



Kharley Smith  
TDEM – Division Chief  
TEMAT - Incident Support Task Force  
512.574.9657 [kharley.smith@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:kharley.smith@tdem.texas.gov)

**Subject:** Implementation of the Statewide Emergency Management Assistance Teams (TEMAT) Program Agreement

Dear County Judges and Mayors,

I am writing to inform you of an essential development in Texas's statewide emergency response capability. The **State of Texas Emergency Management Assistance Teams (TEMAT)** program has formally launched a streamlined and modernized framework for interjurisdictional support during disasters and critical incidents through a jurisdictional wide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

This MOU provides for a single-source agreement between the State of Texas and participating jurisdictions for all special response teams under the TEMAT program. The agreement enables local agencies to nominate and authorize personnel to be rostered and deployed as part of coordinated emergency response teams. These individuals may be called upon to assist in statewide or regional operations during times of crisis.

### **Key Benefits of the New Agreement:**

- **Single Contract, Statewide Coverage:** One standardized agreement replaces the need for separate contracts with each team, agency, or discipline. This new model applies to Texas-based response teams, simplifying participation for local governments.
- **Maintains Local Control:** Jurisdictions retain full authority to nominate personnel and approve deployments, while benefitting from centralized coordination and streamlined support.
- **Complete Administrative Protection:** The agreement includes comprehensive provisions for workers' compensation, liability coverage, asset usage, and expense reimbursement in accordance with applicable local, state and federal reimbursement policies.
- **Flexible Deployment Options:** The program supports deployment of individual personnel, specialty resources, or complete units, based on mission needs and operational readiness.

### **Transition from Current Agreements:**

This new agreement supersedes existing individual contracts currently in place. However, to ensure continuity and flexibility, all existing agreements will remain in effect until each local jurisdiction has had the opportunity to review and opt into the new TEMAT framework. There will be no disruption to ongoing mutual aid capabilities during the transition.

Participation in the TEMAT program ensures that your community remains both a contributor to and a beneficiary of a more efficient and well-coordinated statewide emergency management system. It also creates new opportunities for your personnel to receive training, deploy during real-world operations, and return with valuable experience and insights.

Enclosed is the TEMAT program overview and the process to access the new agreement for your review. Our office is available to assist with any administrative or operational questions as you consider enrollment.

Thank you for your continued leadership in protecting your communities and strengthening Texas's emergency response network.

Respectfully,

*Kharley Smith*