

# 2024 Area Program Brief

## - Disaster Assessment & Recovery



### SOUTH AREA

52

Regional  
Counties

7

DAR Agent  
Positions

### 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.

240

Educational Events

23,561

PEOPLE REACHED

*including events, newsletters & media*

### DAR Program Overview

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension South Texas DAR Team provides crucial support in disaster preparedness, assessment, and recovery across 52 counties. AgriLife Extension's extensive network of educators, volunteers, and county offices enables swift deployment of disaster professionals to affected zones. As a Texas Emergency Management Council member, AgriLife Extension coordinates with lead state agencies to address community needs post-disaster. The DAR team has a strong history of aiding Texas communities affected by floods, wildfires, hurricanes, and more. Our role includes not only immediate disaster response but also proactive community education and preparedness efforts. Recently, the team has enhanced agricultural emergency preparedness in collaboration with organizations such as TDEM, Texas Forest Service and TEEEX. Through these initiatives, the DAR team reinforces its commitment to supporting Texas's agricultural resilience and community well-being.

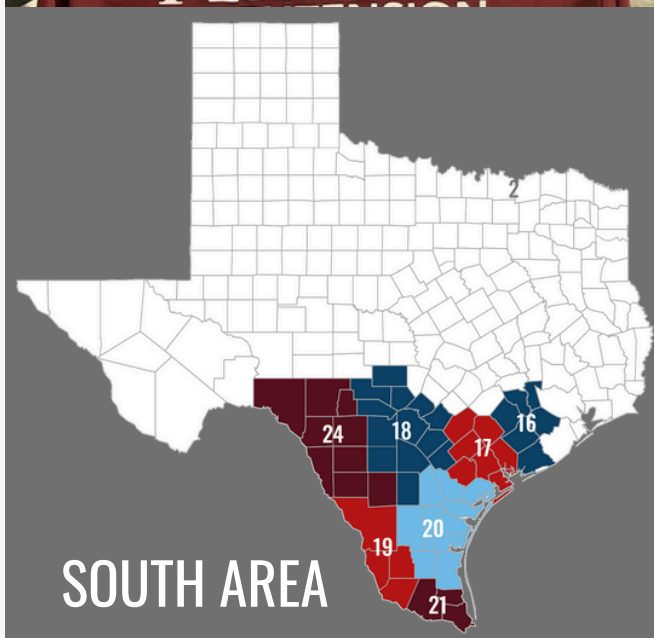
### Blue Sky Programming

The South Regional DAR team proudly serves seven South Texas Council of Government regions, reaching diverse populations such as the large area of Bexar County to smaller more rural areas like Kenedy County. Through "Blue Sky" programming, DAR Agents deliver preparedness training to citizens and organizations, empowering them with the knowledge needed to face emergencies with confidence. Our commitment to public outreach on preparedness, response, and recovery strategies remains strong, ensuring Texans are equipped to handle challenging situations and fostering resilience across our communities.



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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



### SOUTH AREA

- 16 - Houston-Galveston Area Council (part)
- 17 - Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission
- 18 - Alamo Area Council of Governments
- 19 - South Texas Development Council
- 20 - Coastal Bend Council of Governments
- 21 - Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
- 24 - Middle Rio Grande Development Council

**“This tabletop exercise helped me understand the importance of maintaining an up-to-date childcare emergency plan for my facility.”**

Claudia Cruz, Hidalgo County



**Bryan Y. Davis**  
Area Chief - South

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### Emergency Preparedness for Childcare Providers

- 11 - Counties Involved
- 239 - People Reached, Including Volunteers Engaged

DAR Agents created, organized, and facilitated scenario-based tabletop exercises for childcare providers to improve their emergency preparedness plan. Childcare providers were taught the benefits of a comprehensive plan, how to calculate risks and mitigate hazards, how to create a comprehensive plan based on available resources, all while abiding by state, local and federal laws and regulations.

### Solar Eclipse

- 42 - Counties Involved
- 780 - People Reached, Including Volunteers Engaged

DAR agents, along with Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Agrilife Extension Ag Law, reminded landowners and individuals to be mindful of increased traffic leading up to the 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 for public information. The solar eclipse episode was downloaded 2,524 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.

### Recovery and Mitigation Programs

- 11 - Counties Involved
- 112 - People Reached, Including Volunteers Engaged

CHARM and flood mitigation workshops took place in multiple Gulf Coast counties covering topics on financial resilience, proper sandbagging, and damage reporting. Participants explored growth planning, resilience, and future housing impacts on watersheds and coasts. Using CHARM, participants set growth targets, mapped development zones, and assessed real-time planning impacts. CHARM enabled local officials to engage the public on coastal planning through scenario-based mapping, addressing comprehensive and watershed planning.

### Preparedness and Resilience Programs

- 8 - Counties Involved
- 917 - People Reached, Including Volunteers Engaged

DAR team members supported All Hazards Hurricane Conferences across the South Region, offering programs for local officials and first responders on animal sheltering, supply points, and DAR response. They also hosted booths on DAR capabilities across Texas and the South Region, promoting preparedness for hurricane events and improving community response coordination.