Disaster Data Analytics HB 2325

State of Texas

November 2020

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Executive Summary

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) extensively utilizes a Crisis Information Management System (CIMS) and a Geospatial Information System (GIS) to produce actionable shared information being generated real time from various systems and processes which is also known as disaster data analytics. Across Texas, 94% of county emergency management offices either have a CIMS that can connect to the TDEM CIMS or they use a CIMS provided to them by TDEM through its Lonestar CIMS program. TDEM projects that the remaining 6% of counties without a CIMS can be supported by the TDEM Lonestar CIMS program by the end of 2021, if those entities choose to request support.

TDEM also maintains several statewide systems that local and regional governments are either required or requested to use depending upon the application that collectively comprise data analytics for Texas Emergency Management. The uniformity and quality of data analytics from these systems is highly dependent on the information reported by the State Emergency Management Council and its local and regional EM partners.

TDEM currently maintains several training programs in partnership with the TDEM Preparedness Division and with the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). It is recommended that TDEM work with TEEX to further enhance data analytics systems training and to standardize the use and data standards for these systems to ensure disaster data analytics are reported in a uniform manner.

Overview

Goal

To the extent feasible, the division (TDEM) shall use data analytics software to integrate data from federal, state, local, and nongovernmental sources to manage disaster response and recovery more effectively.

Objectives

- Develop data analytics software to integrate data federal, state, local, and nongovernmental sources to manage disaster response and recovery more effectively.
- Provide recommendations to Governor's Office and Legislature.

Audience

- TDEM Leadership
- Governor's Office
- State Legislature

Authority

House Bill 2325

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For more information:

Texas Legislature Online

https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=HB2325

Stakeholders

Members are identified in the chart below. (This should include all stakeholders such as the chain of command, working group members, local official committee members, etc)

Agent	Summary
Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)	The Texas Division of Emergency Management is charged with carrying out a comprehensive all-hazard emergency management program for the state and for assisting cities, counties, and state agencies in planning and implementing their emergency management programs.

Background, Discussion and Recommendations

This section provides a summary of the project (background, discussion, recommendations, resource requirements, etc.)

Background

Data analytic solutions for Emergency Management Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation are unique to each situation. They are further made unique depending upon the type of incident and the agencies and local jurisdictions that are involved, especially given the large size of Texas. The Texas Division of Emergency Management identified this as an issue and has had a longtime standing goal to integrate data from federal, state, local, and nongovernmental sources to manage disaster response and recovery activities more effectively. To date, we have had good success in integration, but have not yet realized a fully automatic means to make the results more process driven.

The need for an integrated data sharing strategy became very evident during the Space Shuttle Columbia accident on February 01 2003, which was a major statewide incident response for Texas that required the coordination of data collection and information dissemination at all levels of government and nongovernmental (NGO) partners.

To better provide decision-makers in Texas with integrated data at all levels from local to state and interaction with Federal partners, TDEM installed a crisis information management system (CIMS) from a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) vendor software package called WebEOC. WebEOC is used by TDEM, the federal government, including FEMA, and, by nearly 94% of Texas county emergency management agencies.

Crisis information management systems are designed to be customized by the host agency and flexible to allow for quick modification during any type of incident and are standardized to the extent that most states and agencies use the same platforms. The Texas CIMS has a data fusion function whereby incident data can be shared with other local WebEOC systems, federal and NGO partners as required. After Hurricane Harvey in 2017 another enhancement to the CIMS was the addition of a web map system that ties a common operating picture web map and incident dashboards to the CIMS to allow bi-directional data flow between the two systems. Using these standardized systems allows for data integration into custom products that can consume the data and provide proper data analytics.

Discussion of Examples of Analysis in Incidents

Inside of the TDEM CIMS some of the main processes used for all types of incidents are:

- the State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR)
- the Texas Evacuee Tracking Network (ETN)
- the Disaster Summary Outline (DSO)
- the State of Texas Evacuee Assistance Registry (STEAR)

There are also means to communicate in near real time that are tied into WebEOC when needed. This data is then initially analyzed and put into displays within the various Common Operating Pictures (COPS) that TDEM maintains. If further analysis is required, the data can be pushed to other systems as well. Some of these other systems, which are being used for the COVID-19 response, are PowerBI, E2Open, Smartsheets, and Tableau. To provide a better understanding of what each of these processes do, three unique types of incidents and how data was collected and then analyzed is provided below. Because of the disparate nature of incidents, data inputs are likely different but methods in input and operational processes generally stay the same.

State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

To ensure the safe and efficient evacuation of Texans with special needs during a disaster, Executive Order RP57 authorized the establishment and implementation of a database to assist in the evacuation of special needs populations. TDEM coordinates with the Department of State Health Services, the Department of Aging and Disability Services, the Governor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities, and other appropriate state agencies to develop a statewide evacuation and shelter plan for persons with special needs.

