

# City of Austin Emergency Operations Plan



## Basic Plan Updated October 2024



## PROMULGATION STATEMENT

The City of Austin Emergency Operations Plan serves as a guiding document providing the basis on which the City prepares for, responds to, and recovers from disasters and emergencies. The Emergency Operations Plan addresses how the City coordinates efforts across departments, agencies, jurisdictions, and with regional, state, federal, and nongovernmental partners. The Emergency Operations Plan is supported by Support Annexes as well as related standard operating procedures and guidelines.

City departments are responsible for preparing and maintaining their procedures and guidelines in concert with the Emergency Operations Plan and carrying out the necessary training, exercises, and plan maintenance. City personnel are expected to adhere to the policies, procedures, and requirements stated herein. This document supersedes any previous versions and is effective immediately. In recognition of the emergency preparedness, response, and recovery responsibilities of the City of Austin, I hereby promulgate the City of Austin Emergency Operations Plan.



Kirk Watson

Kirk Watson (Oct 20, 2023 15:13 CDT)

Kirk Watson  
Mayor, City of Austin

October 20, 2023

Date

Ken Snipes

Ken Snipes (Oct 20, 2023 15:16 CDT)

Ken Snipes  
Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management

20 Oct 23

Date

## Confirmation of Approved Annual Review

I hereby attest that I have reviewed the revisions and updates made to the City of Austin's Emergency Operations plan during the HSEM annual review process. The required changes have been noted in the plan's Record of Changes to the Emergency Operations Plan in accordance with internal policy.

Signature: Bill Wilson Date: 10-18-2024

Bill Wilson, Interim Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

## RECORD OF CHANGES

<b>Description of Change</b>	<b>Location of Change</b>	<b>Change Made By</b>	<b>Date of Change</b>
<b>Reformatted and edited entire plan</b>	Throughout	Hunt/Swearengin/Hawkins	3/29/2016
<b>Edited Emergency Responsibilities Matrix</b>	Appendix 2	Hunt	9/9/2016
<b>Clarified purpose statement.</b>	1.1 Purpose	Hunt	9/28/2016
<b>Clarified source of hazards.</b>	1.3 Assumptions	Hunt	9/28/2016
<b>Clarified extent of HSEM coordination.</b>	2.2.2 Philosophy and Responsibilities of HSEM	Hunt	9/28/2016
<b>Added criminal penalties</b>	1 Introduction	Swearengin	3/21/2020
<b>Changed “OPCON Levels” to “Readiness Levels”</b>	2.1 Readiness Levels – Levels of Emergency	Swearengin	3/21/2020
<b>Edited additional powers of Mayor</b>	2.2.1 Authority of the Mayor	Swearengin	3/21/2020
<b>Edited the available powers with a city declaration</b>	2.5.1 Policy Coordination Group	Swearengin	3/21/2020
<b>Edited the responsibilities of the Public Safety Group</b>	2.5.2 Public Safety Group	Swearengin	3/21/2020
<b>Edited the policies and procedures</b>	3.6.7 Public Information Policies	Swearengin	3/21/2020
<b>Changed “OPCON Levels” to “Readiness Levels”</b>	Appendix 1	Swearengin	3/21/2020
<b>Edited the functions and responsibilities of the Law Department</b>	Appendix 8	Swearengin	3/21/2020
<b>Updated language</b>	3.6.7 Public Information Policies	Wilson	1/19/2023
<b>Updated language</b>	2.4.4 EOC	Wilson	1/23/2023
<b>Updated census</b>	1.2 Situation	Wilson	1/23/2023
<b>Updated terms</b>	Appendix 8	Wilson	1/23/2023

<b>Updated Level 3 to include recovery operations</b>	2.1 Readiness Levels	Wilson	2/24/2023
<b>Created section</b>	2.2.2.1 Equity in Response	Wilson	3/29/2023
<b>Updated org chart to include Equity</b>	2.3.4 Functional Areas	Wilson	3/29/2023
<b>Updated samples</b>	Appendix 5	Wilson	3/29/2023
<b>Included information on iSTAT and pSTAT</b>	Appendix 6	Wilson	3/29/2023
<b>Updated Appendix 2</b>	Appendix 2	Wilson	6/23/2023
<b>Updated Language/added hazards</b>	1.5.1-18	Wilson	6/23/2023
<b>Updated language/chart</b>	1.4	Wilson	6/23/2023
<b>Added record of distribution table</b>	Page 5	Wilson	10/02/2023
<b>Added statement regarding authority has been delegated to implement the EOP to the Director of HSEM.</b>	Page 45, Section 2.2	Wilson	10/04/2023
<b>Moved 3.5.1 Situational Assessment Team to new section 4 Info, Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination with reference to team for pre-event activities</b>	3.5.1 Page 86	Wilson	10/02/2023
<b>Moved 3.6.7 Public Information Polices, Joint Information Center, 3.6.8 WebEOC, and 3.6.9 Situation Reports to new section 4 Info, Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination</b>	Pages 91-92	Wilson	10/02/2023
<b>Added Information, Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination Section 4</b>	Pages 109-112	Wilson	10/02/2023
<b>Added language/table to 6.3 Updates and Maintenance section to support the annual maintenance of plans.</b>	Page 118	Wilson	10/02/2023

<b>Added section 6.3.3 After Action Reports</b>	Page 120	Wilson	10/02/2023
<b>Added Promulgation Statement</b>	Page 2	Wilson	10/04/2023
<b>Added language based on stakeholder feedback. Changes made to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Austin Transportation and Public Works Department</b></li> <li>• <b>Watershed Protection Department</b></li> <li>• <b>Community Court</b></li> </ul>	Appendix 8	Wilson	10/17/2023
<b>Added language to hazards materials section.</b>	Page 29, Section 1.5.5	Wilson	10/20/2023
<b>Added language to Emergency Management Organization section.</b>	Page 37, Section 2.2	Wilson	10/20/2023
<b>Added language to HSEM responsibilities.</b>	Page 45, Section 2.2.2	Wilson	10/20/2023
<b>Added language regarding triggers and activation authorities.</b>	Page 86, Section 3.6.3	Wilson	10/20/2023
<b>Updated page numbers and capitalization to match October 2024 plan updates</b>	Table of Contents	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Updated population of Austin and UT</b>	Page 20, Section 1.2	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Updated utilities to name Austin Water and Watershed Protection Department</b>	Page 22, Section 1.2.3	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Updated pandemic language to reflect that COVID-19 is no longer considered an ongoing pandemic</b>	Page 26, Section 1.5.4	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Updated AE Director to General Manager</b>	Page 58, Section 2.5.1	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024

<b>Updated ESF chart to reflect specific city group or office correlating to ESFs</b>	Page 59, Section 2.5.1	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Updated city offices represented in EOC groups for ESF requirements</b>	Page 62-67, Section 2.5.2	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Specified WarnCentralTexas as name of Regional Notification System for CAPCOG</b>	Page 65, Section 2.5.2	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Added 211 as a specialized warning and notification system</b>	Page 66, Section 2.5.2	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Updated Personnel section to say, “questions about employees’ work hours to their Departmental Human Resources staff,” instead of HRD</b>	Page 77, Section 3.1.1	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Added Implementation Procedures section</b>	Page 115, Section 6.3.4	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Updated Citywide Emergency Functional Responsibilities Matrix.</b>	Page 130, Appendix 2	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>HHSD updated to APH.</b>	Page 150, Appendix 8	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Updated Austin Public Health function to no longer include animal management.</b>	Page 151, Appendix 8	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Added Department Section for Austin Watershed Protection Utility including Functions and Responsibilities and Department Notification Requirements.</b>	Page 152, Appendix 8	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Update requested by HRD, updated Human Resources Department Function and Responsibilities bullet points to more specifically define that City employees are temporarily assigned in emergencies.</b>	Page 163, Appendix 8	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024



<b>Update requested by HRD, removed function and responsibility to take a secondary role in the organization of disaster volunteer programs.</b>	Page 163, Appendix 8	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Update requested by APD to more narrowly and specifically define primary and secondary functions of APD including updates to functional areas now covered by APH, AFD, and EMS.</b>	Page 167, Appendix 8	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Update requested by APD, removed hazardous materials incident from function and responsibilities.</b>	Page 168, Appendix 8	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Update requested by TPW, updated Austin Transportation and Public Works Department functions and responsibilities to include chemicals for ice removal on roads.</b>	Page 171, Appendix 8	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Updated description of Travis County Medical Examiner's Office function and responsibilities.</b>	Page 171, Appendix 8	HSEM Planning Committee	10/11/2024
<b>Added Confirmation of Approved Annual Review Page</b>	Page 2, Promulgation Statement Section	HSEM Planning Committee	10/18/2024

## RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION

The City of Austin Homeland Security and Emergency Management distribute the Emergency Operations Plan to all City department heads and key stakeholders of record, as documented below. Homeland Security and Emergency Management maintains the Emergency Operations Plan “Base Plan” and all annexes electronically in a department-specific shared drive and publishes on the City’s website accessible for public and stakeholder input. City department directors are responsible for ensuring distribution and communication of revised content to their staff.

<b>Date Provided</b>	<b>Department/Agency</b>	<b>Manner of Distribution</b>
June 2023	Public	Website
June 2023	Emergency Management (EM) Department single point of contact (SPOC) Committee	Email
October 10, 2023	EMSPOC Committee	Email
August 21, 2024	EMSPOC Committee Meeting	Meeting

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Promulgation and Implementation Statement .....	1
Record of Changes .....	4
Record of Distribution.....	9
1. Introduction .....	20
1.1 Purpose .....	20
1.2 Situation.....	23
1.2.1 Weather.....	24
1.2.2 Transportation Routes .....	24
1.2.3 Utilities .....	25
1.3 Assumptions .....	25
1.4 Hazard Risk Index.....	26
1.5 Hazards Defined.....	27
1.5.1 Flood.....	27
1.5.2 Wildfire.....	27
1.5.3 ThunderStorm Winds .....	28
1.5.4 Infectious Disease .....	28
1.5.5 Hazardous Materials .....	29
1.5.6 Pipeline Failure .....	30
1.5.7 Hurricane Winds.....	30
1.5.8 Winter Storm.....	30
1.5.9 Terrorism .....	31
1.5.10 Drought .....	32
1.5.11 Extreme Heat.....	32

1.5.12 Dam Failure .....	32
1.5.13 Lightning.....	33
1.5.14 Hail.....	34
1.5.15 Tornado .....	34
1.5.16 Expansive Soils .....	34
1.5.17 Cyber Attack .....	35
1.5.18 Technological Disruption.....	36
2. Organizational Concepts .....	36
2.1 Readiness Levels – Levels of Emergency .....	36
2.2 City of Austin Emergency Management Organization .....	40
2.2.1 Authority of the Mayor .....	41
2.2.2 Philosophy and Responsibilities of HSEM .....	43
2.2.3 Equity in Response .....	45
2.3 City of Austin Incident Management System .....	45
2.3.1 NIMS and the National Response Framework .....	46
2.3.2 Incident Command System .....	46
2.3.3 Levels of Organization .....	46
2.3.4 Functional Areas.....	48
2.4 Incident Management and Coordination .....	51
2.4.1 Incident Command Post.....	52
2.4.2 Tactical Level Dispatch, 9-1-1, and 3-1-1 Call Centers .....	52
2.4.3 Department Operation Centers .....	52
2.4.4 Emergency Operations Center .....	53
2.4.5 Regional Operations.....	54

2.4.6 State Operations Center.....	55
2.4.7 Federal Coordination Facilities.....	55
2.5 EOC Organization.....	56
2.5.1 EOC Command .....	57
2.5.2 Operations.....	62
2.5.3 Plans Section .....	70
2.5.4 Logistics Section .....	71
2.5.5 Finance and Administration Section .....	71
2.6 Organizational Hierarchy for External Resources.....	72
2.6.1 Mutual Aid Agreements .....	72
2.6.2 Private Relief Organizations.....	73
2.6.3 Regional Assistance.....	73
2.6.4 State Assistance.....	73
2.6.5 Federal Assistance.....	74
3. Concept of Operations.....	75
3.1 City Agency Responsibilities Defined.....	75
3.1.1 Responsibilities by Mission Areas of Emergency Management .....	76
3.2 Selection of EOC Department Representatives.....	83
3.3 Ensuring the Delivery of City Services Following Disasters .....	84
3.4 Departmental Notification Requirements.....	84
3.4.1 Who to Notify .....	84
3.4.2 When to Notify.....	85
3.4.3 How to Notify .....	85
3.5 Pre-Event Operations .....	85

3.5.2 Notification to City Departments and Stakeholders .....	86
3.6 EOC Concept of Operations .....	87
3.6.1 Integration of Operations with Travis County .....	88
3.6.2 EOC Role of Coordination.....	88
3.6.3 Triggers for EOC and EOP Activation.....	88
3.6.4 Notification of EOC Activation .....	89
3.6.5 Initial EOC Actions .....	89
3.6.6 EOC Department Representative Responsibilities.....	90
3.6.7 Regional Operations at the EOC.....	90
3.6.8 Resource Management .....	90
3.6.9 Requesting Outside Assistance .....	91
3.6.10 Damage Assessment .....	92
3.6.11 Deactivation Policies .....	94
3.6.12 EOC Post Event Activities .....	94
3.7 Recovery Operations .....	95
3.7.1 State and Federal Assistance .....	95
3.7.2 Additional Training for Recovery Operations.....	99
3.8 Continuity of Government.....	99
3.8.1 Orders of Succession and Authority.....	100
3.8.2 Temporary Seat of Government .....	102
3.9 Catastrophic Disaster Operations.....	102
3.9.1 Catastrophic Hazard Identification .....	102
3.9.2 Assumptions .....	103
3.9.3 Pre-Event Strategies .....	103

3.9.4 Response Phase Strategies.....	104
4. Information Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination .....	105
4.1 Information Collection.....	105
4.1.1 EOC and IC Coordination.....	105
4.1.2 Situation Assessment Team .....	105
4.1.3 Department Information.....	105
4.2 Public Information Policies .....	106
4.2.1 Joint Information Center.....	106
4.3 Analysis And Dissemination.....	107
4.3.1 Situation Reports.....	107
4.3.2 Web EOC.....	108
5. Administration and Support .....	109
5.1 Reporting Requirements .....	109
5.2 Financial Management and Contract Review.....	109
5.3 Training.....	110
5.3.1 Training by HSEM .....	110
5.3.2 Training by the Texas Division of Emergency Management.....	110
5.3.3 Training by FEMA .....	111
5.3.4 Training by Other Public and Private Organizations .....	111
5.4 Exercises .....	112
6. Plan Development and Maintenance .....	113
6.1 Grouping of Annexes .....	113
6.2 Plan Distribution .....	114
6.3 Updates and Maintenance .....	114

6.3.1 Updates .....	115
6.3.2 Revisions.....	115
6.3.3 After Action Reports.....	116
6.3.4 Approval and Implementation .....	116
Appendix 1 Readiness Levels .....	117
Appendix 2 – Citywide Emergency Functional Responsibilities Matrix – Local Disaster Declared .....	122
Appendix 3 – Listing of City of Austin Annexes.....	123
Appendix 4 – Sample Legal Forms .....	124
City of Austin Disaster Declaration.....	124
Combined City and County Disaster Declaration .....	125
Emergency Declaration to the Governor .....	126
Governor’s Proclamation.....	127
Termination of Declaration .....	128
Appendix 5 – Sample Advisories.....	129
City Advisory (Pre-Event Communication) .....	129
Sample Situation Report (Response and Recovery Communications).....	131
Appendix 6 – Sample Disaster Summary Outline .....	133
Disaster Summary Outline.....	133
Appendix 7 – Emergency Related Agreements and Contracts.....	137
Appendix 8 – Individual Department Responsibilities, Requirements, and Plan Distribution... 138	
Animal Services Office .....	138
Function and Responsibilities.....	138
Austin Energy.....	138



Function and Responsibilities.....	138
Department Notification Requirements .....	138
Austin Water Utility .....	139
Function and Responsibilities.....	139
Department Notification Requirements .....	140
Aviation Department .....	140
Function and Responsibilities.....	140
Department Notification Requirements .....	141
City Auditor .....	141
Function and Responsibilities.....	141
City Clerk.....	141
Function and Responsibilities.....	141
Code Department .....	141
Function and Responsibilities.....	141
Communications and Public Information Office .....	142
Function and Responsibilities.....	142
Communications and Technology Management .....	142
Function and Responsibilities.....	142
Departmental Notification Requirements .....	143
Community Court .....	143
Function and Responsibilities.....	143
Capital Contracting Office.....	143
Function and Responsibilities.....	143
Convention Center Department .....	144

Function and Responsibilities.....	144
Development Services Department .....	144
Function and Responsibilities.....	144
Economic development Services Department .....	144
Function and Responsibilities.....	144
Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services.....	144
Function and Responsibilities.....	145
Departmental Notification Requirements .....	147
Financial Services.....	147
Function and Responsibilities.....	147
Austin Fire Department .....	147
Function and Responsibilities.....	148
Departmental Notification Requirements .....	149
Government Relations Office .....	150
Function and Responsibilities.....	150
Austin Public Health .....	150
Function and Responsibilities.....	151
Departmental Notification Requirements .....	151
Human Resources Department .....	151
Function and Responsibilities.....	151
Integrity Office.....	152
Function and Responsibilities.....	152
Law Department .....	152
Function and Responsibilities.....	152

Library Department .....	153
Function and Responsibilities.....	153
Municipal Court .....	154
Function and Responsibilities.....	154
Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office .....	154
Function and Responsibilities.....	154
Parks and Recreation Department .....	154
Function and Responsibilities.....	154
Planning and Zoning Department.....	154
Function and Responsibilities.....	154
Austin Police Department.....	155
Function and Responsibilities.....	155
Departmental Notification Requirements .....	157
Departmental Notification Requirements .....	157
Small and Minority Business Resources Department .....	157
Function and Responsibilities.....	157
Austin Resource Recovery .....	158
Function and Responsibilities.....	158
Austin Transportation and Public Works Department.....	159
Function and Responsibilities.....	159
Travis County Medical Examiner’s Office .....	159
Function and Responsibilities.....	159
Travis County .....	159
Function and Responsibilities.....	160

Watershed Protection Department.....	160
Function and Responsibilities.....	160
Departmental Notification Requirements .....	161
Appendix 9 – Acronyms .....	162
Appendix 10 – Definitions.....	167

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Emergency Operations Plan - "Basic Plan" for the City of Austin supersedes and rescinds all previous versions of this document called the "Basic Plan."

This Plan and related Annexes shall be reviewed by all affected departments, annually updated as necessary, and submitted to the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) for certification.

In the event that any portion of this Plan is held invalid by judicial or administrative ruling, such ruling shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Plan.

Pursuant to Section 418.173 of the Texas Government Code, failure to comply with this Plan or with a rule, order, or ordinance adopted under the Plan, including any order, proclamation, or regulation issued by the Mayor or City Council of the City of Austin during a local state of disaster, is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, by confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or by both a fine and confinement.

The HSEM Director may develop and distribute minor changes to this plan. Major revisions and recertification must be signed by the Mayor of the City of Austin.

### 1.1 PURPOSE

This City of Austin Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) applies to all areas within the corporate limits of the City of Austin. This Basic Plan, along with its Annexes, are components of the EOP that was developed to provide the general and conceptual framework for coordinated, multi-agency response and efficient use of resources during a major emergency or disaster. The EOP is considered an all-hazards plan that establishes the framework for how the City of Austin responds to disasters, regardless of initial cause or hazard.

The EOP is not a detailed emergency checklist or "quick action" guide. It is meant to provide the guidance, framework, and insight into City-wide strategic decision making as it relates to emergency operations and disaster situations. Emergency responders should refer to hazard specific special operations plans and then to departmental procedures for more detailed guidance for response to specific hazards and populations impacted by specific hazards.

This plan should be used as a reference when integrating internal plans into strategic, City-wide operational plans; it does not replace the responsibility a department has in developing and testing its own emergency plans. With that end in mind, this plan can help establish the relationships, responsibilities, and general guidelines for departments and agencies to use in developing their detailed emergency plans. It can be used to help create emergency checklists,

field emergency plans, departmental emergency plans, emergency-related standard operating procedures (SOPs), and emergency-related general orders.

Legal issues requiring timely resolution may arise during pre-disaster hazard mitigation designed to lessen the effects of known hazards, during pre-disaster preparedness activities designed to enhance the local capability to respond to a disaster, during the actual response to a disaster, or during the post-disaster recovery process.

The EOP contains concepts, policies, and procedures that apply regardless of the nature or origin of the emergency or disaster. It is not designed to address unique conditions that result from a particular hazard. It does, however, provide a framework within which emergency operations staff and other relevant department and agency staff work together to develop and maintain hazard-specific plans and procedures.

Among other things, the EOP addresses the following:

- Overview of the City's Emergency Management Program.
- Authority of the Emergency Management Plan.
- The emergency powers of government, including declaration of local disaster emergency.
- The chain of command for disaster operations.
- Incident management organization.
- The functions of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- Development of training and exercise programs.
- The requirement for all City Departments to contribute to the development of functional and hazard-specific Annexes of this plan.
- The responsibility of each Department or agency to develop internal, detailed emergency plans to support the City-wide EOP.
- Requesting external resources.
- The administrative procedures for maintaining and updating emergency plans.
- Authorities and References.

The organizational and operational concepts contained in this plan are set forth on the basis of the following authorities:

- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act, (as amended), 42 U.S.C. 5121
- Emergency Planning and Notification, 40 CFR Part 355
- Title 42 - Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know
- Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response, 29 CFR 1910.120

- Homeland Security Presidential Directive, HSPD-8, National Preparedness
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive. HSPD-5, Management of Domestic Incidents
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive, HSPD-3, Homeland Security Advisory System
- Title 44 Emergency Management and Assistance, Parts 0-399.
- Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) of 2013
- Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- National Response Framework
- Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan
- Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 203 (Management and Preservation of Records), and
- Texas Local Government Code Chapter 229 (Miscellaneous Regulatory Authority of Municipalities).
- State of Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, (as amended), (Emergency Management)
- State of Texas Government Code, Chapter 421, (as amended), (Homeland Security)
- State of Texas Government Code, Chapter 433, (as amended), (State of Emergency)
- State of Texas Government Code, Chapter 791, (as amended), (Inter-local Cooperation Contracts)
- State of Texas Health & Safety Code, Chapter 778 (Emergency Management Assistance Compact)
- State of Texas - Governor's Executive Order (RP-32) Relating to Emergency Management and Homeland Security
- State of Texas - Governor's Executive Order (RP-40) Relating to the National Incident Management
- State of Texas - Governor's Executive Order (RP-57) Relating to implementing recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Evacuation, Transportation, and Logistics
- State of Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Part 1, Chapter 7 (Division of Emergency Management)
- State of Texas Emergency Management Plan
- Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) Regional Response Plan
- City of Austin, City Charter
- City Code § 2-6-22, Ord. 20050804-047
- City Resolution No. 20050929-008

The EOP meets the requirements of the following State-required Annexes:

- Basic Plan
- Annex N – Direction and Control
- Annex U – Legal

## 1.2 SITUATION

Austin serves as the capital for the State of Texas and has a population of more than 979,000 residents and more than 1,300,000 in Austin and Travis County. With Central Texas continuing to serve as a magnet for technology industries and companies, Austin is forecast to be one of the fastest growing cities through the first quarter of the twenty-first century. Several key geographic and human factors make Austin vulnerable to a variety of major emergencies and disasters.

Austin is home to multiple colleges and universities including the University of Texas at Austin (UT), the flagship school in the University of Texas system that is home to more than 51,000 students, 3,200 faculty, and 17,000 staff members. Campus facilities include a number of chemical, biological, and nuclear teaching facilities, and research laboratories. A number of large-scale sporting and non-sporting events are held in campus facilities and stadiums.

The City is an important center for semi-conductor research, development, and manufacturing with facilities. These facilities potentially use a wide array of hazardous materials. Many industrial plants are located in close proximity to residential areas, and others are near railroads, major transportation arteries, creeks, and other tributaries.

The State Capitol Building and numerous state facilities are located just north of the central business district and adjacent to UT. Headquarters for state law enforcement activities and the State Emergency Operations Center, called the State Operations Center (SOC), are located in the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) headquarters building in north Austin. This facility is located near a railroad. In the event of a hazardous material spill, this facility could be impaired or compromised. It is through this facility that the City notifies all State agencies of impending threats, actual emergencies, and requests for State and Federal assistance. As the seat of state government, Austin can be a target for marches, mass demonstrations, and potential terrorist activity.

The Stafford Act authorizes federal disaster assistance to individuals and to governmental entities in the aftermath of a major emergency or disaster and outlines the types of assistance that may be made available. The majority of federal disaster assistance programs are administered by state agencies. The State of Texas does not have a specific disaster assistance program for individuals and local governments similar to the Stafford Act. Pursuant to



provisions of the Texas Disaster Act, state agencies frequently provide assistance to local governments in the aftermath of a disaster.

---

### 1.2.1 WEATHER

Austin's weather can be erratic. Flooding, hail, and tornadoes are among Austin's top hazards. They can result in widespread disruptions of transportation, utilities, and other vital services. Severe thunderstorms, summer heat, and droughts are also significant threats.

Although the City is well inland from the Gulf of Mexico, hurricanes and tropical storms still pose a significant threat to Austin. Hurricanes in the Gulf Coast area often spawn torrential rains and tornadoes in the Austin area. Austin also is designated as a host area for persons who might be evacuated due to hurricanes along the Gulf coast.

Another weather-related threat to Austin is flash flooding. The City of Austin is subject to extensive flash flooding of its creek watersheds and flooding of the Colorado River. Most of these creeks travel across heavily populated neighborhoods and business areas. Flash floods have been the number one storm-related killer in the Austin area over the past 25 years and have resulted in large amounts of property losses.

---

### 1.2.2 TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

The Union Pacific Railroad travels through the City on the former Missouri Pacific (MOPAC) right-of-way, crossing the Colorado River and densely populated neighborhoods. At one point, the railroad is adjacent to Shoal Creek that flows south through the City. The trains may carry bulk shipments of an array of hazardous materials.

There are multiple state highways that run through the Austin area – the primary artery being Interstate Highway 35 (IH 35) which runs through the central part of the City. Hundreds of shipments of hazardous materials travel IH 35 every day. The highway runs immediately adjacent to various major facilities including:

- Multiple hospitals;
- UT campus, including three major sports arenas (Memorial Stadium, Disch-Faulk Field, and the Frank Erwin Center);
- Several major government facilities are within one mile of IH 35.

Multiple oil and natural gas pipelines run through heavily populated areas of Austin.

Austin owns and operates Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) – an international airport facility that accommodates most major airlines and air cargo services. It also houses

aircraft for the Texas Air National Guard. Aircraft approach and departure lanes to the airport cut across densely populated areas. There are also several smaller airports in the Austin area.

---

### 1.2.3 UTILITIES

Austin Energy (AE), the City's electric utility department, produces local electric power with electric usage fluctuating with weather changes and industrial growth. Loss of power is a possibility to any specific area of the City, as well as the entire City. Austin is subject to severe thunderstorms, windstorms, and occasional ice storms that can result in extensive and lengthy failures of electrical power and other utilities. These failures may require the evacuation of populations if repairs cannot be made within a few hours.

The City owns and operates several water and wastewater treatment plants that employ large quantities of chlorine and other potentially hazardous chemicals. Furthermore, as in the case of the electric utility, user expansion and seasonal use place a high demand on water treatment and distribution systems. Austin Water operates as a utility providing water and wastewater services. Austin Watershed Protection Department is also a stormwater utility.

### 1.3 ASSUMPTIONS

This plan is based on the assumption that in the event of an emergency or disaster, the City will have enough resources to implement this Basic Plan. All local emergency preparedness and response plans and programs should have a sound legal basis.

If the City does not have sufficient resources, then Travis County, regional, State, and Federal resources will supplement those of the City, making available resources sufficient to implement the plan. Volunteer organizations will be available to assist community members in meeting some basic needs, but they may not provide all needed assistance. State assistance is typically in the form of operational support such as equipment, personnel, or technical assistance. Federal assistance, if approved, will generally be in the form of financial reimbursement and require a thorough and intensive application process. Damage assessment and recovery operations may commence while some emergency response activities are still underway.

Austin is subject to the threats suggested by the above situations and by the specific hazards listed in the hazard risk index (Section 1.4). The City's Hazard Mitigation Plan is the source of the hazard risk index. In the event that the Hazard Mitigation Plan has updated hazards not directly listed in the Basic Plan, the Hazard Mitigation Plan hazards should prevail. This hazard risk index was prepared by HSEM staff, using the standard methodology developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It takes into consideration the unique features, conditions, and history of the area.

Although global political changes have dramatically reduced the likelihood of nuclear war, scenarios involving accidental launches, attacks by developing countries, and terrorist acts are still possible.

Management of different hazards during emergency situations will generally require similar resources and procedures, direction and control, communications, resource coordination, population protection, and public information. In responding to major emergencies and disasters, local officials may be required to take extraordinary measures to protect public health and safety and preserve property. Local officials also will require timely advice regarding the legality of proposed measures. Implementation of measures to protect public health and safety and preserve property during emergency recovery and mitigation activities generally require issuance of appropriate legal documents. These should be prepared by competent legal service professionals.

It is assumed that any hazard identified in this plan may cause some amount of environmental harm. Environmental remediation is a key component of recovery activities. Any required environmental remediation will be referred to the particular city department which governs that particular environmental asset. The City of Austin Hazard Mitigation Plan addresses some specific issues relating to certain hazards to the environment.

