of persons and property affected by disasters

Clarify and strengthen the roles of the governor, state agencies, the judicial branch of state government, and local governments in prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters

Authorize and provide for cooperation in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery

Authorize and provide for coordination of activities relating to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery by agencies and officers of this state, and similar state-local, interstate, federal-state, and foreign activities in which the state and its political subdivisions may participate

Provide an emergency management system embodying all aspects of pre-disaster preparedness and post-disaster response

Assist in mitigation of disasters caused or aggravated by inadequate planning for and regulation of public and private facilities and land use

Encourage state agencies, local governments, nongovernmental organizations, private entities, and individuals to adopt the goals of the strategic plan of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a disaster that emphasize cooperation among federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, nongovernmental organizations, private entities, and individuals in each activity or project undertaken to ensure that this state is prepared to effectively respond to and recover from a disaster

Provide the authority and mechanism to respond to an energy emergency

Texas Government Code Section 421.002

Protect against homeland security threats and hazards

Respond to homeland security emergencies

Recover from homeland security emergencies

Mitigate the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters

Prevent significant criminal and terrorist attacks

City of Austin Code of Ordinances Section 2-6-22

Maintain and manage the emergency operations center

Develop an emergency management program

Coordinate emergency preparedness activity within the City

Issue rules approved by the city manager to implement the emergency management program

Act as liaison with federal, state, county, and other emergency planning and control agencies

Distribute emergency preparedness information to City residents

Perform other duties assigned by the city manager



Staffing for Incidents/Events

- All employees are essential or critical
- Departments must provide 1% of employees to staff emergency shelters, etc.
- Early notice given regarding reporting requirements



Accreditation

EMAP Accreditation Process

- 40+ Departmental COOPs
- 35+ Emergency Policies and Procedures
- Best Practice for Pre-Translated Messaging in 14 Languages





Training

Internal Training

- Monthly Emergency Management / EOC Training
- Public Information Officer Training Citywide
- Liaison Officer Training for CMO
- Internal HSEM exercises

Tabletop Exercises

- SXSXW
- ACL

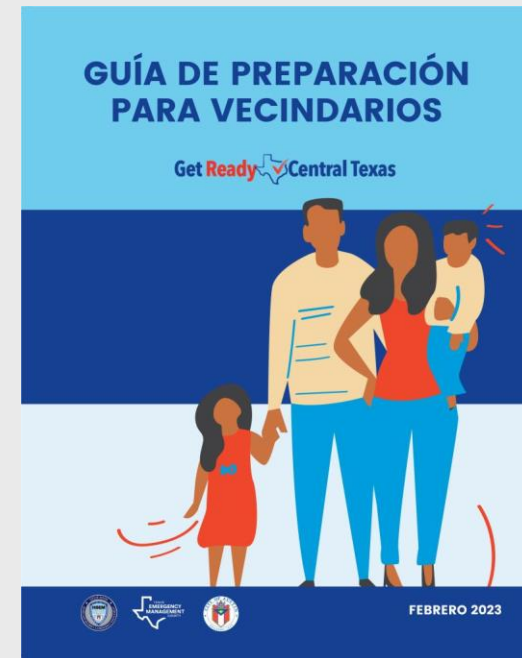
Elected Official Training

- TEEKS in College Station
- Winter Weather Tabletop Exercise



Communication

- Improved internal communications during inclement weather
- Preparedness Press Conferences
- Paid ad campaigns to promote preparedness in several languages
- Emergency Preparedness Pop Up events
- Get Ready Central Texas Emergency Preparedness Fair
- Neighborhood Preparedness Guide

