

Disaster Web Portal

HB 2325

State of Texas

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Executive Summary

To further improve public access to disaster response information and assistance resources, the legislature directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management to develop and deploy a Disaster Web Portal in accordance with [H.B. 2325 Sec. 418.057](#) which requires the web portal to:

- (1) provide disaster information to the public, including information on programs and services available to disaster victims and funding for and expenditures of disaster assistance programs
- (2) include information on disaster response and recovery activities
- (3) provide information on obtaining assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, state agencies, organized volunteer groups, and any other entities providing disaster assistance

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) coordinates state emergency management programs that are intended to ensure the state and local government entities respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters, and implement plans and programs to help prevent or lessen the impact of emergencies and disasters. TDEM develops and maintains extensive Crisis Information Management capabilities that are used by state and local jurisdictions to coordinate response and recovery efforts. However, enabling more robust and easily accessible access to disaster information and resources for individual citizens is the objective of this legislation and resulting project.

Overview

Purpose

During an unfolding disaster, it can be difficult for individual citizens to locate current official information and resources. The Disaster Web Portal is designed to be a hub for disaster information, and to provide both current news and notifications, and access to essential information for disaster survivors. The Disaster Web Portal is designed to be the HUB for information on current disasters:

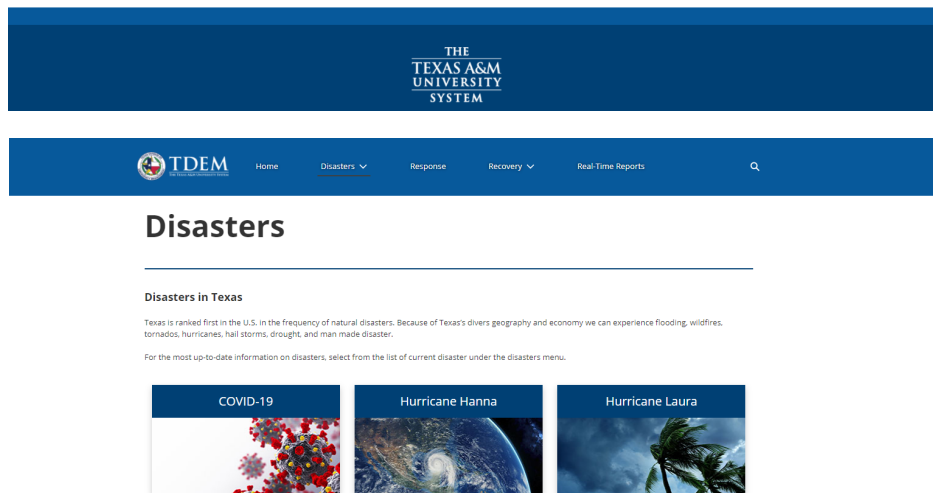
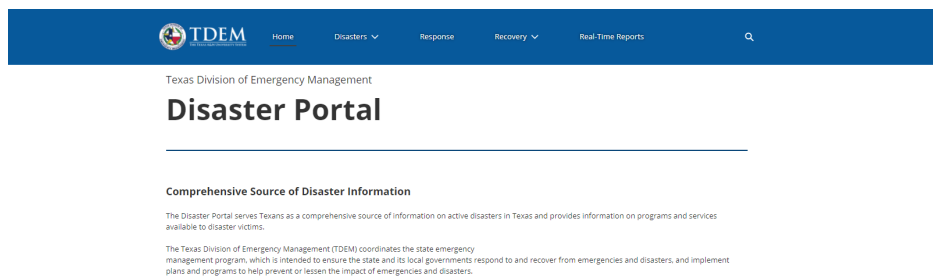
- Provide up-to-date information on response and recover efforts during disasters
- Provide access to information on what to do before, during, and after common disasters in Texas
- Provide access to information on real-time traffic and weather reports
- Provide information about state programs such as the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

- Provide access to disaster resources for Individuals/Household Assistance and Business Assistance via U.S. Small business Administration (SBA) loans
- Collection of links to other state resources for disaster survivors

Comprehensive Source of Disaster Information

The Disaster Portal serves Texans as an aggregate site that provides access to comprehensive information on active disasters in Texas and provides information on programs and services available to disaster victims. The Disaster Portal can be accessed via any internet connection.

The following example screenshots are from the initial deployment of the Disaster Portal, which present important disaster response and recovery information, and aggregating links and access to essential data and services.



Audience

Citizens of Texas
Texas Legislature

- I. Bills - <https://capitol.texas.gov/billlookup/billnumber.aspx>
- II. Statutes - <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/>

Authority

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For more information:

Texas Legislature Online
<https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=HB2325>

Stakeholders

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.
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	TCEQ strives to protect the state’s public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development. The goal is clean air, clean water and the safe management of waste.
Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT)	TXDOT focuses on the well-being, safety, and quality of life for Texans and the traveling public are of the utmost concern to the Department.
Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)	TEEX provides emergency responders to disasters across the state and nation to developing training and practical workforce solutions.
Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS)	The Texas A&M Forest Service conserves and protects the resources and lands of the Lone Star State.

Background, Discussion and Recommendations

The Texas Division of Emergency Management Disaster Web Portal may be found at:
<https://disaster.tdem.texas.gov/disaster/s/>.

Planned future enhancements

- Improve the road and traffic information system to better display evacuation messaging
- Connect to other state or federal agencies API systems to show real-time data
- Provide access to existing or future capabilities that take in disaster data from citizens

For More Information

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