#### 1.4 HAZARD RISK INDEX

The City of Austin Hazard Mitigation Plan identified and assessed the potential impact of natural and man-made hazards that threaten the City of Austin. Hazards were identified based upon a review of historical records, national data sources, existing plans and reports, and discussions with local, regional, and national experts. An inventory of populations, buildings, critical and special facilities, and commercial facilities at potential risk was conducted. The probability of occurrence and potential dollar losses from each hazard were estimated using the FEMA’s Hazards U.S. (“HAZUS”) Multi-Hazards Model and other HAZUS-like modeling techniques. The hazards were then prioritized based on potential damages in terms of lives lost, dollar losses, and other community factors. In order of priority, they are:

Hazard	Ranking
Flood	<b>High</b>
Wildfire	<b>High</b>
Hail	<b>High</b>
Winter Storm	<b>High</b>
Infectious Disease	<b>Moderate</b>
Tornado	<b>Moderate</b>
Hazardous Materials	<b>Moderate</b>
Pipeline Failure	<b>Moderate</b>

Hazard	Ranking
Hurricane Wind	<b>Moderate</b>
Cyber Attack	<b>Moderate</b>
Terrorism	<b>Moderate</b>
Drought	<b>Low</b>
Technological Disruption	<b>Low</b>
Thunderstorm Winds	<b>Low</b>
Extreme Heat	<b>Low</b>
Dam Failure	<b>Low</b>
Expansive Soils	<b>Low</b>
Lightning	<b>Low</b>

**1.5 HAZARDS DEFINED**

The following section provides additional details on the hazards that impact the City of Austin. Detailed information regarding hazards to the City of Austin can be found in the City of Austin Hazard Mitigation Plan. See the hazard risk index at the end of this section for the list of hazards in order of severity. Additional information on current climate conditions for Central Texas, including the Austin area, can be found at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) website.

**1.5.1 FLOOD**

Floods generally result from excessive precipitation. The severity of a flood event is determined by a combination of several major factors, including: stream and river basin topography and physiography; precipitation and weather patterns; recent soil moisture conditions; and the degree of vegetative clearing and impervious surface. Typically, floods are long-term events that may last for several days.

The primary types of general flooding are inland and coastal flooding. Inland or riverine flooding is a result of excessive precipitation levels and water runoff volumes within the watershed of a stream or river. Inland or riverine flooding is overbank flooding of rivers and streams, typically resulting from large-scale weather systems that generate prolonged rainfall over a wide geographic area, thus it is a naturally occurring and inevitable event. Some river floods occur seasonally when winter or spring rainfalls fill river basins with too much water, too quickly.

**1.5.2 WILDFIRE**

A wildfire event can rapidly spread out of control and occurs most often in the summer when the brush is dry, and flames can move unchecked through a highly vegetative area. Wildfires can start as a slow burning fire along the forest floor, killing and damaging trees. The fires often spread more rapidly as they reach the tops of trees with wind carrying the flames from tree to tree. Usually, dense smoke is the first indication of a wildfire.

A wildfire event often begins unnoticed and spreads quickly, lighting brush, trees, and homes on fire. For example, a wildfire may be started by a campfire that was not doused properly, a tossed cigarette, burning debris, or arson.

Texas has seen a significant increase in the number of wildfires in the past 30 years, which included wildland, interface, or intermix fires. Wildland fires are fueled almost exclusively by natural vegetation, while interface or intermix fires are urban/wildland fires in which vegetation and the built environment provide the fuel.

---

### 1.5.3 THUNDERSTORM WINDS

Thunderstorms create extreme wind events which includes straight line winds. Wind is the horizontal motion of the air past a given point, beginning with differences in air pressures. Pressure that is higher at one place than another sets up a force pushing from the high toward the low pressure; the greater the difference in pressures, the stronger the force. The distance between the area of high pressure and the area of low pressure also determines how fast the moving air is accelerated.

Thunderstorms are created when heat and moisture near the Earth's surface are transported to the upper levels of the atmosphere. By-products of this process are the clouds, precipitation, and wind that become the thunderstorm.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), a thunderstorm occurs when thunder accompanies rainfall. Radar observers use the intensity of radar echoes to distinguish between rain showers and thunderstorms.

Straight line winds are responsible for most thunderstorm wind damages. One type of straight-line wind, the downburst, is a small area of rapidly descending air beneath a thunderstorm. A downburst can cause damage equivalent to a strong tornado and make air travel extremely hazardous.

---

### 1.5.4 INFECTIOUS DISEASE

An infectious disease is a clinically evident disease resulting from the presence of pathogenic microbial agents. According to FEMA, infectious diseases are a major threat around the world, killing millions globally each year. Transmission of an infectious disease may occur through one or more means including physical contact with infected individuals. These infecting agents may

also be transmitted through liquids, food, bodily fluids, contaminated objects, airborne inhalation, or through vector-borne dissemination.

There are three classifications of disease impacts: endemic, epidemic, and pandemic. An endemic is present at all times at a low frequency, such as chicken pox in the United States. An epidemic is a sudden severe outbreak of disease, such as the bubonic plague during Medieval Times. A pandemic is an epidemic that becomes very widespread and affects a whole region, a continent, or the world, for example the spread of the COVID-19 virus which impacted every corner of the world. In recent years, fears of pandemic have risen because the globalized economy and growing population fosters large scale international travel and trade. Growing populations increase the vulnerability because more densely populated areas increase the risk of exposure to an infectious disease, allowing the disease to rapidly advance the spread of the infection.

---

### 1.5.5 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials come in the form of explosives, flammable and combustible substances, poisons, and radioactive materials. A hazardous material (HAZMAT) incident involves a substance outside normal safe containment in sufficient concentration to pose a threat to life, property, or the environment.

Chemicals are found everywhere. They purify drinking water, increase crop production, and simplify household chores. But chemicals also can be hazardous to humans or the environment if used or released improperly. Hazards can occur during production, storage, transportation, use, or disposal as well as collateral from other emergencies such as wildfires or flooding. You and your community are at risk if a chemical is used unsafely or released in harmful amounts into the environment where you live, work, or play.

In a hazardous materials incident, solid, liquid, and/or gaseous contaminants may be released from fixed or mobile containers. Weather conditions will directly affect how the hazard develops.

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is a publicly available database from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which contains information on toxic chemical releases and other waste management activities that are reported annually by certain covered industry groups federal facilities. This inventory was established under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) and expanded by the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990. Each year, facilities that meet certain activity thresholds must report their releases and other waste management activities for listed toxic chemicals to the EPA and their state or tribal entity. A facility must report if it meets the following three criteria:

- The facility falls within one of the following industrial categories: manufacturing; metal mining; coal mining; electric generating facilities that combust coal and/or oil; chemical wholesale distributors; petroleum terminals and bulk storage facilities; Resource

Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C Treatment, Storage and Disposal (TSD) facilities; and solvent recovery services.

- Have ten or more full-time employee equivalents.
- Manufactures or processes more than 25,000 pounds or otherwise uses more than 10,000 pounds of any listed chemical during the calendar year. Persistent, Bio-accumulative and Toxic (PBT) chemicals are subject to different thresholds of ten pounds, 100 pounds or 0.1 grams depending on the chemical.

---

#### 1.5.6 PIPELINE FAILURE

Energy pipeline breach or pipeline failure of an oil or natural gas pipeline is a serious hazard event. An estimated 2.4 million miles of pipelines in the United States carry hazardous materials. Natural gas pipelines transport natural gas and oil. Liquid petroleum pipelines transport crude oil and refined products from crude oils, such as gasoline, home heating oil, jet fuel, kerosene, liquefied propane, ethylene, butane, and petrochemical products. Oil pipelines can also transport liquefied gases, such as carbon dioxide.

Pipeline failure is a rare occurrence and has the potential to cause extensive property damage and loss of life. Pipelines have caused fires and explosions that killed more than 200 people and injured more than 1,000 people nationwide with 50 of the injuries in Texas in the last decade.

---

#### 1.5.7 HURRICANE WINDS

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a hurricane is an intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher. In the Northern Hemisphere circulation of winds near the Earth's surface is counterclockwise.

Hurricanes often begin as tropical depressions that intensify into tropical storms when maximum sustained winds increase to between 35 – 64 knots (39 – 73 mph). At these wind speeds, the storm becomes more organized and circular in shape and begins to resemble a hurricane. Tropical storms resulting in high winds and heavy rainfall can be equally problematic without ever becoming a hurricane and can be dangerous to people and property, resulting in high winds and heavy rainfall, as Tropical Storm Hermine did for Travis and Williamson Counties in September 2010. Once sustained winds reach or exceed 74 mph, the storm becomes a hurricane. The intensity of a land falling hurricane is expressed in categories relating wind speeds to potential damage. Tropical storm-force winds are strong enough to be dangerous to those caught in them.

---

#### 1.5.8 WINTER STORM

A severe winter storm event is identified as a storm with snow, ice, or freezing rain. This type of storm can cause significant problems for area residents. Winter storms are associated with freezing or frozen precipitation such as freezing rain, sleet, snow, and the combined effects of

winter precipitation and strong winds. Wind chill is a function of temperature and wind. Low wind chill is a product of high winds and freezing temperatures.

Winter storms that threaten the City of Austin planning area usually begin as powerful cold fronts that push south from central Canada. Although the city is at risk to ice hazards, extremely cold temperatures, and snow, the effects and frequencies of winter storm events are generally mild and short-lived. On average, the City of Austin planning area typically experience approximately 11-17 extreme cold days a year, meaning up to 17 days are at or around freezing temperatures. During times of ice and snow accumulation, response times will increase until Transportation and Public Works road crews are able to make major roads passable.

---

### 1.5.9 TERRORISM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) categorizes terrorism in the United States as domestic terrorism, or international terrorism. Domestic terrorism involves groups or individuals whose terrorist activities are directed at elements of our government or population without foreign direction. International terrorism involves groups or individuals whose terrorist activities are foreign-based and directed by countries or groups outside the United States, or whose activities transcend their national boundaries.

A terrorist attack event can take several forms depending on the technological means available to the terrorist, nature of the issue motivating the attack, and points of weakness of the terrorist's target. Bombing is the most frequently occurring terrorist event in the United States. A chemical or biological terrorist event is of particular concern to officials. Additionally, special training and equipment are necessary to safely manage a Weapons of Mass Destruction incident.

Biological agents are infectious microbes or toxins used to produce illness or death in people, animals or plants. Biological agents can be dispersed as aerosols or airborne particles. Terrorists may use biological agents to contaminate food or water and may be extremely difficult to detect.

Chemical agents can kill and incapacitate people, destroy livestock, and ravage crops. Some chemical agents are odorless and tasteless and are therefore difficult to detect. Chemical agents can have an immediate effect, within a few seconds to a few minutes; or a delayed effect, within several hours to several days.

The U.S. Department of Defense estimates that 26 nations may possess chemical agents and weapons, and an additional 12 may be seeking to develop them. The Central Intelligence Agency reports that at least ten countries are believed to be in possession or conducting research on biological agents for weaponization.

Terrorist events involve the application of one or more modes of harmful force to the built



environment. These modes include contamination, such as chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear hazards; energy, such as explosives, arson, and electromagnetic waves; or denial of service, such as sabotage, infrastructure breakdown, and transportation service disruption.

---

#### 1.5.10 DROUGHT

Drought is a period of time without substantial rainfall that persists from one year to the next. Drought is a normal part of virtually all climatic regions, including areas with high and low average rainfall. Drought is the consequence of anticipated natural precipitation reduction over an extended period of time, usually a season or more in length. Droughts can be classified as meteorological, hydrologic, agricultural, and socioeconomic. Droughts are one of the most complex of all natural hazards as it is difficult to determine their precise beginning or end. In addition, droughts can lead to other hazards such as extreme heat and wildfires. Their impact on wildlife and area farming is enormous, often killing crops, grazing land, edible plants, and even in severe cases, trees. A secondary hazard to drought is wildfire because dying vegetation serves as a prime ignition source. Therefore, a heat wave combined with a drought is a very dangerous situation.

---

#### 1.5.11 EXTREME HEAT

Extreme heat is a prolonged period of excessively high temperatures and exceptionally humid conditions. Extreme heat during the summer months is a common occurrence throughout the State of Texas, and the City of Austin is no exception. The entire planning area typically experiences extended heat waves. A heat wave is an extended period of extreme heat and is often accompanied by high humidity.

Although heat can damage buildings and facilities, it presents a more significant threat to the safety and welfare of citizens. The major human risks associated with severe summer heat include: heat cramps; sunburn; dehydration; fatigue; heat exhaustion; and even heat stroke. The most vulnerable population to heat casualties are children and the elderly or infirmed who frequently live on low fixed incomes and cannot afford to run air-conditioning on a regular basis. This population is sometimes isolated, with no immediate family or friends to look out for their well-being.

---

#### 1.5.12 DAM FAILURE

Dams are water storage, control, or diversion structures that impound water upstream in reservoirs. Dam failure can take several forms, including a collapse of or breach in the structure. While most dams have storage volumes small enough that failures have few or no repercussions, dams storing large amounts can cause significant flooding downstream. Dam failures can result from any one or a combination of the following causes:

- Prolonged periods of rainfall and flooding, which cause most failures;
- Inadequate spillway capacity, resulting in excess overtopping of the embankment;

- Internal erosion caused by embankment or foundation leakage or piping;
- Improper maintenance, including failure to remove trees, repair internal seepage problems, or maintain gates, valves, and other operational components;
- Improper design or use of improper construction materials;
- Failure of upstream dams in the same drainage basin;
- High winds, which can cause significant wave action and result in substantial erosion;
- Destructive acts of terrorism; and,
- Earthquakes, which typically cause longitudinal cracks at the tops of the embankments, leading to structural failure.

Benefits provided by dams include water supplies for drinking; irrigation and industrial uses; flood control; hydroelectric power; recreation; and navigation. At the same time, dams also represent a risk to public safety. Dams require ongoing maintenance, monitoring, safety inspections, and sometimes even rehabilitation to continue safe service.

In the event of a dam failure, the energy of the water stored behind the dam is capable of causing rapid and unexpected flooding downstream, resulting in loss of life and substantial property damage. A devastating effect on water supply and power generation could be expected as well. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 generated increased focus on protecting the country's infrastructure, including ensuring the safety of dams.

One major issue with the safety of dams is their age. The average age of America's 84,000 dams is 52 years. According to statistics released in 2009 by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, more than 2,000 dams near population centers are in need of repair. In addition to the continual aging of dams, there have not been significant increases in the number of safety inspectors resulting in haphazard maintenance and inspection.

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials estimate that \$16 billion will be needed to repair all high-hazard dams, but the total for all state dam-safety budgets is less than \$60 million. The current maintenance budget does not match the scale of America's long-term modifications of its watersheds. Worse still, more people are moving into risky areas. As the American population grows, dams that once could have failed without major repercussions are now upstream of cities and development.

---

### 1.5.13 LIGHTNING

Lightning is a discharge of electrical energy resulting from the buildup of positive and negative charges within a thunderstorm, creating a "bolt" when the buildup of charges becomes strong enough. This flash of light usually occurs within the clouds or between the clouds and the ground. A bolt of lightning can reach temperatures approaching 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightning rapidly heats the sky as it flashes but the surrounding air cools following the bolt. This rapid heating and cooling of the surrounding air causes the thunder which often accompanies

lightning strikes. While most often affiliated with severe thunderstorms, lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and might occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.

According to FEMA, an average of 300 people are injured and 80 people are killed in the United States each year by lightning. Direct lightning strikes also have the ability to cause significant damage to buildings, critical facilities, and infrastructure. Lightning is also responsible for igniting wildfires that can result in widespread damages to property before firefighters have the ability to contain and suppress the resultant fire.

---

#### 1.5.14 HAIL

Hailstorm events are a potentially damaging outgrowth of severe thunderstorms. During the developmental stages of a hailstorm, ice crystals form within a low-pressure front due to the rapid rising of warm air into the upper atmosphere, and the subsequent cooling of the air mass. Frozen droplets gradually accumulate into ice crystals until they fall as precipitation that is round or irregularly shaped masses of ice typically greater than 0.75 inches in diameter. The size of hailstones is a direct result of the size and severity of the storm. High velocity updraft winds are required to keep hail in suspension in thunderclouds. The strength of the updraft is a by-product of heating on the Earth's surface. Higher temperature gradients above Earth's surface result in increased suspension time and hailstone size.

---

#### 1.5.15 TORNADO

Tornadoes are among the most violent storms on the planet. A tornado is a rapidly rotating column of air extending between, and in contact with, a cloud and the surface of the earth. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction and have wind speeds of 250 miles per hour or more. In extreme cases, winds may approach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

The most powerful tornadoes are produced by "Supercell Thunderstorms." These thunderstorms are created when horizontal wind shears (winds moving in different directions at different altitudes) begin to rotate the storm. This horizontal rotation can be tilted vertically by violent updrafts, and the rotation radius can shrink, forming a vertical column of very quickly swirling air. This rotating air can eventually reach the ground, forming a tornado.

---

#### 1.5.16 EXPANSIVE SOILS

Expansive soils are soils and soft rocks with a relatively high percentage of clay minerals that are subject to changes in volume as they swell and shrink with changing moisture conditions. Drought conditions can cause soils to contract in response to a loss of soil moisture.

Expansive soils contain minerals such as smectite clays that are capable of absorbing water. When these clays absorb water they increase in volume and expand. Expansions in soil of ten percent or more are not uncommon in the City of Austin planning area. The change in soil volume and resulting expansion can exert enough force on a building or other structure to cause damage.

Expansive soils will also lose volume and shrink when they dry. A reduction in soil volume can affect the support to buildings or other structures and result in damaging soil subsidence. Issues in the soil can also develop and facilitate the deep penetration of water when moist conditions or runoff occurs. This produces a cycle of shrinkage and swelling that places repetitive stress on structures.

---

#### 1.5.17 CYBER ATTACK

A cyber-attack is any type of offensive maneuver employed by individuals or organizations that targets computer information systems, infrastructures, computer networks, and personal computer devices by various means of malicious acts. The malicious act usually originates from an anonymous source that either steals, alters, or destroys a specified target by hacking into a susceptible system.

Cyberspace and its underlying infrastructure are vulnerable to a wide range of risk including both physical and cyber threats and hazards. Sophisticated cyber actors and nation-states exploit vulnerabilities to steal information and money and can develop capabilities to disrupt, destroy, or threaten the delivery of essential services. Various crimes are perpetrated through cyberspace including the production and distribution of child pornography and child exploitation conspiracies, banking and financial fraud, intellectual property violations, and other crimes, all of which have substantial human and economic consequences.

Cyberspace is particularly difficult to secure from cyber-attack events, due to a number of factors including the ability of malicious actors to operate from anywhere in the world, the links between cyberspace and physical systems, and the difficulty of reducing vulnerabilities and consequences in complex cyber networks. Of growing concern is the cyber threat to critical infrastructure, which is increasingly subject to sophisticated cyber intrusions that pose new risks. As information technology becomes increasingly integrated with physical infrastructure operations, there is increased risk for wide scale or high-consequence events that could cause harm or disrupt services upon which our economy and the daily lives of millions of Americans depend. In light of the risk and potential consequences of cyber events, strengthening the security and resilience of cyberspace has become an important homeland security mission.

The City of Austin has enjoyed continued growth over the past 35 years. As a university town, with an educated workforce, a large number of technological companies have selected the City of Austin as their headquarters. To address the City's growth, the City of Austin has become a

leader in its use of computers, networks, and the data stored on them. The City of Austin has been proactive in securing the cybersecurity assets using best practices. This section reviews the Hazards to the cybersecurity assets for the City of Austin planning area.

---

### 1.5.18 TECHNOLOGICAL DISRUPTION

Technological disruptions can be caused by solar flares, geomagnetic storms, and power disruptions. A solar flare is a sudden, rapid, and intense flash of brightness observed over the sun's surface that occurs when built-up magnetic energy from the solar atmosphere is suddenly released. Flares generally cannot pass through the Earth's magnetosphere and atmosphere; therefore, the City of Austin planning area is not vulnerable to powerful bursts of particles. However, solar flares can impact satellite and radio transmissions, cause flights to be re-routed due to changes in the Earth's magnetic field, and cause radio blackouts due to radiation. Geomagnetic storms are a major disturbance of Earth's magnetosphere that occur when there is a very efficient exchange of energy from solar wind into the space environment surrounding the Earth. Magnetic storms can affect the performance of equipment, upset radio communications, blackout radars, and disrupt radio navigation systems.

## 2. ORGANIZATIONAL CONCEPTS

### 2.1 READINESS LEVELS – LEVELS OF EMERGENCY

Many times, emergencies follow a recognizable build-up period during which actions can be taken to achieve a state of maximum readiness. The purpose of establishing a Readiness Level system is to help build a common operating picture. It places all responding departments in the same mindset about the severity and urgency of the situation so that they can anticipate needs and special requirements. Departments should tie internal notifications, readiness actions, and emergency operating conditions to levels of the readiness level system.

Readiness Level system. When an emergency situation occurs suddenly, without notice, or when the severity of an emergency escalates quickly, escalation of the Readiness Level may be performed in rapid succession.

The HSEM Duty Officer (DO) or the HSEM Director will notify departments and agencies when Readiness Levels changes in response to an event. There are four Readiness Levels. The Readiness Levels serve as the criteria and thresholds for plan activation for different types of hazards. The levels establish who will be involved in implementing the EOP during an EOC activation and the decision-makers.

Note: Prior to 2020, the City utilized seven Readiness Levels called “OPCON Levels.” These levels are noted in the chart below for reference.

Readiness Level	Definition	Description
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p>(Formerly OPCON 6&amp;7)</p>	<p><b>Monitoring (Day-to-Day)</b></p>	<p>The normal operational status of government. The impacts of potential threats that occur are minimal and are capable of being handled by the normal operations of City Departments. They do not require interdepartmental or governmental coordination beyond what occurs on a day-to-day basis.</p> <p>City Departments emphasize preventive measures, mitigate possible hazards, train personnel, educate the public, develop effective coordination, identify, and evaluate potential hazards as to magnitude and effect. Emergency response personnel ensure the optimum state of operational and equipment readiness and are available for emergency duty as the need arises.</p> <p>Departments begin corrective action if any resource limitations exist that could reduce their capability to respond effectively.</p> <p>Preparedness activities may be conducted.</p> <p>Warning and communication systems are tested.</p> <p>Natural, technological and homeland security threats are monitored.</p> <p><b>Local responders resolve routine emergency incidents. No significant emergency or disaster is present.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p>(Formerly OPCON 3,4,5)</p>	<p><b>Increased Readiness/Recovery</b></p>	<p>The initial detection and monitoring stage of an incident occurring or anticipated to occur that has the potential to have a significant impact on City operations or the community. Assessment is made to determine the hazard(s), timing, and impact on the delivery of City services and to the general public.</p> <p>The initial alert stage of an event occurring or anticipated to occur. City Departments are notified of developing, near-term threats which could significantly impact City</p>

	<p>operations and/or will likely result in the need for multi-agency coordination.</p> <p>Preparedness actions may include holding coordination meetings or conference calls among key response and recovery stakeholders. Actions may also include assembly of a Situation Assessment Team to make a more comprehensive threat assessment. This assessment team may work from the EOC or offsite. Individual departments may enact internal preparedness and readiness plans or take actions based upon the threat and its impact.</p> <p>An event or stage of an event that requires multi-agency coordination beyond that which occurs on a day-to-day basis among agencies.</p> <p>The EOC may be staffed by the involved agencies. Coordination takes place electronically among HSEM and involved agency staff. In some special events, coordination may take place at a HSEM designated Event Operations Center (EvOC).</p> <p>The need for a declaration of local disaster is not anticipated.</p> <p>The Policy Coordination Group will be notified and activated if there are policy issues to be addressed.</p> <p>A significant emergency has not yet occurred, but readiness is raised due to increased vulnerability to a specific hazard, or an emergency has occurred, but the readiness level only escalates to level III; or, a significant response has occurred and recovery efforts are taking place. This would be a step down from readiness level 1 or 2.</p> <p>Key staff and personnel are alerted. Situation Assessment Teams shall be formed</p> <p>Contingency plans are evaluated and updated as needed.</p> <p>Advisory notices are sent to stakeholders and appropriate officials are briefed on anticipated risk situations and potential impacts.</p>
--	---

		<p>Emergency public information activities commence.</p> <p>The event must meet one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support is needed to provide the coordination of resources and/or other assistance to an event that is being managed by onsite Incident Command (IC).</li> <li>• Support is needed for a short-duration, multi-agency event that involves coordination of local resources and/or joint information.</li> <li>• Support is needed for the multi-agency coordination of a pre-planned event.</li> </ul> <p>Other than preplanned events, the time span of operations in these events is typically less than 24 hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support is needed after response operations to coordinate recovery operations.</li> </ul> <p>Activities typically involve one or more of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interagency coordination;</li> <li>• Joint information coordination ;</li> <li>• Acquisition of locally obtainable resources or a limited number of regional and/or State resources.</li> <li>• Recovery operations, typically a de-escalation from Readiness Level 1 or 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>The EOC is not activated but may be placed into a standby mode for possible activation. When Recovery Operations are taking place, the EOC may or may not be designated as activated.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p>(Formerly OPCON 2)</p>	<p><b>Significant Incident</b></p>	<p>An event or stage of an event that will require extensive multi-agency coordination and/or involve multiple operational periods. The bulk of required resources are obtained through local means; however, additional regional or State resources may be requested.</p> <p>The Policy Coordination Group will be notified and activated if policy issues need to be addressed or the need for a Declaration of Local Disaster is anticipated.</p>



		<p>The emergency has expanded beyond the capabilities of local responders.</p> <p>City of Austin operations may be impaired.</p> <p>Emergency Operations Center is activated, with potential for expanded hours of operation and intensified coordination.</p> <p>Response elements may be activated and deployed.</p> <p>Mutual aid resources may be requested.</p> <p>Government officials and agency representatives are briefed on the current situation and anticipated impacts.</p> <p>Emergency public information activities are expanded.</p> <p><b>The EOC is activated.</b>  <b>The Policy Coordination Group is activated.</b>  <b>A Declaration of Local Disaster is possible or likely.</b></p>
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>(Formerly OPCON 1)</p>	<p><b>Emergency Conditions</b></p>	<p>An event or stage of an event, either anticipated or actual, where response actions will likely exceed the resource capabilities of the City of Austin and Travis County. Response activities usually will occur over a period of days. Recovery actions may last over a period of weeks or months.</p> <p>The scope of the incident has expanded beyond the response capability of local agencies.</p> <p>Additional resources from outside the area may be needed to supplement response and recovery operations.</p> <p><b>The EOC is activated.</b>  <b>The Policy Coordination Group is activated.</b>  <b>A Declaration of Local Disaster is made.</b></p>

**2.2 CITY OF AUSTIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION**

Emergency management, at the local government level, is established in State law, the City Charter, and local ordinances. State law designates the Mayor as being responsible for directing the emergency management program in the City. The Mayor can designate an individual to

coordinate that program. In the City of Austin, the designee is the Director of HSEM under the direction of the City Manager. Authority has been delegated to implement the EOP to the Director of HSEM. The EOP and applicable associated annexes, procedures, and policies will be executed upon order of the Director of HSEM. The plan will be activated and implemented for planned events, emergencies, and disasters.

---

### 2.2.1 AUTHORITY OF THE MAYOR

The Texas Disaster Act places overall responsibility for the management of local disasters with the Mayor, as the presiding officer of the City Council.

The Executive Order of the Governor Relating to Emergency Management provides that the mayor may, when a State of Local Disaster has been declared, exercise similar powers on an appropriate local scale as have been granted to the Governor in the Disaster Act. A Disaster Declaration is also required when seeking State or Federal assistance, including a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

A Disaster Declaration provides the Mayor with additional powers. These powers include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Temporarily suspending the provisions of the City Code or uncodified ordinance that prescribes procedures for conduct of City business or the orders or rules of a City department if strict compliance with the provisions, orders, or rules would in any way hinder, prevent, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster;
- Using all available resources of City government that are necessary to cope with the disaster;
- Temporarily reassigning resources, personnel, or functions of City Departments or their units for the purpose of facilitating emergency services;
- Commandeering or using any private property needed to cope with the disaster, subject to compensation requirements;
- Ordering evacuation of all or part of the population from a stricken or threatened area
- Controlling ingress and egress to and from a disaster area;
- Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise acquiring temporary housing units to be occupied by disaster victims;
- Establishing controls on wages, prices, rent, and other economic stabilization methods in the event of a disaster;
- Implementing steps to prevent actual and constructive evictions; and
- Implementing curfews, blockades, limitations on utility use in an area affected by a disaster, rules governing entrance to and exit from the affected area, and other security measures.

When the Mayor makes a Declaration of Local Disaster and exercises the above powers, the City Manager will execute the orders as directed by the Mayor.

The Texas Government Code provides a means for the Mayor to exercise certain powers and request State assistance following a Declaration of Local Disaster. The EOC Policy Coordination Group may provide guidance on the need for issuing this declaration; however, the final decision rests with the Mayor as the chief elected official.

The Texas Government Code also provides a means by which the Mayor may request the declaration of a State of Emergency. TDEM and the City Clerk's Office will be given copies whenever the Mayor decides to execute either order.

Additionally, the Mayor has an important communications role before, during, and after an emergency. Complementing the communications efforts of PIO, the public and community often look to the Mayor as the City's only political leader elected by the whole City. Additionally, the Mayor has important statutory emergency authority and responsibilities following the issuance of a Declaration of Disaster.

To execute these formal and informal responsibilities, the Mayor will be kept informed and, in the loop, in real time, during emergency identification, preparation, response, and recovery. This will be achieved as shown in the notification sequence under the various Readiness Levels as described in Appendix 1 of this plan. Additional situational awareness will be provided through personal briefings, as well as monitoring of conference calls and observation of EOC activities.

---

## DISASTER DECLARATION

The Executive Order of the Governor Relating to Emergency Management provides that the mayor may, when a State of Local Disaster has been declared, exercise similar powers on an appropriate local scale as have been granted to the Governor in the Disaster Act. A Disaster Declaration is also required when seeking State or Federal assistance, including a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

A Disaster Declaration provides the Mayor with additional powers. These powers include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Temporarily suspending the provisions of any City statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of City business or the orders or rules of a City Department if strict compliance with the provisions, orders, or rules would in any way hinder, prevent, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster

- Using all available resources of City government that are necessary to cope with the disaster
- Temporarily reassigning resources, personnel, or functions of City Departments or their units for the purpose of facilitating emergency services
- Commandeering or using any private property needed to cope with the disaster, subject to compensation requirements
- Ordering evacuation of all or part of the population from a stricken or threatened area
- Controlling ingress and egress to and from a disaster area
- Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise acquiring temporary housing units to be occupied by disaster victims.

A Disaster Declaration may not be continued in force for more than seven days unless renewed by the City Council. The City Council may terminate a State of Disaster at any time.

Alternatively, the City Council may decide to simply let the declaration expire by taking no action to extend it.

A sample Disaster Declaration is provided in Appendix 4.

