



## Texas Severe Storms and Flooding May 3, 2024

### Office of the Governor

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Press Release on 05/02/24:

#### ***“Governor Abbott Adds Counties To Disaster Declaration For Severe Weather, Flooding***

*May 2, 2024 | Austin, Texas | Press Release*

Governor Greg Abbott today [expanded the state’s disaster declaration](#) to include 59 counties in at-risk areas for severe weather and flooding, with the updated disaster declaration covering 88 counties in total. Additional counties may be added as conditions warrant.

*“As flooding conditions and severe weather continue in multiple regions across Texas, I expanded the disaster declaration to add 59 counties to ensure Texans and their communities receive the assistance and support they need to stay safe,” said Governor Abbott. “For Texans in at-risk areas, it is important to remain weather-aware, follow the guidance of state and local officials, and avoid traveling in dangerous flood conditions. The State of Texas continues working with emergency management and local officials to deploy any additional resources needed to provide ongoing support and protect our fellow Texans.”*

*The counties added to the disaster declaration include: Anderson, Angelina, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Cherokee, Colorado, Comal, Coryell, DeWitt, Falls, Fayette, Gillespie, Gonzales, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hardin, Hays, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Llano, Mason, Medina, Milam, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Travis, Van Zandt, Waller, Washington, Williamson, and Wilson counties.*

*According to the National Weather Service (NWS), areas of North, West, Central, and East Texas face an increased risk of severe thunderstorms bringing excessive rainfall leading to flash flooding. NWS is forecasting extreme river flooding for Central and East Texas river basins. River impacts across major river basins are expected to continue through next week, meaning river flooding threats will persist through that time. Historic releases from lake and reservoir operators will contribute to major flooding for downstream rivers and tributaries. Texans below those reservoirs and along river systems impacted by water releases are encouraged to heed warnings of local emergency management officials. Additionally, severe weather threats will include large hail, damaging wind, and possible tornadoes.*

*Overnight, state responders assisted with multiple high-water rescues in Central and Southeast Texas. Additionally, state transportation and law enforcement personnel have assisted with road closures and sandbagging efforts. Impacted school districts are reporting altered schedules due to weather impacts.*

*The Texas State Emergency Operations Center continues to operate at Level II (Escalated Response), with 24-hour emergency management council operations, in order to support requests for state assistance from local officials in areas impacted by storms and flooding.*

*Texans are urged to monitor local forecasts, make an emergency plan, and follow instructions of emergency response officials. Never drive or walk through flooded roads, and do not drive around barricaded roadways. Remember: Turn Around, Don't Drown.*

*Texans can access flood information at [TexasFlood.org](https://www.texasflood.org), find flood preparedness tips at [TexasReady.gov](https://www.texasready.gov), check road conditions at [DriveTexas.org](https://www.drivetexas.org), and locate severe weather resources at [tdem.texas.gov](https://www.tdem.texas.gov).*

*Governor Abbott continues to take action to provide all available resources to help support local communities from the impacts of severe weather, including:*

- *[Readying](#) state emergency response resources ahead of wildfire and severe weather threats last week*
- *[Issuing](#) a disaster declaration yesterday for counties affected by recent storms and deploying additional state emergency response resources in anticipation of severe weather and flooding this week*
- *[Increasing](#) the readiness level of the State Emergency Operations Center to help support requests for state assistance from local officials*

*[Read the Governor's updated declaration.](#)*

## Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

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[Texas Division of Emergency Management | Del Valle TX | Facebook](#)

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Recent press release on 4/29/24:

### ***“Texas Emergency Management Officials Remind Texans to Report Storm Damage***

*AUSTIN - The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) today reminded Texans to report property damage sustained during recent severe weather and flooding by submitting a self-reported online damage assessment survey.*

*“When it is safe to do so, Texans are urged to self-report property damage using TDEM’s damage assessment reporting tool,” said Texas Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd. “This process will help officials determine resource needs, learn about the kind of damage sustained, and work to determine eligibility for disaster assistance.”*

*Texans can report storm damage to homes and businesses using the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) damage survey. iSTAT surveys can be filled out in English and Spanish by visiting [damage.tdem.texas.gov](https://damage.tdem.texas.gov) and clicking “April 26-Ongoing Severe Weather Event.”*

*Details provided through the iSTAT damage survey helps emergency management officials gain an understanding of the extent of damages that have occurred. The information provided from this process also helps identify immediate resource needs.*

*Additionally, survey information 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 company. It does not guarantee disaster relief assistance. English and Spanish tutorial videos explaining how to fill out iSTAT surveys are available at [damage.tdem.texas.gov](https://damage.tdem.texas.gov).*