In March of 2013, TDEM implemented the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) program as an online system to provide local emergency planners and responders with information about the specific evacuation support needs of individuals in their community. STEAR maintains a confidential database about what assistance needs an individual may have, including disabilities, functional and access needs, and transportation needs to assist emergency planners in developing appropriate emergency response plans to support individuals with specialized needs. The online registry is completely voluntary and free to local governments and to Texas citizens, although facilities such as nursing homes and certain social service programs which are required to register their clients in the STEAR program.

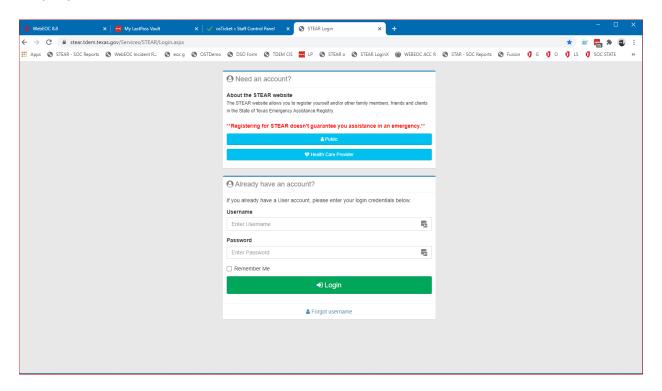
Information from the STEAR database can be used by local first responders to assist during the evacuation through computer-aided dispatch systems, geographic information systems and global positioning systems. STEAR information can also be used for developing local emergency management plans and assist in preparedness and response activities. STEAR data can also be tied

into the TDEM Emergency Tracking Network (see below) once evacuation transportation has been arranged outside of a jurisdiction's area.

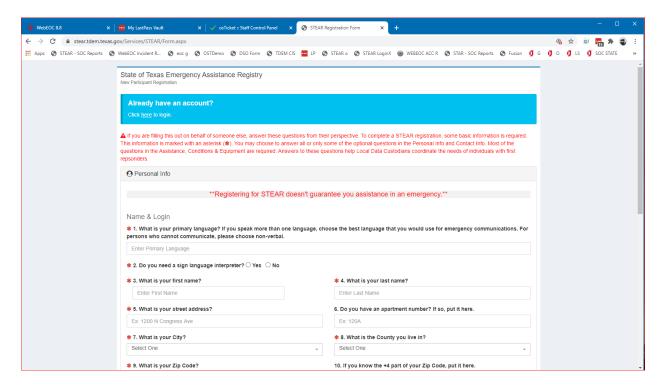
The STEAR program is operationally supported by TDEM and a network of local government appointed STEAR database custodian(s) and the Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN), which maintains the 2-1-1 call system. 2-1-1 helps citizens connect with services they may need and registers callers to the STEAR Program when they report that they may not be able to safely evacuate their homes during a local disaster.

The STEAR program is guided by a committee that is made up of state and local government representatives who have a personal stake in the program. The STEAR committee was developed at the request of Chief Kidd and actively meets throughout the year to discuss recommendations and requests from state and local government representatives.

Below: screenshot of State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) login display.



Below: screenshot of State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) enrollment display.



STATE OF TEXAS ASSISTANCE REQUEST (STAR)

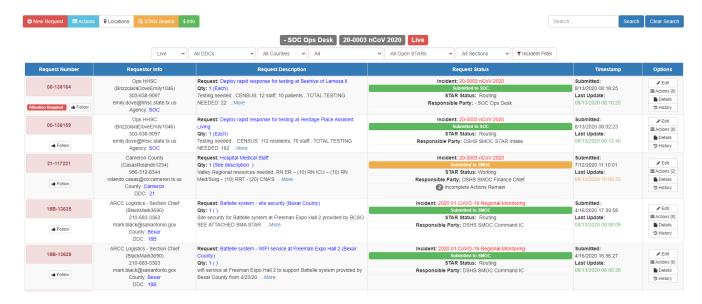
A State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR) is a routable web form within the WebEOC application. Local jurisdictions, regional entities, state agencies and support organizations use the STAR to request and track the filling of needed resources to support disaster response operations from the Texas State Operations Center (SOC), which is managed and operated by TDEM. The Texas SOC uses the STAR to vet, route, authorize and ensure valid resource requests are fulfilled via the STAR routing process in WebEOC. The SOC also uses the STAR to track the status of resource requests, assist with determining incident costs and track the return or demobilization of resources provided to local jurisdictions to support an incident.

STARs connect the needs of first responders in affected disaster areas to personnel working in the SOC. The STAR process was designed to expedite requests for equipment, resources and personnel. Once a STAR is received from an affected jurisdiction, the Texas SOC reviews and fulfills valid requests for assistance with available resources from Emergency Management Council members, available contracts or vendors, and interstate or federal resources.