---

## STATE OF EMERGENCY

To deal with issues of civil unrest, the Mayor may request the Governor declare a State of Emergency. The Governor may proclaim a State of Emergency and issue directives to control and terminate the emergency and protect life and property. Directives issued by the Governor for a State of Emergency expire 72 hours after issuance; however, successive States of Emergency may be declared by the Governor.

In most cases, a Disaster Declaration is more appropriate for responding to natural or technological emergencies. An emergency declaration may be appropriate for security-related incidents where local law enforcement resources are insufficient to handle the situation.

A sample request for a State of Emergency is provided in Appendix 4.

---

### 2.2.2 PHILOSOPHY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF HSEM

The Director of HSEM is responsible for the City of Austin Emergency Management Program and coordinates emergency preparedness and response activities for the City as required by local and state law. Emergency Management provides the means for command, control, and communications for multiple agencies and departments that respond to an event or a crisis. HSEM may act as the lead agency to an incident; but typically provides technical and logistical support to on-scene command and assists with the management of the overall City response.

HSEM assists in the comprehensive development of policies, plans, and procedures to protect life and property. HSEM does so by bringing key players and stakeholders together to develop plans, preparedness activities, and response strategies. Although HSEM acts as a facilitator for the development of emergency planning, HSEM does create a number of strategic plans and coordinates emergency planning as required by state law. The EOP is one of these documents.

Annexes to the EOP are prepared by HSEM with input from appropriate agencies. Annexes provide comprehensive planning for hazards encountered in Austin. HSEM performs a number of other activities that enhance the City's readiness and response, including:

- Coordinating all phases of development and distribution of the EOP and related Annexes.
- Establishing liaisons with County, State, Federal, and other emergency planning, response, and relief agencies, including non-governmental organizations, public and private.
- Ensuring proper operation of the Austin warning and system.
- Disseminating information on emergency preparedness to the public.
- Maintaining the draft text of "emergency proclamations orders" and "ordinances" at the EOC, in coordination with the City's Law Department.
- Coordinating the development and execution of City-wide disaster exercises and other drills. Conducting exercise critiques and monitoring the follow up of recommendations for improved actions.
- Maintaining the EOC and developing procedures for its use during emergencies.
- Monitoring City compliance with all applicable Federal and State statutes, regulations, and rules.
- Monitoring severe weather and other hazardous conditions on a 24-hour basis.
- Evaluating weather conditions and projecting the impact on both the public and basic City services.
- Coordinating advisories with the National Weather Service Office and other emergency response agencies.
- Contacting the City Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), 9-1-1, 3-1-1 Communications Centers, Austin Energy, and other appropriate agencies when potentially severe weather is observed, or a hazardous condition report is received.
- Maintaining and activating the Austin-Travis County Emergency Operations Center (A-TCEOC) in coordination with City management and impacted department heads.
- Coordinating with the City Public Information Office to issue public warnings and emergency preparedness and response information through the news media.

- Coordinating the operation of the Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) functions with the engineers from the Watershed Protection Department (WPD).
  - Coordinate with Dam Safety Program to trigger notifications for community members downstream of high hazard dams.
- Supporting the Incident Command Post (ICP) by:
  - Providing technical information;
  - Establishing emergency shelters;
  - Disseminating emergency information to the public;
  - Notifying State agencies and City departments as needed.
- Providing advice on emergency-related issues to stakeholders and City Departments.
- Coordinating EOC operations and serving as advisor to City management and departmental representatives during EOC activations.
- Assisting in incident documentation for historical and post-incident evaluation purposes.
- Designating marshaling locations for volunteer help and mutual aid forces.

---

### 2.2.3 EQUITY IN RESPONSE

Through disaster response and After-Action Reports (AARs), the Office of Emergency Management has learned that disasters often have disproportionate impacts on different populations with the community. This often manifests by making things increasingly difficult for those of lower socioeconomic means. To ensure that the City of Austin planning and responses account for potential unequitable impacts, the City of Austin's Equity Office is incorporated into planning, response, and recovery efforts.

## 2.3 CITY OF AUSTIN INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

While the final authority for strategic decision-making rests with the City Manager prior to a Declaration of Local Disaster and with the Mayor subsequent to this declaration, effective management of major emergencies requires use of a special organizational structure. Major emergencies pose extraordinary demands for resources and require close operational coordination that cannot be adequately managed by the normal administrative structures.

The City of Austin utilizes the Incident Command System (ICS) which is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional management system that fully integrates the activities of all agencies responding to at an incident that affects the City of Austin. The City has adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS), in accordance with the President's Homeland Security Directive (HSPD)-5.

---

### 2.3.1 NIMS AND THE NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

NIMS is a multifaceted system that provides a national framework for preparing, preventing, responding to, and recovering from disasters. NIMS is a comprehensive approach to incident management that is applicable to all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines. This system is suitable across a wide range of incidents and hazard scenarios, regardless of size or complexity. NIMS provides a flexible framework for all phases of incident management, as well as requirements for processes, procedures, and systems designed to improve interoperability.

This plan, in accordance with the NRF, is an integral part of the national effort to prevent and reduce America’s vulnerability to terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies; to minimize damage and recover from attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies that occur. In the event of an Incident of National Significance, as defined in HSPD-5, NIMS allows for the integration of operations for all levels of government, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations through the use of its coordinating structures, processes, and protocols.

---

### 2.3.2 INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

The ICS in use today is an outgrowth of California’s FIRESCOPE program that was developed in the 1970s to improve management of large wildfires. ICS was designed to provide a common management structure that would result in better decisions, more effective use of available resources, and clarification of “who is in charge?” ICS was specifically designed for incidents that involve many local, State, and Federal agencies and multiple political jurisdictions.

The ICS is based on several important philosophical principles:

- ICS does not require individual agencies to relinquish their legal or basic operational responsibilities.
- Major emergencies result in a response from many organizations that may have overlapping jurisdictions and responsibilities. This historically results in conflict over “who is in charge?” ICS resolves this with the concept of Unified Command in which two or more agency officials can jointly manage an incident.
- ICS is an organizational system based on functions rather than by agency. This means that personnel from one department may be assigned to several organizational divisions, depending on their function in the emergency.
- ICS is a flexible system that permits all response agencies to anticipate and modify the management structure. This dramatically reduces the time and difficulty required to get organized.

---

### 2.3.3 LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION

---

## FIELD RESPONSE

The field response level is where emergency response personnel and resources, under the command of an appropriate authority, carry out tactical decisions and activities in direct response to an incident or threat. ICS is used to control and coordinate field-level response activities. ICS provides a standard organizational structure to facilitate coordination of multiple response organizations at the field level. Departmental operational plans describe implementation of ICS in the various City of Austin Departments.

During a field response operation, the EOC may or may not be activated, depending on the severity and type of incident. Generally, responders handle day-to-day activities using ICS without EOC support.

---

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local governments include cities, counties, and special districts. Local governments manage and coordinate the overall emergency response and recovery activities within their jurisdiction. The local government emergency management organization and its relationship to the field response level may vary, depending upon factors related to geographical size, population, function, and complexity.

---

## COUNTY

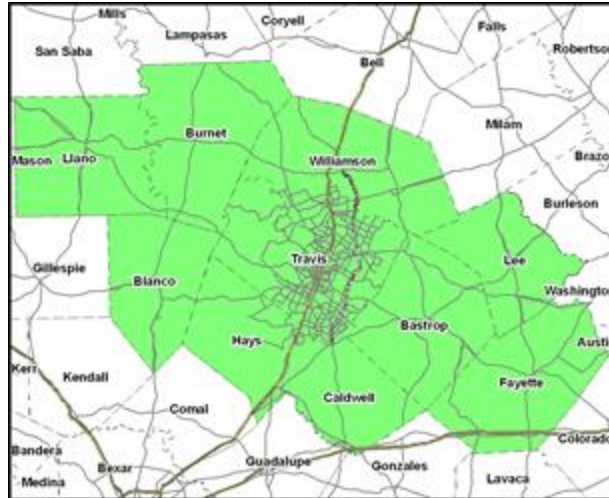
This term encompasses all political subdivisions located within the County, including special districts. The County manages and/or coordinates information, resources, and priorities among local governments within the County and serves as the coordination and communications link between the local government level and the regional level.

---

## REGION

The State of Texas is divided into 24 regional mutual aid jurisdictions, based upon existing Councils of Government regional boundaries. Austin-Travis County is part of CAPCOG, a 10-county region that includes Travis, Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, and Williamson Counties.





**Figure 2 – CAPCOG Region**

The regional level manages and coordinates information and resources among the local governments and counties within the 10-county area. The regional level also coordinates overall State agency support for emergency response activities within the region.

---

## STATE

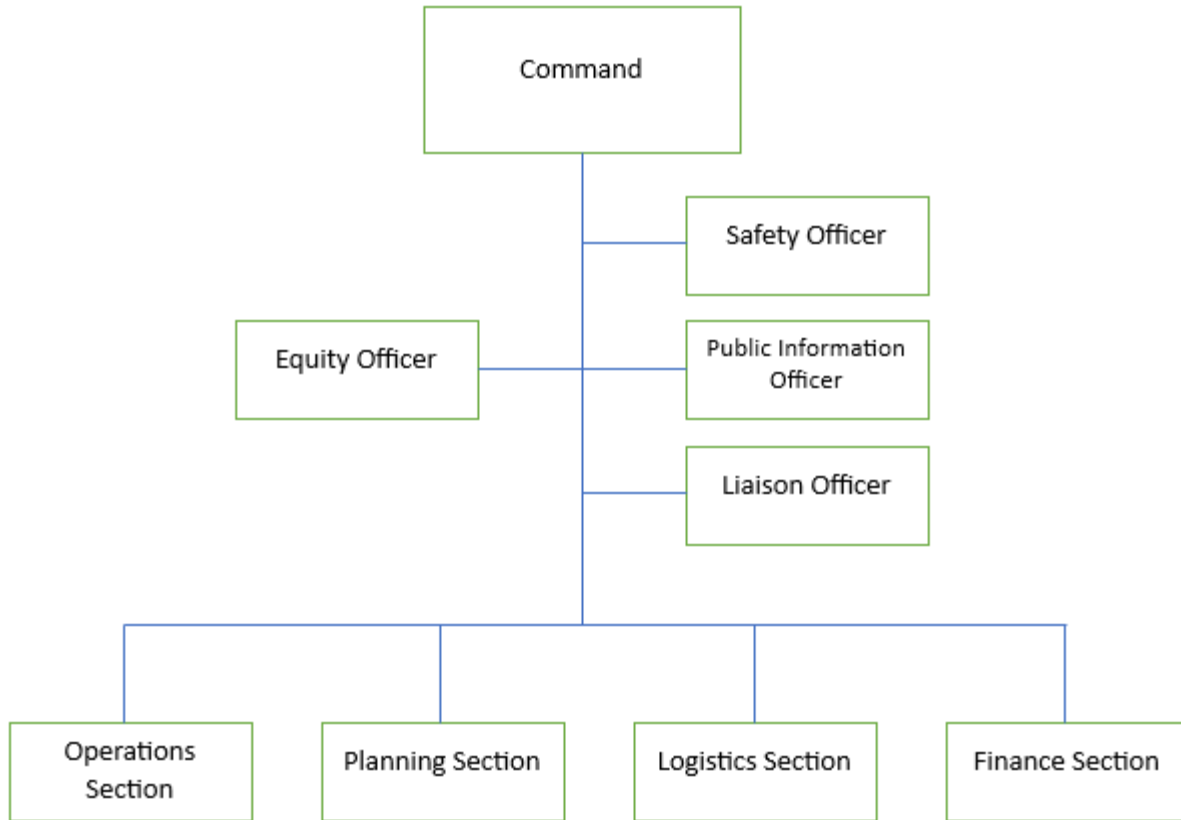
TDEM manages State resources in response to the emergency needs of the local and regional jurisdictional levels, manages and coordinates mutual aid among the mutual aid regions and between the regional level and State level, and serves as the coordination and communications link to the Federal disaster response system. The State response structure is organized into zones referred to as Disaster Districts. The City of Austin is located within Disaster District 12.

---

### 2.3.4 FUNCTIONAL AREAS

ICS is organized into five basic functions.

- Command
- Planning
- Operations
- Logistics
- Finance/Administration



**Figure 3 – ICS Functional Areas**

The reporting relationships of these functions are depicted above in Figure 3 and are discussed in greater detail below.

**COMMAND**

Command consists of an individual (termed Single Command) or a group of individuals (termed Unified Command) who are jointly responsible for overall management of the incident.

Command is responsible for the following:

- Establishing an appropriate, overall incident management organization.
- Identifying strategic incident objectives.
- Ensuring safe operations.
- Developing a single, integrated Action Plan.

In large-scale incidents, a Command Staff will be appointed consisting of Public Information Officers (PIOs), Liaison Officers, and Safety Officers whose functions are described below:

## PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

---

PIOs may respond from all agencies having significant involvement in the incident. PIOs work together to ensure that a single, unified message is issued to the news media. PIOs work with IC to ensure the accurate and appropriate release of information during response and recovery operations. In the event of a major disaster, such as a bombing or aircraft crash, PIOs will work with the City of Austin Communications and Public Information Office (CPIO) to establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) to accommodate intensive, long-term local and network media coverage.

## LIAISON OFFICER

---

The Liaison Officer is assigned by IC and is responsible for coordinating agency representatives from local, State, Federal, and private agencies that have responded to the command post. These representatives may have incidental involvement in the incident or may have technical or resource information needed by Command, Planning, or Logistics.

In the EOC, the Liaison Officer has the additional responsibility of coordinating with the City of Austin Mayor and City Council as well as other local, State, and Federal government officials.

## SAFETY OFFICER

---

Command will identify one or more Safety Officers who monitor overall safety at the incident and have the authority to stop dangerous operations.

---

## OPERATIONS SECTION

The Operations Section is responsible for developing tactics to meet the incident objectives that are established by Command. The Operations Section is responsible for all functions and tasks that must be accomplished to resolve the incident, including a wide variety of services provided to the victims of the emergency. There may be more than one Operations Section Chiefs depending on the complexity of the incident, but these Chiefs must carefully coordinate their activities to ensure safe operations with no duplications or gaps in service.

---

## PLANNING SECTION

The Planning Section is responsible for collecting, evaluating, packaging, and disseminating information about the evolution of the incident and status of deployed resources. Planning also is responsible for developing the Incident Action Plan (IAP), based on the Incident Objectives

established by Command. Planning also prepares a Demobilization Plan that allows for the timely release of resources committed to an incident.

---

## LOGISTICS SECTION

The Logistics Section is tasked with providing the personnel, resources, services, and supplies required by the Incident Management organization. In major emergencies, the Logistics Section may be required to support an operation that extends over a period of days or weeks.

---

## FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION SECTION

The Finance/Administration Section is responsible for tracking incident costs and reimbursements. Unless costs and financial operations are carefully recorded and justified, reimbursement of costs is difficult, if not impossible. The Finance/Administration Section's documentation function is especially important when the incident is of a magnitude that may result in a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

---

## DOCUMENTATION

The EOC's Documentation Unit is part of the Planning Section and maintains accurate logs that record key response activities, including:

- Activation or deactivation of emergency facilities.
- Emergency notifications to other local governments and to State and Federal agencies.
- Significant changes in the emergency situation.
- Major commitments of resources or requests for additional resources from external sources.
- Issuance of protective action recommendations to the public.
- Evacuations.
- Casualties.
- Containment or termination of the incident.

This section is also responsible for special procurements that may require waiver of State or local purchasing requirements during emergencies.

## 2.4 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

Most significant events will require coordination. This section describes the key elements that play a critical role during emergencies.

---

#### 2.4.1 INCIDENT COMMAND POST

The ICP is the location of the tactical-level, on-scene IC, and management organization for field response teams. The ICP typically comprises IC and immediate staff and may include other designated incident management officials. Typically, the ICP is located at or in the immediate vicinity of the incident site and is where direct, on-scene control of field response units takes place. Incident planning and communications are also conducted at the ICP.

---

#### 2.4.2 TACTICAL LEVEL DISPATCH, 9-1-1, AND 3-1-1 CALL CENTERS

The 9-1-1 dispatch centers are the first link between community members and the city's emergency services. Highly trained employees answer community members' calls for services, both emergency and non-emergency, and dispatch police officers, firefighters, or paramedics to answer the calls. Most City of Austin Departments with a field response component operate dispatch centers of their own. In many cases, these centers serve as a primary communications link to the tactical operations in the field. The dispatch centers also provide situational awareness of conditions by relaying information from both responding units and callers.

The City of Austin 3-1-1 Call Center also serves as an interface between the public and other City services. Utility outages or debris reports typically will be managed by 3-1-1. In this respect, the 3-1-1 Call Centers are also an important source of information and another communications link to the public.

All public safety entities in Travis County communicate on a common radio system that allows for interoperable communications between all agencies. City of Austin non-public safety agencies are also on the system, allowing for radio communications between City of Austin field units.

---

#### 2.4.3 DEPARTMENT OPERATION CENTERS

Department Operations Centers (DOCs) are facilities from which individual departments control their internal resource mobilizations and tactical operations during periods of increased service demands. DOCs may be the regular communication or control centers, such as the electric control center, or, it may be an ad hoc center set up by a department to handle resource needs, personnel callback, altered business hours, etc.

Activities normally carried out in a DOC should not take place in the EOC. The EOC focuses on inter-agency coordination and strategic decision-making. Agency representatives cannot effectively carry out these functions if they are preoccupied with internal department response planning and coordination. Conversely, interagency coordination and strategic planning should

not take place at a DOC. Department level staffing plans should address both tactical level DOC and EOC staffing needs during significant events.

---

#### 2.4.4 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

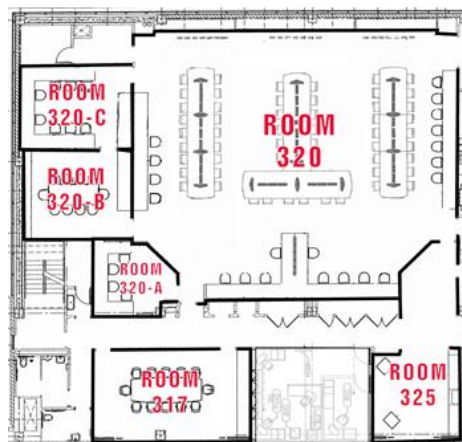
The purpose of the EOC is to coordinate strategic decision-making, resource allocation, public information, and warning. The operation of the EOC does not eliminate a department's needs for tactical level coordination of staffing and resources. The EOC also serves as EOC Command, a form of Area Command, when faced with multiple incidents or a single incident with major, community-wide impact.

Agency representatives at the EOC must be at least senior managers, commanders, or chiefs capable of committing their department's resources. Lower ranking representatives sent to the EOC as "liaisons" cannot effectively participate in joint, strategic decision-making and may not have the necessary influence with higher-ranking officials in their own organizations.

The Austin-Travis County EOC (A-TCEOC) serves as the single EOC for all incidents that occur within the City of Austin and Travis County and is managed jointly by HSEM and the Travis County Office of Emergency Management (TCOEM).

---

#### EOC PHYSICAL LAYOUT



**Figure 4 – EOC Physical Layout**

The EOC consists of six rooms:

- **Room 320** – Main operations room. This is the primary room of the EOC complex and houses command, operations, plans, and finance functions.
- **Room 320A** – Amateur Radio Communications Room. Location for all amateur radio communications operations in support of EOC operations.

- **Room 320B** – Located directly off the main operations floor, this room serves as a breakout room and houses the Logistics Section during larger events.
- **Room 320C** – Adjacent to 320B, this room houses a complete suite of wireless communication equipment. Room 320C can serve as a location for public safety tactical dispatching. During larger incidents, the location houses the personnel and communications technology units of the Logistics Section. This room is also designated as the Regional Medical Operations Center (RMOC) where public health, EMS, and local hospitals may coordinate medically-related responses during disasters.
- **Room 317** – Located directly across the hall from Room 320, the main operations room, this location's primary function is to hold the Policy Coordination Group. It also can serve as a specialized operation suite for incident management.
- **Room 325** – Located across from the main entrance to Room 320, this area serves as the primary media briefing area. The media briefing area can be segregated from the other areas of the building. A larger briefing area is available on the second floor.

---

#### 2.4.5 REGIONAL OPERATIONS

The A-TCEOC can serve as the Multi-area Coordination Center (MACC) for the CAPCOG Region upon request. This permits services to be closely coordinated throughout the greater Austin area and to make the best use of external resources, such as the American Red Cross (ARC), Capital Metro, and hospitals.

This may occur when resources are needed from other Counties within the Capital Area or when resources are needed from the State. Additionally, the EOC may be used as the regional coordination point during area-wide or multi-county operations in the Capital Area.

The DPS Captain for District 12 is the single point of contact (SPOC) for State assets during emergencies. The Disaster District Captain, with concurrence with the City of Austin and Travis County Emergency Management Directors, may elect to co-locate the DDC within the A-TCEOC.

Under certain special operations plans, such as the Capital Area Shelter Hub Plan (CASHP), the A-TCEOC may serve as a regional operations coordination point, involving various local, State, Federal, and voluntary organizations.

The A-TCEOC can also serve as an Event Operations Center (EvOC) for special events, such as the United States Grand Prix Formula 1 car race. In these types of events, the EvOC serves as the coordination point between the venue(s), promoting agency, and local and regional entities that are involved with the safe operation of the event.

In extremely large, multi-site events, EvOCs may be established at appropriate locations to coordinate operations at each site or venue. The A-TCEOC then serves as an Area Command which coordinates among those EvOCs as well as general event operations.

In all cases, the use of the EOC as a regional coordination point facilitates communication among State and local agencies. It also enables the EOC to quickly make requests for State and Central Texas assets.

All such use must be approved by the HSEM Director and TCOEM Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC).

---

#### 2.4.6 STATE OPERATIONS CENTER

The SOC, operated by TDEM, is located in a hardened underground facility at the DPS Headquarters in Austin. The responsibilities of the SOC include:

- Maintaining databases, maps, and other information relating to potential threats, key facilities, critical infrastructure, resources, and other planning data.
- Coordinating with State agencies, local governments, volunteer groups, and industry with respect to threatened or actual emergency situations.
- Responding to requests for emergency assistance from local governments and State agencies that are managing emergency incidents.
- Supporting the emergency response coordination activities of the Emergency Management Council, when it is activated during major emergencies and disasters, to coordinate the use of State resources for response and recovery.
- During emergency situations, providing emergency information and instructions to the public in coordination with the Governor’s Press Office and State agency public information staffs.
- Coordinating State Amber Alert operations.

---

#### 2.4.7 FEDERAL COORDINATION FACILITIES

---

##### REGIONAL RESPONSE COORDINATION CENTER

FEMA Region 6 Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) is activated to coordinate regional response efforts, establish Federal priorities, and implement local Federal program support. The RRCC serves as the main coordination point between Federal agencies that support State and local governments with response and recovery activities after disasters. The RRCC operates until a Joint Field Office (JFO) is established. The RRCC is located in Denton, Texas.

In response to regional requests for support, FEMA provides mobile telecommunications, operational support, life support, and power generation assets for the on-site management of



disaster and all-hazard activities. This support is managed by the Response and Recovery Directorate's Mobile Operations Division (RRMO).

The SOC serves as the primary communications channel for contact with Federal entities.

---

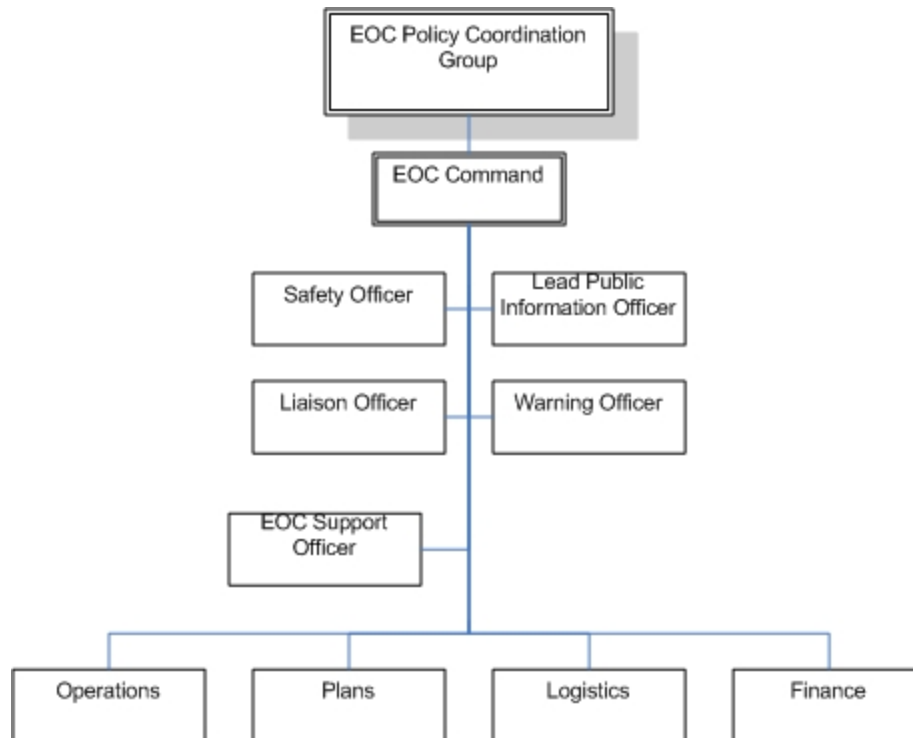
## JOINT FIELD OFFICE

The JFO is a temporary Federal facility established locally to coordinate operational Federal assistance activities to a disaster area during Incidents of National Significance. The JFO is a multi-agency center that provides a central point of coordination for Federal, State, local, tribal, non-governmental, and private-sector organizations with primary responsibilities for threat response and incident support and coordination. The JFO enables the effective and efficient coordination of Federal incident-related prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery actions.

## 2.5 EOC ORGANIZATION

The A-TCEOC employs a NIMS compliant Incident Management system that is modeled after ICS, slightly modified to meet the needs of the A-TCEOC. When activated, the A-TCEOC is organized into five Sections as defined by ICS and NIMS (see figure 5):

- EOC Command
- Operations
- Plans
- Logistics
- Finance



**Figure 5 – Austin-Travis County EOC Organization**

### 2.5.1 EOC COMMAND

The General Staff is responsible for providing subject matter information and support to the Policy Coordination Group, EOC Director, and other members of the response organization. The management group includes the following positions:

- **EOC Director** – Responsible for overall management of the EOC. The EOC Director is responsible for the assignment of General Staff positions when no pre-plan exits. The HSEM Director serves as the EOC Director for the City of Austin while the TCOEM EMC serves as the EOC Director for Travis County. The two EOC Directors jointly serve as EOC Command. In the event the Director or EMC is not present, a HSEM and TCOEM staff member will be assigned the role of EOC Director.
- **Public Information Officer** – Serves as the point of contact for the media and other organizations seeking information on the emergency. Oversees the running of the JIC.
- **Liaison Officer** – Maintains and provides coordination with the City of Austin Mayor and City Council, as well as other local, State, and Federal government officials, and all outside agency representatives that have been assigned to the EOC.
- **Safety Officer** – Ensures that the EOC facilities maintain safe operating conditions and provides safety messages for the IAP.

- **Warning Officer** – Responsible for the dissemination of all protective action statements and information required for the immediate preservation of human life.
- **EOC Support Officer** – Ensures that EOC responders are provided with adequate training and support to enable them to perform their EOC duties.

**POLICY COORDINATION GROUP**

The Policy Coordination Group will be established in Readiness Level 1 and 2 incidents and may be established, if need, in Readiness Level 3 and 4 incidents. The Policy Coordination Group fills three roles in the Austin-Travis County EOC structure:

The Policy Coordination Group provides recommendations to the City Manager/Mayor and County Judge on the need for a Declaration of Local Disaster. This declaration may be made by the Mayor and/or County Judge or may be requested by the City Manager when special powers vested in the Mayor or County Judge are needed. A declaration may also be needed to request Federal Assistance. Note: A request for Federal assistance may be initiated by a declaration of a State of Local Disaster by either the Mayor or the County Judge.

The Policy Coordination Group makes recommendations to the Mayor and County Judge on specific actions that are needed under their special powers after a Declaration of Local Disaster, such as issuing orders of mandatory evacuation or controlling ingress and egress from a disaster area. These special powers are described in Section 2.2.1 of this plan.

In major incidents, the Policy Coordination Group establishes broad strategic response and recovery policies on issues such as:

- Determining the need for additional evacuations or curfews.
- Setting re-entry priorities.
- Setting priorities for restoration of City services.
- Determining the need to issue other “orders” or exercising other powers that are authorized under State statute.

In some cases, implementation of these strategic response and recovery policies requires a Declaration of Local Disaster. In other cases, they can be implemented through existing authorities as shown below:

Power	Powers without a City Declaration	Powers with a City Declaration
Evacuation	City public safety agencies can persuasively encourage evacuation from affected areas.	The Mayor can order mandatory evacuation and police can enforce the order with reasonable use of force.

<b>Power</b>	<b>Powers without a City Declaration</b>	<b>Powers with a City Declaration</b>
Ingress/ Egress from affected areas	The City can close municipal streets but may not block all ingress and egress from affected areas. The City has other specific powers to close waterways and other City property.	The Mayor may control ingress to and egress from a disaster area in the jurisdiction, implement curfews and blockades, and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that area.
Assistance from other governmental entities	The Mayor as the Chief elected official (or the designated City Emergency Management Coordinator) can request state assistance once local resources are exhausted. The City can seek FEMA financial aid if county declares a disaster. The City may seek assistance from other local governments.	The City may make a declaration to receive FEMA financial assistance and it must make such a declaration to receive FEMA assistance if the County does not do so.
Activating Emergency Operations Plan	Components of the plan are used on a routine basis to coordinate large-scale events and emergencies short of a declaration of local disaster.	The plan is activated upon declaration of local disaster.
Suspending local laws and regulations	The City Council must follow ordinary procedures to suspend local laws and regulations.	The presiding officer may unilaterally suspend certain local laws and regulations for disaster response and recovery.
Emergency laws/orders	The City Council must follow ordinary procedures to pass new laws.	Emergency Management Director, acting as the governor's agent, may issue orders with the force of law; including economic stabilization orders.
Controlling City personnel & resources	The City Manager may assign personnel and resources to respond to the emergency/disaster.	The Emergency Management Director may assign personnel and resources to respond to the disaster.
Commandeering private resources	The City can use its power of eminent domain	The Emergency Management Director may commandeer private resources (with compensation).

