

2015-2016 TEXAS SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODS



**American
Red Cross**

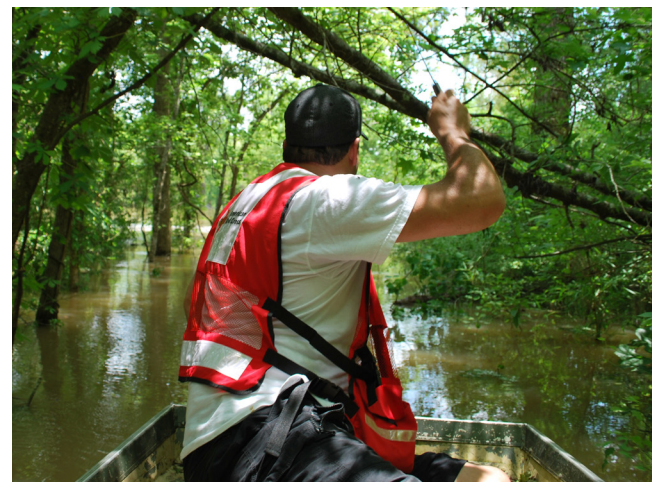
YEAR IN REVIEW—MAY 2016

Spring 2015: Red Cross Brings Aid Following Severe Storms and Massive Flooding

In May and early June of 2015, a series of flash floods, tornadoes and storms destroyed or damaged thousands of homes and uprooted families in more than 100 Texas counties, from the Red River to the Rio Grande. The American Red Cross moved quickly to help individuals and families fleeing floodwaters or struggling to clean up in the aftermath of destructive tornadoes.

Powered by compassionate donors as well as tireless volunteers and employees, the Red Cross provided shelter, warm meals, clean water, blankets, hygiene products and cleanup supplies to devastated neighborhoods and communities. And as families began putting their lives back together, trained Red Cross caseworkers—along with local community and government partners—stood by them to help identify pressing needs and plan for recovery.

To help people get back on their feet, the Red Cross held recovery training for our volunteers and employees across Texas. We also joined partners in the Texas Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters to monitor and assist, when possible, with more than 20 Long-Term Recovery Committees throughout the state.



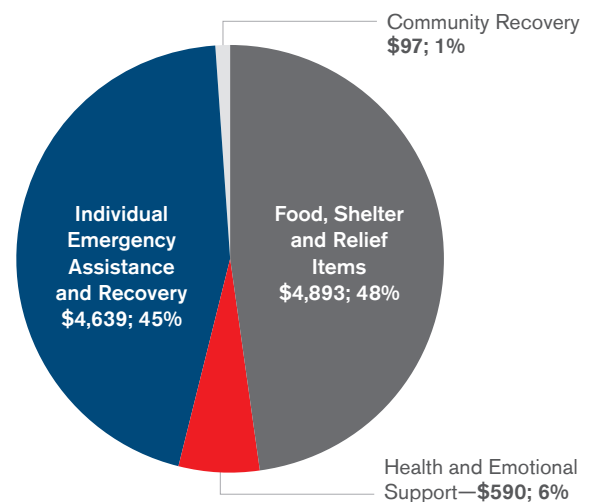
Following the severe storms and floods of May 2015, Red Cross disaster workers delivered relief supplies to hard-hit communities across Texas, including by boat to residents of Knight Bayou, in Hardin. Mark Bishop/American Red Cross

Generous Donors Fuel Response and Recovery Effort

Thanks to our generous supporters the American Red Cross raised \$4.6 million to help people impacted by the May–June 2015 storms and floods in Texas. Due to the scope and duration of the disaster, the Red Cross has spent or committed to spend even more. As of April 18, 2016, the Red Cross has spent or made commitments to spend approximately \$10.2 million on emergency relief and recovery efforts for the severe storms and flooding that struck Texas last May and June.

Spring 2015 Texas Severe Storms and Floods

Expenses and Commitments* Through April 18, 2016
\$10.2M (in thousands)



Food, Shelter and Relief Items: Red Cross volunteers and staff open shelters to provide safe refuge, serve nourishing meals to residents and first responders, and hand out needed relief items.

Health and Emotional Support: Our volunteers and staff help provide services such as first aid support, replacing prescription medicines or eyeglasses, and helping people to cope.

Individual Emergency Assistance and Recovery: Working one-on-one with people to create recovery plans, find housing solutions, replace items, provide other support, and apply for government and other community assistance.

Community Recovery: The Red Cross supports broader recovery initiatives to help communities meet specific disaster-caused needs, such as community rebuilding projects.

*An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. These costs include the logistics, staff and technology expenses that make our services possible.

Red Cross Work Continues: A Year of Relentless Disasters in Texas

While the devastating events of May and early June 2015 caused the most widespread damage, communities across Texas continued to feel the impact of tornadoes, severe weather and flooding through the fall and winter months. The Red Cross was there to assist with ongoing emergency relief and recovery needs, as well as helping families become better prepared for future disasters.

In late October and November, the remnants of Hurricane Patricia combined with severe storms along the Gulf Coast to bring even more destruction. Volunteers and employees delivered hot meals and cleanup supplies to areas ravaged by flash floods and tornadoes—some for a second time after the widespread flooding in May.

In addition, trained mental health professionals provided emotional support to survivors coping with the stress of the relentless storms and flooding.

Just after the Christmas holiday, tornadoes and storms again devastated communities across the Metroplex, and the Red Cross launched a region-wide response—opening shelters and distributing emergency relief supplies in storm-impacted neighborhoods. Once the storms had passed, we partnered with government leaders at Multi-Agency Resource Centers, providing a place for disaster survivors to meet Red Cross workers and representatives from other agencies such as The Salvation Army, Texas Baptist Men and Victims Relief Ministries.



