




City of Austin

Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management



Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council

From: R. Scott Swearengin, Assistant Director 
Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)

Date: November 25, 2015

Subject: Federal Disaster Declaration – 2015 Halloween Flood

Today, the Federal Government announced Travis County and Hays County will be included in a Major Disaster Declaration for Texas counties impacted by October's storms and flooding. Hays County holds about 200 City of Austin residents.

Homeowners, renters, and business owners within Travis County and Hays County who sustained damage to their homes, vehicles, personal property, business, or inventory as a result of the severe storms and floods may now apply for disaster assistance.

Disaster assistance may include grants to help pay for temporary housing, emergency home repairs, uninsured and underinsured personal property losses and medical, dental and funeral expenses caused by the disaster, along with other serious disaster-related expenses.

Registering with FEMA is required for Federal aid, even if the person has registered with another disaster-relief organization such as the American Red Cross, local churches, or community organizations.

They should register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or via smartphone or web-enabled device at m.fema.gov. Applicants may also call 800-621-3362 or (TTY) 1-800-462-7585. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will also offer low-interest disaster loans to eligible homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. Eligible homeowners, renters and business owners are encouraged to register with FEMA even if they have insurance, because under-insured applicants may receive help after their insurance claims have been settled.

Austin HSEM will be sending out a public release shortly and updating the City's online flood resource webpage – www.austintexas.gov/help .

Please note this announcement only affects homeowners, renters, and businesses. The Federal Government has not yet made a determination of eligibility for reimbursement of the local government. When that determination is made we will update you accordingly.

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Assistant City Managers
Chief of Staff