Note: Under Texas Local Government Code Section 418.1015, the presiding officer of the governing body of an incorporated city is designated as the emergency management director for the subdivision.

The Policy Coordination Group must take care to focus on broad strategic issues and not delve into incident operations and tactical issues that are assigned to Incident Command personnel under the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

The following section explains the function and responsibilities of the various members of the EOC Policy Coordination Group within the Austin-Travis County EOC structure. This framework conforms to the requirements of NIMS as mandated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Only the Departments and Agencies involved in the specific incident are represented in the Policy Coordination Group.

- **Mayor** – Following the Declaration of Local Disaster, the Mayor Co-Chairs the Policy Coordination Group with the County Judge and provides direction to the City Manager to execute his/her orders. The Mayor represents the City of Austin government with elected officials as well as County, State, and Federal agencies.
- **County Judge** – Co-Chairs the Policy Coordination Group with the Mayor or City Manager and represents the Travis County government with elected officials as well as City, State, and Federal agencies.
- **City Manager** –
  - Prior to a Declaration of Local Disaster
    - The City Manager Co-Chairs the Policy Coordination Group with the County Judge.
    - Makes decisions regarding the activation of the EOC for City Departments.
    - Directs City Departments in response to and recovery from emergencies.
  - After a Declaration of Local Disaster
    - Advises the Mayor on courses of action. Executes orders as directed by the Mayor. Exercises operational control of all City of Austin government activities.
    - Co-Chairs the Policy Coordination Group in extreme cases where communications with the Mayor cannot be established or where the Mayor is absent or disabled. As soon as communications can be established or the Mayor is no longer absent or disabled, the Mayor shall assume all such authority and responsibilities.
- **Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management** – Functions as the EOC Director for the City of Austin. Manages EOC operations and provides emergency management policy and procedure guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Coordinator, Travis County Office of Emergency Management** – Functions as the EOC Director for Travis County. Manages EOC operations, provides emergency management policy and procedure guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.

- **Chief, Austin Fire Department** – Leads fire and rescue activities and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Chief, Austin Police Department** – Coordinates law enforcement response and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Sheriff, Travis County Sheriff's Office** – Coordinates the law enforcement response and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Chief, Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services** – Leads the management of issues related to pre-hospital patient care, including mass casualty incidents, and provides guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **City Attorney** – Provides legal and liability counsel to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **City Chief Financial Officer** – Leads financial management and cost recovery activities and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Director, Austin Public Health**– Leads the public health and human services response and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Director, Transportation and Public Works Department** – Leads the transportation and public works response and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Director, Austin Water Utility** – Leads water, wastewater restoration activities, and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **General Manager, Austin Energy** – Leads power restoration activities and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Director, Aviation Department** – Leads aviation incidents or activities involving ABIA, provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Director, Austin Resource Recovery** – Leads cleanup and debris removal activities and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Health Authority** – Provides guidance on health and medically-related issues to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Medical Director** – Provides guidance on pre-hospital patient care and other medically-related issues to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **President and CEO, Capital Metro** – Leads the public transportation restoration and response activities and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.
- **Superintendent of Austin Independent School District** – Leads the School District response and provides related guidance to the Policy Coordination Group.

The above management structure assumes a joint Austin-Travis County operation. The management structure may be refined to meet specific incident objectives.

**2.5.2 OPERATIONS**

The State of Texas and the Federal Government currently organize their response activities into groups called Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). An ESF is a functional area of response established to facilitate the delivery of Federal or State assistance required during the immediate response phase of a disaster. ESFs represent those types of assistance, which the State or local government will most likely need because of the impact of a catastrophic or significant disaster on its own resources and response capabilities, or because of the specialized or unique nature of the assistance required. ESF missions are designed to supplement State and local response efforts. The City of Austin utilizes functional “groups” which operate much like ESFs.

Federal government response agencies are organized into 15 ESFs. The State of Texas is organized into 24 ESFs. The Austin-Travis County EOC uses operational groups to organize the Operation Section of the EOC and is organized into five groups. All fall under the Operations Section in the EOC. The Groups are:

- Public Safety Group
- Health and Hospitals Group
- Community Services Group
- Public Utilities Group
- Public Works Group

The following chart provides the relationship between groups at the local level and ESFs at the State and Federal levels.

<b>ESF</b>	<b>Corresponding City Groups or Offices</b>
1. Transportation	Public Works Group – Transportation and Public Works (TPW)
2. Communications	Communications Technology Management (CTM) – Wireless Communications Office
3. Public Works & Engineering	Public Works Group – Transportation and Public Works (TPW)
4. Firefighting	Public Works Group – Austin Fire Department (AFD)
5. Emergency Management	Homeland Services and Emergency Management (HSEM)
6. Mass Care	Health and Medical Group – Austin Public Health (APH)
7. Logistics and Resource Management	Homeland Services and Emergency Management (HSEM)

8. Public Health & Medical	Health and Medical Group – Austin Public Health (APH)
9. Search & Rescue	Public Works Group – Austin Fire Department (AFD)
10. Oil and Hazardous Materials	Public Works Group – Austin Fire Department (AFD)
11. Agriculture & Natural Resources	Homeland Services and Emergency Management (HSEM)
12. Energy	Public Works Group – Austin Energy
13. Public Safety	Public Safety Group – Austin Police Department (APD)
14. Private Sector Coordination	Homeland Services and Emergency Management (HSEM)
15. Public Information	Communications and Public Information Office (CPIO)
16. Recovery	Homeland Services and Emergency Management (HSEM)

#### WARNING OFFICER

As the City Warning Point, the A-TCEOC relays warnings received through the National Warning System (NAWAS) and other warning networks, as well as warnings generated by State officials. Some types of warning, such as weather warnings, are disseminated on a routine basis. Other warnings are issued after a threat or situation has been analyzed and a determination has been made by senior officials that special warning is appropriate.

The Warning Officer is responsible for the operations of all of the emergency systems used to communicate with the various response agencies and to communicate disaster information to the public. It is the City's responsibility to inform, warn, and advise community members during all stages of an emergency, from its onset through the recovery phase. Effective public information is a unified effort of all the City and departmental public information sections.

Community members are responsible for using that information to protect themselves and those for whom they are personally responsible. If Austin-area community members are well informed, they will be able to respond effectively to protect themselves and others.

The Warning Officer is part of the EOC Director's General Staff and may be staffed by personnel from the CPIO. The Austin-Travis County EOC uses a wide variety of systems to communicate with government agencies within and outside the City of Austin and directly with the population of the City.



The following Sections provide brief descriptions of key warning systems. A complete list of warning systems and public warning policies can be found in Annex A – Public Warning.

### PRIMARY WARNING SYSTEM

---

The City of Austin considers the media to be the primary means of communicating warning, emergency public information and public information to the public at all stages of a disaster. Information is disseminated to the media via social media accounts (primarily Twitter). This may be supplemented by media advisories, media releases, interviews with spokespersons and press conferences, as appropriate to the incident. The broadcast media, accessed through social media, is the primary system for disseminating warning and emergency information to the public. Additionally, the public may receive this information directly from the City via Social Media.

The City maintains logs of all the social media messages that they transmit, which serves as the logging method for testing of this system.

### BACKUP WARNING SYSTEM – AUSTIN WARNING AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

---

The City of Austin, in cooperation with area broadcasters, has established the Austin Warning and Communications System (AWACS). The system is designed to provide a backup method of getting emergency information to the media. AWACS paging devices provide 24-hour-a-day notification capability to the media.

The AWACS system serves as the City’s backup media notification system. It is also the primary system for notification of A/TCEOC responders and other key departmental personnel.

### SPECIALIZED AND SUPPLEMENTAL WARNING AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

---

There are a number of additional systems that can be used to provide warning and/or emergency information to the public:

- **Regional Notification System (RNS)** - [The Capital Area Council of Governments Regional Notification System called WarnCentralTexas](#) is a communication system designed to notify local community recipients of an emergency event.
- **Emergency Alerting System (EAS)** - The Emergency Alerting System (EAS) may be used for local emergencies.
- **National Weather Service NOAA weather all hazards radio** - NOAA weather all hazards radio system allows for transmission of emergency information on a nationwide system of transmitters that broadcast weather information 24 hours a day.

- **Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System (IPAWS)** - The Federal [Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System \(IPAWS\)](#) allows authorized agencies to initiate public warnings through a variety of systems.
- **Media Distribution groups** - The City of Austin uses a pre-identified newsletter service to distribute communications to local and national media.
- **HSEM Web Page and citizen social media** - The HSEM Webpage and social media provide additional methods of providing Emergency Public Information and Warnings directly to the public.
- **TXDoT AM Radio** - The City of Austin has direct access to the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDoT) highway advisory broadcast system.
- **TXDoT and City of Austin electronic message signs** - TXDoT highway information signs located in Travis County are controlled from the TXDoT operations position located in the same building as the A-TCEOC. The City of Austin Transportation Department (ATD) maintains a similar system at key locations on City roadways.
- **Municipal Cable Channel 6 (ATXN)** - Information can be provided to the public on Municipal Cable Channel 6 the Austin Texas Network (ATXN).
- **Route Alerting and Door To Door Warning** - The public may be warned by route alerting using vehicles equipped with sirens and public address systems.
- **211** – Disaster Updates published by the State of Texas’ Department of Health and Human Services can be found at <https://www.211texas.org/disaster-updates/> or by calling 211.

---

## PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP

The Public Safety Group is responsible for the coordination of all public safety actions including response activities, personnel, equipment, and support requirements. Although public safety departments have specific disciplines, the Public Safety Group is considered an integrated function within the EOC. This ensures the most efficient coordination and utilization of first responder equipment and resources during an emergency. The Public Safety Group has the following responsibilities:

- Law enforcement, including but not limited to, criminal investigation, all security and protection-related activities, traffic control, blockades, and traffic management plans.
- Fire suppression.
- Hazardous material response and consequence management, including radiological monitoring and emergency spill control.
- Evacuation.
- Search and rescue.

- Pre-hospital patient management, including field care, medical transportation, and triage activities.
- Coordinates, as needed, with the Health and Hospital Group on issues of medical consequence including, but not limited to:
  - Epidemiological investigations;
  - Mass care;
  - Environmental monitoring.
- Coordinates with WPD on spill containment and cleanup that threaten or involve creeks and streams.
- Provides public safety support to other groups as needed.

The Public Safety Group:

- Provides communications and liaison functions with their respective department's DOC and the EOC.
- Supports the Situation Status Unit of the EOC's Planning Section by providing intelligence and situational assessments received from field units and DOCs. Also provides updates on system coverage for their respective agencies.
- Coordinates public safety-related mutual aid requests with the Logistics Section.

City of Austin Departments which make up the Public Safety Group include:

- Austin Police Department
- Austin Fire Department
- Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (A-TCEMS)
- Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Key non-City of Austin entities that routinely staff the Public Safety Group include:

- Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO)
- Travis County Emergency Services Districts
- Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS Capitol Police, DPS Region)
- University of Texas Police Department (UTPD)

---

## HEALTH AND MEDICAL GROUP

The Health and Medical Group is responsible for assisting in the provision of any necessary public health needs for residents of, and visitors to, the City of Austin. This includes the following responsibilities:

- Coordinate and manage the allocation of available disaster medical and health resources to support disaster medical and health operations in the affected area.
- Determine the medical and health impact of the event on the affected population and medical and health infrastructure and ensure information is provided to the Operations Section Chief.
- Evaluate and prioritize medical and health requests from local responders based upon criteria established by the Operations Section Chief and determine appropriate response recommendation.
- Manage all issues or events involving communicable diseases or biological agents.
- Coordinate protective measures to ensure sanitary food and potable water supplies, adequate sanitary systems, vector control issues, and control of communicable diseases.
- Coordinate with the EOC PIO or the JIC to inform the general public of preventive or protective measures, where assistance can be obtained, potable water issues, etc.
- Coordinate reception and distribution of pharmaceuticals if needed for prophylaxis of the Austin/Travis County population.
- Obtain medical and health personnel, supplies and equipment through established mutual aid procedures coordinated through the EOC's Logistics Section.

The Health and Medical Group will coordinate with the Plans Section Situation Status Unit to maintain the status of available medical services and overall conditions including, but not limited to, the following:

- The status of all unassigned medical and health resources within the operational area.
- Status of area hospitals, medical centers, and clinics.
- Available registered nurses, public health nurses, medical staff, etc.
- Operational first aid stations or urgent care clinics.
- Medical Examiner operations.
- Sanitation inspections of mass care facilities.

The Health and Medical Group is responsible for assisting in the provision of any necessary environmental health needs for residents of and visitors to the City of Austin. This includes providing accurate information on feeding sites, hazardous materials problems and waste, vector control issues, emergency response to sanitation and sewage problems, potable water, etc. This Group also assists in the implementation of any environmental health actions.

City of Austin Departments which make up the Health and Medical Group include:

- Austin Public Health
- Austin- Travis County Emergency Medical Services System (ATCEMS)

Key non-City of Austin entities that routinely staff the Public Safety Group include:

- Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council (CATRAC)

---

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES - REGION 7 COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP

The Community Services Group includes care and shelter operations and mass transportation operations. Specific responsibilities of care and shelter operations include the following:

- Determine the number of evacuees with functional needs, such as medically-fragile persons, people with disabilities, elderly persons, non-English speaking persons, and unaccompanied minors. To the extent possible, coordinate with the ARC to provide services to support the special needs of disaster victims.
- Provide and coordinate the use of transportation equipment for evacuations or other emergency situations where mass transportation is needed.
- Coordinate the delivery of all disaster mental health assistance required by victims and responders.
- Coordinate all activities related to animals in disasters.
- Inventory the operational status of all facilities listed as shelters, including the following information:
  - Structural soundness;
  - Utility services;
  - Adequate sanitation facilities, including showers;
  - Capacity for cooking, serving, and dining areas and equipment;
  - Shelter capacity.

The Community Services Group's purpose is to provide for the food, potable water, clothing, shelter, animal welfare, disaster mental health, and other basic necessities of persons impacted by a disaster. The Community Services Group works in close partnership with the ARC in providing care and shelter services and to access the Disaster Welfare Inquiry system, which provides a central registration and inquiry service to reunite families and respond to outside welfare inquiries.

Shelters in the Austin area are established and maintained to provide basic needs including food, shelter, water, and sanitation. It is the goal of the City of Austin and the ARC to meet the needs of vulnerable or disabled persons to the degree possible in an emergency situation. In some cases, the City of Austin may provide direct support to ARC shelters by assigning personnel to fill roles in the operation of individual shelters. The City of Austin may operate disaster shelters without direct involvement of the ARC. The EOC's Community Services Group

will act as a conduit for requesting government mutual aid resources to assist any shelter activity.

The Community Services Group will coordinate with the Plans Section Situation Status Unit to provide information on the capacity and situation status of all shelters either planned or operating.

The Community Services Group will coordinate with the Logistics Section on the status and availability of transportation resources. The group will work with the personnel section of the Logistics Section to ensure adequate staffing of shelters and supporting facilities.

Mass transportation resources are coordinated with the Logistics Section in the EOC.

The Community Services Group is staffed by personnel from:

- Austin Public Health
- Austin Parks and Recreation Department;
- Austin Police Victim Services Unit;
- City of Austin Human Resources Department;
- City of Austin Transportation and Public Works Department.
- City of Austin Animal Services

Other critical non-governmental organizations that routinely staff the Community Services Group include:

- Travis County Health and Human Services
- Central Texas Chapter of the ARC;
- Capital Metro;
- Austin Independent School District;
- Salvation Army.

---

## PUBLIC UTILITIES GROUP

The Public Utilities Group is responsible for coordinating plans and emergency actions to provide emergency power, water, and telecommunications with alternative energy sources to support emergency response and recovery efforts.

The Public Utilities Group is staffed with personnel from:

- Austin Energy
- Austin Water Utility
- Austin Watershed Protection Department

Telecommunication providers may be assigned to the Public Utilities Group when they have representatives in the EOC.

---

### PUBLIC WORKS GROUP

The Public Works Group is responsible for:

- Damage assessment and restoration of bridges, roadways, and traffic control devices.
- Management of road surfaces, including any treatments needed to prevent ice build-up.
- Providing technical support to assist with damage assessment and recovery operations.
- Supporting traffic management-related objectives.
- Coordinating debris removal efforts.

The Public Works Group coordinates with the Plans Section Situation Status Unit to provide information on:

- Area traffic conditions.
- Status on open and closed roadways.
- Roadways impacted by emergency conditions.

The Public Works Group is staffed with personnel from:

- Public Works Department
- Watershed Protection Department
- Austin Resource Recovery Department
- Austin Transportation and Public Works Department

Other critical, non- City governmental organizations that routinely staff the Public Works Group include:

- Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR)
- Texas Department of Transportation

---

### 2.5.3 PLANS SECTION

The Plans Section's primary responsibility is to collect, analyze, verify, display, and disseminate incident information. This includes impact information, response activities, details regarding the field operating environment, and the status of available resources. The Plans Section functions as the primary support for response decision making, including: preparing situation briefings, maintaining an EOC staff roster, map displays, anticipatory appraisals, and developing plans necessary to cope with changing field events.

During incident response, the Plans Section Chief provides situational advice to help guide operational decision making. The Plans Section is responsible for facilitating the action planning process and the development of the EOC IAP, the Recovery Plan, and the After-Action Report.

The Plans Section ensures that safety/damage assessment information is compiled, assembled, and reported in an expeditious manner. The Plans Section's Documentation Unit is responsible for the detailed recording of the entire response effort and the preservation of these records during and following the disaster.

Technical Specialists assigned to the EOC will initially be part of the Plans Section. The Plans Section Chief reports directly to the EOC Director and/or Deputy Director. Additional responsibilities of the Plans Section can be found in the Austin-Travis County EOC Standard Operating Guidelines and Position Checklist.

---

#### 2.5.4 LOGISTICS SECTION

The Logistics Section is responsible for planning and executing the acquisition and movement of supplies, equipment, personnel, and the provision of facilities in support of the incident response. The Logistics Section is also responsible for tracking the status of requests from placement to fulfillment.

Requests for support from the IC, DOCs, or participating agencies are directed to the Logistics Section in the EOC. Initial response resources will be drawn internally from the departments that comprise the groups in the Operations Section. Once a specific resource has been exhausted (or is about to be exhausted), resource requests are placed through the Logistics Section, which will locate the required resources from alternate sources.

The Logistics Section Chief reports to the EOC Director and/or Deputy Director. Additional responsibilities of the Logistics Section can be found in the Austin-Travis County EOC Standard Operating Guidelines and Position Checklist and Annex M – Resource Management.

---

#### 2.5.5 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SECTION

The Finance and Administration Section's role and responsibilities encompass four primary functional activities:

- Financial policy;
- Employee compensation;
- Accounts payable;
- Cost recovery.

In addition, this Section coordinates with the other Sections and external agencies, regarding finance and administrative activities, and provides pertinent financial data to other agencies.



The Finance and Administration Section Chief reports to the EOC Director and/or Deputy Director. Additional responsibilities of the Finance Section can be found in the Austin-Travis County EOC Standard Operating Guidelines and Position Checklist.

## 2.6 ORGANIZATIONAL HIERARCHY FOR EXTERNAL RESOURCES

The City's resources constitute the first line of response and relief during the onset and immediate aftermath of a major emergency. The NIMS, as adopted by the City of Austin, provides the framework for the organization and management of resources which will be utilized. The City will handle the emergency needs until its resources become, or are projected to become, inadequate to cope with the situation. If the City's resources prove to be inadequate, the City will request aid from outside resources. Such outside aid may come from a variety of resources, including one or more of the following:

### 2.6.1 MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

The City supplements its resources with mutual aid agreements (also known as interlocal agreements). These agreements, in which the parties agree to assist each other in disasters, can be made with neighboring jurisdictions (i.e., Travis County and neighboring towns), or can be made with private emergency response teams. For example, the AFD has mutual aid agreements with other neighboring fire departments. AFD agrees to lend aid if neighboring departments need assistance, and neighboring departments agree to assist AFD if necessary.

Mutual aid agreements are legal documents, signed by heads of the government (or of the private organizations), stating the participating entities' agreement to assist one another in disaster situations. These agreements may typically include things such as:

- Authority to operate in another jurisdiction.
- Provision of resources and services.
- Compensation for workers.
- Clarification of legal liability.
- Specification of who will command operations involving mutual aid.
- Specification of who will declare States of Disaster.
- Specification of who will administer resources received from third parties.
- Specification of who will provide benefits to those injured or killed while rendering aid.

---

### 2.6.2 PRIVATE RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS

Another source of outside assistance is private relief organizations, such as the ARC, The Salvation Army, charitable organizations, civic organizations, service organizations, and church groups.

These organizations may assist in many ways, including the distribution of food, medicine, and supplies, the provision of emergency shelter, and the restoration of community services.

The ARC, which operates under a Federal Charter, provides grants and other types of assistance to individuals and families affected by disasters. The ARC also provides significant individual assistance in the aftermath of disasters such as floods, fires, or tornadoes.

In an emergency, many departments may need assistance from the same private relief organizations. Departments may have an ongoing, day-to-day relationship with private relief organizations; however, in an emergency, City Departments should go through the EOC to request aid. The EOC can then coordinate requests for assistance and avoid confusion and delays.

---

### 2.6.3 REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

City Departments routinely engage in mutual aid agreements with sister organizations from within or near Travis County. However, the process for the request and deployment of regional assets that are not covered in existing mutual aid agreements is outlined in the Capital Area Regional Response Plan. This plan covers regional assets in the 10-county CAPCOG region. All inbound and outbound requests for regionally available or required resources will be processed through the Capital Area Regional Response Plan.

---

### 2.6.4 STATE ASSISTANCE

When local and regional resources are not sufficient to cope with the disaster or emergency, the EOC will contact the Mayor or Emergency Management Coordinator (HSEM Director) who will formally request assistance from the DPS Disaster District 12 Commander.

If the request is beyond the capabilities of the local Disaster District, the Disaster District Chairperson (DDC) will forward the request to the SOC. The SOC reports to the Governor and is staffed 24-7-365 by the TDEM.

If a department or agency determines that such assistance is going to be required, that department or agency should contact the A-TCEOC. In order to receive the needed assistance in a timely manner, departments and agencies must be aware of their available resources,

anticipate the future resource requirements of the situation, and notify the EOC of the specific needs as quickly as possible.

---

#### 2.6.5 FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

If the situation is beyond the capabilities of the State, the Governor will request that the President declare Travis County a major disaster area and make available the resources provided for under Public Law 93-288, as amended by the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988.

FEMA coordinates the provision of Federal assistance which can come either in the form of resources (personnel and equipment) or money for affected community members, municipalities, or both. Monetary reimbursement usually comes after a Disaster Declaration. A Disaster Declaration is covered in the next section. Resource requests must be channeled through the State and usually come after local and State resources are exhausted or not available.

### 3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

This EOP addresses a spectrum of contingencies, ranging from relatively minor incidents to large-scale disasters. A build-up or warning period will precede some emergencies, providing sufficient time to warn the public and implement mitigation measures that are designed to reduce loss of life, property damage, and effects on the environment. Other emergencies occur with little or no advance warning, thus requiring immediate activation of the EOP and the coordinated mobilization and deployment of resources. All departments and agencies of the City of Austin must be prepared to promptly and effectively respond to any foreseeable emergency, taking all appropriate actions, including requesting and providing mutual aid.

#### 3.1 CITY AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES DEFINED

Below are activities that apply to all departments during the response phase of an incident:

- Activating internal emergency plans (including the provision of supplies, equipment, and facilities), resource management plans, and human resource management plans, according to established criteria and notifying the EOC when these plans are activated.
- Reviewing security procedures and implementing enhancements as needed, based upon criminal or terrorist threats or incidents.
- Advising HSEM when the department cannot carry out its roles or responsibilities as described in this EOP and its Annexes.
- When requested, sending a departmental representative to the EOC to provide input and to coordinate with other departments and agencies.
- Designating an EOC SPOC to ensure and manage a department's EOC response capability.
- Providing regular status reports on department resources, department activities, and emergency conditions to the EOC.
- Coordinating with the EOC to establish priorities for restoring services after outages.
- Coordinating all public information activities with the City's PIO and the PIO at the EOC.
- Providing necessary administrative and technical support to the departments operational Sections or Divisions.
- Keeping accurate and complete cost records for responding to the emergency, such as personnel costs (regular and overtime), equipment costs, costs of supplies, and costs of services. These records will be used for reporting to City management and may be required to apply for Federal assistance.
- Maintaining lists and descriptions during the emergency of department facilities and equipment that are damaged by the emergency.

Specific responsibilities for City Departments can be found in Appendix 8.

---

### 3.1.1 RESPONSIBILITIES BY MISSION AREAS OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency management activities during peacetime and national security emergencies are organized into five Federally-defined mission areas:

- Prevention
- Protection
- Mitigation
- Response
- Recovery

---

#### PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

The prevention and protection phases both involve activities that are undertaken in advance of an emergency or disaster. These actions include emergency/disaster planning, training and exercises, and public education. During these phases, the City of Austin places emphasis on the following activities:

- Training of City staff, volunteers, and emergency management personnel.
- Conducting exercises to ensure that all EOC participants are prepared to respond effectively in the event of an activation of the EOC.
- Review and assess risks to key facilities and take prudent measures to reduce the vulnerability of facilities and workers to disaster.
- Emergency planning to ensure that operating plans and their associated support documentation are current and accurate. Plans include response, recovery (including damage assessment), and mitigation (hazard mitigation) plans. HSEM, in cooperation with other City Departments, is responsible for ensuring that these planning documents are kept up-to-date.
- Public awareness and education campaigns to inform and train the public about personal, workplace, community preparedness, and mitigation activities as well as City of Austin preparedness efforts.
- Review mutual aid agreements submitted to the jurisdiction for approval and prepare mutual aid agreements to be submitted to other jurisdictions for approval.
- Resource management to ensure the availability of sufficient resources to cope with emergencies.
- Establishing and reviewing policies for the preservation of critical records as required by the City Clerk's Office.

- Assess disaster risk to government facilities from likely hazards and take measures to reduce the vulnerability of facilities.
- Identify damage assessment team members.
- Train personnel in damage assessment techniques.
- Maintain pre-disaster maps, photos, and other documents for damage assessment purposes.
- Identify critical facilities requiring priority repairs, if damaged.
- Ensure that key local officials are familiar with jurisdiction's insurance coverage.
- Conduct public education on disaster preparedness.

HSEM is responsible for the coordination and maintenance of emergency communications systems, warning systems and emergency equipment, and for ensuring that the EOC is maintained in an operable condition. EOC readiness actions include ensuring that the center is stocked with all needed supplies and equipment at all times.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

---

Each City Department or agency is primarily responsible for managing its own resources, including supplies, equipment, facilities, and people. During emergencies, the Logistics Section in the EOC will assist departments and agencies in acquiring resources that are not available to them through usual channels and procedures. Detailed strategies, checklists, and ICS organizational charts can be found in Annex M – Resource Management.

## SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES

---

Management of supplies, equipment, and facilities involves:

- Determining which resources are essential to the department's operations.
- Establishing repair or replacement priorities.
- Establishing resource allocation guidelines, according to the operational priorities of the department.
- Establishing schedules and procedures for routine maintenance.
- Performing routine equipment and facilities reviews and maintenance.
- Replacing resources that are irreparable or have been depleted.
- Acquiring additional resources as demands increase or change.

## PERSONNEL

---

Emergencies may involve an extended period of rescue, clean up, and damage assessment, which means that personnel may be doing strenuous work for extremely long hours.

Departments should refer questions about employees' work hours to their Departmental Human Resources staff.. In addition, the following also should be included, as needed, in the human resource management sections of their service continuity plan or written SOPs:

- Callback of emergency response and/or recovery personnel.
- Communicating with employees who are not directly involved in emergency response or recovery.
- Communicating with friends and family members of emergency response and recovery personnel.
- Caring for the needs of the families of emergency response and recovery personnel.
- Coordinating daycare for the children of emergency workers as required.
- Coordinating, during emergencies, the use of personnel for jobs other than their normal assignments.
- Coordinating the use of temporary outside or loaned personnel from other organizations to assist with emergency response and recovery.
- Providing food, housing, medical care, and relief for emergency response and recovery personnel.
- Providing cash for emergency expenditures and payroll for emergency response and recovery personnel.
- Adjusting shift scheduling as needed (for example, changing from three eight-hour shifts to two twelve-hour shifts, or re-assigning personnel who normally work the third shift to work one of the other two shifts).
- Providing regular, scheduled rest and relief for emergency response and recovery personnel.
- Providing critical incident stress debriefing and counseling for emergency response and recovery personnel and their families.

## PLANNING

---

This EOP and its accompanying Annexes serve as strategic guidance for managing disasters. These plans are designed to provide guidance to City Departments in the development of internal plans or SOPs. The development of planning documents must include input from other City departments as appropriate. This participation is important since departments are required to implement plans or procedures that support the City's strategic principles of disaster management.

While HSEM conducts strategic planning, City Departments are still responsible for the development of tactical plans that guide internal operations during an emergency. This planning can take the form of special plans or documents. Departments also may develop general orders, SOPs, policies, or procedures that address emergency operations.

---

## RESPONSE

In most cases, the response phase begins upon the initial dispatch of tactical units to an event. In other cases, the response phase may commence upon activation of the EOC. The City of Austin's response to an emergency can be roughly divided between initial response and extended response. The terms "initial" and "extended" imply that these aspects of response are chronological in nature. This is true in some instances; however, depending on the nature of the incident, extended response activities can begin before initial response activities are completed, or the activities can happen simultaneously. The system is intended to be flexible so that emergency personnel can engage in the appropriate actions as dictated by an incident's characteristics. Some examples of response activities are:

- Gather damage reports.
- Compile damage assessment reports.
- Keep complete records of all expenses.

---

## PRE-INCIDENT ACTIONS

Upon receipt of a warning or the observation that an emergency situation is imminent or likely to occur, the City of Austin will initiate actions to prepare for the incident. The purpose of these actions is to evaluate the seriousness of the threat and determine appropriate courses of action to protect life and property. This may include convening a Situation Assessment Team, a group of key City of Austin officials to monitor the situation and take appropriate actions. It also may include alerting appropriate City Departments and agencies, and, in some instances, alerting the public.

