

2023 Regional Overview

- Disaster Assessment & Recovery



SOUTH REGION

41

Regional
Counties

7

DAR Agent
Positions

DAR Program Overview

AgriLife Extension is uniquely positioned to provide Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) assistance due to its statewide network of educators, volunteers, and offices serving all 254 Texas counties. The agency can rapidly deploy specialized professionals to the disaster impact zone and, as a member of the Texas Emergency Management Council, continue its support of lead state agencies during such operations. The agency has a demonstrated history of responding to the needs of Texas communities affected by floods, wildfires, tornadoes, and hurricanes.

Blue Sky Programming

The South Region is supported by the DAR Unit; covering seven Council of Government regions. County populations range from over 2 million residents in Bexar County to 350 residents in Kenedy County. DAR Agents provide preparedness training to citizens and organizations to ensure the public is ready in the face of an unforeseen emergency. Public outreach on preparedness strategies will continue to be a priority to ensure Texans are able to meet difficult situations with confidence.

DAR HIGHLIGHT

The DAR program was created in 2019 and consists of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agents and Specialists that serve the State of Texas. Our goal is to help Texas communities prepare for disasters, provide expert support in disaster recovery, and give needed assistance to individuals, families, businesses, and agricultural producers in disaster response and recovery.

178

Educational Events

15,944

PEOPLE REACHED

including events, newsletters & media



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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



“Whenever there is a need from citizens or the public, we do not want to disrupt the recovery process. Every disaster starts local and ends local. We are mindful and respectful of the needs of Texans and want to serve as effectively and efficiently as possible.”

“Jim Well County CHARM workshop provided great insight to better prepare for the next disaster.”

- Local Official



Solar Eclipse

- 18 - Counties Involved
- 480 - People Reached, Including Volunteers Engaged

The DAR unit, along with Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Agricultural Law, urge landowners and individuals to be mindful of increased traffic leading up to the upcoming solar eclipse events. A Podcast Episode entitled “How Hill Country Landowners Can Prepare for the Eclipse” and the “Texas Solar Eclipse-Fact Sheet” were developed to inform the public. The solar eclipse episode was downloaded 2,086 times and was the top downloaded “Ag Law in the Field” podcast of 2023. A series of presentations were also made at Judges and Commissioners Conferences across the state.

Multicounty Childcare Conference

- 6 - Counties Involved
- 73 - People Reached, Including Volunteers Engaged

DAR Agent conducted an hour-long Emergency Preparedness presentation for Childcare providers. Childcare providers were taught how to calculate risk, mitigate hazards, the benefits of being prepared, how to create a comprehensive plan, understanding what resources are available, as well as abiding by local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

Community Health and Resource Management

- 2 - Counties Involved
- 113 - People Reached, Including Volunteers Engaged

The CHARM mapping platform was demonstrated in 2 workshops offered in two counties servicing 4 local jurisdictions.

- 100% of participants were greatly satisfied with the CHARM toolkit and data set provided.
- 97% of participants have a better understanding of how mitigation plays a role within emergency management.
- 97% of participants will work in their communities to ensure mitigation efforts are a priority when funding becomes available.

January 29 Severe/Winter Weather

- 2 - Counties Involved
- \$384,687 saved in disposal cost and land fill needs.

DAR team members aided with debris removal left from the Winter Storm of 2023. Debris was moved from collection sites to designated incinerator sites. The ash byproduct was then disposed of according to guidelines.

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