

# Public Health and Healthcare Response to Hurricane Harvey

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Presentation to the Task  
Force on Infectious Disease  
Preparedness and Response

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Commissioner

February 27, 2018



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# Presentation Overview

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- DSHS Responsibilities in Emergency Response
- DSHS Hurricane Harvey Response Efforts
- Public Health Recovery Efforts



# DSHS Responsibilities in Emergency Response



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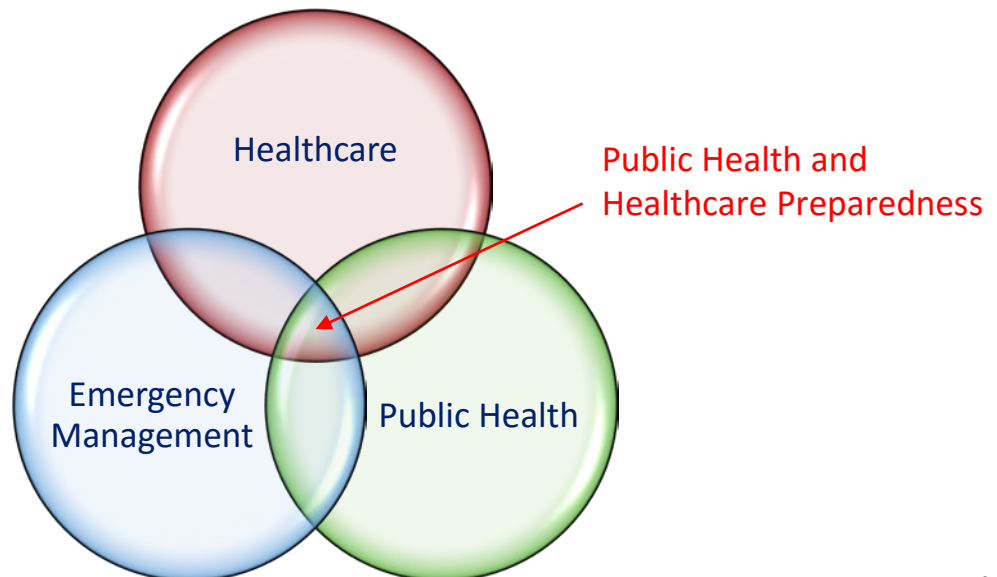
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# DSHS Responsibilities in Emergency Response

## DSHS responsibilities fall under the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan.

- Emergency Support Function 8: coordinating public health and medical response during emergencies
- Annex D: Radiological Emergency Management Annex



# DSHS Responsibilities in Emergency Response

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- While emergency response begins at the local level, DSHS plays a vital role when:
  - There is no local health department
  - The response exceeds local capacity
  - Large events involve multiple jurisdictions
  - Response involves areas with no local component
- DSHS operates the State Medical Operations Center (SMOC)
  - SMOC operates in coordination with the State Operations Center (SOC) operated by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM).
- Personnel and resources from across DSHS are utilized to respond to an emergency.

# DSHS Hurricane Harvey Efforts



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# DSHS Hurricane Harvey Efforts



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- DSHS efforts by the numbers:
  - **689** DSHS staff involved in response
  - **149** DSHS personnel staffed SMOC
  - **990** medical response missions
  - **3,200** medical patient evacuations
  - **1,800** patients treated by mobilized medical units
  - **142** patients transferred
  - **70,000** vaccines distributed
  - **6,765,971** acres treated for mosquito control
- Total DSHS as of September 20th: **\$41,218,005**





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# DSHS Hurricane Harvey Efforts