Events that may trigger pre-incident preparation and analysis activities include:

- A major hurricane which could lead to activation of the CASHP.
- Weather forecast indicating a significant threat of severe weather, flooding, or severe heat.
- Receipt of a potential dam failure advisory.
- Likelihood of rolling blackout or other power failures.
- An unusual pattern of disease reporting.
- Notification of actual or threatened cyber events.



- Conditions conducive to wildland fires, such as the combination of high heat, strong winds, and low humidity.
- A potential major hazardous materials incident.
- A rapidly deteriorating international situation that could lead to an attack upon the United States.
- Information or circumstances indicating the potential for acts of terrorism, violence, or civil disturbance.
- Planned City of Austin events with local, State and Federal implications (such as conventions and celebrations).

Preparedness activities that may be performed when a credible threat or warning is received include the following:

- Briefing the Mayor's Office, the City Manager's Office (CMO) and/or City Departments.
- Reviewing and updating the City of Austin EOP, Annexes, and associated supporting documents.
- Advising the Mayor's Office, CMO and other elected officials on legal implications related to actions or anticipated impacts from hazards.
- Increasing public information efforts and warning threatened elements of the population.
- Accelerated training of permanent and auxiliary staff.
- Inspecting critical facilities and equipment.
- Recruiting additional staff from City Departments or City-sponsored volunteer organizations.
- Mobilizing personnel and pre-positioning resources and equipment.
- Coordinating actions with Travis County and other regional partners.
- Contacting State and Federal agencies that may be involved in field activities.
- Testing warning and communications systems, including the designation of wireless interoperability channels.
- Identifying the need for mutual aid and requesting such through appropriate channels.
- Preparation of public service announcements.
- Activating the EOC and/or a JIC.

## INITIAL RESPONSE

---

The City of Austin’s initial response activities are primarily structured to minimize the effects of an emergency or disaster, including the protection of human life and property. Examples of initial response activities undertaken by the A-TCEOC include:

- Disseminating warnings, emergency public information, and instructions to the community members of the City of Austin.
- Coordinating evacuations and/or rescue operations.
- Coordinating the care of displaced persons and treating the injured.
- Clearing priority transportation routes.
- Conducting damage assessments as needed.
- Repairing critical facilities and structures.
- Conducting initial damage assessments and surveys.
- Assessing the need for mutual aid assistance.
- Preparing and disseminating legal documents declaring a disaster, terminating a disaster declaration, or invoking emergency powers.
- Coordinating the restriction of traffic/people movement and unnecessary access to affected areas.
- Developing and implementing action plans.
- Making all necessary notifications to key stakeholders groups, government entities, and the general public.

## EXTENDED RESPONSE

---

The City of Austin’s extended response activities involve the coordination and management of personnel and resources to mitigate an emergency and facilitate the transition to recovery operations. Examples of extended response activities undertaken by the A-TCEOC include:

- Preparing detailed damage assessments.
- Coordinating the operation of mass care facilities.
- Coordinating mass fatality operations.
- Procuring required resources to sustain operations.
- Documenting situational status.
- Protecting, controlling, and allocating vital resources.
- Coordinating restoration of vital utility services.
- Tracking resource allocations.
- Conducting advance planning activities.
- Documenting expenditures.

- Developing and implementing action plans for extended operations.
- Disseminating emergency public information.
- Declaring a local emergency.
- Coordinating with State and Federal agencies.
- Coordinating with national, state, and local volunteer agencies.
- Recovery planning.
- Deactivating the EOC or ICP when no longer needed.

---

## RECOVERY

Recovery activities involve the restoration of services to the public and returning the affected area(s) to pre-emergency conditions. Recovery activities may be both short-term and long-term, ranging from restoration of essential utilities such as water and power, to mitigation measures designed to prevent future occurrences of a given threat. Recovery activities may reflect the continuation of the response phase activities (i.e., restoration of utilities), or they may include new activities, wholly enacted as a part of the recovery process, after the disaster has abated (i.e., removal of debris after a flood). Examples of recovery activities include:

- Coordinating restoration of utilities.
- Coordinating debris management.
- Coordinating individual assistance programs.
- Providing long-term recovery housing to displaced victims.
- Applying for State and Federal assistance programs.
- Conducting hazard mitigation analyses including review and update of City codes, as necessary.
- Identifying residual hazards.
- Determining and recovering costs associated with response and recovery.
- Monitoring restoration activities.
- Establishing emergency index codes for cost tracking purposes.

A more comprehensive look at the City's recovery operations is contained in Annex J – Recovery.

---

## MITIGATION

Mitigation efforts occur before, during, and after emergencies or disasters. Post-disaster mitigation is actually part of the recovery process and includes eliminating or reducing the impact of hazards that exist within the City of Austin. Pre-disaster mitigation involves activities

designed to reduce the damaging impact of a potential disaster. Mitigation activities may include:

- Amending local ordinances and statutes such as zoning ordinances, building codes, and other enforcement codes.
- Undertaking flood control projects.
- Removing fuel in areas having a high potential for wildfires.

HSEM, other City Departments, and agencies are involved in on-going mitigation activities throughout the year. HSEM conducts emergency mitigation and preparedness education for community members, agency, City Department EOC representatives, and emergency team members.

Other mitigation activities include: briefing elected officials and department heads on possible liabilities arising from disaster operations; procedures for invoking the emergency powers of government, and legal documents relating to emergency powers. This can include preparation of sample legal documents for approval by officials.

Hazards analysis and vulnerability assessments are used during the mitigation phase to determine the hazards that are most likely to impact the Austin area. The hazards analysis provides information to help agencies and City Departments determine how best to spend their mitigation efforts and resources.

HSEM also works with City Departments on mitigation projects and activities. One example: HSEM works with the WPD on flood plain management projects and monitoring FEWS.

Mitigation projects often result from actual emergencies or from emergency exercises. After the event or exercise, HSEM, other City Departments, or agencies identify needs and opportunities to prevent or reduce the impact of future emergencies or disasters.

### 3.2 SELECTION OF EOC DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Every City of Austin Department is responsible for having qualified individuals who can respond to the EOC when requested. Selected personnel must:

- Have the authority to make decisions on a Department-wide level.
- Be capable of responding to the EOC on short notice.
- Carry an AWACS-capable pager.
- Complete a four-hour EOC orientation course hosted by the HSEM.
- Complete a background check and be credentialed for EOC access.

Operational responsibilities for EOC responders can be found in Section 3.6.6.

### 3.3 ENSURING THE DELIVERY OF CITY SERVICES FOLLOWING DISASTERS

Departments are required to establish plans for the delivery of services following disasters. Planning should cover everything needed for the continuation of the delivery of services provided by that department, in the event that primary facilities or needed equipment become unavailable. Planning elements should include:

- Identification of essential employees and functions.
- Development of plans for the relocation and/or restoration of all activities needed to support the continued delivery of essential products or services.
- Identification of critical resources including identification of vendors where resources can be obtained.
- Identification of critical equipment, including identification of vendors where replacement of the equipment or parts can be obtained.
- Preservation of vital records, including the back-up of critical files and accounts.

### 3.4 DEPARTMENTAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The City of Austin internal notification policy is designed to promote a coordinated City-wide response to significant events and incidents. City Departments must notify the City Manager or their respective Assistant City Manager, the CPIO, and HSEM whenever there are emergencies or developing situations that:

- Can have a substantial impact on their ability to deliver services.
- Can have a substantial impact on the ability for other City Departments to deliver services.
- Can have a substantial impact to the population or quality of life of the general public.

---

#### 3.4.1 WHO TO NOTIFY

The following individuals should be notified as soon as possible for events that meet the criteria outlined below:

- The City Manager, who will notify the Mayor.
- Assistant City Manager for the affected City Department.
- CPIO.
- HSEM DO or the EOC, if activated.

---

### 3.4.2 WHEN TO NOTIFY

Any City Department that experiences an incident or developing situation that meets the following criteria should notify the offices listed above. This list is not all-inclusive. Departments should always be aware of the effects of events on other Departments and the City as a whole and use judgment in notifying these offices whenever it is appropriate.

- Any incident involving serious on-duty injury or death to a City employee or contract employee on a City project.
- Any life-threatening injury or death of a civilian at a City facility.
- Any incident that potentially or actually compromises infrastructure or resources necessary to provide services to the public. These include outages to facilities such as utility plants or the 9-1-1 dispatch center.
- During a major emergency or disaster, when a Department plans to comply with a request from the State of Texas or a local jurisdiction that requires sending resources outside of Travis County.

---

### 3.4.3 HOW TO NOTIFY

Notification should be made by telephone or alphanumeric page. Alphanumeric pagers should include a call back telephone number. FAX or email may not be used for the initial notification but may be used to provide additional background or technical information. City Department Directors must designate an Emergency Notifications SPOC, by name or title. This person is responsible for making these notifications or for implementing a departmental notification procedure. Directors will be the SPOC if one is not designated.

There are additional notification requirements for selected City Departments. Additional information can be found in the City of Austin Administrative Bulletin No. 94-03.

## 3.5 PRE-EVENT OPERATIONS

The HSEM DO serves as the focal point for the monitoring of events which may affect the City of Austin. DO pre-event responsibilities include:

- Intelligence gathering through City Departments, government agencies, or key stakeholders.
- Simple threat assessment.
- Pre-event notifications.

Individual City Departments may have enhanced capabilities for monitoring specific hazards or threats; however, relevant monitoring activities must be coordinated with the DO.

If the event poses an unusual or significant risk, the HSEM Director or DO can establish a Situation Assessment Team. The Situation Assessment Team is responsible for collecting and analyzing information relative to the situation, providing direct response to the degree allowable, and relaying other matters to the appropriate level for an executive decision. Additional information regarding the Situation Assessment Team is found in Section 4.1.2.

---

### 3.5.2 NOTIFICATION TO CITY DEPARTMENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The HSEM DO serves as the SPOC for the coordination of pre-event information and activities. The DO may receive warning information on actual or potential emergency situations from Federal or State agencies, industry, and other local governments. The DO is then responsible for making notifications to:

- City Departments, and other government and private organizations that play a role in response or recovery operations.
- The general public.

The DO notifies and coordinates as necessary with the CMO on any threats that may impact City operations. For many types of incidents, the DO also makes notifications to the State of Texas (through TDEM) and to other community stakeholders.

---

### METHODS OF NOTIFICATION

The DO may use a combination of notification methods. Notification tools include the following:

- **AWACS Paging System** – AWACS is the primary means for the communication of threats. All critical City of Austin personnel who play a role in either response or recovery operations carry an AWACS pager. The system allows the DO to send text messages (up to 240 characters) to individuals, groups, or system wide.
- **Email Advisory** – An advisory is a document that warns of an event or condition that can (or will) adversely impact city operations. The advisory summarizes the hazard, potential impacts, and action items to be performed by HSEM during the identified reporting period. Relevant illustrations should be used whenever practical. HSEM maintains email groups of critical stakeholders. A sample advisory can be found in Appendix 5.

In some cases, the DO may directly notify individual stakeholders by telephone or radio. In emergency situations, the DO may utilize on-duty law enforcement to make contact with an individual stakeholder if the individual is within the City limits.

---

## SECONDARY METHODS OF NOTIFICATION

Critical hardware and components of the AWACS paging system have been hardened to prevent failure. However, if the system is unavailable, back-up systems have been identified to deliver notification and warning information to critical stakeholders.

### 3.6 EOC CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

During an emergency, management of strategic-level issues is done from the A-TCEOC. The EOC provides a centralized location for the collection and dissemination of information about the emergency. Also, EOC personnel make policy-level decisions about response priorities and the allocation of resources. A number of non-governmental organizations also may operate out of the EOC, depending on the event or circumstance.

The following functions are performed in the Austin-Travis County EOC:

- Analysis, evaluation, reporting, and assessment of all data pertaining to emergency operations.
- Coordinating emergency response operations through the appropriate DOCs.
- Receiving warning information from a variety of government and private sources and issuing alerts and warnings to the public.
- Serving as the central point for providing emergency information and instructions to the public.
- Coordinating the operational and logistical support for City of Austin and Travis County resources that have been committed to the emergency.
- Maintaining contact and coordination with DOCs, other local government EOCs, and TDEM's DDC.
- Collecting information from and disseminating information to the various DOC representatives and to other jurisdictions, military, State, and Federal agencies.

A full listing of all EOC positions and operation guidelines can be found in the Austin-Travis County Emergency Operation Center Standard Operating Guidelines and Position Checklists.

Specific checklists regarding the activation and deactivation of the EOC can be found in internal HSEM Procedure B 205 EOC Startup Checklist, as well as in the Austin–Travis County Emergency Operations Center Standard Operating Guidelines.



---

### 3.6.1 INTEGRATION OF OPERATIONS WITH TRAVIS COUNTY

The EOC fully integrates the operations of the City of Austin and Travis County into a single cohesive operation. City and County agencies that perform similar functions are asked to respond to the EOC.

The Austin-Travis County EOC produces procedure-level documents and checklists that fully integrate notification, functional responsibilities, and other activities that apply to all agencies, City and County Departments, and organizations that have a presence in the EOC.

---

### 3.6.2 EOC ROLE OF COORDINATION

The EOC coordinates with a number of entities during its normal operations and summarizes the nature of that coordination. During EOC activation, relevant City of Austin Departments may activate DOCs. The DOCs communicate with the EOC via established emergency communications systems or through their respective EOC representative. Departments without a DOC interface with the EOC through the EOC Department representative.

In normal response operations, the EOC does not communicate directly with field response units. Instead, these field units establish communications with their respective DOCs. In cases where the field units do not have DOCs established, personnel may communicate directly with the EOC.

---

### 3.6.3 TRIGGERS FOR EOC AND EOP ACTIVATION

Triggers for EOC activation depend on a number of factors; however, activation usually occurs when there is need for coordination of City and/or County resources in response to an event or crisis, or a threat of such conditions. The extent of the activation varies greatly. Some events involve only emergency management personnel who respond to the EOC to monitor developing conditions. Other activations can involve a wide range of City and County Departments.

The determination to activate the EOC is made by the City Manager upon the recommendation of the HSEM Director. Implementation of the EOP and activation of the EOC may occur simultaneously.

Any City Department may request an activation should they determine there is a need to coordinate City services in response to an incident. In such cases, these requests are channeled to the HSEM DO. The HSEM DO then works with that Department and the HSEM Director to determine if an EOC activation is necessary and if so, which Departments should respond to the A-TCEOC. The HSEM Director will make an appropriate activation recommendation to the City Manager.

The following people may activate the EOC:

- The City Manager or their designee.
- The Mayor, following a Declaration of Local Disaster.
- The Travis County Judge.
- The Travis County EMC.
- By the HSEM Director or the HSEM DO in extreme cases where communications with the City Manager or their designee cannot be established.

In emergencies where a City Department is the lead responder, HSEM will consult with that Department to determine if the EOC should be activated, and which City Departments and agencies should send representatives to the EOC.

---

#### 3.6.4 NOTIFICATION OF EOC ACTIVATION

AWACS is considered the primary means of notifying EOC responders that the EOC has been activated. Departments are responsible for the following:

- Providing any responder with an appropriate City of Austin issued pager.
- Ensuring that the pager is programmed with the appropriate EOC activation Capcodes. Programming should be done through their Department AWACS SPOC.

---

#### 3.6.5 INITIAL EOC ACTIONS

Upon activation of the EOC, the HSEM DO, or other personnel manning the EOC, should perform the following actions:

- Execute required notification, including building security, of EOC activation.
- Verify response of agency EOC representatives.
- Consider need for enhanced security.
- Ensure readiness of key hardware and software systems, including passwords required by responding representatives to access EOC systems.
- Maintain situational awareness of developing emergency.
- Ensure copies are available of the following documents:
  - EOC/DOC phone contact lists.
  - Copy of current EOC table of organization showing position assignments.
  - EOC Section/Branch/Group vest.
  - Copy of the current Situation Report.
  - Copy of the current EOC IAP.

---

### 3.6.6 EOC DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

As a representative for a City or County Department or organization, EOC responders' primary responsibility is to directly coordinate with other Departments at the EOC. Representatives are required to provide information as to the following:

- Status of their Department's ability to provide their services to community members.
- Ability to support operational goals related to overall incident objectives.
- Status of committed and non-committed resources, within their Department, which are capable of meeting incident objectives.

EOC Department representatives also:

- Analyze the impact of internal issues and actions taken within their Department and share that information with other EOC participants.
- Serve as a two-way information conduit between the EOC and their respective Department.
- Ensure Department roster information is current in WebEOC.
- Ensure their Department is coordinating the release of all public information with the EOC PIO and/or the JIC.
- Assist in working problems or issues as they develop at the EOC.

---

### 3.6.7 REGIONAL OPERATIONS AT THE EOC

During some events, it is possible that the Austin-Travis County EOC may serve as the Regional Operations Center for the 10-county region. An example of an event where this would occur is when the CASHP is activated.

When regional operations activities are run out of the Austin-Travis County EOC:

- An additional Section, entitled Regional Coordination, will be added to the Operations Section.
- Regional or State agencies will be incorporated or folded into the existing Austin-Travis County IC structure.

---

### 3.6.8 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Within the EOC, a standard message form will be used to provide written communications between the Sections, Branches, Groups, and Units. Each Section, Branch, Group, and Unit will use ICS form 213-RR/AUS to order disaster or event-related resources. The message system provides an audit trail of all pertinent information necessary to document the actions taken by

the City of Austin during the response to a disaster. All necessary ICS forms may be obtained from the EOC Logistics Section.

Requests for resources that are normally within the inventories of the mutual aid system will go from the DOCs to the EOC. All other resource requests will be made through the Logistics Section. Resource requests received by the Austin-Travis County EOC will be coordinated to determine if the resource is available from other departments or other sources within the Austin-Travis County area.

Resources that are not locally available will be requested through the regional level from the Texas DPS DDC for Region 12. Critical information and resource requests from the City of Austin and Travis County may be provided to the State electronically using WebEOC. Additional information regarding WebEOC application is found in Section 4.3.2

A detailed outline of policies and procedures for resource management can be found in Annex M – Resource Management.

---

### 3.6.9 REQUESTING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

The Austin-Travis County EOC serves as the communications link between the State and the DOCs for requesting State or Federal resources during an incident. The Logistics Section of the EOC will work with State and Federal partners to fill resource requests.

Resource requests should be coordinated internally before being forwarded to the regional level. The Resource Status Unit Leader in the Logistics Section, in coordination with various Operations Groups, is responsible for tracking resource requests. Additional details on resource management and coordination can be found in Annex M – Resource Management.

---

### REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL ASSETS

HSEM, through the A-TCEOC, serves as the focal point for requesting State and Federal assistance. The sequence of events that occurs if the City needs to request State or Federal assistance is as follows:

1. HSEM prepares the appropriate documentation for assistance.
2. The Document is then reviewed by the EOC Director and then the CMO, Policy Coordination Group, and City Legal Department if appropriate.
3. The request goes to Travis County for review.
4. The request then goes to the DPS Disaster District Office, which contacts TDEM.

This process is currently handled using WebEOC and issuing a State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR). WebEOC will route the request through the proper channels as defined by the State of Texas.

If HSEM is unable to contact the DPS Disaster District Office, HSEM may contact TDEM directly. An initial request of this nature may be transmitted via telephone, radio, or special messenger.

---

### 3.6.10 DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

When a disaster occurs, it is necessary to collect and analyze information concerning the nature, severity, and extent of the situation and to report the information through established channels. The information will be used to assess the extent of the disaster and to determine the appropriate level of response.

Information needed to determine the operational problems and immediate needs of the community is critical. The specific information on dollar amounts of the damage and the economic consequences of the disaster are also important but must not be collected until the operational problems and immediate needs are collected and analyzed. Teams of personnel will be dispatched as soon as possible to assess the nature, severity, and extent of the situation. The teams may include personnel from:

- Public Works
- Law Enforcement
- Building Inspection
- Public Health
- Environmental Conservation Services Division
- Watershed Protection
- City of Austin Volunteer Groups such as CERT

An IAP that defines the size and makeup of the teams will be drawn up. Teams may be assigned routes or zones based upon the affected areas and routes that are deemed open and safe for travel. Information obtained from sources such as the media, 9-1-1, 3-1-1, and field units, will be used to assist in developing initial routes and zones. Prior to any team deployment, the EOC Safety Officer will review routes and security issues related to deployed teams. In the event a Safety Officer is not assigned to the EOC, the Public Safety Group will make a safety review of the plan.

ARC Damage Assessment Teams will accomplish the assessments by conducting ground surveys, which will require the observation and reporting of damage, casualties, and status of affected areas. The survey will include the inspection of and reporting on facilities essential to

public welfare, safety, and sheltering. Damage assessment is generally performed in three phases:

- Windshield Survey— a brief survey of all areas.
- Rapid Damage Assessment of public buildings and other City structures.
- Detailed engineering evaluation of certain buildings and structures.

The detailed engineering evaluation is used as the basis for repairs or replacement of structures. This information is useful to prepare documentation of eligible repair costs on State/Federal Damage Survey Reports.

AE maintains a list of City-owned facilities that are considered important in supporting the City's response to major disasters. This list identifies the top priority, critical facilities that may require a safety and occupancy inspection immediately after a disaster, as well as those which could be inspected later, as time and resources permit. The Public Works Group coordinates any special requests for inspections.

Damage assessment forms are provided by the ARC or by the EOC Plans Section. Standard forms from TDEM may be used and can be found in the back of Sample Annex J on the agency's website. Sample forms also can be found in Annex L – Utilities and Public Works.

---

#### DISASTER SUMMARY OUTLINE

As significant damages become apparent, a DSO will be prepared and forwarded to the Disaster District. A DSO is required for obtaining a Presidential Disaster Declaration and should be completed within ten (10) days.

Information is obtained from each department and then combined with Travis County to complete the report. The DSO includes the location and description of the damages and provides a rough estimate of the associated dollar loss. The DSO will be used to justify a Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency and to request a Presidential Declaration of Emergency. Detailed assessments of damage to public and private facilities, with more precise dollar loss estimates, will be formulated by the Plans Section of the EOC and forwarded later as recovery operations begin.

---

#### SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Once activated, the Public Works Group will initiate a safety assessment and perform the following operations:

- Begin safety assessments of the damaged facilities and follow up, as necessary, with the field responders' initial damage assessments;
- Coordinate safety inspections, searching for life and/or property-threatening situations;
- Manage and coordinate teams of qualified inspectors who are either local inspectors or inspectors obtained through the mutual aid system.

These teams will include civil and structural engineers who will inspect both public and private property.

---

### 3.6.11 DEACTIVATION POLICIES

The EOC will be deactivated when the EOC Director or Unified Command has concluded that recovery operations can continue under the normal City of Austin management structure. Detailed procedures for deactivation of the EOC, including documentation closeout and post-incident stress debriefings, are contained in the EOC Standard Operating Guidelines. The EOC also may enter a "stand-down" mode in which operations are suspended for a fixed period of time (e.g., overnight), but the EOC remains officially activated.

---

### 3.6.12 EOC POST EVENT ACTIVITIES

There are several activities that need to be completed at the conclusion of any major event or EOC activation. Typically, most of the post activities commence upon the conclusion of recovery operations or when the EOC has been deactivated.

---

## AFTER ACTION REVIEW

Perhaps one of the most important aspects of any exercise or actual incident is a post incident critique that offers a community an opportunity to examine the effectiveness of actions taken and procedures used in an incident.

The purpose of post-incident reviews is to:

- Determine what procedures and actions worked.
- Determine what procedures and actions didn't work.
- Discuss solutions or schedule future meetings to work through identified problems.

The After-Action Report (AAR) and its attached Corrective Action Plan (CAP) should be used by City Departments to:

- Identify gaps in readiness or response plans.
- Retool existing plans or procedures.

- Develop plans to mitigate the impact future disasters may have on City operations or the community.

HSEM is responsible for the scheduling of a post incident critique on any incident when it is deemed that such a review is needed, or a review offers the opportunity for enhancing the City's response to future incidents. Post incident reviews can include County, State, and Federal agencies along with private organizations that are involved in an incident.

---

## RECORD KEEPING

WebEOC Position Logs will be consolidated into a master event list for historical record keeping and to aid in event reconstruction for after action reviews and reports. WebEOC is used for major event and issue tracking. Information from WebEOC will be incorporated to provide information on issues and actions worked during the event.

## 3.7 RECOVERY OPERATIONS

Recovery activities involve the restoration of services to the public and returning the affected area(s) to pre-emergency conditions. A disaster may strike quickly, leaving the need for recovery operations in its wake, or it can be a prolonged event, requiring that recovery activities begin while the response phase is still in full activation. Severe windstorms, fires, or floods are examples of disasters that can be ongoing and present recovery challenges during and after an event. A complete documentation of the City's recovery process is contained in Annex J – Recovery.

---

### 3.7.1 STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

When a Federal Disaster Declaration is issued, Federal recovery programs are initiated, State and Federal recovery staffs are deployed, and recovery facilities are established. A JFO, typically established in the vicinity of the disaster, is staffed by State and Federal personnel who administer recovery programs.

---

## DISASTER DECLARATION ASSISTANCE

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 93-288, as amended, authorizes the President to declare an emergency or major disaster in the State, if requested by the Governor, and to make Federal assistance available to supplement State and local resources.



A Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster can authorize two major types of federal assistance:

- Individual assistance;
- Public assistance.

Individual assistance and public assistance require separate applications and have separate minimum damage assessment thresholds that must be met before the application may be considered. Public assistance grants will not be considered unless an individual assistance grant is applied for and approved first.

---

### DISASTER DECLARATION PROCESS

A Federal disaster declaration should be sought when there is a situation of such severity and magnitude that State and/or Federal programs will be needed to assist the recovery. The City of Austin begins the process by submitting the following documentation to the Governor of the State of Texas:

- A request letter to the Governor through Travis County;
- A local State of Disaster Declaration;
- A Disaster Summary Outline;
- Every effort should be made to consolidate requests and damage assessments with Travis County in order to prevent duplication of damage reports. The County Judge's or City of Austin Mayor's request letter along with the DSO and local State of Disaster Declaration should be delivered to the State. A Declaration by the County Judge covers all municipalities within the County. Alternatively if a disaster occurs strictly within the City of Austin the Mayor has the authority to request that the Governor declare a disaster.
- A copy is also forwarded to TDEM District Coordinator (DC) District 12.

Upon receipt of the documentation:

- The state contacts the FEMA regional office if the damages appear to exceed state/local capability.
- Federal, state, and local government personnel conduct an on-site preliminary damage assessment (PDA). The PDA is the mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needs of individuals, businesses, the public sector, and the community as a whole. This information is used by the State to prepare the Governor's request and by FEMA to make a recommendation to the

President as to whether assistance is warranted. The President then decides whether to approve the assistance requested and/or recommended.

- If warranted, the Governor requests assistance from the President, certifying that the severity of the disaster is beyond the state and local capability.
- FEMA regional personnel summarize the information collected during the PDA and send a recommendation to FEMA headquarters for further analysis.
- The FEMA Director recommends a course of action to the President based on the analysis.
- The President determines whether to grant or deny the gubernatorial request.
- If denied, the Governor may appeal the decision within 30 days.

---

### ROLE OF THE DISASTER FIELD OFFICE

Should a Federal Emergency or Disaster Declaration be approved by the President, FEMA, in conjunction with the State, will normally establish a Disaster Field Office (DFO), in proximity to the disaster area, to provide response and recovery assistance. The DFO is a collaborative State-Federal operation that is staffed by designated Federal agency members to coordinate response/recovery activities. City of Austin activities interface with State and Federal recovery efforts through the DFO.

Once conditions in the disaster area stabilize, recovery programs begin, and response operations are reduced accordingly. Response and recovery operations may be conducted concurrently. Once response operations are terminated, recovery operations will continue for as long as required by conditions in the disaster area.

---

### INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Individual Assistance offers support to private individuals and businesses and includes emergency sheltering, food, and clothing. It also includes temporary housing, house mortgage or rent assistance, disaster loans, Federal income tax assistance, legal aid services, job placement services, unemployment benefits, home repair, post-disaster trauma counseling, and food stamps.

Once a Presidential Declaration is made, individuals must apply for assistance from the various programs for which they qualify. In some cases, FEMA or the State of Texas may make mobile disaster recovery centers available in the most affected areas.

After the application is received, the damaged property is inspected to verify the loss. If approved, an applicant will soon receive a check for rental assistance or a grant. Loan applications require more information, and approval may take several weeks after application.

The deadline for most individual assistance programs is 60 days following the President's major disaster declaration.

Audits are done later to ensure that aid went to only those who were eligible and that disaster aid funds were used only for their intended purposes. These Federal programs cannot duplicate assistance provided by other sources, such as insurance.

---

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Public Assistance supplements the resources of City government to restore public facilities and services and to alleviate the economic impact of a disaster. Public assistance is provided to repair or rebuild public facilities affected by a disaster, including buildings, State or local roads and bridges, water supply and sewage treatment facilities, flood control systems, airports, and publicly-owned electric utilities. Public assistance also is available to repair or rebuild schools and public recreation facilities.

As the reconstruction of infrastructure may require demolition and site cleanup, design, and engineering work, the letting of bids, and a lengthy construction period, public assistance programs typically continue over a period of years.

The public assistance process begins after the Presidential Disaster Declaration. Once individual assistance aid for a disaster has been approved, local municipalities may submit an application for public assistance, provided it meets certain minimum damage thresholds set by the Federal Government. These thresholds change from year-to-year. Public entities have 30-days from the date of the declaration to submit their application for public assistance. Once an application has been approved, specific grants are then made, based on individual projects and/or costs incurred as a result of the disaster.

Virtually all Federal public assistance programs are on a cost-share basis. Public Assistance can provide up to 75-percent of costs incurred in:

- Debris Removal;
- Emergency Protective Measures. This covers those activities taken by a community immediately before, during, or following a specific disaster that do one of the following:
  - Eliminate or reduce an immediate threat to life, public health, or safety;
  - Eliminate or reduce an immediate hazard that threatens significant damage to public health or private property;
  - This may include overtime costs incurred by a department as a result of a disaster.
- Permanent restoration of municipal facilities and infrastructure includes:

- Roads and bridges
- Water control facilities;
- Utilities;
- Municipal parks, buildings, and selected equipment.

Additional details may be obtained from the HSEM.

---

#### OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

There is additional assistance that is available from the Federal Government, in addition to that offered through a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Limited assistance may be available through other State agencies.