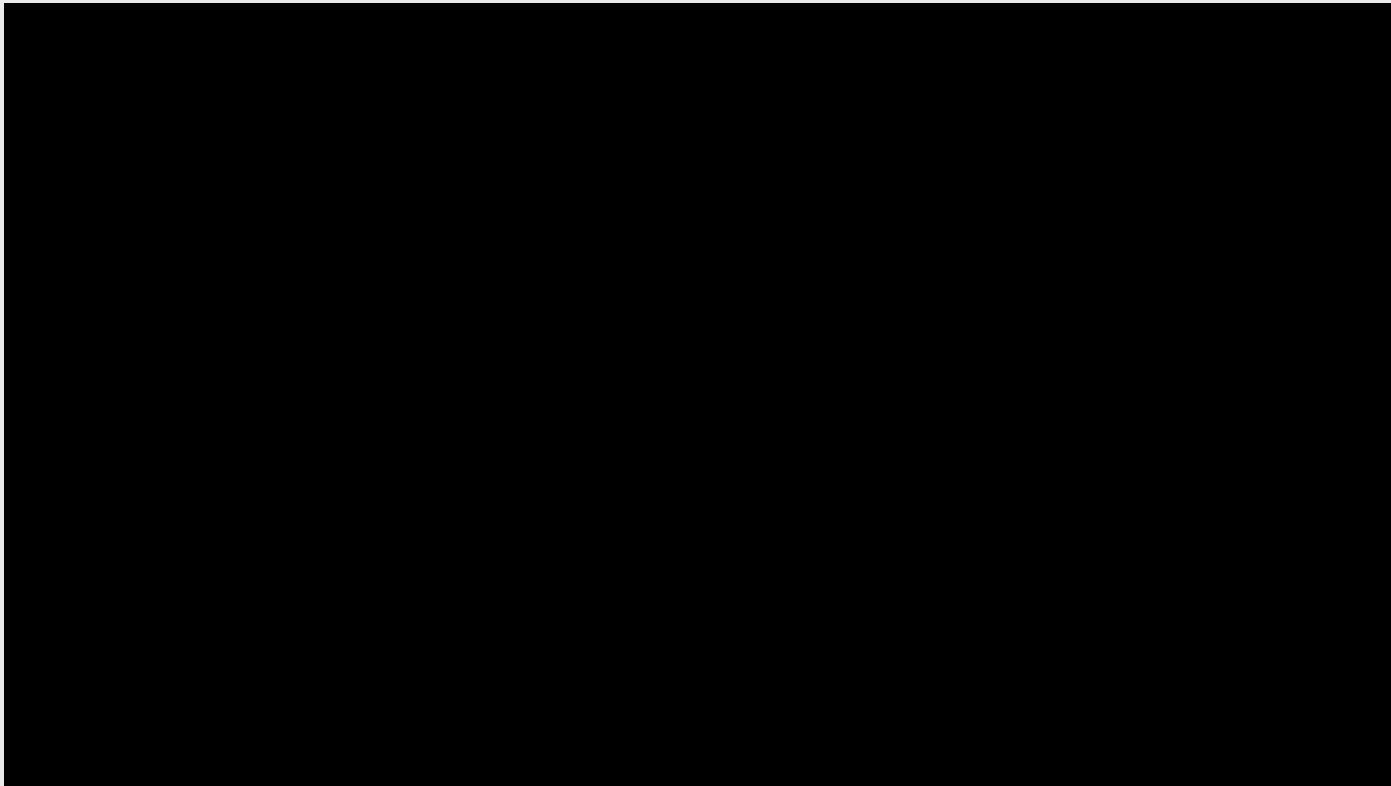




Communication

Learn What You Can Do To Prepare

- A joint public safety venture





HSEM Plan Management

5-Year Strategic Planning Schedule (Proposed)					
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Annexes	M (Resource Management)	C (Mass Shelter)	B (Communication)	P (Hazard Mitigation)	J (Recovery)
	O (Human Services)	E (Evacuation)	H (Health and Medical)	D (Public Safety)	V (Terrorism)
	T (Donation Management)	A (Warning)	L (Utilities)	I (Public Information)	X (Debris Removal)
		S (Transportation)			
Ordinance	Review		Review		Review
MOUs	Review	Review	Review	Review	Review

FY 25 Annual Exercise and Training Calendar (Example)												
	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Exercise				A (Warning) E (Evacuation)								C (Mass Shelter) S (Transportation)
Training	THIRA/S PR							THIRA/S PR				



Future Areas of Focus

- Standardized Process for After Action Reports
- Enhanced Training and Drills
- Increased Predictability



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