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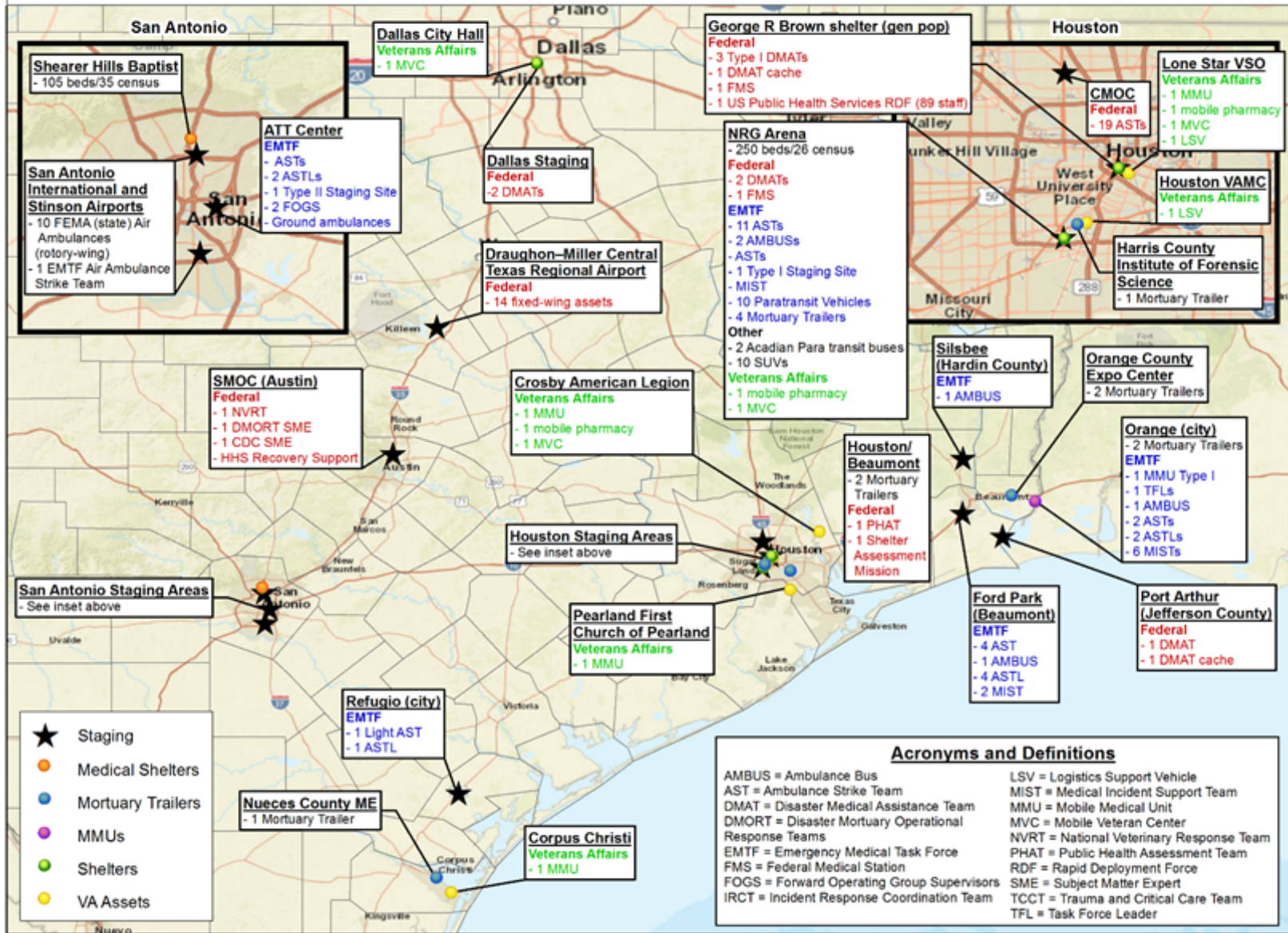
**DSHS Hurricane Harvey efforts included a diverse array of public health activities across the state to assist people impacted by the storm.**

Some of these activities include:

- **Medical personnel:** The Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) provides rapid coordinated support for medical evacuations and patient care
- **Medical assets:** Establish mobile medical units to treat, stabilize, and transport individuals, as well as medical shelters for evacuees with medical needs
- **Vector control:** Activate aerial and ground spraying to control mosquito populations
- **Immunizations:** Provide vaccine and medication for responders and impacted individuals
- **Impacted facilities:** Maintain situational awareness and provide assistance to healthcare facilities as needed
- **Public health education and outreach:** Disseminate critical safety information through various platforms about how to prepare for a disaster and how to protect yourself after flooding
- **Monitor public health risks:** Analyze data and information to identify post-event risks such as environmental, food-borne illnesses, vector-borne diseases, and other infectious diseases



# Resource Locations

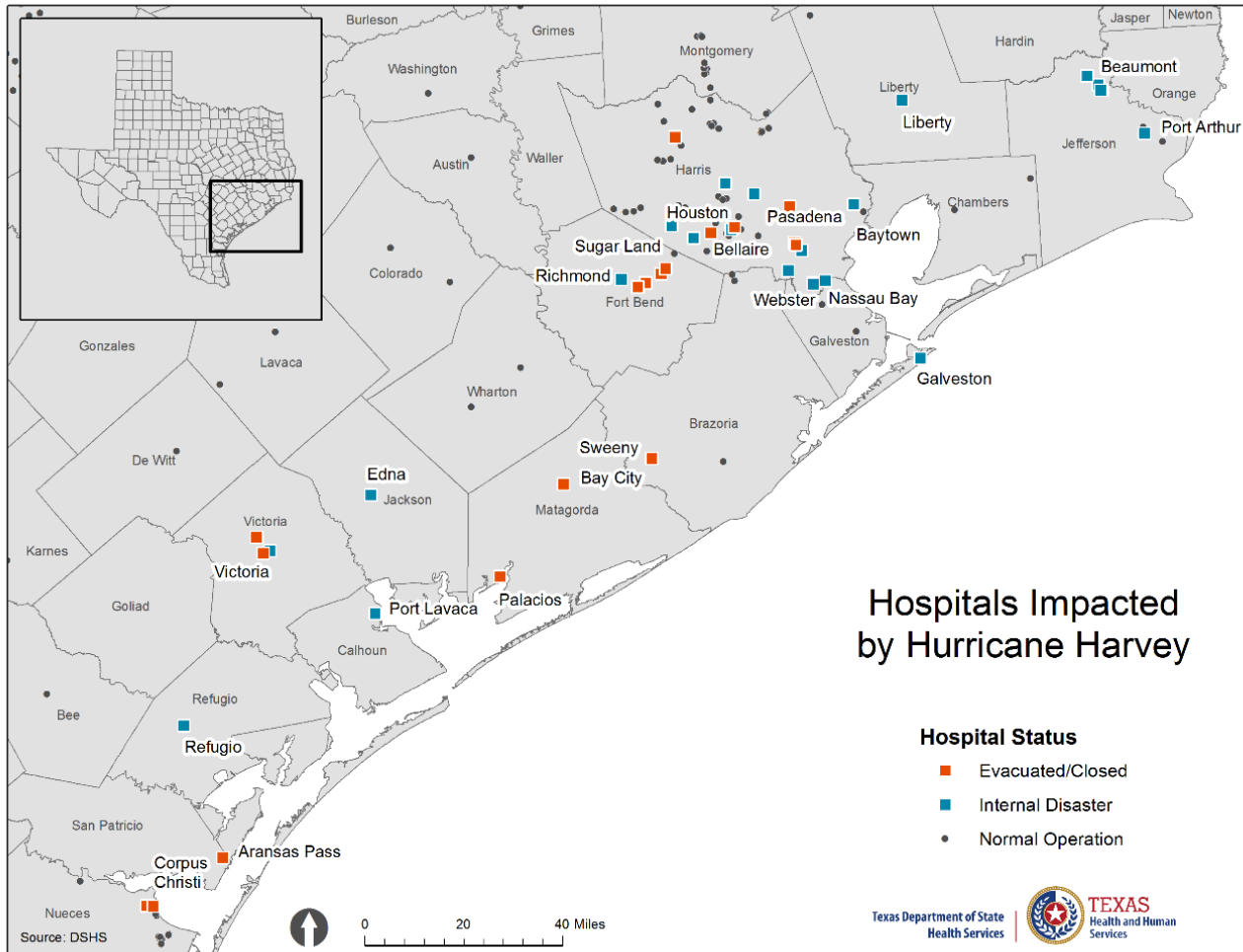


# DSHS Hurricane Harvey Efforts



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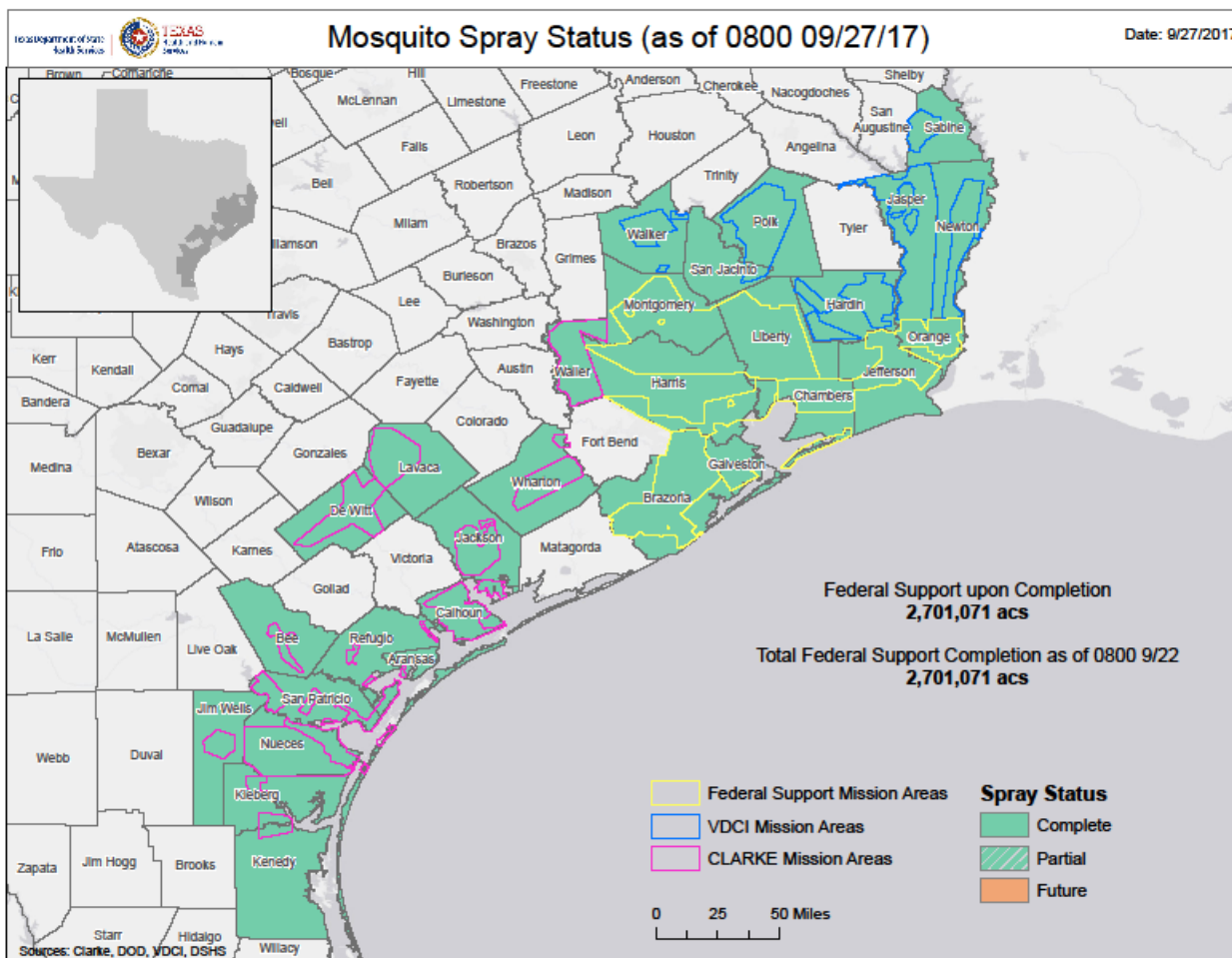
- Evacuated/  
Closed: 20
- Internal  
Disaster: 25