If the emergency situation does not meet the criteria for a Presidential Disaster Declaration, assistance in the form of loans may be available from the Small Business Administration (SBA).

The Secretary of Agriculture, through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is authorized to make agricultural disaster declarations for weather-related crop losses. When such declarations are made, farmers and ranchers become eligible for an emergency loan program. In situations involving serious physical losses, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator may designate a county a disaster area, but only for physical loss loans.

There are different processes and requirements for qualifying for USDA Disaster Declarations, SBA Disaster Declarations, and Presidential Disaster Declarations. Please refer to State of Texas Disaster Recovery Manual for additional information on the application process and scope of these programs.

---

#### 3.7.2 ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR RECOVERY OPERATIONS

Additional training is available for departments and individuals who will play a prominent role in recovery operations. Online courses are available from FEMA and the State of Texas.

TDEM offers a number of courses. Course offerings vary from year-to-year. Consult TDEM's website for the current list of courses, dates, and locations.

#### 3.8 CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

Continuity of government (COG) planning is primarily designed to enable entities to prevent interruptions of critical business functions, minimize the impact of interruptions that may occur, and return to normal operations quickly and with minimal loss after an interruption occurs.

The changing threat environment and the severity of recent natural and man-made emergencies in the United States and in the City of Austin highlight the need for careful continuity of operations (COOP) planning that enables government at all levels to continue their essential functions across a broad spectrum of emergencies. HSEM is available to assist City Departments with developing, training, and testing COG plans. HSEM can provide coordination assistance if several City Departments are working together on interdependent planning. Additionally, each City Department has prepared a Department-specific COOP plan, and those plans are Annexes to the City of Austin's COG Plan.

COG includes 10 essential elements:

- Essential Functions
- Delegation of Authority
- Orders of Succession
- Alternate Facilities
- Vital Records, Databases, and Systems
- Interoperable Communications
- Contingency Staff and Responsibilities
- Devolution
- Reconstitution
- Tests, Training, and Exercises

---

### 3.8.1 ORDERS OF SUCCESSION AND AUTHORITY

A major disaster could result in the death or injury of key government officials, the partial or complete destruction of established seats of government, and the destruction of public and private records essential to continued operations of government.

Government at all levels is responsible for providing continuity of effective leadership and authority, direction of emergency operations, and management of recovery operations. A major disaster could incapacitate or kill key officials. Others may be out of town, or otherwise, unable to participate in critical decision making during disaster situations.

---

### THE CITY MANAGER

Under the Charter of the City of Austin, the City Manager is the chief executive and administrative officer with executive responsibility and authority for the administration of the City government (subject to oversight by the City Council, as prescribed in the Charter). That responsibility and authority do not abate during conditions under which this EOP is activated, except as otherwise provided by State law when a Declaration of Disaster has been issued.

Under a Declaration of Local Disaster, the Mayor may issue orders for execution by the City Manager.

---

### ORDER OF SUCCESSION FOR CITY MANAGER

Subject to the City Council's authority, addressed immediately below, in the event the City Manager is unable to assume the responsibilities of that office due to temporary absence or disability either prior to or during an incident that results in activation of this EOP, then the authority and responsibility of the City Manager as set out in this EOP shall be assumed by a qualified Administrative Officer of the City Manager's executive management team, referred to in this EOP as the "Executive Manager in Charge." The individual designated as the Executive Manager in Charge shall carry out the responsibilities and exercise the authority of the City Manager, under this EOP, during any such period in which the City Manager is temporarily absent or disabled. As soon as the City Manager is no longer absent or disabled, the City Manager shall assume all such authority and responsibilities.

The list below sets out the order of succession for purposes of this EOP for the role of Executive Manager in Charge in the event the City Manager is temporarily absent or disabled:

- City Manager
- Executive Manager in Charge
  - Assistant City Manager for Public Safety
- Executive Manager in Charge
  - Assistant City Manager for Infrastructure Services

---

### CITY COUNCIL AUTHORITY

The City of Austin Charter provides that the City Council has the power to appoint a City Manager. This Charter supersedes the protocols set out above for designating an Executive Manager in Charge, in the event the City Manager becomes temporarily absent or disabled. Thus, any action by the City Council to appoint a City Manager, or acting City Manager, shall supersede and take precedence over the order of succession plan described above.

Individual City of Austin Departments are required to outline lines of succession for key personnel and to identify essential employees. Information should be recorded in departmental COOP Plans and policies and procedures as needed.

Continuity of operations for HSEM is outlined in the HSEM COOP Plan. Each departmental COOP plan is an annex to the City of Austin's COG Plan.

---

### 3.8.2 TEMPORARY SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

When government offices are unavailable because of emergency conditions, a temporary seat of government will be established at a location that offers maximum security and safety. Final site selection for a temporary seat of government will be based upon factors specific to the emergency. Considerations include the following:

- Condition and overall safety of the building and site;
- Vulnerability of location and structure to hazards;
- Meeting space of suitable size that can meet all the legal requirements tied to the holding of public meetings for the City Council;
- Public accessibility, including site access and parking for the general public;
- Security of council members and the public;
- Available communications, including Internet connectivity and ability to accommodate communication needs of the media.

Initial consideration will be given to City of Austin buildings that can meet the above criteria. In case a City of Austin facility cannot be utilized, attempts will be made to utilize buildings operated by other government entities (LCRA and UT) before securing a privately-owned structure.

## 3.9 CATASTROPHIC DISASTER OPERATIONS

A catastrophic event is any natural or manmade incident, including an act of terrorism, which results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption that severely affects the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions.

Catastrophic events will:

- Have a local impact over a prolonged period of time.
- Have impacts on a regional or national scale.
- Almost immediately exceed the resources normally available to the City of Austin.
- Significantly interrupt governmental operations and emergency services to such an extent that national security could be threatened.

---

### 3.9.1 CATASTROPHIC HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Some events that could be considered catastrophic include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any event involving a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agent with either the actual or potential ability to affect a sizeable portion of the City of Austin.
- A public health emergency such as an infectious disease outbreak.
- A maximum rainfall event centered on Austin and Travis County.
- City-wide or regional utility outage lasting longer than 96 hours.
- A Category 5 hurricane strike along the Texas coast where the center of the storm moves inland over Travis County.
- Tornado or the outbreak of tornados.

---

### 3.9.2 ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions would apply in catastrophic incidents:

- Local resources would be overwhelmed and would require immediate State and Federal assistance.
- Standard procedures regarding requests for assistance may be expedited or, under extreme circumstances, suspended in the immediate aftermath of an event of catastrophic magnitude.
- The primary mission is to save lives, protect critical infrastructure, property, the environment, and contain the event.

There are a number of catastrophic event scenarios which could impact an area reaching across most of the State and even the country. In these situations, outside aid might be unavailable, or very slow to arrive for an extended period.

---

### 3.9.3 PRE-EVENT STRATEGIES

When a catastrophic incident or threat impacts the City of Austin, the EOC is activated and will continue operations for as long as needed.

If adequate warning time is available prior to occurrence of a potentially catastrophic event, the CMO and senior City leadership will be informed of the situation and consulted on pre-event response operations. If adequate warning time is available, the Mayor may declare a State of Emergency, Natural Disaster Declaration, or both based upon imminent threat. This declaration will allow for the rapid mobilization of local resources as well as the deployment of State and Federal assets.

Pre-event priorities include:

- Threat assessment.



- Incident action planning.
- Establishment of a JIC.
- Deployment and/or staging of specific personnel, resources, and capabilities so as to be ready for immediate deployment into the disaster area once conditions allow.

TDEM and FEMA Region 6 Director also will be advised of the situation and notified of the possible need for State and Federal assistance.

---

#### 3.9.4 RESPONSE PHASE STRATEGIES

Once an incident occurs, the priority shifts to immediate and short-term response activities to preserve life, property, the environment, and the social, economic, and political structure of the community. Actions are taken to prevent and protect against other potential threats. Initial response priorities will focus on the following:

- Search and rescue operations if required.
- Provision of food, water, and shelter for community members and responders.
- Stabilization of conditions and prevention of further loss of life or damage.
- Restoration of essential services, including utilities, transportation routes, and communications.

If terrorism is the suspected or known cause of the catastrophic event, law enforcement actions to collect and preserve evidence and to apprehend perpetrators are critical. These actions take place simultaneously with response operations necessary to save lives and protect property.

The City of Austin will coordinate with State and Federal response agencies to secure space inside CTECC for Federal and State authorities. Additional communications links to the SOC and Federal Command Center will be established. The City also will provide assistance for locating suitable space for a DFO.

## 4. INFORMATION COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND DISSEMINATION

### 4.1 INFORMATION COLLECTION

Establishing a common operating picture and maintain situational awareness are essential to effective incident management. Information gathered from the field by the IC, dispatch centers, the media, DOCs, and the public in general will be analyzed by the EOC and verified.

#### 4.1.1 EOC AND IC COORDINATION

The Austin and Travis County EOC serves as the primary information collection and dissemination location when activated. EOC staff maintain contact with on-scene IC through incident-established communications plans. Information sharing between the EOC, and the field focuses on response policies, incident objectives, and resource priorities.

#### 4.1.2 SITUATION ASSESSMENT TEAM

If the event poses an unusual or significant risk, the HSEM Director or DO can establish a Situation Assessment Team. The Situation Assessment Team is responsible for collecting and analyzing information relative to the situation, providing direct response to the degree allowable, and relaying other matters to the appropriate level for an executive decision. The Situation Assessment Team may prepare an IAP that covers pre-event activities leading up to an EOC activation. Elements completed by the Situation Assessment Team may include:

- Detailed information on the nature of the threat.
- Probability and scale of impact to community members and City services.
- Any potential issues or problems that may require the attention of the CMO.
- Recommend preparedness actions to other City Departments.
- Recommend public information messages.
- Identify specific threshold or trigger points for increasing the City OPCON levels up to EOC activation.

The Situation Assessment Team is led by either the HSEM Director or HSEM DO. Team members come from City Departments that play a central role relative to the hazard or its probable impacts to the community.

#### 4.1.3 DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

To ensure a coordinated response to emergencies and disasters, departments and are requested to advise the EOC, if activated, of:

- Potential or actual compromised infrastructure.
- Incidents that may escalate to the point that require outside assistance or resources to respond to the incident.
- Any time a department plans to respond to a request for assistance from the State of Texas or another jurisdiction during a major emergency or disaster that requires sending resources outside of the city or county.
- Whenever departments seem it appropriate to notify the EOC of the effects of events on other departments and the city or county as a whole.

## 4.2 PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES

During emergencies, the following policies and procedures are used to organize and manage public information for the City of Austin:

- The PIO position is staffed or a JIC is established at the EOC for any major emergency.
- Safety information and instructions to the public have first priority for release.
- The Mayor and CMO provide policy guidance for dissemination of emergency public information.
- Multiple communications tools are to be used to release emergency information. The media is one of those communications tools, as well social media, and other systems to directly contact the public.
- A JIC will serve as the focal point for City of Austin media briefings and information dissemination activities.
- Misinformation control efforts are established by the PIO to:
  - Answer inquiries from the public.
  - Act as a media monitoring unit to monitor media broadcasts to ensure accuracy of released information.
- City of Austin PIOs function in a JIC management system to coordinate information before its release to the public and the news media.

---

### 4.2.1 JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

The various PIOs of all the agencies involved in an incident should coordinate their efforts by establishing a JIC. In emergencies, it is critical that all public information be accurate, complete, and consistent. Through an integrated JIC, media information among the various agencies and the EOC can be coordinated into unified media briefings and releases. Some of the public information services coordinated by the JIC include the following:

- News briefings and conferences.

- Background data to news media.
- Spokespersons to elaborate on and explain the event.
- An information center the public can contact regarding the emergency.
- Language access services in priority languages.

Additional details on the formation and management of public information can be found in Annex I – Public Information.

### 4.3 ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION

Information gathered from on-scene and the DOCs are analyzed by the EOC Planning Section. Information needing to be disseminated to the field, public, or leaders will be disseminated via the EOC’s PIO and Planning Section. Information-sharing reports are described in the following table.

Planning Product	Description/Contents	Dissemination
<b>Advisories</b>	HSEM will provide a brief, written summary of a specific situation that is being addressed or actively monitored.	HSEM Director or EOC Director distributes to City Management and then to City Council.
<b>IAP</b>	IC and DOCs may develop IAPs that describe incident objectives, tactics, organizational assignments, and communications.	IC and DOCs will provide IAP to EOC when developed.
<b>SitReps</b>	Informational document that is used to provide updates on an as-needed basis and at the end of each operating period to share situation updates.	DOCs will provide SitReps to EOC. EOC Planning Section will disseminate SitReps to IC, DOCs, departments and agencies, city management, and regional partners.

#### 4.3.1 SITUATION REPORTS

The following outlines the type of situation report issued by the Plans Section of the EOC when the EOC is activated. The Situation Report is a document that provides information on impacts and action items. Situation Reports may be distributed electronically or through WebEOC to other organizations including State and Federal stakeholders.

The Disaster Summary Outline (DSO) should be completed anytime a damage assessment is conducted. The Situation Report and DSO should be transmitted to the State together to

provide a complete picture of actions and impacts related to an event. In addition to sharing regularly scheduled Situation Reports and DSOs, the EOC may contact the State Disaster District Representative directly to transmit vital and/or time-sensitive information between the State and Austin-Travis County EOC.

---

#### 4.3.2 WEB EOC

The Austin-Travis County EOC has implemented WebEOC, a web-based software program, for the purpose of automating the collection, consolidation, and distribution of information related to the incident. The Austin-Travis County EOC uses WebEOC to perform the following functions:

- Provide situational overview.
- Gather and share critical information – across agencies, jurisdictions, and groups -- and vertically with regional and State partners who also have implemented WebEOC.
- Assess damage to critical infrastructure.
- Execute procedures and protocols.

## 5. ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

### 5.1 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

HSEM will maintain an overall incident log for each major incident. Individual City Departments are still required to maintain logs and reports of major decisions, logistical deployments, and other major actions related to their respective department.

During EOC activations, responding City Departments will be required to maintain a log of their actions on WebEOC. The WebEOC logs will be compiled into the master event log by the Plans Section Chief.

HSEM will make available incident logs and message forms. The message forms should be used for resource requests, phone messages, and other correspondence requiring documentation. Instructions on the use of WebEOC are available at the EOC and from HSEM.

Each City Department or agency should keep detailed records on disaster-related expenses, including:

- Labor
  - Paid (regular and overtime)
  - Volunteer
- Equipment Used
  - Owned
  - Rental/Leased
  - Volunteered
- Materials
  - Purchased
  - Taken from inventory
  - Donated
- Contracts
  - Services
  - Repairs

### 5.2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTRACT REVIEW

Early and accurate documentation of costs and damage estimates are essential to the application for public assistance. That is why it is critical for City Departments to keep track of costs during the early stages of any disaster.

For any major emergency or disaster, it is the responsibility of each City Department to track and monitor all costs related to the response.

A number of Federal and State regulations govern disaster-related contracts that must be followed in order for the City to receive reimbursement. Departments are required to have any contract that is executed in support response or recovery objectives reviewed by the EOC Finance and Administration Section or the City's Financial and Administrative Services Department prior to signing.

### 5.3 TRAINING

Education is an important component of any preparedness plan. Proper briefings of personnel help to ensure their readiness should an emergency arise. Every City Department or agency should conduct "awareness" training for all personnel and conduct more in-depth training for personnel who will be components of City Departmental or City-wide emergency operations plans. Training with other City Departments should be considered when focusing on issues that would bring departments together in a given situation.

---

#### 5.3.1 TRAINING BY HSEM

HSEM provides several types of education or training, including:

- Public education about home and business emergency mitigation and preparedness.
- Training for City Department and agency representatives that report to the EOC in an emergency or disaster.
- Coordinating the tracking of NIMS training to ensure compliance with Federal regulations.
- Training for public safety personnel.

---

#### 5.3.2 TRAINING BY THE TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In Austin and other locations throughout the State, TDEM offers training on a broad range of emergency management topics, including:

- Introduction to Emergency Management
- Emergency Planning
- Exercise Design
- Developing Volunteer Resources
- Continuity of Government
- Disaster Recovery Operations

- Emergency Public Information
- Terrorism
- Radiological Monitoring

These courses are available to City Department and agency emergency team personnel. For more information about these courses, visit the TDEM website at [www.preparingtexas.org](http://www.preparingtexas.org).

---

### 5.3.3 TRAINING BY FEMA

FEMA offers training, in a variety of formats, on a vast array of emergency management topics, including:

- Resident courses at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland.
- Online Independent Study courses.

For more information about these courses, visit FEMA's website, <http://training.fema.gov/>.

---

### 5.3.4 TRAINING BY OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

Training in the form of publications, seminars, courses, and conferences from many non-governmental sources is available on a variety of emergency management topics. A few of the available topics include:

- Emergency preparedness, planning, response, and recovery.
- Hazardous materials incident preparedness, planning, response, and recovery.
- Business contingency planning or disaster recovery planning.
- Emergency shelter management.

Private and public organizations that provide such training include:

- American Red Cross
- University of North Texas
- Texas A & M University, through the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)
- St Edward's University

Other private and public organizations the provide training include:

- Emergency and disaster products and service vendors
- Emergency and disaster consultants
- Disaster Recovery Institute
- Government Technology Conference



## 5.4 EXERCISES

HSEM provides assistance in creating, assisting, and managing emergency exercises, which are another important training component. HSEM conducts scenario-based exercises to test the effectiveness of the plan in different hazard situations. These exercises assess the effectiveness of the EOP, identify areas for improvement, and enhance response capabilities. Through thorough analysis and debriefing, lessons learned from exercises drive continuous enhancements, strengthening the overall emergency response framework.

These exercises can be in any of the following forms:

- **Discussion Based Exercises** – The purpose of a discussion-based exercise is to solve problems as a group. There are no simulators and no attempts to arrange elaborate facilities or communications. One or two evaluators may be selected to observe proceedings and progress toward the objectives.
- **Drills and Functional Exercises** – Drills and functional exercises simulate an emergency in the most realistic manner possible, short of moving real people and equipment to an actual site. As the name suggests, its goal is to test or evaluate the capability of one or more functions in the context of an emergency event.
- **Full-Scale Exercises** – A full-scale exercise is as close to the real thing as possible. It is an exercise which takes place on location, using as much as possible—the equipment and personnel that would be called upon in a real event. In a sense, a full-scale exercise combines the interactivity of the functional exercise with field elements.

A key component of any exercise is a post-exercise critique, or a discussion session identifying the lessons learned from the exercise and the actions required, based on the needs identified during the exercise.

## 6. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The City of Austin EOP applies to the City of Austin and its incorporated areas and is made up of several documents (including this Basic Plan, supporting Annexes, and Special Operations Plans). Individual plans or components of the EOP fall into one of three different areas:

- Basic Plan
  - The Basic Plan is considered the core, strategic document that outlines the general framework for the coordinated response and efficient use of resources during a major emergency or disaster. The Basic Plan provides conceptual guidance for a multi-agency comprehensive response and addresses related legal issues, emergency organization, incident command authority, and individual departmental responsibilities.
- Annexes
  - Annexes are additional planning elements that support the Basic Plan. Annexes provide specific details on general concepts outlined in the basic plan. Annexes describe how specific emergency functions will be performed and include specific task assignments related to those functions.
- Special Operations Plans
  - Provides the framework for the management of operations related to a specific hazard or event type. Special Operations Plans address the operational concepts between functions (or departments) when dealing with a specific hazard or event type. Special Operations Plans also assist with identifying response and recovery priorities and can assist in the creation of procedure level “checklists” for issues that need to be covered. Examples of Special Operations Plans include Winter Weather, Heat Plan, and Pandemic Influenza Plan.

The Basic Plan and all of its Annexes are required by the State of Texas to be updated no less than once every five years. An Emergency Plans Officer from HSEM will be assigned responsibility of maintaining the Basic Plan and ensuring that all information is accurate and reflects the current City plans and organizations. Government Code §418.043(4) provides that TDEM shall review local emergency management plans. HSEM is ultimately responsible for all updates and their submission to TDEM for review.

### 6.1 GROUPING OF ANNEXES

The guidance on the organization of Annexes and content has been defined by TDEM since Annexes are a planning requirement placed on local jurisdictions by the State. Several state-required Annexes have been grouped together in a manner that reflects the operating and

business models utilized by the City of Austin. A complete listing of annexes can be found in Appendix 3.

## 6.2 PLAN DISTRIBUTION

Primary distribution of the Basic Plan and Annexes will be made electronically using the Adobe Portable Document Format (.PDF). Paper copies will be distributed to those organizations or departments that are unable to access the electronic version.

Updates to the Basic Plan and Annexes will contain the latest revision date in calendar month and year in the lower left corner of the footer and on the cover page of the document. Revisions or corrections to any part of the EOP will be distributed electronically. Appropriate stakeholders will receive an updated version of the affected plan by email. Revisions will be mailed to individuals unable to receive emails or attachments. Distribution lists for all planning documents are maintained at HSEM.

## 6.3 UPDATES AND MAINTENANCE

HSEM is responsible for the development of all Annexes and emergency management Special Operations Plans. Key stakeholders participate in the development and review of each. Annexes and plans are then forwarded to appropriate department directors, or their designees, for review before final adoption. In the case of the Basic Plan, the final draft and any major revisions are sent to Department Directors as part of the adoption process before being signed by the Mayor. The below table outlines the signatories for each plan review and revision cycle and the lead department/agency responsible for coordinating review or revision.

	<b>EOP</b>	<b>Annexes</b>	<b>Supporting Documents</b>
<b>Signatories</b>	Mayor HSEM Director	HSEM Director and/or Primary Departments; Annex Support Agencies	HSEM Director and/or Agencies responsible for implementation
<b>Review Cycle</b>	Annually and As Needed		
<b>Revision Cycle</b>	Formal comprehensive review and revision required by TDEM every 5 years		
<b>Lead Revision Agency</b>	HSEM	HSEM and Primary Department and Agencies	HSEM

This plan shall be considered a “living plan,” and with each use, either by exercise, incident, or planned event, this EOP shall be reviewed and updated as necessary by HSEM. Additional periodic reviews may be triggered by:

- A change in operational resources (e.g., policy, personnel, organizational structures, management processes, facilities, and equipment);
- A formal update of planning guidance or standards;
- A change in elected officials;
- Significant changes to the Austin’s demographics or hazard or threat profile;
- New local, regional, State, or Federal guidelines or directives; and
- Updates and/revisions required following EOC activations, training programs, and exercise documented in the CAP.

HSEM conducts two types of reviews on strategic plans produced by the department, updates, and revisions.

---

### 6.3.1 UPDATES

An update is the inspection of a plan to ensure:

- There are no major conflicts or inconsistencies due to changes in State and/or Federal laws, City of Austin policies or CMO directives issued since the last update or revision.
- That any changes to City organizational structure are captured and do not impact the plan or change responsibilities for actions within the plan.
- Lessons learned from either exercises or actual events that may require immediate revision to the plan.

An update allows for changes (such as name changes to departments) to be made to existing plans without the need for input from a larger stakeholder group or an extended review process. In the event inspection finds a significant policy conflict or changes to operational environments has made the plan obsolete, HSEM may elect to conduct a more detailed revision of the plan as outlined below in 6.3.2. Updates occur once every six to twenty-four months, depending on the plan.

---

### 6.3.2 REVISIONS

A revision is a thorough and systematic examination of a plan to determine the degree to which stated policies and procedures need to be re-written. The process of revision attempts to:

- Ensure that goals and objectives are clearly stated.
- Address changes in State and/or Federal laws or regulations, City of Austin operational polices, CMO directives, or departmental practices or policies.

- Address changes to infrastructure, economy, budget, and/or geopolitical changes that may impact either policy or availability of resources since the last revision.
- Address lessons learned from exercises, incident analysis, or program evaluations.

HSEM will seek and include the input from all City Departments as part of this review process. A typical revision process includes pre-planning and review meetings with key departments and other stakeholder groups. Once completed, reviewed plans may be reviewed by special stakeholder groups for comment prior to local adoption and submittal to the State. Plan revisions typically take place once every four to five years.

---

### 6.3.3 AFTER ACTION REPORTS

Each EOP activation or exercise should be followed by a complete written evaluation in the form of an AAR. After action reviewing is a process used to review and discuss the response to identify strengths and areas for improvement in the incident response and guide future planning and resource requests. AARs accomplish the following functions:

- Document activities that occurred during a response.
- Identify problems and successes during response and recovery operations.
- Analyze the ICS components of the EOP and emergency management program in terms of effectiveness.
- Describe and define an improvement plan.

Prior to every EOP exercise, the most recent AAR should be reviewed, and issues should be corrected as much as possible. This review promotes further refinement and testing of the plan.

---

### 6.3.4 APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation procedures for the EOP provide steps necessary to activate and manage the EOP, coordinating response across city departments, agencies, and external partners.

- The EOP will be approved and promulgated by the City of Austin Mayor and HSEM Director. All annexes shall be approved and promulgated by the department or agency assigned to the plan.
- Upon adoption, the Basic Plan and Annexes will be distributed to stakeholders that might be affected by its implementation. Upon activation, the plan will go into effect and all applicable procedures will be executed and serve as the emergency management plans for the City of Austin. Upon activation, the plan will go into effect and all applicable procedures will be executed.

**APPENDIX 1 READINESS LEVELS**

Readiness Level	Definition	Description
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p>(Formerly OPCON 6&amp;7)</p>	<p><b>Monitoring (Day-to-Day)</b></p>	<p>The normal operational status of government. The impacts of potential threats that occur are minimal and are capable of being handled by the normal operations of City Departments. They do not require interdepartmental or governmental coordination beyond what occurs on a day-to-day basis.</p> <p>City Departments emphasize preventive measures, mitigate possible hazards, train personnel, educate the public, develop effective coordination, identify, and evaluate potential hazards as to magnitude and effect. Emergency response personnel ensure the optimum state of operational and equipment readiness and are available for emergency duty as the need arises.</p> <p>Departments begin corrective action if any resource limitations exist that could reduce their capability to respond effectively.</p> <p>Preparedness activities may be conducted.</p> <p>Warning and communication systems are tested.</p> <p>Natural, technological and homeland security threats are monitored.</p> <p><b>Local responders resolve routine emergency incidents. No significant emergency or disaster is present.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p>(Formerly OPCON 3,4,5)</p>	<p><b>Increased Readiness/Recovery</b></p>	<p>The initial detection and monitoring stage of an incident occurring or anticipated to occur that has the potential to have a significant impact on City operations or the community. Assessment is made to determine the hazard(s), timing, and impact on the delivery of City services and to the general public.</p> <p>The initial alert stage of an event occurring or anticipated to occur. City Departments are notified of developing, near-term threats which could significantly impact City</p>

	<p>operations and/or will likely result in the need for multi-agency coordination.</p> <p>Preparedness actions may include holding coordination meetings or conference calls among key response and recovery stakeholders. Actions may also include assembly of a Situation Assessment Team to make a more comprehensive threat assessment. This assessment team may work from the EOC or offsite. Individual departments may enact internal preparedness and readiness plans or take actions based upon the threat and its impact.</p> <p>An event or stage of an event that requires multi-agency coordination beyond that which occurs on a day-to-day basis among agencies.</p> <p>The EOC may be staffed by the involved agencies. Coordination takes place electronically among HSEM and involved agency staff. In some special events, coordination may take place at a HSEM designated Event Operations Center (EvOC).</p> <p>The need for a declaration of local disaster is not anticipated.</p> <p>The Policy Coordination Group will be notified and activated if there are policy issues to be addressed.</p> <p>A significant emergency has not yet occurred, but readiness is raised due to increased vulnerability to a specific hazard, or an emergency has occurred, but the readiness level only escalates to level III; or, a significant response has occurred and recovery efforts are taking place. This would be a step down from readiness level 1 or 2.</p> <p>Key staff and personnel are alerted. Situation Assessment Teams shall be formed</p> <p>Contingency plans are evaluated and updated as needed.</p> <p>Advisory notices are sent to stakeholders and appropriate officials are briefed on anticipated risk situations and potential impacts.</p>
--	---

		<p>Emergency public information activities commence.</p> <p>The event must meet one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support is needed to provide the coordination of resources and/or other assistance to an event that is being managed by onsite Incident Command (IC).</li> <li>• Support is needed for a short-duration, multi-agency event that involves coordination of local resources and/or joint information.</li> <li>• Support is needed for the multi-agency coordination of a pre-planned event.</li> </ul> <p>Other than preplanned events, the time span of operations in these events is typically less than 24 hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support is needed after response operations to coordinate recovery operations.</li> </ul> <p>Activities typically involve one or more of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interagency coordination;</li> <li>• Joint information coordination ;</li> <li>• Acquisition of locally obtainable resources or a limited number of regional and/or State resources.</li> <li>• Recovery operations, typically a de-escalation from Readiness Level 1 or 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>The EOC is not activated but may be placed into a standby mode for possible activation. When Recovery Operations are taking place, the EOC may or may not be designated as activated.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p>(Formerly OPCON 2)</p>	<p><b>Significant Incident</b></p>	<p>An event or stage of an event that will require extensive multi-agency coordination and/or involve multiple operational periods. The bulk of required resources are obtained through local means; however, additional regional or State resources may be requested.</p> <p>The Policy Coordination Group will be notified and activated if policy issues need to be addressed or the need for a Declaration of Local Disaster is anticipated.</p>



		<p>The emergency has expanded beyond the capabilities of local responders.</p> <p>City of Austin operations may be impaired.</p> <p>Emergency Operations Center is activated, with potential for expanded hours of operation and intensified coordination.</p> <p>Response elements may be activated and deployed.</p> <p>Mutual aid resources may be requested.</p> <p>Government officials and agency representatives are briefed on the current situation and anticipated impacts.</p> <p>Emergency public information activities are expanded.</p> <p><b>The EOC is activated.</b>  <b>The Policy Coordination Group is activated.</b>  <b>A Declaration of Local Disaster is possible or likely.</b></p>
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>(Formerly OPCON 1)</p>	<p><b>Emergency Conditions</b></p>	<p>An event or stage of an event, either anticipated or actual, where response actions will likely exceed the resource capabilities of the City of Austin and Travis County. Response activities usually will occur over a period of days. Recovery actions may last over a period of weeks or months.</p> <p>The scope of the incident has expanded beyond the response capability of local agencies.</p> <p>Additional resources from outside the area may be needed to supplement response and recovery operations.</p> <p><b>The EOC is activated.</b>  <b>The Policy Coordination Group is activated.</b>  <b>A Declaration of Local Disaster is made.</b></p>

Page intentionally left blank.

