

# **SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT<sup>i</sup>**

*to Picking Up the Pieces: Restoring Rural Housing and Communities After a Disaster*

## **Texas and Oklahoma Floods Disaster Guide**

Housing Assistance Council

May 27, 2015

Major Disaster Declarations from flooding events in early May were amended to include additional counties affected by the severe weather, tornado, and flood event that occurred in Texas and Oklahoma over Memorial Day Weekend. More than 220 people spent the holiday weekend in shelters after significant rainfall deluged the region. The storms came after weeks of severe weather in Texas and Oklahoma. Disasters have been declared in over 80 counties, thousands of homes have been destroyed, and many areas remain without power. The following guide provides general information for those affected by the storms and flooding. For more information, please see HAC's report *Picking Up the Pieces: Restoring Rural Housing and Communities After a Disaster* available for free online at:

[http://www.ruralhome.org/storage/documents/disaster\\_guide\\_2012.pdf](http://www.ruralhome.org/storage/documents/disaster_guide_2012.pdf).

If your house or neighborhood has been evacuated as a result of these storms, only return to your home when told by authorities it is safe to do so. Additional flooding is predicted and authorities are asking people to avoid flood areas. It is important to allow first responders to do the work they need to without interference. If you come across a road barrier, turn around. Water levels on roads are often deeper than they appear to the naked eye. Barriers have been placed for your protection so please take them seriously.

Since early May, the Red Cross currently has opened 30 shelters in the area and have been providing assistance to other local community shelters. The National Guard is helping with evacuations and flood control. The Austin Disaster Relief Network, Salvation Army, and the United Way are also providing assistance to flood victims. FEMA personnel are coordinating with Texas emergency management authorities, and a federal state of emergency may be declared for some counties.

In total, 81 counties in Texas and Oklahoma remain under state disaster declarations. This includes Archer, Bastrop, Bosque, Caldwell, Cass, Clay, Collin, Cooke, Denton, Dewitt, Eastland, Fannin, Gaines, Grayson, Grimes, Harrison, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hill, Hood, Houston, Jasper, Johnson, Kendall, Montague, Navarro, Newton, Nueces, Parker, San Jacinto, Smith, Van Zandt, Walker, Wichita, Wilson, and Wise Counties in Texas. In Oklahoma, Adair, Alfalfa, Atoka, Blaine, Bryan, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cleveland, Coal, Cotton, Creek, Dewey, Garfield, Garvin, Grady, Grant, Haskell, Hughes, Jackson, Johnston, Latimer, LeFlore, Love, Major, McClain, McIntosh, Marshall, McCurtain, Murray, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Seminole, Sequoyah, Stephens, and Tillman Counties remain under disaster declarations. This insures that resources for all State departments and agencies can help

protect lives, and to prevent, minimize, and repair injury and damage in the aftermath of this disaster.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):**

Toll-free helpline:

1-800-FEMA (3362)

For hearing impaired callers only:

1-800-462-7585 (TTY)

1-800-621-3362 (Video Relay Service)

**American Red Cross Disaster Service:**

For referrals and updates on Red Cross shelter services in your area, locate a local Red Cross office through: <http://www.redcross.org/find-help> or by calling the Public Inquiry Center at 1-800-214-0441.

**Local Office of Housing and Urban Development**

Fort Worth Regional Office

801 Cherry St. #45

Suite 2500

Fort Worth, TX

817-978-5965

Houston Field Office

1301 Fannin, Suite 2200

Houston, TX 77002

713-718-3199

San Antonio Field Office

Hipolito Garcia Federal Building

615 East Houston St., Suite 347

San Antonio, TX 78205

210-747-6806

Oklahoma City Field Office

301 NW 6<sup>th</sup> St Suite 200

Oklahoma City, OK 73102

405-609-8400

**State Emergency Management Agency**

Texas Division of Emergency Management

5805 North Lamar Blvd.

Austin, TX 78752

512-424-2000

Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management  
2401 Lincoln Blvd – Suite C51  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
405-521-2481 phone  
<http://www.ok.gov/OEM/>

### **USDA Rural Development**

The states of Texas and Oklahoma have numerous regional USDA Rural Development offices that administer programs to promote decent affordable housing to for low-income individuals

For a list of these offices in Texas, please click here:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices/tx>

For a list of these offices in Oklahoma, please click here:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices/ok>

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<sup>1</sup> Information for this supplement was excerpted from the following sources:

FEMA at <http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4145>

The Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org/news/article/Red-Cross-Responds-To-Floods-Wildfires-Out-West>

The Colorado Office of Emergency Management at <http://www.coemergency.com/>

The Denver Post at [http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci\\_24078408/colorado-flood-red-cross-opens-shelters](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_24078408/colorado-flood-red-cross-opens-shelters)