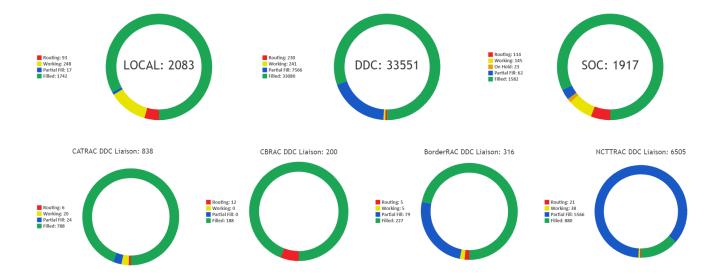
Prior to the advent of the STAR, the State of Texas utilized the FEMA 213-RR paper form, which made request tracking and financial accounting for large incidents particularly challenging. For example, during the first 6-months of the Texas COVID response, TDEM

received over 66,000 individual STAR requests for personal protective equipment, and a multitude of other resource requests, that could have only been managed efficiently with a web enabled interactive form connected to a scalable database.

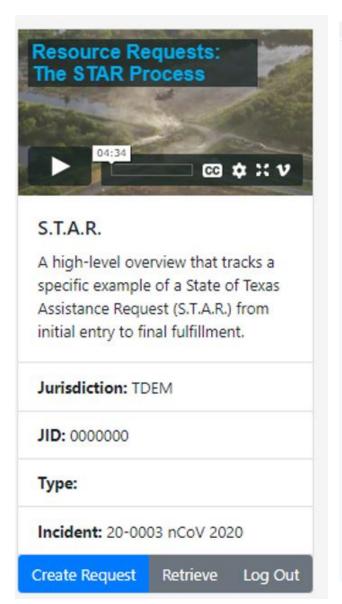
Below: screenshot of State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR) main display.



Below: screenshot of STAR real-time request statistics at all levels in Texas during COVID Response.



Below: screenshots of STAR online request portal and training to be deployed for local jurisdictional use over all WebEOC instances statewide.





Texas Emergency Tracking Network (ETN)

Texas maintains one of the largest public sector emergency tracking systems in the nation through the Texas Emergency Tracking Network (ETN). The Texas ETN was created in the aftermath of major Texas hurricanes such as hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike during the 2005 – 2008 time period, in which mass evacuations occurred and challenges existed in tracking the location and status of tens of thousands of evacuees as they were transported to safer locations inland. The Texas ETN system tracks evacuated people, pets, medical supplies, and luggage both for evacuations and repopulation to ensure

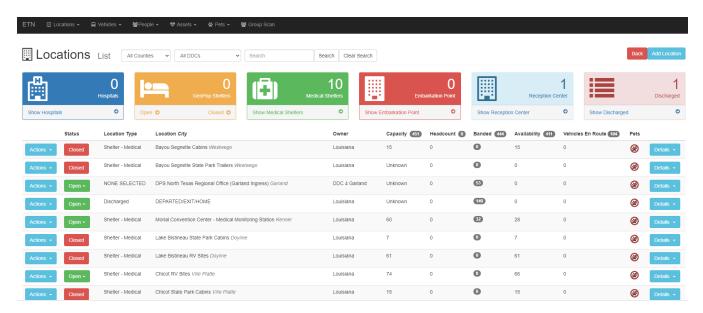
people and their packable processions are safely delivered to the correct location and returned home safely.

The Texas ETN is a collection of technologies that form a system using TDEM's WebEOC crisis management information system, geospatial information systems, global positioning technology, bar code scanning and mobile device and mobile application technology. Texas ETN manages critical information, facilitates critical information exchange, and maintains accountability of evacuees, evacuee groups, pets, service animals, evacuee medical equipment, and state-supplied vehicles throughout the evacuation and repopulation process.

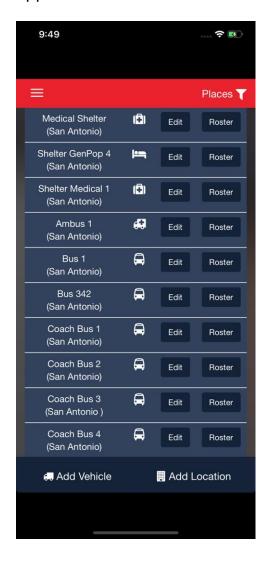
With an activated and properly credentialed ETN application account, first responders and emergency management professionals can use a mobile phone or tablet computing device to locally manage evacuation operations and evacuate, transport, shelter and repopulate all while on scene, in a vehicle or at a shelter. Tracking is initiated using vinyl wrist bands printed with bar codes that are scanned to identify the person, and or, their processions and their destination. Mobile phones with the ETN app are deployed by TDEM to local evacuation centers whereby they are attached to evacuation buses and tracked with the internal GPS system. All this information goes into the WebEOC system to centrally manage and summarize evacuation status information.