**APPENDIX 2 – CITYWIDE EMERGENCY FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES MATRIX – LOCAL DISASTER DECLARED**

Note: Prior to Declaration of Local Disaster, Direction and Control is a Primary Function of the City Manager.

**P = Primary Function**  
**S = Secondary Function**  
**C = Coordination**

- Mayor
- City Manager
- HSEM
- Animal Services
- Austin Energy
- Austin Water
- Aviation Dept.
- City Auditor
- City Clerk
- CPIO
- CTM
- Development Svs. Dept.
- Economic Development
- Austin-Travis County EMS
- Financial Services
- Austin Fire Dept.
- Intergovernmental Relations Office
- Austin Public Health
- Human Resources Dept.
- Community Court
- Law Dept.
- Library Dept.
- Municipal Court
- Housing Dept.
- Planning Dept.
- Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Police Dept.
- Transportation & Public Works
- SMBR
- Austin Resource Recovery
- Watershed Protection Dept.
- Capital Planning Office
- TCMEO
- Travis County
- Convention Center

	Direction, Control & Coordination	Administration & Finance	Legal	Warning	Emergency Public Information	Info Collection, Analysis, & Dissemination	Incident & Needs Assessment	Law Enforcement	Fire Fighting/Protection	Search & Rescue	Pre-Hospital Patient Care	Public Health & Medical Services	HAZMAT	Radiological Protection	Terrorist Incident Response	Pandemic	Evacuation	Transportation & Shelter-in-Place	Shelter Systems & Resources	Mental Health	Communications	CKR	Public Works & Engineering	Energy & Utilities Services	Volunteer Services	Resource Management	Food, Water, & Commodities Dist.	Donations Management & Logistics	Damage Assessment	Debris Removal & Management	Recovery Assistance	Hazard Mitigation	Information & Planning	Detection & Monitoring	Alert & Notification	Mutual Aid & Mobilization	Military Support	Agriculture & Outside Agency Coordination	Animal Management	Natural Resources	Mass Feeding	Functional Needs Populations	Fatality Management & Mortuary Services	Private Sector Coordination							
Mayor	P																																																		
City Manager	S																																																		
HSEM	C	P		P	S	P	P										C	C	P			P			P	P	P	C	P	C	C	P	P	P	P	P	P			P					C	P					
Animal Services																																																			
Austin Energy					S																				P																										
Austin Water					S																				P																										
Aviation Dept.																																																			
City Auditor			S																																																
City Clerk			S																																																
CPIO				S	P																		S																												
CTM				S																				P			S																								
Development Svs. Dept.																														S		S	S																	C	
Economic Development																																																			
Austin-Travis County EMS					S	S			S	P	P	S	S	S	P	S				S		S					S											S											S		
Financial Services		S																	S							S																									
Austin Fire Dept.				S	S			P	P	S	S	P	P	P	S	P			S		S				S													S	S	S									C		
Intergovernmental Relations Office			S																																																
Austin Public Health				S							P	S		S	P				S					S													S				S		P								
Human Resources Dept.																									S																										
Community Court																																																			
Law Dept.			P										S	S																																					
Library Dept.																																																			
Municipal Court																																																			
Housing Dept.																																																			
Planning Dept.																																																			
Parks & Recreation Dept.																																																			
Police Dept.				S	S	P		P	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	S	S			S	P	S			S																										
Transportation & Public Works																																																			
SMBR																																																			
Austin Resource Recovery																																																			
Watershed Protection Dept.													S																																						
Capital Planning Office																																																			
TCMEO																																																			
Travis County																																																			
Convention Center																																																			

**APPENDIX 3 – LISTING OF CITY OF AUSTIN ANNEXES**

<b>City of Austin Annex</b>	<b>City of Austin Title</b> <i>* Denotes under development</i>	<b>State Annex Letter(s)</b>	<b>State Title</b>
-	Basic Plan	<b>Basic Plan</b>	Basic Plan
		<b>Annex N</b>	Direction and Control
		<b>Annex U</b>	Legal
A	Warning	<b>Annex A</b>	Warning
B	Emergency Communications	<b>Annex B</b>	Communications
C	Shelter Mass Care and Human Services	<b>Annex C</b>	Shelter and Mass Care
D	Public Safety Operations	<b>Annex F</b>	Firefighting
		<b>Annex G</b>	Law Enforcement
		<b>Annex R</b>	Search and Rescue
		<b>Annex Q</b>	Hazardous Materials and Oil Spill
		<b>Annex D</b>	Radiological Protection
E	Evacuation	<b>Annex E</b>	Evacuation
H	Health and Medical	<b>Annex H</b>	Health and Medical
I	Public Information	<b>Annex I</b>	Public Information
J	Recovery	<b>Annex J</b>	Recovery
L	Utilities and Public Works	<b>Annex K</b>	Public Works and Engineering
		<b>Annex L</b>	Utilities
M	Logistics and Resource Management	<b>Annex M</b>	Resource Management
O	Human Services	<b>Annex O</b>	Human Services
P	Hazard Mitigation	<b>Annex P</b>	Hazard Mitigation
S	Transportation	<b>Annex S</b>	Transportation
T	Donations Management	<b>Annex T</b>	Donations Management
V	Terrorism	<b>Annex V</b>	Terrorism
X	Debris Management	<b>N/A</b>	N/A

APPENDIX 4 – SAMPLE LEGAL FORMS

CITY OF AUSTIN DISASTER DECLARATION



AUSTIN CITY CLERK  
RECEIVED  
2015 NOV 5 PM 1 07

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
OF THE  
CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

**BE IT KNOWN:**

**WHEREAS**, on October 30, 2015 residents of the City of Austin incurred significant business and personal losses due to torrential rains and widespread flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses and homes were damaged and hundreds of residents displaced by widespread and severe flooding and high winds; and

**WHEREAS**, the government of the City of Austin is incurring extraordinary costs and expenses associated with responding to the flooding and severe weather; and

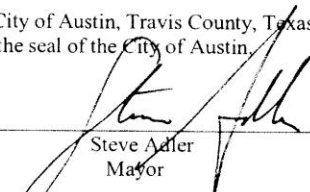
**WHEREAS**, immediate and concerted actions and funding are required to begin rehabilitation and recovery efforts to return businesses and public facilities to normal operations and persons to homes and living quarters; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the City Charter, as the presiding officer of the governing body and under Government Code, Section 418.108, **I DECLARE** a local state of disaster within the City of Austin to continue until November 12, 2015, a period of seven days, subject to continuation or renewal by consent of the City Council.

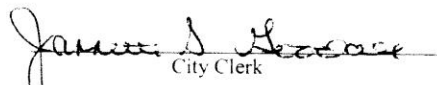
I further proclaim activation of the City of Austin Emergency Operations Plan and the activation of all other Charter, statutory, and ordinance powers vested in me and all officers of the City of Austin to act in this local state of disaster.

The City Clerk is directed to give prompt and general publicity of the issuance of this DECLARATION.

**DECLARED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015, in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, in witness whereof I subscribe my name and cause to be affixed the seal of the City of Austin.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Adler  
Mayor

Filed with me, the City Clerk of the City of Austin, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015, by Mayor Steve Adler, whose signature I hereby attest under my hand and the seal of the City of Austin.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Heavner  
City Clerk

COMBINED CITY AND COUNTY DISASTER DECLARATION

TRAVIS COUNTY  
FLOODING DISASTER DECLARATION

WHEREAS, the County of Travis on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25th day of May, 2015, suffered damage and loss of property resulting from flood waters on area creeks and the Colorado River; and

WHEREAS, after an extensive review, the Judge of the County of Travis has determined that extra measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of people and to rehabilitate property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE JUDGE OF THE COUNTY OF TRAVIS:

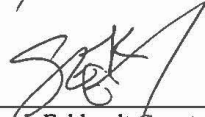
Section 1. That a state of disaster is declared for the County of Travis.

Section 2. That the County's Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.

Section 3. That the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days of the date hereof, unless the same is continued by consent of the Commissioners' Court of the County of Travis, Texas.

Section 4. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this 28 day of May, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Eckhardt County Judge  
County of Travis, Texas

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF  
THE TRAVIS COUNTY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## EMERGENCY DECLARATION TO THE GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF TRAVIS COUNTY JUDGE SARAH ECKHARDT

May 28, 2015

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
c/o State Coordinator  
Texas Division of Emergency Management  
P.O. Box 4087  
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

Dear Governor Abbott:

On May 23 and May 25, 2015, Travis County was severely impacted by a weather system that produced record amounts of rainfall. All of Travis County has been impacted with the most serious damage in north and east Travis County and the Central part of the City of Austin. Initial estimates indicate there are more than fifty homes that have sustained damage due to floodwaters. Final counts will not be available until damage assessments are completed. Travis County has one possible flood related fatality. Numerous roads, bridges and drainage culverts have sustained damage due to floodwaters. Efforts are underway to get an accurate assessment of costs associated with the losses. Travis County expects to incur significant costs associated with debris removal once the water starts to recede.

While recovery efforts are underway, it is my belief the damage to homes and businesses due to the rain constitutes a potential public health and safety hazard. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond Travis County's capability to recover without supplementary State and/or Federal assistance. Additionally, I certify that Travis County does not have local funding available to provide these citizens with effective relief.

Your assistance in this emergency matter, as it affects the safety and health needs of our citizens, is greatly appreciated. Please add Travis County to the unfortunately growing list of counties in this State of Disaster and in your appeal to FEMA for federal assistance in Central Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Eckhardt", is written over a faint, circular watermark or seal.

Sarah Eckhardt  
Travis County Judge

Sarah.Eckhardt@traviscountytx.gov • (512) 854-9555 • 700 LAVACA STREET, SUITE 2.300, AUSTIN, TX 78701



GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of the State of Texas, issued Emergency Disaster Proclamations on May 11, May 15, May 25 and May 26, 2015, certifying that the severe weather, tornado and flooding event that began on May 4, 2015, has caused a disaster in many Texas counties.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, I hereby amend these aforementioned proclamations and declare a disaster in Angelina, Archer, Bastrop, Blanco, Bosque, Bowie, Burleson, Caldwell, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Collin, Comal, Cooke, Denton, Dewitt, Eastland, Edwards, Ellis, Fannin, Fayette, Gaines, Garza, Gillespie, Grayson, Grimes, Guadalupe, Harris, Harrison, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hill, Hood, Houston, Jasper, Johnson, Kaufman, Kendall, Lamar, Leon, Liberty, Lynn, Madison, Milam, Montague, Navarro, Newton, Nueces, Parker, Real, Red River, Refugio, Rusk, Sabine, San Jacinto, Smith, Travis, Tyler, Uvalde, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Wichita, Williamson, Wilson, Wise and Zavala counties.

Pursuant to Section 418.017 of the code, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster.

Pursuant to Section 418.016 of the code, any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or any order or rule of a state agency that would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with this disaster shall be suspended upon written approval of the Office of the Governor.

In accordance with the statutory requirements, copies of this proclamation shall be filed with the applicable authorities.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 29th day of May, 2015.

Handwritten signature of Greg Abbott
GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:
Handwritten signature of Carlos Cascos
CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
10:01 AM O'CLOCK
MAY 29 2015



TERMINATION OF DECLARATION

CITY ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, on \_\_\_\_\_, the Mayor pursuant to the Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, (the “Texas Disaster Act”), issued a proclamation declaring a local state of disaster for the City of Austin.

WHEREAS, the conditions necessitating the proclamation of a local state of disaster have ceased to exist; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Disaster Act provides that a local state of disaster may be terminated by the governing body of the political subdivision or by executive order of the Mayor,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THECITY COUNCIL:

1. The City Council, as the governing body of The City of Austin, hereby terminates the proclamation of a local state of disaster described in the preamble above.

2. A public emergency exists requiring that this ordinance be passed formally on the date of its introduction; therefore, this order shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

APPROVED, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

**APPENDIX 5 – SAMPLE ADVISORIES****CITY ADVISORY (PRE-EVENT COMMUNICATION)**

---

From: Cummings, John [HSEM]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 4:16 PM  
To: Cummings, John [HSEM]  
Subject: Heads Up: Potential Strong Weather

All –

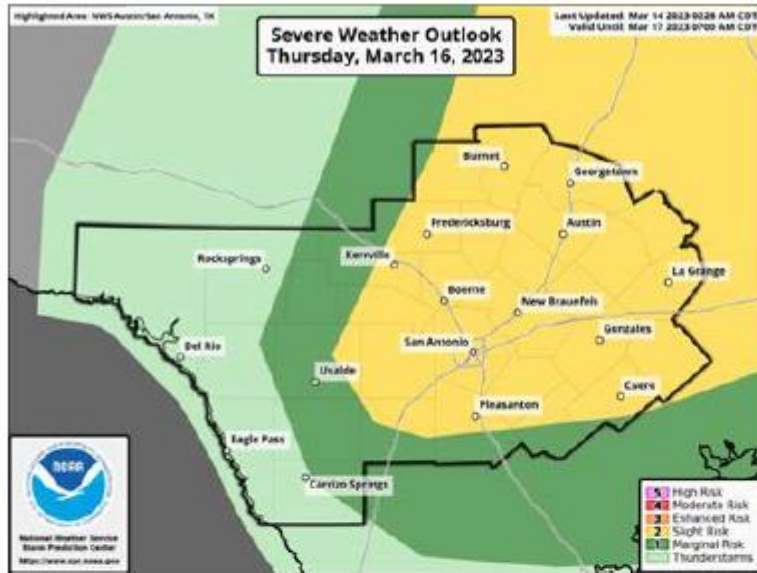
HSEM is tracking the potential strong to severe weather entering the area on Thursday through Friday. Please monitor local media and official forecasts from the National Weather Service (NWS): [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

City of Austin EM Partners and Stakeholders

The NWS has the City and the County situated within an area of Slight Risk (Level 2/5) for severe weather. This will begin with a drop in temperature starting Thursday afternoon/evening, from a high in the 80s to a low in the 40s overnight. Primary threats include, a potential for hail preceding the front, and then damaging wind gusts (up to 30-40mph) following it. Rainfall totals present minimal risk for flooding, even with the recent rains, ground saturation levels and creek flooding should be a non-issue. SXSU events will be more sensitive to hail and high wind impacts given the number of participants, venues, and traffic/crowd management resources in the downtown area.

Weather Summary

Two rounds of thunderstorms are possible Thursday afternoon and once again late Thursday night into early Friday Morning. Both rounds of thunderstorms will have the potential to become strong to severe. The primary hazards with storms that become severe are hail and damaging wind gusts. An isolated tornado can't be ruled out with either round of thunderstorms. The severe thunderstorm risk comes to an end later Friday morning. To be prepared should severe storms threaten your area, be sure to have multiple ways of receiving weather alerts and know where to go.




**Actions**

- HSEM continues to monitor the situation and will coordinate with regional stakeholders and SXSW Event Control as necessary.
- Weather Coordination calls are scheduled with stakeholders and NWS (Wednesday @3pm, Thursday @9am).
- No cold weather shelters are activated
- No A/TC-EOC activation
- If you have any questions or can provide any situational awareness, please contact the HSEM Duty Officer: [\(512\) 974-0600](tel:5129740600).



**John (Donny) Cummings**  
Emergency Plans Officer, Senior  
City of Austin  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
O: [512.974.0469](tel:5129740469) | C: [940.390.4370](tel:9403904370) |  
P: [512.802.1469](tel:5128021469)  
[john.cummings@austintexas.gov](mailto:john.cummings@austintexas.gov)

SAMPLE SITUATION REPORT (RESPONSE AND RECOVERY COMMUNICATIONS)

	<p align="center"><b>City of Austin</b>                  HOMELAND SECURITY &amp; EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT                  Duty Officer (24 hours): 512-974-0600</p>	<p align="center">City OPCON Level</p> <p align="center"><b>3</b></p>
	<p align="center"><b>SITUATION REPORT #8</b>                  PUBLISHED: 2000 Hrs 03/17/2023                  For The Operational Period of:                  Friday, March 17, 2023</p>	<p><b>Increased Readiness</b>                  Limited Activation: Event Operations Center (EvOC) Coordination</p>

Incident Name	Incident Type	Initial Report
2023-03-10 SXSX	Planned Event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Final Report

**Situation Summary**

The City of Austin Event Operations Center (EvOC) for the 2023 South By South West (SXSX) and Spring Festival is currently in Operational Period #6 at One Texas Center. The EvOC serves as the coordination point among involved City Departments and SXSX Spring Festival leadership.

The EvOC operates daily through Saturday, March 18, 2023.  
 This report covers operations up to 18:00 on Friday, March 17.

**17:30 EvOC Briefing:** Agencies involved reported no major incidents. Operations are as expected at this point in the festival. Individual department brief-outs are listed below.

**Weather:** From the NWS: Weather is expected to stay dry for the evening period with a slight chance for rain overnight. Winds remain from the north and northeast at about 10 to 15 mph with gusts up to 25 mph through sunset and 10 mph for tonight into Saturday. Overnight lows in the 40s. Dry and cool on Saturday under cloudy skies with winds out of the east around 10 mph with highs in the mid 50s. Overnight lows/Sunday morning in the upper 30s and lows 40s. Dry and cool again on Sunday with highs in the mid 50s.

**Agency Action Summary**

**Austin Fire Department (AFD):** AFD continues to monitor events for proper set up and occupant load limit. AFD will continue work with PACE teams supporting night inspection teams' visits to as many of the event sites as possible and respond to any request for assistance and reported issues. AFD will also coordinate downtown response as necessary to assist EMS and local operations companies as crowd size increases. AFD is also following up on a few events outside of the downtown footprint tonight as well.

**Austin Transportation Department (ATD):** No significant traffic issues to report. Routine I-35 ramp closures at Cesar Chavez and 6th St were implemented in the afternoon. Heavier queuing started on several streets close to 5:00 at the end of the business day but returned to normal fairly quickly.

**Austin Police Department (APD):** APD AM Report: APD Special Events continues to monitor the SXSX area for any pedestrian, vehicular and public safety issues. APD is fully staffed to include street response,

mounted patrol, downtown area officers, special events shifts, organized crime. APD will continue to monitor any public safety issues.

**Austin Travis County EMS (ATCEMS):** EMS Special Event assets are deployed and the patient (casualty) collection point is operational as of 1500. Special CAD layer is actively routing all EMS 911 incidents to the EvOC for the on-site dispatcher to manage. No unmet needs.

**Austin Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM):** Austin HSEM opened the SXSW EvOC at 11:00. HSEM is leading the EvOC to coordinate with participating agencies, departments and SXSW for briefings and reports.

**PIO:** PIO continues to monitor social media feeds for traffic issues, weather alerts, event messages. No unmet needs.

**Austin Code/PACE:** Thus far, PACE Teams have responded to 133 pre-emptive or reported code violations. PACE TEAMS are maintaining duty hours between 11am through 1am daily. In the last 24 hours, PACE Teams conducted 21 inspections addressing code violations such as over-occupancy, reduction of occupancy, unpermitted venues, unpermitted vending, ROW violations, sound violations, and egress violations.

**ARIC:** FBI Austin worked in coordination with the ARIC to monitor for threats associated with the event and will be available, as needed, through the duration.

**CapMetro:** CapMetro has seen increased ridership on select routes and increased traffic impacts on transit service. CapMetro is monitoring service and adjusting as needed to respond to the increased demand. Late night rail service will run until approximately 2:30am and increased service will be provided through Night Owl night bus service, which runs until 3am.

**SXSW:** This evening's events include film premiers, red carpets events and private parties. Festival staff continues to monitor all events.

APPENDIX 6 – SAMPLE DISASTER SUMMARY OUTLINE

DISASTER SUMMARY OUTLINE

**Disaster Summary Outline** 
[Instructions for form](#)
[Reset Entire Form](#)

The online version of this form will be available soon, for now, please use this PDF.

*Internal Use Only:*

**Confirmation number: #**

**Confirmation date:**

\*Is this DSO the...  Initial DSO? OR  Updated DSO?

**Incident**

Date/Time of request:

\*What is the incident name?:

**General**

\*What is the county?:

\*Jurisdiction type reporting for:

A County (unincorporated areas within a single county) OR  A City (or part of, if the city falls in more than one county) OR  Multiple cities (within a single county, see next page)

\*What is the city, if any?:  Are you filing for a tribal jurisdiction?:

\*Type of disaster?:

\*Inclusive dates of the disaster:  -  \*Is the incident continuing?:  YES OR  NO

\*Was a local disaster declaration issued?:  YES OR  NO

**NEXT**





**General** Continued

\*If this is a flood event, does the city/county/area participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)?:  YES OR  NO

\*Contact person for this DSO:  \*Second contact person:

\*Contact person's title:  \*Second person's title:

\*Phone number:  \*Second phone number:

\*Email address:  \*Second email address:

\*Mobile phone number:  \*Second mobile phone:

Fax number:

24 hour - Duty Officer/Sheriff's office phone number:

**What do you need to report?** ⓘ

Push one of the buttons to add the next template page from the choices below.

IA - Residential Losses  Business Losses/Impacts

Public Assistance  Other Eligible Entities



**General Notes**

[Empty rectangular box for general notes]

**Submitter Information**

[Empty rectangular box]

\*Name:

\*Email:

*If you include your email, a confirmation email will be sent to you.*

*This form is for damage assessment reporting purposes and will be used to determine if the state and impacted jurisdictions are eligible for federal individual and public assistance programs in accordance with established federal criterion and guidelines.*

**Instructions to send**  
To Send the completed DSO, if using a desktop or laptop, click "Submit Form via Email" button to launch your email. You should "CC" your District Coordinator as well. Please also attach a copy of the disaster declaration to this email. Then press "Send" to email the form to DPS/TDEM.

*Instructions for sending DSO...*

- By Mobile Device
- Print and Send by Mail
- Print and Fax
- Submit from Here

**BACK**

**Submit Form via Email**

**iSTAT**

Texans can report damage to homes and businesses using the [Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool \(iSTAT\) damage survey](#). The iSTAT damage survey can be filled out in English and Spanish online by visiting [damage.tdem.texas.gov](http://damage.tdem.texas.gov) and clicking on the disaster impacting the property.

The information provided in the iSTAT damage survey helps emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that have occurred and identify any immediate resource needs. Survey information also helps officials determine if the state meets federal requirements for various forms of federal disaster assistance. Reporting damage through the iSTAT tool is a voluntary activity and is not a substitute for reporting damage to your insurance agency. It does not guarantee disaster relief assistance.

More information can be learned about iSTAT by watching the video [here](#).



## pSTAT

The Jurisdiction Portal survey tool is designed and intended for local officials to use for any event to submit damaged properties and infrastructure through pSTAT Section below and to report damaged residences through the iSTAT Section below and business that have not already been submitted by their respective owners / renters.

County Jurisdictions can use their unique login to review pSTAT and iSTAT Dashboards which allow immediate access to assess the scale and severity of disaster, view specific property information, photos, and GIS data.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management will use the same pSTAT and iSTAT submitted data to facilitate any potential funding streams that may be available depending on the disaster.

The pSTAT website can be found [here](#).

**APPENDIX 7 – EMERGENCY RELATED AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS**

HSEM maintains copies of all emergency related agreements on file. HSEM also maintains copies of shelter surveys for facilities considered to be primary shelter locations. Contact HSEM for the latest information and a list of agreements and contracts.

During recovery operations there are certain other requirements. The Cost Recovery Unit Leader under the Finance and Administration Section Chief should monitor all contracts relating to the recovery process. Contracts that will be paid from Federal funds must meet the following criteria:

- Meet or exceed Federal and State Procurement Standards and must follow local procurement standards if they exceed the federal and state criteria.
- Be reasonable.
- Contain right to audit and retention of records clauses.
- Contain standards of performance and monitoring provisions.
- Fall within the scope of work of each FEMA project.
- Use line items to identify each FEMA project, for multiple project contracts.

The following contract-related documents must be kept:

- Copy of contract
- Copies of requests for bids
- Bid documents
- Bid advertisement
- List of bidders
- Contract let out
- Invoices, cancelled checks, and inspection records

## APPENDIX 8 – INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES, REQUIREMENTS, AND PLAN DISTRIBUTION

Following is a list of every City of Austin Department and Office. The Basic Plan and Annexes are distributed to every Department Director or assigned designee.

### ANIMAL SERVICES OFFICE

#### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides for the care and sheltering of pets during emergency sheltering operations.

### AUSTIN ENERGY

AE has those responsibilities outlined in Annex L - Utilities and Public Works. As the primary energy provider for the City of Austin, AE shares the responsibilities of planning and response of the utility systems with Austin Water Utility (AWU).

#### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintains the City's electric generation, transmission, and distribution systems.
- Restores electrical power after outages according to pre-established restoration priorities.
- Establishes and maintains temporary electrical power at emergency response facilities, such as hospitals and community centers that may be serving as emergency shelters or providing emergency health care.
- Coordinates with the PIO of the EOC to inform the media:
  - About power outages;
  - When energy curtailment measures are necessary to reduce system demand.
- Controls flood gates at Longhorn Dam, in coordination with the LCRA.

#### DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Notifies the HSEM DO or the EOC, if activated, of the following:

- Any incident that potentially or actually compromises major generation, distribution, or transmission systems with the result that AE is seriously hampered in its ability to continue providing reliable electric service.
- Developing conditions in the ERCOT Energy Emergency Alert Plan that will adversely affect the AE electric system.

- Any emergency incident involving Decker, Sand Hill, or any of the District Cooling Plants that results that would result in media alerts or disruption of electrical service.
- Any hazardous materials incident, including a fuel tank leak, requiring a public safety hazardous materials response.
- Any emergency changes to the flood control at any AE Dam that is not done in conjunction or at the request of LCRA and may affect the level of the lake(s) or areas downstream.
- Any outage affecting at least 5,000 customers for more than three hours, or any outage of any size which is politically sensitive in nature or might involve a high level of media interest.
- Any incident involving any life-threatening injury or death to a city employee or contract employee on a city project and any life-threatening injury or death of a civilian at a City facility.
- Any time a department plans to comply with a request for assistance from the State of Texas or a local jurisdiction, during a major emergency or disaster that requires sending resources outside of Travis County.

## AUSTIN WATER UTILITY

AWU has those responsibilities outlined in Annex L - Utilities and Public Works. As the primary water and wastewater provider for the City of Austin, AWU shares the responsibilities of planning and response of the utility systems with AE.

---

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Protects, operates, and maintains water and wastewater systems during emergency conditions.
- Restores sewage collection and treatment systems that may be affected by emergency conditions.
- Establishes and maintains emergency backup electrical power or has contingency plans in place for all critical water and wastewater operating systems.
- Coordinates with the AFD to ensure that an adequate water supply and adequate water pressure is available for fire suppression.
- Coordinates with the Austin Police Department (APD), TCSO, and other law enforcement agencies to ensure the security and integrity of the water supply.
- Provides information and advice to City management and the EOC on conditions that may compromise water distribution systems and water quality control measures.

- Notifies the LCRA, State authorities and downstream communities when wastewater discharges into Area Rivers and streams do not meet acceptable standards.
- Recommends to City management emergency procedures for conservation and rationing of water.
- Makes arrangements for providing and distributing alternative potable water supplies during emergency conditions.
- Makes arrangements for providing portable toilets to areas that will be without sewer service for extended periods.
- Enhances and augments normal water testing procedures based upon emergency conditions.
- Participates in debris removal programs in conjunction with other City agencies following any major emergency.

---

## DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Notifies the HSEM DO or the EOC, if activated, of the following:

- Any outage affecting more than 1,000 customers that will likely last more than six hours.
- Any incident that potentially or actually compromises major treatment, distribution, or collection systems.
- Any outage affecting a critical facility, such as a hospital.
- Any incident resulting in discharge of raw or partially treated wastewater to waterways.
- Any significant development involving potentially contaminated drinking water.
- Any hazardous materials incident at a treatment facility resulting in an AFD Hazardous Materials Alarm.

## AVIATION DEPARTMENT

---

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develops, maintains, exercises, and implements an emergency plan, in coordination with HSEM, which meets Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements.
- Activates the Aviation emergency plan when an aviation accident or potential accident arises. Notifies the EOC when the plan is activated.
- Provides support to airlift operations during emergency operations.
- Coordinates with the EOC PIO to keep the news media informed.
- Is identified as a secondary department in the management of disaster resources, especially as it relates to possible air transport of resources.

---

## DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Notifies the HSEM DO or the EOC, if activated, of the following:

- Closure of the airport or major limitation of operations due to weather, emergency, or mechanical breakdown.

## CITY AUDITOR

---

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develops plans for continued operations following a disaster which results in the loss of the locations where City services are currently provided.
- Has a secondary responsibility to the City of Austin EOP for the review of contracts, policies, or other standards to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations.
- Provides personnel for recovery operations as requested by the City Manager.

## CITY CLERK

---

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Posts Disaster Declarations and States of Emergency, as required by State law.
- Coordinates with Communications and Technology Management (CTM) to ensure adequate policies are in place regarding the preservation and backup of critical records and information.
- Has a secondary responsibility to the City of Austin EOP for the legal aspects related to the notice and convening of council meetings following a disaster.
- Provides advice on the potential impact a disaster might have on the following functions;
  - The various City of Austin boards and commissions.
  - Elections or special elections.

## CODE DEPARTMENT

Development Services Department Code Compliance has those responsibilities outlined in Annex J - Recovery.

---

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Code Compliance enforces City codes regarding land use regulations and the maintenance of structures and premises through education, cooperation, enforcement, and abatement to achieve a cleaner, healthier, and safer City. Proper enforcement of building codes can help to achieve better hazard mitigation outcomes.
- Serves as the lead department in damage assessments.
- During recovery operations, Code Compliance may be impacted with an above normal amount of new inspections and/or requests for reconstruction.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The City's PIO, or designee, serves as the lead public information contact during City-wide emergencies. Specifically, the PIO, or designee, coordinates all public information activities from major departments and agencies involved in emergency response during the activation of the EOC.
- Assures that the Mayor and Council are informed about emergency conditions, response, and recovery issues, as directed by the CMO.
- Ensures that appropriate staffing levels are maintained to operate a JIC, if necessary.
- Coordinates with the CMO and EOC to develop media strategies for dealing with sensitive issues during emergencies.
- Coordinates regular briefings or news conferences, ensuring that the appropriate personnel are available to make comments and answer questions for news media representatives during emergency situations.
- Assists the EOC in establishing a community hotline and provide staffing, if necessary or appropriate, to help answer emergency-related questions.
- Has the secondary or backup responsibility of emergency warning, communications, and assisting in recovery public information operations.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The primary emergency function of CTM is to maintain and operate all the various communications systems within the city.
- CTM has secondary functional responsibilities to public warning and resource management as they relate to technology.