*With continued river flooding and ongoing threats from severe weather, TDEM encourages Texans to remain weather aware, monitor local weather forecasts,*

*and follow directions from local officials. Additionally, it is never safe to drive through water-covered roadways or around barricaded roads. Remember, turn around, don't drown.*

*Texans can access information on purchasing or renewing flood insurance policies through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) at [floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov). A flood insurance policy typically takes up to 30 days to take effect, so it is important to plan ahead before the next disaster strikes.*

*Access flood gage data and review flood safety information at [TexasFlood.org](https://www.TexasFlood.org), check road conditions at [DriveTexas.org](https://www.DriveTexas.org), and locate disaster preparedness information at [tdem.texas.gov/prepare](https://tdem.texas.gov/prepare).”*

## **American Red Cross**

American Red Cross of Central & South Texas Region  
2218 Pershing Drive  
Austin, TX 78723  
(512) 928-4271

[Central & South Texas | Texas Region | American Red Cross](#)

[American Red Cross Serving Central and South Texas | Austin TX | Facebook](#)

American Red Cross North Texas Region  
2055 Kendall Drive  
Dallas, TX 75235  
(214) 678-4800

[North Texas | Dallas | American Red Cross](#)

[American Red Cross Greater North Texas | Facebook](#)

American Red Cross Texas Gulf Coast Region  
2700 Southwest Freeway  
Houston, TX 77098  
(713) 526-8300

[Gulf Coast | Texas Region | American Red Cross](#)

[American Red Cross Texas Gulf Coast | Houston TX | Facebook](#)

Recent news release on 5/3/24:

### ***“Tornadoes, Flooding Continue; Red Cross Responding Across Multiple States***

*As tornadoes and flooding persist across a large section of the country, the American Red Cross continues to help people in multiple states while preparing to expand response efforts as the threat of severe weather continues.*

***TORNADOES*** *More than 290 tornadoes have touched down so far this month. Trained Red Cross disaster workers are supporting disaster assessment across*

Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa. This work will help us to better understand what help families may need in the coming days and weeks. The Red Cross is also providing safe shelter, meals, health services, emotional comfort and distributing relief supplies. The threat of more tornadoes continues for the next several days and the Red Cross is preparing to respond if necessary.

**FLOODING** In Texas, heavy rains have led to devastating flooding around East Texas, including the greater Houston area. More rain is expected as some river levels have already jumped from 45 to 70 feet and are expected to go higher. Mandatory evacuations have been ordered in some low-lying areas. The Red Cross has disaster teams responding with additional workers and relief supplies standing by if needed.

**RED CROSS RESPONSE** In response to this recent severe weather, the Red Cross and partners have provided almost 220 overnight shelter stays for more than 150 people in as many as 16 shelters.

- Some 245 trained Red Cross disaster workers are helping now with more on the way.
- Alongside partners, more than 11,000 meals and snacks have been provided.
- More than 1,200 households have been provided with more than 4,800 relief items including comfort items and cleaning supplies.
- Red Cross workers are also helping replace things like lost eyeglasses and prescriptions.

**HOW TO PREPARE** More extreme weather is probable over the next several days. It is essential that residents take the threat seriously and not fall into storm fatigue. Build your emergency preparedness kit, communication plan and have multiple ways to receive warnings.

**Build a kit** in case you have to evacuate or lose power. An emergency kit should contain food, water and other basic supplies to last at least three days for each family member. Also, don't forget to include essential medications, copies of important documents and special items for children and pets.

**Make a plan.** An emergency plan should include what to do in case you are separated from your family during an emergency and what to do if you have to evacuate. Make sure to coordinate your plan with your child's school, your work and your community's emergency plans. Include pets in your emergency plans. It's important to plan in advance to know which pet-friendly hotels are in your area and where your pets can stay in an emergency situation.

**Be informed.** Know how local authorities will notify you during a disaster and how you will get information, whether through local radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio stations or channels. Know the difference between different weather alerts such as watches and warnings and what actions to take in each.

**HOW TO HELP** You can help people affected by disasters like tornadoes and countless other crises by making a donation to support Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small. Visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

Our volunteers are at the heart of our mission and represent 90% of our workforce. Visit [redcross.org/volunteer](https://www.redcross.org/volunteer) to sign up for opportunities with your local chapter.

**FIND A SHELTER** Anyone who has been affected by the storms is welcome to stop by a shelter to get information, a hot meal, charge their phone, pick up relief supplies and get other essential support. Find open shelters on [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org), the free Red Cross Emergency app or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) and selecting the disaster option. You can also find shelters by following your local county and city officials on social media or monitoring local news.