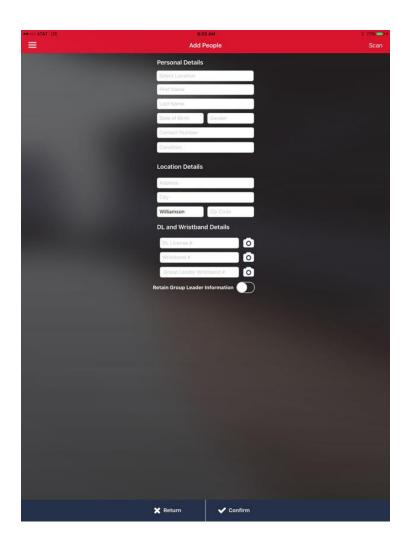
During the 2020 Hurricane Season ETN was used extensively to support evacuation operations for both Texas and Louisiana. ETN was particularly useful in supporting the evacuation challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to support group and family sheltering and the need to support non-congregate sheltering with motel vouchers.

Below: screenshot of STAR real-time request statistics at all levels in Texas during COVID Response

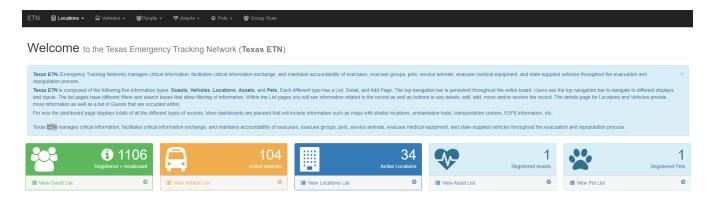


Below: screenshots of the Texas Emergency Tracking Network (ETN) mobile application interfaces for locations, vehicles, and evacuees.

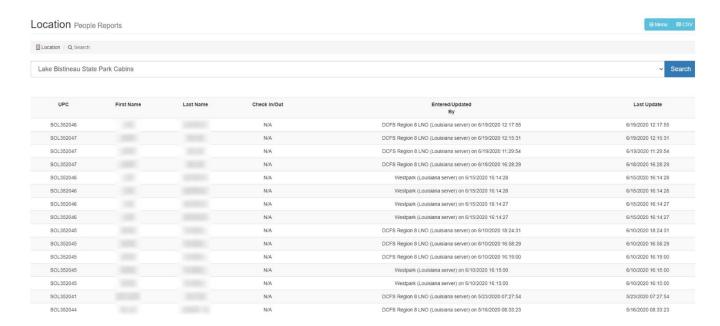




Below: screenshot of the Texas Emergency Tracking Network (ETN) real-time evacuation and sheltering statistics at all levels in Texas during Hurricane Laura Response.



Below: screenshot of a Louisiana shelter list as tracked inside of Texas ETN.



The State of Texas Disaster Summary Outline Report

The State of Texas **Disaster Summary Outline (DSO)** is an online web form that TDEM maintains for local emergency management officials to fill-out after a natural or man-made disaster to report estimated damages within each affected jurisdiction. The completed DSO web form is submitted and routed to TDEM, which compiles the various city and county DSOs into a report that summarizes the total estimated damages for the incident. A DSO can be submitted by a city, county, tribal jurisdiction or other eligible entities described below.

The initial DSO report estimates are necessary to compile the first projected extent of damages for the incident. In accordance with the State Emergency Management Plan, if a mayor or county judge determines that a disaster incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the affected jurisdiction's capability to recover, a letter outlining the disaster impact and the need for supplemental state and/or federal assistance must accompany the DSO. The DSO is then used as a supporting document for submitting a request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration to obtain federal disaster support.

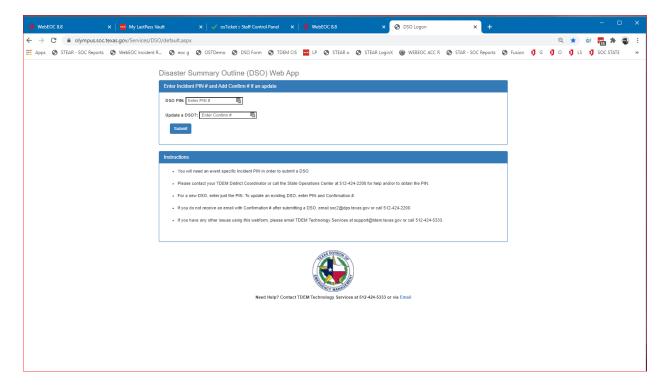
The DSO reports estimated losses (insured and uninsured losses) for three FEMA program categories: Individual Assistance (IA), Public Assistance (PA), and Other Eligible Entities.

