



Burleson Park & Recreation Board

"Prepare Today. Ready Tomorrow."

North Central Texas Council of Governments

Community Resilience Team – "Fab Four"

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Who Are We?

- **North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Emergency Preparedness Department**
 - 16 county region
 - Comprehensive community resilience, Comprehensive resource development, and Emergency preparedness campaigns.
- **Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP)**
 - A three year/ three phase project
 - Goal is to enhance resiliency: Strengthen region's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.



What is Emergency Management?

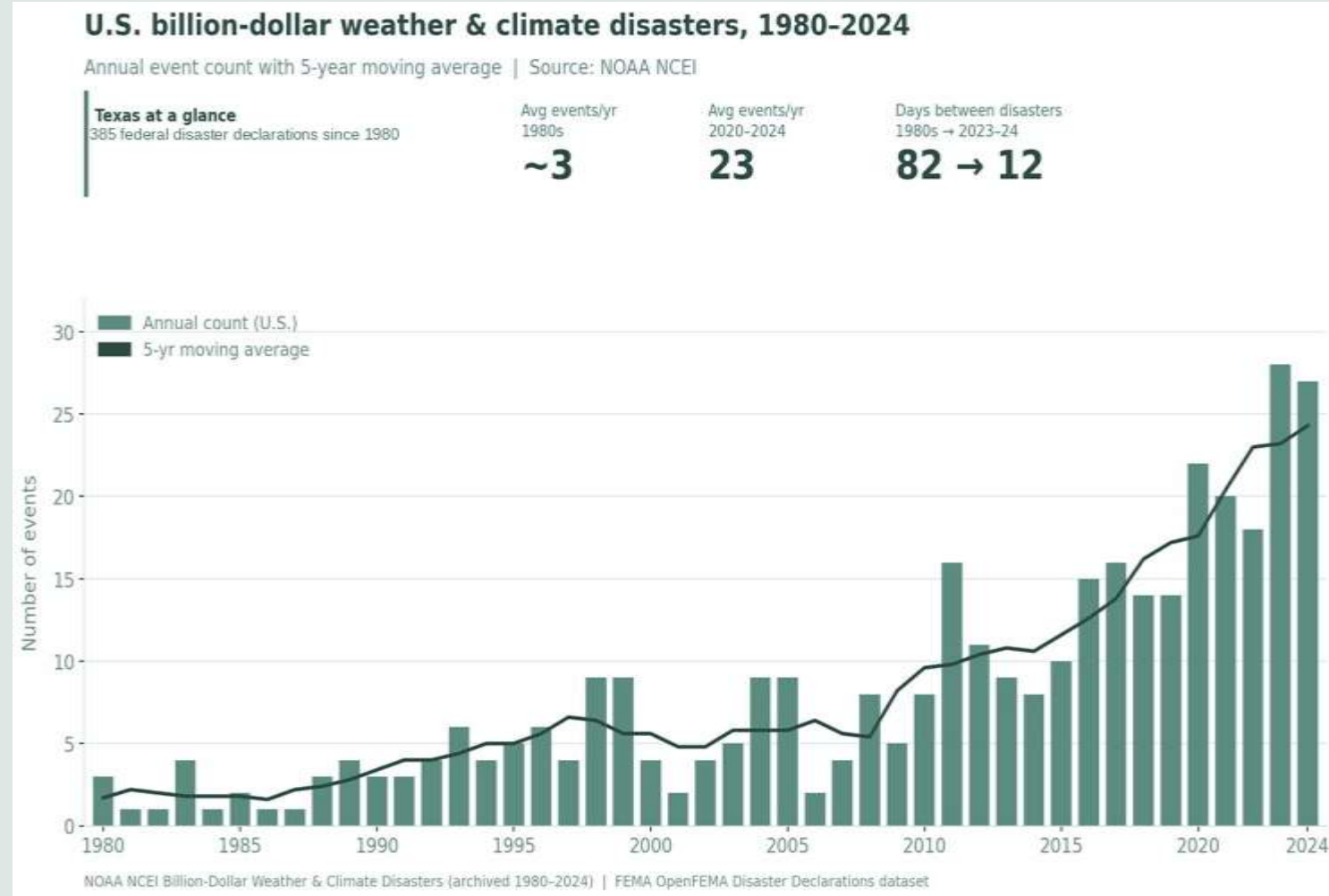
Emergency management is an **approach** to **preparing** for, **responding** to, **recovering** from, and **mitigating** the impacts of disasters and emergencies, both natural and man made.



Preparedness is educating the public on the difference between “**blue sky** days” and “**grey sky** days” and how to prepare.

Why Prepare?

- Proper preparation takes time
- Events happen quickly and more frequently
- Emergency assistance may be delayed
- You may have special needs to address
- There needs to be individual and family coordination
- Where do you go?



NOAA — Billion-Dollar Disasters (national trend data): <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>

Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, [ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions)

Why We're Here!

Urge YOU to be your own first responder.

Help you prepare for local disasters

Reduce physical, psychological & financial impact of a disaster on our community

Reduce reliance on emergency services when resources are diminished

Reduce the strain on the emergency response system

Reduce the burden on YOU

Prepare Today. Ready Tomorrow.

What **YOU** can do!

