



TDEM

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

May 21, 2026

Texas Emergency Management Advisory Committee:

Thank you for your continued dedication and leadership in advancing emergency management capabilities across Texas. This letter serves to summarize some of the key discussions and developments led by TEMAC and layout additional work to be done.

Discussions and Developments

Since 2024 TEMAC workgroups, under the leadership of the Executive Committee and with support of TDEM advisors, have worked on the Emergency Management Mission Assessment (EMMA) concept. The goal of EMMA is to assess local emergency management capabilities to warn the public, open a shelter, conduct an evacuation, and establish points of distribution. While working on EMMA, workgroups have produced and conducted surveys and developed deliverables which inform emergency management statewide. Local jurisdictions, TEMAC, and TDEM are better informed of resources and capability gaps across the state because of the efforts of EMMA workgroups.

- Over the past year TEMAC has facilitated numerous discussions about significant challenges to Texas communities and the emergency managers who serve them. These topics have included new world screwworm, drought, fire weather, FIFA World Cup, EM certifications, and legislative updates.
- A local guide for Commodity Points of Distribution was developed, reviewed, and adopted by the Executive Committee. It is now available on the TEMAC webpage for use by all local jurisdictions.
- TEMAC conducted a survey of local jurisdictions' public warning, sheltering, and evacuation capabilities. Data for the public warning survey informed TDEM as it conducted the first ever statewide drill to test public warning capabilities. Data related to sheltering and evacuation will inform future actions by TEMAC and TDEM.
- The NIMS ICS in EOCs workgroup identified several gaps in training for local communities. One such training, the *Incident Commander Type 4* training, will be launched during the 2026 Texas Emergency Management Conference.

The above items are just a snapshot of the issues which have been identified and discussed and the work product that has been developed by TEMAC. You have volunteered your time and energy to enhance emergency management in Texas, and for that I am

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thankful. Yet, as you all know, the work of an emergency manager is never done. We must continue to build on the previous TEMAC charges and work towards new efforts as outlined below.

New Charges and Continuing Priorities

- 1. I would like the Executive Committee to create a Planning work group.** The focus of this workgroup should be the new Texas Emergency Management Planning Standard, which was approved by TDEM in May 2026. As a profession, we should constantly be in a cycle of planning, implementing, and evaluating.
 - You should work through the new standard and communicate with TDEM's Preparedness Division to help identify and troubleshoot challenges to the standard to help improve future iterations.
 - We should also work collaboratively to train and exercise plans to ensure the state and local jurisdictions are prepared for the many hazards which threaten Texans.

- 2. I would like the Executive Committee to create an Intelligence and Information Sharing Workgroup.** Within the framework of the All-Hazards approach, emerging threats particularly those stemming from human-caused events are expected to continue increasing in both complexity and frequency. Ensuring that the right stakeholders receive pertinent information in a timely manner remains a key consideration for strengthening preparedness, coordination, and response efforts across all levels of emergency management. It is essential to examine how sensitive or classified information can be efficiently and securely communicated to authorized personnel with a need to know. This raises critical questions regarding the ability of emergency managers to maintain effective situational awareness as these threats evolve.
 - Specifically, what barriers currently hinder timely and accurate awareness of developing threats?
 - What enhancements to indications and warning information-sharing protocols are necessary to address these challenges?

- 3. I would like the Cyber Security Workgroup to integrate with the newly created Texas Cyber Command.** This will provide an opportunity for local emergency management partners to converse and collaborate with the new agency as we work toward shared goals.

4. I would like the Evacuation Workgroup to narrow its focus to hurricane evacuations.

- Examine how local jurisdictions make evacuation decisions, including triggers for voluntary and mandatory evacuations, timing considerations, and use of forecast information, storm surge data, and clearance times to inform actions.
- Address evacuation considerations for individuals without personal transportation and those with access and functional needs, including integration with medical evacuation planning, mass transportation options, and STEAR-related considerations.
- Develop framework to assist local jurisdictions in identifying potential evacuation hubs that can be used to support hurricane evacuations, including locations suitable for bus pick-up and staging, transfer of evacuees, reunification, and short-duration holding.

5. I would like the Shelter Workgroup to continue to build on their previous efforts keeping in mind that sheltering can be important for any number of types of incidents. Specifically:

- Can local jurisdictions identify potential shelters in their communities?
- Can they identify secondary and tertiary locations?
- Are relationships in place that would allow those locations to be used on short notice?
- What challenges exist to sheltering significant portions of your community?

6. I would like the Long-Term Recovery work group to focus on community preparedness and recovery, including the development of task-based action standards that guide recovery actions following disasters.

- Develop scalable tools and planning considerations that help local jurisdictions integrate community organizations in emergency management efforts.
- Can local jurisdictions readily identify key community recovery partners such as nonprofits, faith-based organizations, advocacy groups, chambers of commerce, healthcare organizations, and housing partners. If not, how can TDEM assist in these efforts?
- Develop guidance on engaging community partners pre-disaster, including roles, expectations, and coordination mechanisms that can be activated during recovery.
- What barriers may exist that inhibit sustaining partner engagement over extended recovery periods, including information sharing, coordination structures, and transition points as recovery evolves?
- Identify gaps and strategies for incorporating community partners into recovery planning, exercises, and after-action processes to strengthen overall community recovery readiness.

Each area highlights opportunities for state and local jurisdictions to continue to work together and strengthen how Texas prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates threats. I look forward to your input and recommendations.

Sincerely,



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