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[Your Weekly Address](#)

[Speeches & Remarks](#)

[Press Briefings](#)

[Statements & Releases](#)

[White House Schedule](#)

[Presidential Actions](#)

[Executive Orders](#)

[Presidential Memoranda](#)

[Proclamations](#)

[Legislation](#)

[Pending Legislation](#)

[Signed Legislation](#)

[Vetoed Legislation](#)

[Nominations & Appointments](#)

[Disclosures](#)

The White House

For Immediate Release

March 20, 2016

President Obama Signs Texas Disaster Declaration

The President today declared a major disaster exists in the State of Texas and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on March 7, 2016, and continuing.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in the counties of Jasper, Newton, and Orange.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Federal funding also is available to the state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work as a result of the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding in the counties of Jasper, Newton, and Orange.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

W. Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named Kevin L. Hannes as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area.

FEMA said that damage surveys are continuing in other areas, and more counties and additional forms of assistance may be designated after the assessments are fully completed.

FEMA said that residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance tomorrow by registering online at <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT: FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@DHS.GOV



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FEMA President Declares Major Disaster for Texas

Navigation **Release date:** March 19, 2016

Search **Release Number:** HQ-16-026

Languages

News Releases
(/news-releases)

Fact Sheets
(/fact-sheets)

News Desk
Contacts
(/media-contacts)

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the State of Texas to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on March 7, 2016, and continuing.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Jasper, Newton, and Orange counties. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

The President's action makes federal funding available to state, tribal and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding in Jasper, Newton, and Orange counties.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Kevin L. Hannes has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Hannes said additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated area can begin applying for assistance tomorrow by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov (<http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov>) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

Follow FEMA online at <http://blog.fema.gov> (<http://blog.fema.gov/>), www.twitter.com/fema (<http://www.twitter.com/fema>), www.facebook.com/fema (<http://www.facebook.com/fema>), and www.youtube.com/fema (<http://www.youtube.com/fema>). Also, follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at www.twitter.com/craigatfema (<http://www.twitter.com/craigatfema>). The social media links provided are for reference only.

FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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[Federal Aid Programs for the State of Texas \(/news-release/2016/03/19/federal-aid-programs-state-texas\)](/news-release/2016/03/19/federal-aid-programs-state-texas)

Last Updated: March 19, 2016 - 20:36

State/Tribal Government or Region:

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