- **Create** a family emergency plan, include everyone & pets
- **Build** an emergency supply kit – what should be in it
- **Prepare** your home
- **Be informed**, have multiple ways to receive warnings and alerts
- **Get to know** your city's emergency manager

Types of Disasters

First step is knowing what kind of disasters could impact you

- Natural

- Extreme heat
- Extreme cold
- Flooding
- Severe weather



Train derailment, Echo Lake, FW, 2019



Winter Storm Yuri – DFW 2021

- Technological and Accidental

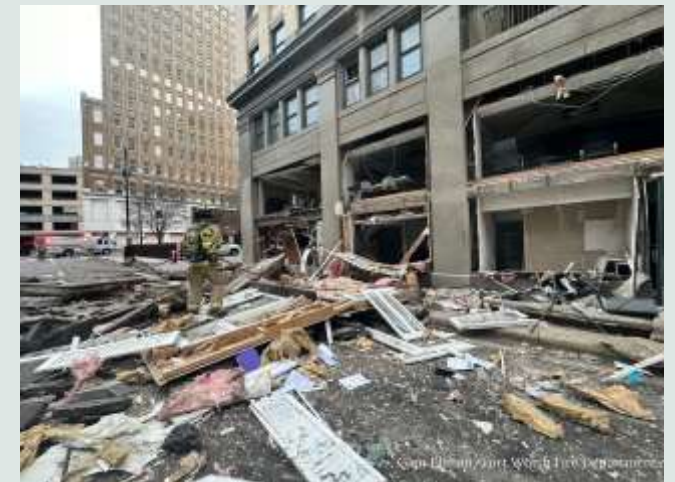
- Hazmat spill
- Train derailment
- Airline crash

- Manmade

- Active Shooter
- Explosion



F3 Downtown FW tornado - 2000



Sandman Hotel Explosion, FW, 2024

How Park and Recreation Departments Respond to Emergencies

Park and recreation departments play a **vital, often underrecognized role** in emergency preparedness and response, especially in the face of increasing extreme weather and natural disasters.

Examples of PARD Emergency Responses

1. Clear streets of trees and debris after storms
2. Parks can serve as debris collection site
3. Open recreation centers as shelters, temporary, overnight, heating, or cooling centers; serve as receiving centers or family reunification centers; serve as distribution site for emergency supplies such as sandbags, food, water, de-ice
4. Provide logistical support for Public Safety personnel
5. Provide logistical support for shelter staff

Burleson PARD role - Emergency Management

- Warming / cooling stations
- Store cots at service center that can then be deployed to warming and/or cooling centers
- Install weather safety signs at multiple outdoor park locations
- Park personnel work closely with OEM and follow EM recommendations and guidance when supporting city events



NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

- Mission: advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.
- P&R (park and recreation) professionals and their agencies are involved in many aspects related to emergency preparedness and response.
- Involvement may include health concerns, injuries, hazards, structural accidents, natural disasters, and/or public safety.
- Parks and recreation play an **INTEGRAL** role in ensuring the safety of their community.

NRPA Survey – Emergency Preparedness

- January 2025
- 181 responses
- Research report highlights
 - Current landscape of emergency preparedness and response
 - Highlights the experiences of P&R professionals in emergency situations
 - Highlights the challenges
 - Highlights the opportunities
- Report published by Recreation Management in May 2025

NRPA Report Highlights

1. Preparedness and Planning

- **Formal emergency plans:** About 86% of agencies have developed or follow a formal emergency plan.
- **Severe weather focus:** 85% are highly involved in preparing for and responding to natural disasters, particularly severe weather.
- **Partnerships:** They often collaborate with local government departments, the Red Cross, and local risk management agencies.
- **Funding:** Most (78%) fund this work through

NRPA Report Highlights continued

2. Roles During Emergencies

- **Shelter and command posts:** Recreation centers, gyms, and large facilities can serve as temporary shelters, command centers, or distribution points for food, water, and clothing.
- **Public safety:** They assist with hazard mitigation, such as green stormwater infrastructure for flood control.
- **Community relief:** During heat waves, splash pads, shaded areas, and other amenities can provide relief for vulnerable populations

NRPA Report Highlights continued

3. Staff and Resource Use

- Personnel are often deployed to assist with evacuations, safety checks, and community outreach.
- Facilities are adapted for emergency use, such as converting gyms into sleeping areas or using open spaces for staging.

4. Challenges

- **Funding and staffing:** About 32% of agencies face challenges with funding and staff time/capacity for emergency work.

NRPA Report Highlights continued

5. Community Impact

- More than three-quarters of park and recreation professionals believe their role is highly essential to emergency resilience.
- Their involvement helps safeguard communities, reduce disaster impacts, and strengthen long-term resilience.

NRPA Report Summary

Park and recreation departments **respond** to emergencies by **leveraging** their facilities, personnel, and partnerships to **provide** shelter, safety, and relief, while **maintaining** formal emergency plans and **collaborating** with other agencies. This makes them a **critical** part of the

Burleson Community Resilience Survey



Burleson Encuesta sobre Resiliencia



Burleson Survey Results as of 8/6/26

- 239 responses, average age 65 and older, followed by 55-64 years
- Respondents reported feeling somewhat prepared
- Financial hardship and lack of support system are considered being a challenge in their ability to evacuate or recover from a disaster
- 50% respondents indicate that they are aware they need a plan
- Only 26% of respondents have an emergency supply kit
- 92% of respondents are signed up to receive

THANKS for allowing us to come!



Outreach Request Form

If you would like more **information** or would like a **presentation** made to your work group, your civic organization, your church, or any other group, **please contact us!**



PREPARE TODAY. READY TOMORROW.



Questions?

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