1. The DSO **Individual Assistance** section reports on Residential Losses (Primary Residence Only) and Business Losses & Impacts and details the total number of homes and business damaged or destroyed and insured and uninsured losses.

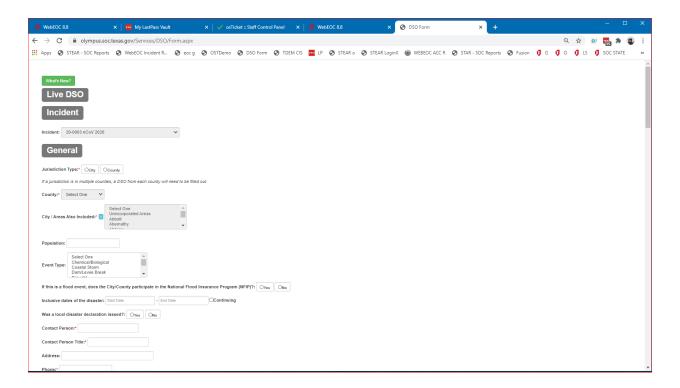
- 2. The DSO **Public Assistance** section reports on disaster impacts to jurisdictions and insured and uninsured losses for:
 - a. Debris Clearance
 - b. Emergency Protective Measures (response costs, protection of life & property, temporary repairs, etc.)
 - c. Roads and Bridges
 - d. Water Control Facilities (dams, levees, and dikes),
 - e. Buildings and Equipment (including vehicles and contents of buildings)
 - f. Public Utility Systems (Gas, Electric, Sewer, Water)
 - g. Other Types of Facilities (Recreational Facilities, Airports, etc.)
- 3. The **Other Eligible Entities** section reports on disaster impacts to non-profit or governmental organizations, and medical, emergency, utility, educational, and custodial care facilities, etc. and insured and uninsured losses.

TDEM provides DSO report training to local jurisdictions and works with them to understand their reporting requirements. TDEM also helps the jurisdictions fill out the forms correctly and combine and sort out which information their jurisdiction should report to prevent duplicative reporting. TDEM then complies and summarizes the DSO reports for the state to submit to the governor and state leadership.

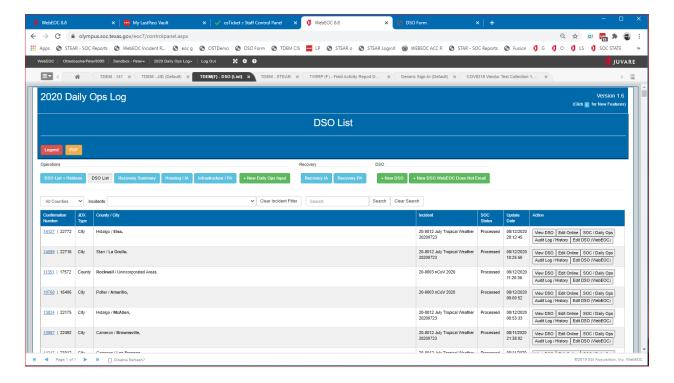
Below: screenshot of initial input for the Disaster Summary Outline (DSO) for jurisdictions.



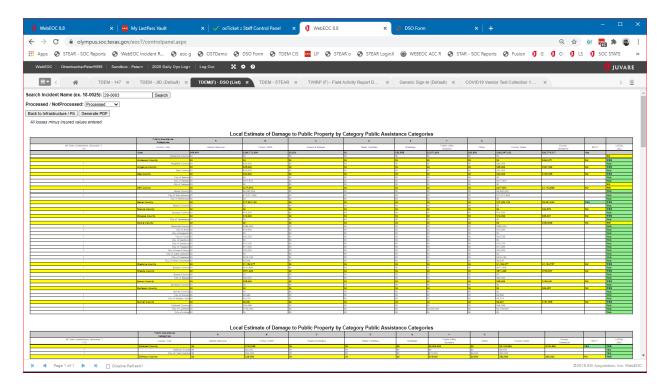
Below: screenshot of Disaster Summary Outline (DSO) jurisdictional submission form.



Below: screenshot of the Disaster Summary Outline (DSO) main display list.



Below: screenshot of the Disaster Summary Outline (DSO) per jurisdiction and amount.