# DSHS Hurricane Harvey Efforts



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Counties sprayed:  
29

Approximate  
number of acres  
sprayed: 6,765,971

# Public Health Recovery Efforts



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# Public Health Recovery Efforts

## DSHS is engaged in ongoing public health recovery efforts.

- **Food Safety:** The Texas Rapid Response Team (TRRT) has been activated to monitor and respond to any food-related incidents
- **Impact Assessment:** Working with locals to assess impact to public health and medical infrastructure, public health issues relating from the disaster, identify gaps, and provide support as appropriate
- **After Action:** Identifying lessons learned to produce a comprehensive statewide Public Health and Medical After Action Report and Improvement Plan
- **Asset Recovery:** Assessing resources expended during the emergency in order to replace and repair equipment in preparation for future responses
- **Reimbursement:** Working with entities involved in response to ensure documentation necessary for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement has been completed
- **Data and Statistics:** Analyzing death certificates, reviewing media reports, and contacting medical examiners and justices of the peace to identify hurricane-related deaths



# After Action Review Timeline

Sept. 21

- DSHS regional director hot wash

Sept. 26-27

- Emergency Medical Task Force hot wash

Oct. 5

- DSHS executive team hot wash

Oct. 24

- State Medical Operations Center hot wash

Oct. 24

- Regional Health Medical Operations Centers (RHMOCs) hot wash

Oct. 30

- Texas Hospital Association Lessons Learned Forum



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# After Action Review Timeline

Oct. 31

- DSHS agency hot wash

As needed

- SMOC Section Chiefs 1-on-1 hot washes

Nov. 14

- Immunizations hot wash

Nov. 16

- Vector control hot wash

On-going

- Drafting Harvey After Action Report / Improvement Plan

Mar. 1

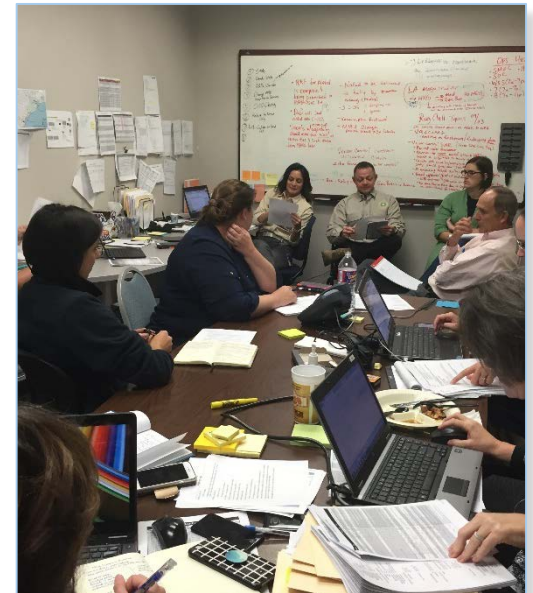
- Completion of the final Hurricane Harvey Improvement Plan



# Preliminary After Action Areas of Focus



- Medical sheltering
- Medical evacuation and transportation
- Patient repopulation
- Resource staging and deployment
- Immunizations response
- Vector control
- Medical volunteer and donation management
- Public health surge capacity
- Health impact tracking







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# Thank you

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