- Coordinates with the EOC to establish priorities for restoration of telecommunication and computer services during emergency conditions.
- Supports, maintains, repairs, and restores software applications, hardware, and telecommunications for mainframe, micro- and mini-computer systems, in accordance with established priorities.
- Provides maintenance and support for the critical business functions that rely upon the central mainframe computer when the City is affected by emergency conditions. This may necessitate operation from a remote computer "hot site."
- Coordinates the installation of telephone and computer systems in special field locations such as command posts and emergency public assistance centers.
- Provides user support and "Help Desk" services to meet the emergency needs of other City Departments.

---

#### DEPARTMENTAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Notifies the HSEM DO or the EOC, if activated, of the following:

- Significant compromise or failure of computer data networks.
- Significant compromise or failure of City telephone networks.
- Significant virus or "cyber" attack that cannot be managed by in-place computer security systems.
- Significant compromise or failure of Internet resources.

#### COMMUNITY COURT

---

#### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides damage assessment information to the EOC on the impact to Community Court operations following a disaster or as requested.
- Develops plans for continued operations following a disaster which results in the loss of the locations where City services are currently provided.
- Provides personnel, as requested by the City Manager, to support recovery operations.

#### CAPITAL CONTRACTING OFFICE

---

#### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Capital Contracting Office facilitates efficient capital improvements for City Departments so they can deliver quality facilities and infrastructure to City of Austin residents.



- In the event of recovery operation from a major disaster, Capital Contracting Office may be impacted with an above average number of potential capital improvements and infrastructure reconstruction.

## CONVENTION CENTER DEPARTMENT

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides facilities, in coordination with the ARC and the EOC, for the mass sheltering of victims displaced by an emergency or disaster.
- Provides facilities, in coordination with the EOC, to provide specialized needs for disaster assistance centers and a media information center.
- Supports emergency requests from the EOC for chairs, tables, telephones, and other supplies.
- Provides facilities, in coordination with the EOC, for auxiliary health care centers.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assists in the collection of damage information for area neighborhoods.
- Provides planning and support of response and recovery operations following a major disaster or emergency.
- Supports land use and planning decisions that help the City meet its hazard mitigation goals.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides support to post-disaster damage assessment operations during disaster recovery.
- Supports the delivery of post-disaster assistance programs to the business community.

## AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

A-TCEMS is a key public safety partner with a number of primary and secondary functional responsibilities to the EOP. More details about these responsibilities are covered in Annex H –

Health and Medical. The following is a list of primary and secondary functional responsibilities of the EMS Department:

- Primary
  - Pre-hospital patient care
  - Search and rescue (shared with AFD)
  - Terrorist incident response (shared with AFD)
- Secondary
  - Warning
  - Public information
  - Fire fighting
  - Health and medical
  - HAZMAT
  - Radiological incident response
  - Pandemic
  - Shelter and mass care
  - Communications
  - Resource management
  - Mutual aid
  - Fatality management

---

#### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establishes hazard-specific procedures and related training for response to various types of emergencies including:
  - Hostage incidents
  - High-rise fire
  - Cave-in rescue
  - Airplane crash
  - Hazardous materials incident
  - Bomb threat or explosion
  - Structural collapse
  - High-angle rescue
  - Mass casualty incident
  - Search and rescue
  - Radiological incident
  - Civil disturbance
  - Water rescue
  - Tornado
  - Flash flooding

- Develops, maintains, and implements a mass casualty plan that details field response to mass casualty incidents for all agencies in the Austin/Travis County EMS System.
- Evaluates mass casualty incidents and implements the mass casualty plan, as needed.
- Establishes an ICP when the EMS Department is the lead responding agency.
- Provides an on-scene Commander for the Incident Unified Command Post when the EMS Department is performing its functions in concert with other participating agencies.
- Establishes or assigns, when needed, an EMS District Commander or EMS Division Commander to the Unified ICP to set up an organizational structure and integrate activities between other public safety agencies.
- Coordinates triage, medical rescue/evacuation, treatment, and transport operations at the scene.
- Coordinates rehab operations for all on-scene public safety and support agencies.
- Coordinates and controls patient flow from the scene and advises area hospitals of incident status and expected patient flow.
- Coordinates operations with the APD, AFD, EOC, and other involved City Departments and County, State, and Federal agencies.
- Coordinates, when needed, with other area EMS agencies and local/regional private ambulance companies for ground and air ambulance assistance.
- Implements, in coordination with the AFD, special procedures for managing patients contaminated by hazardous materials.
- Performs appropriate rescue operations for those who need special medical treatment or handling, including confined space rescue, entrapments, hazardous environments, helicopter, and fast-water rescues.
- Designates Patient Transportation Unit Leader/Group Supervisor on-scene responsible for incidents with multiple patients requiring transport to communicate and coordinate patient information to area hospitals. During large-scale patient evacuations, a Hospital Coordinator, or a secondary liaison, may coordinate or supplement on-scene activities from the Emergency Operations Center.
- Notifies the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office and protects remains and personal effects of fatalities until the Medical Examiner's arrival.
- Ensures helicopter landings and helicopter medical evacuations/rescues at an incident are coordinated using an on-scene single ground contact integrated into the ICS structure, in cooperation with Unified Command.
- Participates in the Capital Area Public Health and Medical Coalition to coordinate health care emergency response activities.
- Extricates individuals trapped in water, in wrecked vehicles, under debris, in high places, and by any other means not directly caused by criminal activity.

- Utilizes Integrated Services staff for resource navigation in coordination with public and private healthcare partners for callers seeking assistance through the 911 system.

---

## DEPARTMENTAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Department is required to notify the HSEM DO when events or conditions outlined below exist:

- Any incident involving activation of the mass-casualty plan at Level 2 or above.
- When a hospital status changes to “Internal Disaster” as defined by CATRAC’s Trauma and Emergency Healthcare System Plan.
- Any incident involving evacuation of DSHS licensed Long-Term Care Facility (LTC).

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

---

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develops, maintains, and implements procedures for emergency payroll processing.
- Develops, maintains, and implements procedures for making emergency purchases.
- Identifies funding sources for emergency response.
- Assesses the financial impact of emergencies on the City's budget.
- Provides, as requested, tax base, sales tax, and other financial impact forecasts to City management.
- Provides status reports as requested by the CMO.
- Develops, maintains, and implements procedures for accepting and reallocating Federal public disaster assistance funds to City Departments.
- Coordinates all financial, accounting, and purchasing reporting functions related to the disaster.
- Evaluates the long-term economic impact of emergencies on the City's tax base.
- Maintains and operates City-owned vehicle maintenance stations, vehicle refueling stations, and mobile vehicle repair crews, especially tire repair crews, in emergencies.
- Assures that critical City-owned buildings and facilities remain operable during emergencies.
- Works with the APD in assessment of security risks and implementation of any required security procedures.
- Assesses and repairs damages to City-owned buildings and facilities.
- Maintains and fuels backup generators at City-owned buildings and facilities.

## AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

The AFD is a key public safety partner with a number of primary and secondary functional responsibilities to the EOP. Many of these areas are covered in more detail in Annex D – Public Safety. The following is a list of primary and secondary functional responsibilities of AFD:

- Primary
  - Fire fighting
  - Search and rescue (shared with EMS)
  - Terrorist incident response (shared with EMS)
  - HAZMAT
  - Radiological protection
  - Evacuation
- Secondary
  - Warning
  - Public information
  - Pre-hospital patient care
  - Health and medical
  - HAZMAT mitigation
  - Radiological incident response
  - Pandemic
  - Shelter and mass care
  - Communications
  - Resource management
  - Mutual aid
  - Detection and monitoring
  - Alert and notification

---

#### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establishes hazard-specific procedures and related training for response to various types of emergencies including:
  - High-rise fire
  - Cave-in rescue
  - Airplane crash
  - Hazardous materials incident
  - Explosion
  - Structural collapse
  - High-angle rescue
  - Mass casualty incident
  - Search and rescue
  - Conflagration
  - Radiological incident
  - Civil disturbance
  - Water rescue
  - Tornado
  - Flash flooding

- Provides fire control and suppression and augments resources to meet the extraordinary needs posed by the emergency conditions.
- First responder agency for the EMS system. Provides personnel, basic life-support services, medical response, and other assistance as needed.
- Establishes an ICP when the Fire Department is the lead responding agency.
- Provides an on-scene Commander for the ICP when the Fire Department is performing in a support mode.
- Evaluates, in coordination with the EOC, the impact of the incident upon uninjured victims and determines the need for evacuation, establishment of emergency shelters, and the need for mass transport.
- Provides monitoring services and operational advice at the scene of accidents involving radioactive materials.
- Coordinates activities with State agencies that perform radiological monitoring and designates a radiological decontamination facility adequate for the protection of the response field.
- In coordination with other local, State, and Federal authorities, controls the release of hazardous materials at emergency sites and oversees the containment and clean up by responsible parties.
- Extricates individuals trapped in water, in wrecked vehicles, under debris, in high places, and by any other means not directly caused by criminal activity.
- Provides, in coordination with the EOC, flash flood warnings to the public.
- Monitors, in coordination with the EOC, potentially hazardous low-water crossings and flood-prone areas for possible flash flood evacuation or rescue.
- Transmits creek, street, and bridge conditions to the EOC, when requested.
- Provides information to the EOC PIO about public warnings and keeps the news media informed, as necessary.
- In coordination with the EOC, conducts severe weather and tornado spotting.
- Fire Chief implements the "boating ban" ordinance, as needed, during flooding conditions.

---

#### DEPARTMENTAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Notifies the HSEM DO or the EOC, if activated, of the following:

- Any four alarm fire or greater.
- Any working Hazardous Materials Alarm that results in major evacuations.

- Any working fire, rescue, or hazardous materials incident at any City facility or major County, State, or Federal facility (e.g., City Hall, County Courthouse, State Capitol, Federal Court House).
- Any emergency incident involving the Holly Power Plant.
- Any Alert 3 (aircraft crash) within the City of Austin.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides advice on the management of State and Federal political communications to the EOC or Policy Coordination Group.
- Serves as Liaison Officer in the EOC. Coordinates with Mayor and Council as well as elected officials at the local, State, and Federal levels.
- Coordinates VIP visits with the event PIO or JIC, if established.
- Responsible for identifying any gaps related to government relations communications.

## AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH

Austin Public Health is a key partner with a number of primary and secondary functional responsibilities to the EOP. Many of these areas are covered in more detail in Annex H – Health and Medical. The following is a list of primary and secondary functional responsibilities of APH:

- Primary
  - Health and medical
  - Pandemic detection and monitoring including syndromic surveillance
  - Medical countermeasure dispensing
  - Radiological community reception centers
  - Emergency community assistance resources (Multi-Agency resource Centers, strike teams, Austin/Travis County Medical Reserve Corps.)
  - Environmental health services
  - Functional needs populations
- Secondary
  - Public information
  - HAZMAT
  - Terrorist incident response
  - Shelter and mass care
  - Resource management
  - Mental health services

---

## FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Manages disease surveillance activities, including reporting and analysis.
- Identifies conditions that have the potential for causing long-term or widespread health problems. Develops and enforces disease control, emergency health, and sanitation standards.
- In partnership with the Water Utility and Food industry and appropriate State agencies, assures the inspection of food and water supplies for possible contamination as a result of emergency conditions.
- Works, in conjunction with the Primary Care Department and Hospital Coordinators, to establish temporary auxiliary medical facilities, when needed.
- Provides comprehensive information, associated with, or, as a result of, a health emergency, to the public.
- Provides technical assistance on public health issues associated with the disposal of remains to the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office.
- Provides public health nursing and other support to emergency shelters and reception centers.
- Works with community agencies in providing Social Services.
- Coordinates Public Health response and resources such as Disease Surveillance, pharmaceuticals, and laboratory services with State and Federal public health agencies.

---

## DEPARTMENTAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Notifies the HSEM DO or the EOC, if activated, of the following:

- Issuance of a major public health order that has a widespread effect on the community.
- Any incident involving the occurrence or significant threat of widespread illness, injury, epidemic, food contamination, or other potentially acute public health condition.

---

## HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

---

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Advises City management on the impact of personnel issues related to early employee releases, suspension of non-essential work activities, and altered work assignments due to emergency conditions.
- Coordinates the temporary reassignment of City employees to assist in emergencies.
- The Risk Management Division administers the City's insurance coverage, collects loss reports from affected City Departments, and files claims in coordination with HSEM.



- Plays a crucial role in payroll tracking for recovery operations and reimbursement.

## INTEGRITY OFFICE

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Following a disaster, or, as requested, provides damage assessment information on the impact to the operations of the Integrity Office to the EOC.
- Develops plans for continued operations following a disaster which results in the loss of the locations where City services are currently provided.
- Provides personnel, as requested by the City Manager, to support recovery operations.

## LAW DEPARTMENT

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides pre-event briefing on possible liabilities arising from disaster operations, procedures for invoking the emergency powers of government, and legal documents relating to emergency powers to elected officials and heads of City Departments.
- Reviews current local, State, and Federal legislation and regulations relating to emergency management and emergency powers.
- Develops local procedures for invoking emergency powers.
- Ensures emergency call-out rosters include the Attorney, who should maintain current telephone numbers and addresses for the legal staff.
- Reviews plans and procedures.
- Reviews mutual aid agreements submitted to the jurisdiction for approval and prepares mutual aid agreements to be submitted to other jurisdictions for approval.
- Provides advice on the legal implications of response activities.
- Recommends and prepares emergency ordinances or orders to exercise special powers that may be required during an emergency.
- Reviews drafts of emergency proclamations and emergency ordinances prepared by HSEM.
- Advises City officials regarding emergency powers and necessary procedures to:
  - Ration critical resources and limitations on utility use in an area affected by a disaster.
  - Establish curfews.
  - Restrict or deny access and implement blockades.

- Restrict boating.
- Specify routes of ingress and egress, including rules governing entrance to and exit from the affected area.
- Limit or restrict use of water or other utilities.
- Control prices of goods and services considered critical resources, wages, rent, and other economic stabilization methods in the event of a disaster.
- Make use of any publicly or privately-owned resource, with or without payment to the owner.
- Remove debris from publicly or privately owned property.
- Advises City officials of possible liability arising from emergency operations, including exercising emergency powers as it relates to a variety of incidents, including pandemic flu and terrorism.
- Advises officials on legal aspects of recovery operations.
- Assists officials in preparing emergency ordinances, permits, applications for State or Federal assistance, grant applications, and, if necessary, litigation.

## LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- In conjunction with the EOC, assists the ARC and other volunteer relief agencies in collecting, inventorying, sorting, and distributing donated goods and services.
- Distributes emergency preparedness public education materials to community members who visit the libraries.
- Branch libraries serve as dissemination points for emergency public information to community members in an emergency, particularly during long-term power outages when radio and television may not reach some segments of the community.
- Branch libraries serve as collection points for information from community members about their specific emergency needs including missing persons, lost, and found pets, etc.
- Provides public Internet stations that may serve as communications points for City staff and the public.
- The Austin History Center provides assistance with damage recovery of documents through training sessions and distributed information.
- Austin Library assists in standing up libraries to be used as heating and cooling centers.

## MUNICIPAL COURT

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides damage assessment information on the impact to Municipal Court operations following a disaster, or, as requested, to the EOC.
- Develops plans for continued operations following a disaster which results in the loss of the location(s) where City services are currently provided.
- Provides personnel, as requested by the City Manager, to support recovery operations.

## NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Coordinates the delivery of post-disaster long term housing programs.
- Following a major disaster or emergency, provides the primary planning and support of recovery operations related to housing repair.

## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) has the responsibilities outlined in Annex T – Donations Management, as well as provides facilities for sheltering operations.

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Removes trees and fallen debris from public streets and right-of-ways and in or around those structures where public safety or health is endangered.
- At the request of the EOC, provides shelter facilities for evacuees.
- Makes facilities available to the public for warming and cooling centers when asked by HSEM.
- Assists ARC in managing emergency shelters.
- Aids in conducting damage assessments of area parklands.
- Serves as the primary entity in charge of donations management.

## PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assists in the collection of damage information for area neighborhoods.

- Provides planning and support of response and recovery operations following a major disaster or emergency.
- Supports land use and planning decisions that help the City meet its hazard mitigation goals.

## AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

APD is a key public safety partner with a number of primary and secondary functional responsibilities to the EOP. Many of these areas are covered in more detail in Annex D – Public Safety. The following is a list of primary and secondary functional responsibilities of APD:

- Primary
  - Law enforcement
  - Incident response
  - Terrorist incident response
- Secondary
  - Warning
  - Public information
  - Assist with traffic control
  - Facilitate Mental Health Response through Integral Care
  - Pandemic
  - Evacuation
  - Providing security for mass care and mass shelter operations
  - Communications
  - Volunteer management
  - Detection and monitoring intelligence of potential and known threats
  - Alert and notification
  - Mutual aid
  - Military support

---

## FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establishes hazard-specific procedures and related training for response to various types of emergencies including:
  - Hostage incidents.
  - Terrorism and sabotage.
  - Civil disturbance.
  - Looting.
  - Bomb threat or explosion.
  - Mass evacuation.
  - Mass fatality incident.
  - Tornado.
  - Flooding.

- Makes provisions for the establishment of an alternate facility to function as a back-up 9-1-1 Communications Center, including 9-1-1 call taking and police, fire, and EMS dispatch functions.
- Develops, maintains, and implements the Victims' Services Response Plan, in support of the City of Austin Disaster Mental Health and Crisis Response Plan. This includes, in coordination with the EOC, victim crisis intervention and first responder debriefing for the Police Department and other primary agencies.
- Receives initial notification of State and Federal emergencies through the DPS and contacts other emergency services, including the EOC.
- Provides an on-scene Commander and establishes an ICP in collaboration with other primary response agencies.
- Controls access by both pedestrians and vehicles to the disaster or hazardous area, where appropriate, in coordination with the Fire Department and other jurisdictional agencies.
- Maintains law and order in support of any emergency response.
- Develops incident-specific traffic management plans with other agencies and departments. Controls traffic and establishes alternate and evacuation routes.
- Implements civil disturbance and looting control procedures, as needed.
- Manages bomb threats and disposes of bomb devices and explosives.
- Provides status information on severe weather and effects to the EOC.
- Operates the 9-1-1 Communications Center and augments staffing and resources to meet emergency needs.
- Conducts evacuation of the affected area, in coordination with the Fire Department. Evacuation includes warning residents, arranging, and coordinating transportation, identifying mass transportation collection points, establishing evacuation routes, and securing the evacuation zone.
- Depending on the nature of the emergency, provides enhanced security to all City of Austin critical facilities.
- Coordinates with the EOC PIO to ensure that all information, including public warnings and public information, are consistent, accurate and timely.
- In coordination with the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office, assists in casualty identification and makes next-of-kin notifications.
- In coordination with the EOC and DPS, conducts damage area reconnaissance.

---

**DEPARTMENTAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Notifies the HSEM DO or the EOC, if activated, of the following:

- Civil disturbance or potential civil disturbance indicated by intelligence or planned demonstration.
- Dignitary visit that is likely to result in large crowds, demonstrations, or significant threats.
- Serious compromise of 9-1-1 services or evacuation of the emergency communications center.
- Significant credible threat involving City facilities or services.
- Any hostage incident or homicide in progress that involves a school or a large number of people.
- Communicates street closings, street conditions, and street re-opening information to the EOC.
- Provides limited heavy equipment and materials to support the Fire Department's response to hazardous materials incidents.
- Assesses the safety of bridges and other roadway structures. Performs emergency repairs to essential streets and bridges.
- Assists in determining the extent of damage to City facilities, streets, and right-of-ways.
- Provides architectural and project management services for the restoration or reconstruction of damaged City-owned facilities.

---

**DEPARTMENTAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Notifies the HSEM DO or the EOC, if activated, of the following:

- Significant road or bridge closures due to icing or high water.
- Any significant issues or situations which may threaten to disrupt traffic or City traffic signal operations for an extended period.

---

**SMALL AND MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

---

**FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Provides information to the EOC on the impact of a major emergency on small minority businesses.
- Provides information to small minority businesses on the resources available to those businesses during recovery operations.

- Participates in the City-wide recovery effort.

## AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY

Austin Resource Recovery Department (ARR) has the responsibilities outlined in Annex X – Debris Management.

---

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participates in any large-scale debris removal program following a major emergency.
- Continues to provide trash pickup service following a major emergency.
- Reviews requirements for road-side trash pickup, amending the amounts, collection rules, and types of debris collected, as necessary, during recovery operations.
- Coordinates with the EOC PIO to inform the public on appropriate methods for disposing of debris.

## AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The City's Transportation Public Works Department are the primary agencies for the transportation functional responsibility.
- Monitors traffic flow during major events/emergencies from the Traffic Management Center and from CTECC.
- Responds to signal outages following disruption of power.
- Restores flashing signals to normal operation following electrical storms.
- Provides the functional responsibilities of Public Works and Engineering to the EOP.
- Barricades streets in high-risk or disaster-secured areas, such as low-water crossings or evacuated areas.
- Maintains the proper functioning of all City roadways.
- May be tasked with road reconstruction during recovery operations.
- Maintains Austin roadways during and after a disaster.
- Assists other Departments in the maintenance of utilities in Austin, when and where appropriate.
- Places sand and chemicals for ice removal on City bridges.
- Following any major emergency, participates, in conjunction with other City agencies, in debris removal programs.

## TRAVIS COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

Travis County is a separate political entity from the City of Austin. In the State of Texas, counties are given the authority to operate Medical Examiners Offices.

### FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Investigates non-doctor monitored deaths in Austin and Travis County.
- Coordinates with the City of Austin and serves as lead responding agency during mass fatality incidents.

## TRAVIS COUNTY

Travis County is a separate political entity from the City of Austin. The City of Austin, being a major metropolitan area, has few, if any, agricultural areas. As such, this area of responsibility is assigned primarily to the County.



---

**FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Travis County has the primary functional responsibility of monitoring agriculture.
- Travis County also has functional responsibilities to Animal Management, especially during shelter operations.

**WATERSHED PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

---

**FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Austin Watershed Protection Department operates as a stormwater utility.
- Investigates reports and complaints regarding spills of toxic or polluting chemicals (that are not acutely hazardous) that are discharged into storm sewers and watercourses. The AFD handles acutely hazardous discharges.
- Collects samples and evidence necessary to file charges, should charges be filed, against the discharger.
- Provides advice to the IC on effective alternatives for cleanup and spill mitigation.
- Provides advice and assistance regarding disposal of hazardous materials that may have entered the storm sewer system.
- Provides limited heavy equipment and materials to support the Fire Department's response to hazardous material incidents.
- In conjunction with other City agencies, participates in debris removal programs following any major emergency.
- Coordinates with City, State, and Federal agencies in response to hazardous materials incidents that affect surface or ground water resources.
- Assesses the environmental impact of emergency conditions.
- Assists HHSD in testing drinking water supplies that may be contaminated.
- Assists HHSD in assessing the health risks associated with air, water, or land contamination.
- Operates and maintains FEWS computers and peripheral devices, including remote terminals assigned to WPD staff.
- Maintains the current emergency flood forecast table and watershed map that depicts all creeks, field gauges, and flood-prone areas.
- Develops and maintains computer models to perform flood forecasting, based on past and predicted rainfall, creek flow, and physical characteristics of watersheds.
- Monitors all severe weather conditions that could result in flooding or dangerous road conditions.

- Conducts pre-storm inspections of High Hazard dams, monitors dams during storm conditions, and advises HSEM on triggering notifications to community members in inundation areas downstream of High Hazard dams.
- Advises the HSEM Director on projected flooding conditions.
- In coordination with PARD, removes debris from parkland storm drains where public safety is endangered.
- Communicates street closings, street conditions, and street re-opening information to the EOC.

---

#### DEPARTMENTAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Notifies the HSEM DO or the EOC, if activated, of the following:

- Significant road or bridge closures due to high water.
- Any serious pollution incident that involves Lady Bird Lake, other major waterways, or major aquifer recharge zones.
- High Hazard dams potentially failing given storm conditions to trigger notification to community members in inundation areas downstream of the impacted dam.

**APPENDIX 9 – ACRONYMS**

A-TCEMS	Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services
AAR	After Action Report
ABIA	Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
AE	Austin Energy
AFD	Austin Fire Department
APD	Austin Police Department
APH	Austin Public Health
ARC	American Red Cross
ARR	Austin Resource Recovery
AWACS	Austin Warning and Communications System
AWU	Austin Water Utility
CAMOC	Capital Area Medical Operations Center
Capcode	A message address placed in a paging device that causes it to alert when the specific address is activated.
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
CAPCOG	Capital Area Council of Governments
CASHP	Capital Area Shelter Hub Plan
CBRNE	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CMO	City Manager’s Office
COG	Continuity of Government
COOP	Continuity of Operations
CPIO	Communications and Public Information Office

CTECC	Combined Transportation, Emergency, and Communications Center
CTM	Communications and Technology Management
DC	District Coordinator
DDC	Disaster District Committee or Chairperson
DFO	Disaster Field Office
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DO	Duty Officer
DOC	Department Operations Center
DPS	Texas Department of Public Safety
DSO	Disaster Summary Outline
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EECP	Emergency Electric Curtailment Plan
EMC	Emergency Management Coordinator
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
ERCOT	Electric Reliability Council of Texas
ESF	Emergency Support Function
EvOC	Event Operations Center
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEWS	Flood Early Warning System

FSA	Farm Services Agency
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
Hazmat	Hazardous Material
HRD	Human Resources Department
HSEM	City of Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
HSPD	Homeland Security Presidential Directive
IAP	Incident Action Plan
IC	Incident Command or Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
IP	Improvement Plan
JFO	Joint Field Office
JIC	Joint Information Center
LCRA	Lower Colorado River Authority
MACC	Multi-Area Coordination Center
MCI	Mass Casualty Incident
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHCD	Neighborhood Housing and Community Development
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRF	National Response Framework
OEM	Office of Emergency Management
OPCON	Operating Condition (No Longer Used)
PARD	Parks and Recreation Department

PDA	Preliminary Damage Assessment
PDF	Portable Document Format
PIO	Public Information Officer
RNS	Regional Notification System
RRCC	Regional Response Coordination Center
RRMO	Response and Recovery Directorates Mobile Operations
SBA	Small Business Administration
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
SMBR	Small and Minority Business Resources Department
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SOC	State Operations Center
SPC	Storm Prediction Center
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
SRIA	Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013
STAR	State of Texas Assistance Request
TCMEO	Travis County Medical Examiner's Office
TCOEM	Travis County Office of Emergency Management
TCSO	Travis County Sheriff's Office
TDEM	Texas Division of Emergency Management
TEEX	Texas Engineering Extension Service
TNR	Transportation and Natural Resources
TRRN	Texas Regional Response Network
TPW	Transportation and Public Works Department
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

UT            University of Texas  
UTPD        University of Texas Police Department  
WMD        Weapon of Mass Destruction  
WPD        Watershed Protection Department

## APPENDIX 10 – DEFINITIONS

**Area Command (Unified Area Command)** - An organization established to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being managed by an ICS organization. Sets overall strategy and priorities, allocates critical resources according to priorities, ensures that incidents are properly managed, and ensures that objectives are met, and strategies followed. Area Command becomes Unified Area Command when incidents are multijurisdictional.

**Austin-Travis County Emergency Operations Center** – Throughout this plan, the Austin-Travis County Emergency Operations Center is referred to as the A-TCEOC and simply as the EOC. In other documents this same facility may be referred to as the A/TCEOC. Both acronyms refer to the same facility.

**Catastrophic Incident** - This term is used to describe any natural or manmade occurrence that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, property damage, or disruptions that severely affect the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions. An occurrence of this magnitude would result in sustained national impacts over prolonged periods of time and would immediately overwhelm local and state capabilities.

**Disaster** - A disaster involves the occurrence or threat of significant casualties and/or widespread property damage that is beyond the capability of the local government to handle with its organic resources. Characteristics include:

- Involves a large area, a sizable population, and/or important facilities.
- May require implementation of large-scale evacuation or in-place sheltering and implementation of temporary shelter and mass care operations.
- Requires community-wide warning and public instructions.
- Requires a response by all local response agencies operating under one or more ICs.
- Requires significant external assistance from other local response agencies, contractors, and extensive state or federal assistance.
- The EOC will be activated to provide general guidance and direction, provide emergency information to the public, coordinate state and federal support, and coordinate resource support for emergency operations.

**Emergency** - An emergency is a situation that is larger in scope and more severe in terms of actual or potential effects than an incident. Characteristics include:

- Involves a large area, significant population, or important facilities.
- May require implementation of large-scale evacuation or in-place sheltering and implementation of temporary shelter and mass care operations.
- May require community-wide warning and public instructions.



- Requires a sizable multi-agency response operating under an IC.
- May require some external assistance from other local response agencies, contractors, and limited assistance from state or federal agencies.
- The EOC may be activated to provide general guidance and direction, coordinate external support, and provide resource support for the incident.

An emergency (as defined by the Stafford Act) is “any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement State and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of catastrophe in any part of the United States.”

**Emergency Management Director-** under State law, the presiding officer of the governing body of the City. Within the City of Austin, this responsibility falls to the Mayor.

**Emergency Management Coordinator-** under State law, the Emergency Management Director may designate a person to serve as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Within the City of Austin, this designation is held by the Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

**Emergency Operations Center** – A specially-equipped facility from which government officials exercise direction and control and coordinate necessary resources in an emergency situation.

**Hazardous Material (Hazmat)** - A substance in a quantity or form posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and/or property when manufactured, stored, or transported. The substance, by its nature, containment, and reactivity, has the capability for inflicting harm during an accidental occurrence. Is toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, an irritant, or a strong sensitizer, and poses a threat to health and the environment when improperly managed.

**Public Information** - Information that is disseminated to the public via various media before, during, and/or after an emergency or disaster.

**Stafford Act** - The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act authorizes federal agencies to undertake special measures designed to assist the efforts of states in expediting the rendering of aid, assistance, emergency services, and reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas devastated by disaster.