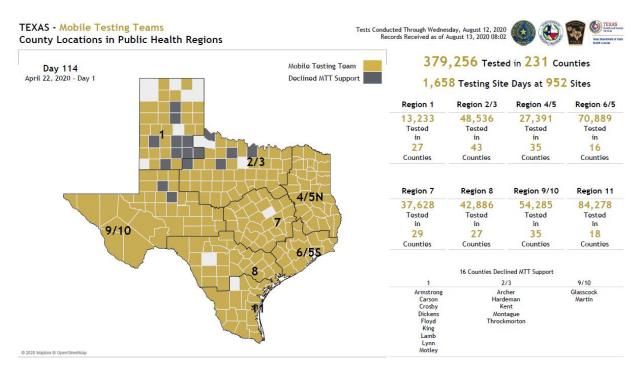


Common Operating Pictures - COPS

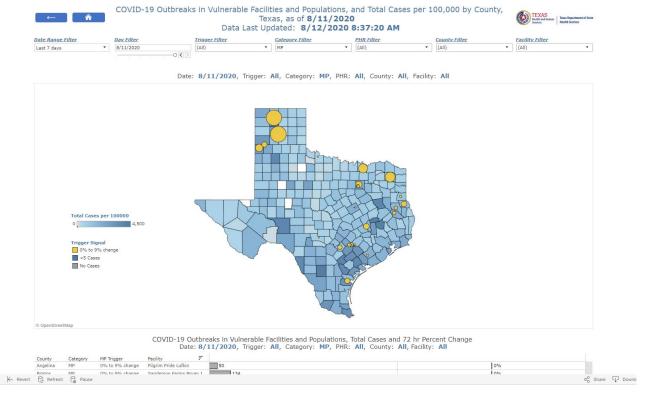
The primary means to begin processing and using all of this collected data into analytics, are the various Common Operating Pictures (COP) withing TDEM and other agencies. The following tab of the Texas Department of State Health Services COP shows where data collected via WebEOC is processed and shared between DSHS and one of their regional hospital preparedness providers, SETRAC within the PowerBI product.



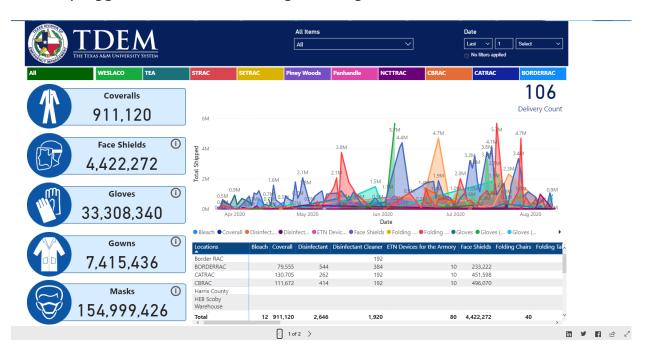
The next display shown is another specific analysis coming from various data products, this time to include WebEOC, EMResource, ArcGIS, and internal DSHS data products, and shown on a DSHS specific tab. This tab was shared between DSHS and TDEM Common Operating Pictures and was generated with Tableau.



The next example is internal to DSHS to process data collected within EMSystem, WebEOC, and internal products to DSHS. The display product is ArcGIS.



The final example is taking WebEOC data from over 35 local and 3 state level servers in Texas for State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs) and processing this data within E2Open, which was procured specifically during the COVID-19 Pandemic Response. This illustrates that the data sharing and analytical processes are in place to tie into systems that are incident specific and new to the state but can be plugged in to work for a high-level goal.



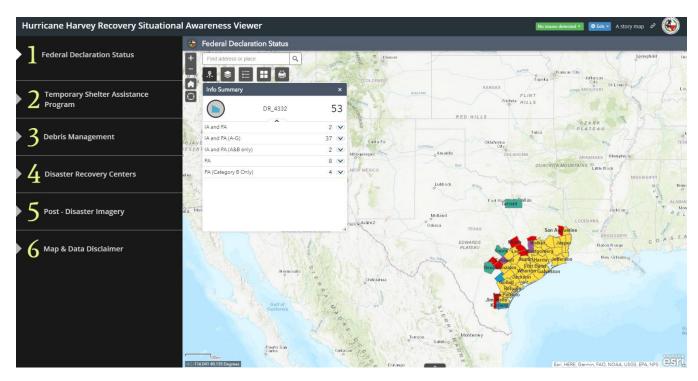
Examples of Data Analytics from Recent Disasters

The following three incidents illustrate how these systems have worked in previous responses to various types of incidents, and how that data was used.

17-0021 Hurricane Harvey

Hurricane Harvey was two distinct types of incidents, and as such has two different data collection types. Inside of WebEOC, four of the main processes used were the State of Texas Evacuee Assistance Registry (STEAR), the State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR), the Texas Evacuee Tracking Network (ETN), and the Disaster Summary Outline (DSO).