While visiting a damaged area in Garland, Texas, Red Cross volunteer Yonathan Le Xavier comforts Stephanie Taylor, who was in the neighborhood to help a friend following the December tornadoes. Dennis Drenner/American Red Cross.

Houston Residents Face Disaster Fatigue after Second Flood in a Year

One year later, the saying “no rest for the weary” seems to apply, as this spring has brought more flooding and severe weather in Texas, including record flooding in Houston this April. Dedicated Red Cross volunteers and employees are again responding with shelter, food, cleanup supplies and recovery assistance for families facing heartbreaking loss and the fatigue of repeated disasters.

Lindsay Ellard and her family moved back into their house this spring. Flood waters destroyed their home in May 2015, and many of their belongings were still in boxes. Lindsay recalls that their daughter, who was six months old at the time of last year’s floods, saved their lives by crying as the waters rose in the night.

Ten months later, the flood waters returned, wiping out everything that had been rebuilt.

“I’m not sure which was better,” said Lindsay. “To wake up and find the water there, or to watch it creep up slowly, knowing there was nothing I could do to stop it.”

Lindsay is not alone—hundreds of families affected by the 2015 floods have found themselves dealing with the challenges of this spring’s destructive flooding. Many of them came by the Red Cross bulk distribution center to pick up cleaning supplies and share their experiences. Some were in tears; some were angry. Others were simply resigned to starting over again.

Disaster fatigue can affect individuals, families or communities faced with a string of crises, like the Houston neighborhoods that have seen storm after storm and flood after flood. The emotional strain required

to put their lives back together is difficult enough the first time—repeated disasters only compound the stress.

Families who come to the Red Cross and its partners for help are dealing with the challenges in different ways, but most residents remained positive and determined. Helen Haywood has a full house with her daughter’s family staying with her while their home is cleaned up.

“This is when you see everyone at their best,” said Helen. “People are really good about helping. The Red Cross has been there, too! Thank you, thank you!”



After this April’s severe flooding forced Angela Lopez and her 8-month-old son, Danjelo, from their home, they found refuge at a Red Cross shelter north of Houston. Jacqueline Koch/American Red Cross

Thank You

The Red Cross must be ready for every disaster, big or small, and we respond to an average of nearly 66,000 disasters per year—including single-family or apartment home fires, severe weather, floods and wildfires. Those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us right after the disaster and through their recovery. Your donation helps us fulfill this promise. We are grateful for your trust.

A Year of Relentless Disasters in Texas

May–June 2015

Tornadoes, severe weather and flash floods devastate more than 100 counties across Texas.

October 2015

Remnants of Hurricane Patricia and severe storm systems cause flooding, power outages and damage from Austin to Houston.

December 2015

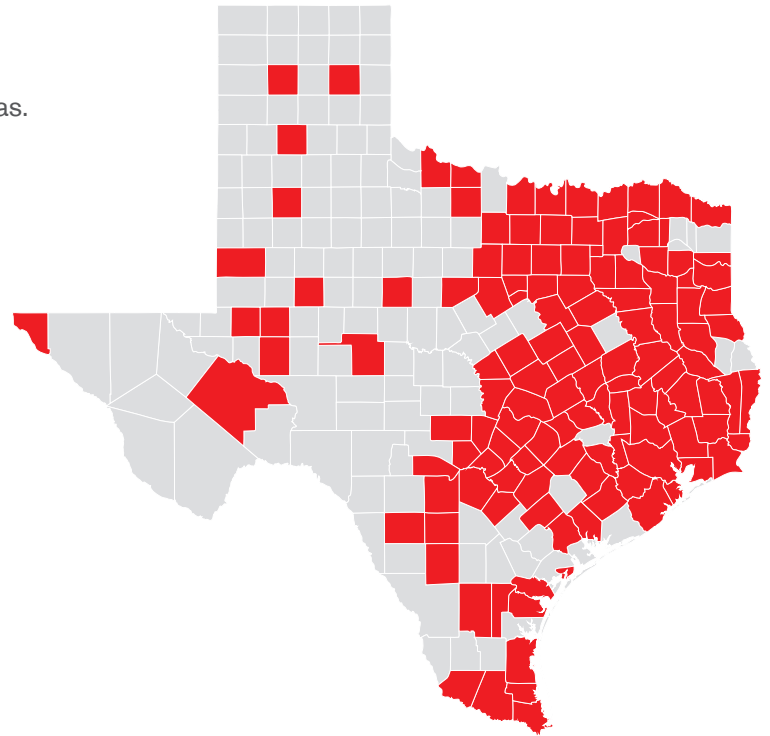
Tornadoes, storms and flash floods wreak havoc on North Texas communities, damaging or destroying hundreds of homes.

March 2016

A powerful storm system brings massive rainfall and flash floods from North Texas to the Gulf Coast.

April 2016

Record storms flood more than 5,000 homes and bring Houston—the nation’s fourth largest city—to a near standstill.



■ Counties Supported by Red Cross

Over the last year, the American Red Cross has helped tens of thousands of people across Texas impacted by relentless severe weather, flooding and tornadoes in more than 130 counties—many of which were struck multiple times.

Response at a Glance



Serving more than **520,000 meals and snacks**



Distributing more than **500,000 relief and cleanup items**



Providing more than **9,600 overnight stays** in 124 shelters



Providing nearly **24,000 health and mental health services**



Opening more than **8,800 cases** to help affected individuals and families

—All numbers are cumulative and reflect Red Cross response efforts as of April 29, 2016.