**TORNADO SAFETY** Watch for tornado danger signs: dark and greenish clouds, a wall cloud or cloud of debris.

- During a tornado warning, go to your safe place immediately, whether it's a basement, storm cellar or interior room on the lowest floor with no windows. A small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safest alternative.
- If you live in a mobile home, find a safe place in a nearby sturdy building. No mobile home is safe in a tornado. If you have access to a sturdy shelter or vehicle, go there immediately.
- If you're outside, seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter, immediately get in a vehicle and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter. Remember to buckle your seat belt.
- Stay away from bridges or highway overpasses.
- If strong winds and flying debris occur while driving, pull over and park. Keep on your seat belt and the engine running. Put your head down below the windows and cover your head with your hands and a blanket.
- Download the free Red Cross First Aid app so you'll know what to do if emergency help is delayed and the free Emergency app for weather alerts,

open Red Cross shelter locations and safety steps for different emergencies. Choose whether you want to view the content in English or Spanish with an easy-to-find language selector. Find these and all of the Red Cross apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to [redcross.org/apps](https://www.redcross.org/apps).

**FLOODING SAFETY** Turn around, don't drown! Stay off the roads. If you must drive and you encounter a flooded roadway, turn around and go another way.

- If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising around you, quickly get out of the car, move to higher ground and stay there. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water.
- Tune into your local radio, NOAA radio or news channel for the latest updates.
- If your neighborhood is prone to flooding, prepare to evacuate quickly if necessary. Follow evacuation orders and don't return until officials say it is safe.
- Stay away from floodwaters. Beware of snakes, insects and other animals or around floodwaters and your home.
- If power lines are down, don't step in puddles or standing water.
- Wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and boots, and be cautious when cleaning up.
- Throw out items that absorb water and cannot be cleaned or disinfected. This mattresses, carpeting, cosmetics, stuffed animals and baby toys.
- Discard all food, beverages and medicine exposed to floodwaters and mud.

**HEAT SAFETY** Extreme heat is predicted to move into the area next week. Follow these steps to help you stay safe as the temperatures rise:

- Hot cars can be deadly. Never leave children or pets in your vehicle. The inside temperature of the car can quickly reach 120 degrees.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning, who spend much of their time alone or who are more likely to be affected by the heat.

- *If someone doesn't have air conditioning, they should seek relief from the heat during the warmest part of the day in places like schools, libraries, theaters, malls, etc.*
- *Extreme heat can be dangerous for anyone, but especially dangerous for those with chronic medical conditions like heart disease, mental illness, poor blood circulation and obesity.*
- *Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.*
- *Avoid extreme temperature changes.*
- *Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing. Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays.*
- *Slow down, stay indoors and avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day.*
- *Postpone outdoor games and activities.*
- *Use a buddy system when working in excessive heat.*
- *Take frequent breaks if working outdoors."*

#### **Open Shelters:**

- Lone Star Community Center  
2500 Lone Star Parkway  
Montgomery, TX 77356
- Phillippian's New Faith Baptist Church  
7858 Angus Street  
Houston, TX 77028
- Green House International Church  
200 W. Greens Road  
Houston, TX 77067
- Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Parish  
26777 Glen Loch Drive  
The Woodlands, TX 77381
- Calvary Baptist Church  
816 N. Blair Ave.



Cleveland, TX 77327

- Burning Hope Baptist Church  
301 E. Pegoda Road  
Trinity, TX 75862
- San Jacinto County Disaster Shelter  
255 Live Oak  
Coldspring, TX 77331
- Dunbar Gym  
1103 Dunbar Street  
Livingston, TX 77351

## **Department of Transportation**

Texas Department of Transportation  
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> St.  
Austin, TX 78701  
(512) 463-8588

[Texas Department of Transportation \(txdot.gov\)](http://txdot.gov)  
[Texas Department of Transportation | Facebook](#)  
[TxDOT \(@TxDOT\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

Please see the following link for updated traffic conditions: [DriveTexas](#)

## **United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines**

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

2-1-1 Texas  
Dial 2-1-1 or (877) 541-7905  
[2-1-1 Texas | Texas Health And Human Services Commission \(211texas.org\)](#)

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

(800) 621-3362

[FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

## **DisasterAssistance.gov**

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

## **American Red Cross National**

(800) 733-2767

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

## **National Weather Service**

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

## **The Weather Channel**

Local forecasts and severe weather. Please call or visit the website to locate your local chapter and open shelters.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com.](#)

## **Safe Travel USA**

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

## **National Traffic And Road Closure Information**

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

## **Free Help Line**

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.