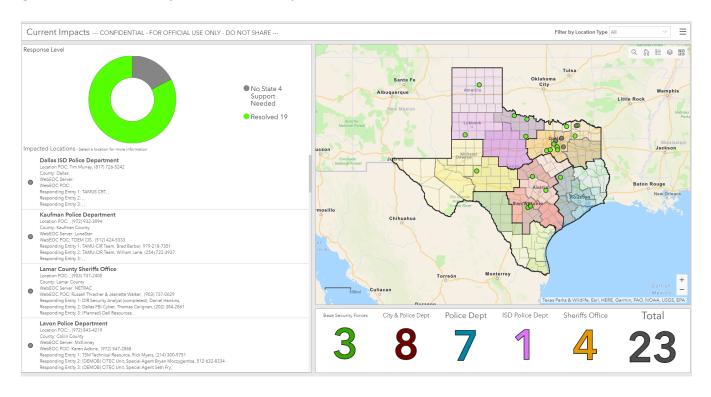
These products were used in several ways for Hurricane Harvey. The STAR process allowed TDEM to determine what types of requests and items were needed, and where, and allowed logistics staff to best plan to fulfill the most emergent needs within the affected region. STEAR and ETN allowed the state to know where those that needed to be moved out of impact area resided, and how to transport and shelter those persons, as well as repopulate them post-storm. The DSO process allowed TDEM to track the damage, both to the individuals as well as the jurisdictional and government resource damage. Pulling this data from the disparate servers statewide provided stronger data analytics of the overall incident both during the response and into the recovery.



19-0025 August Cyber Incident

Solutions for Emergency Management Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation are unique to each situation. They are further made unique depending upon the type of incident and the agencies and local jurisdictions that are involved, especially given the large size of Texas. To better support decision makers at all levels from local to state and interaction with Federal partners, Crisis Information Management platforms exist.

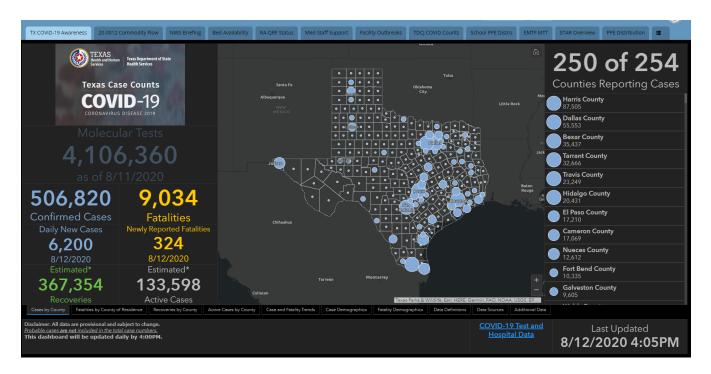
WebEOC allowed for all impacted locales, as well as responding agencies, to log into a single incident to begin tracking the response. Additionally, mapping the impacted jurisdictions as they became known allowed responders to start to determine a trend in why and how the impact was occurring. Using a real time chat tool that tied into smart phones, tablets and inside of WebEOC provided a good tactical ability to further respond and recover.



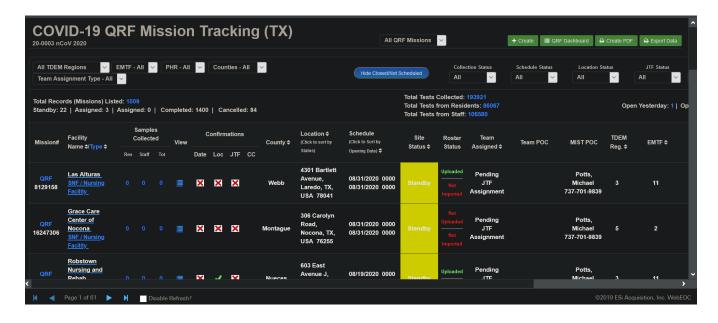
20-0003 nCOV 2020

Texas' response to the Corona virus in Texas has better defined where and what data should be shared and how best to create actionable results from said data. Some of the integration allowed for a quick deployment of a "Hospital Stress Level" to give daily reporting data better use, as well as being able to track all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) within our systems. Those capabilities, and the integration between agencies at local, state, and federal levels, have continued to benefit everyone.

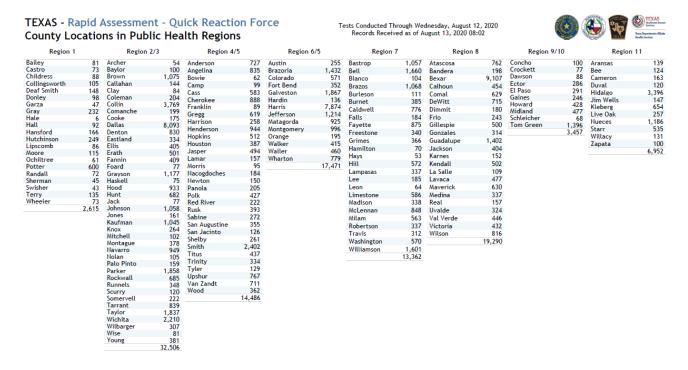
During the 2020 Coronavirus (nCOV) response, WebEOC and ESRI once again became the backbone of data input, with the addition of Microsoft Teams. That data was exported into Data Informatics solutions such as PowerBI (shown below) as well as other tools as well.



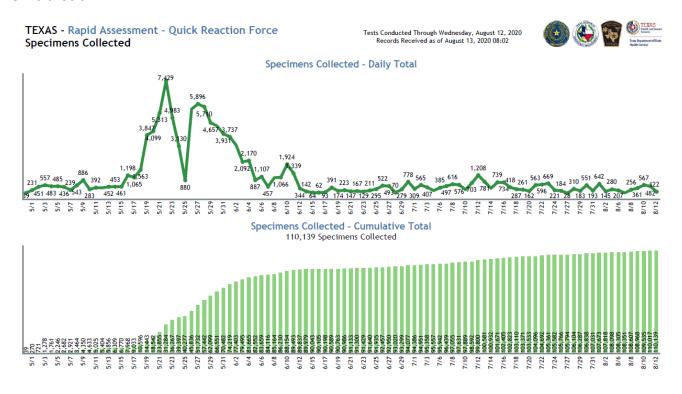
As a final illustration of how data is collected, analyzed, and used, the following images show the collection (input) portion of the COVID-19 Quick Reaction Forces setup. Here you can see specifics for setting the dates for locations and getting site, and other locals confirmed. From there, the tests are collected and counted as well.



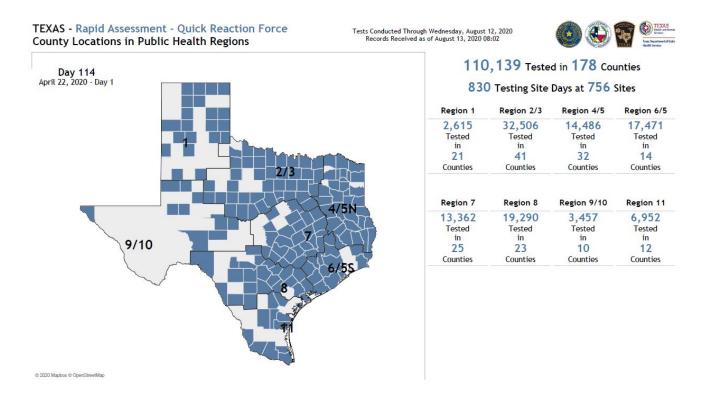
The first export of data is a simple collection of tests by county, split into the DSHS Public Health Regions. This data has now moved from the TDEM LoneStar WebEOC Server via the Emergency Medical Task Force and the Texas Military Forces over to DSHS.



The next display is a running tally specific to each day so that it better illustrates highs and lows in the overall mission respective to Texas as a whole. This product is Tableau.



Lastly, a graphical representation of data displayed to give a good view of where tests have been concentrated.



As the data above displays, the methods to collect information exist, and the means by which to interpret, analyze, and share results for decision makers are in place. There are several ways that we can better utilize what has been shown to work, and how to expand upon some areas that will create an even better means in the future. The following below recommendations are given based on several years of experience and many incidents as well.

Recommendations and Requirements

Centralized Emergency Management Web Application and Data Portal

TDEM recommends that it develop a centralized Web Application and Data portal for all Texas emergency management stakeholders. The TDEM Web Portal would provide a centralized repository for all Texas emergency management applications and incident data to help ensure a common operating picture for disaster analytics. The online TDEM-147 form collects contact information for local jurisdiction officials and when completely filled out provides the capability for local jurisdictions to receive email and text notifications of new and updated EM applications and data products. The portal would also create one location to access all available incident data in relation to both a single incident, or a single jurisdiction. Additionally, the COVID response has expedited the finalization of an online STAR form portal to allow NGOs and other private partners to be able to submit requests for needed supplies and resources such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) without the need for a WebEOC account.

• Enhanced Training and Socialization via Preparedness and Exercises TDEM recommends that it conduct quarterly train- the-trainer webinars through the TDEM Preparedness Division in coordination with TEEX. There is a direct correlation between the number of training and exercise sessions a jurisdiction or agency conducts annually with their staff and the amount of issues reported back to the state. Local jurisdictions would have an opportunity to receive training in all the applications described above that are within WebEOC that provide disaster data analytics. The training would also include Texas ETN for evacuating and sheltering jurisdictions.

Data Analytics Incident Coordination Calls

TDEM recommends that it conduct data analytics incident coordination calls for all geospatial and crisis information systems data during disaster response and recovery. This will provide interested or affected stakeholders a single daily meeting to coordinate data analytics requirements, identify available resources and prevent duplication of efforts.

Steps to Development and Implementation

This section provides a summary of next steps including organizational approval, legislative approval and follow on steps if approved. It should also include resource requirements as identified.

Detailed next steps

Due Date	Objectives	Team Assignments	Status
	Initial PMP Review and Approval	Chief Kidd	

For More Information For more information, please contact Jeff Newbold, Chief Technology Officer, jeff.newbold@tdem.texas.gov.