



**Federalism and Crisis Management:
Response to a National Disaster
Preparation Day Make Up Assignment
AP Gov/Ms. Strong**



*** This make up assignment is intended for students who missed Day 1: Simulation Preparation Day and did not participate in the research, creation of the Action Plan PowerPoint, etc.**

OVERVIEW - The massive destruction of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017 left much of eastern Texas in ruin. The disaster precipitated a national emergency, especially in the city of Houston. The region received upwards of 51” of rain over a four-day period, causing catastrophic flooding and 81 confirmed deaths. The resulting floods inundated hundreds of thousands of homes, displaced more than 30,000 people, left 300,000 without power, and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses. The closure of oil refineries in the Gulf of Mexico created a temporary fuel shortage, and the overall financial losses from the storm is projected to be over \$100 billion.

Directions: Choose ONE of the levels of government (federal, Texas state or city of Houston) and address the questions below.

- 1) *Immediate Tasks During the Crisis* (the first 72 hours) – Based on level of government you chose, create a list of tasks during and immediately after the hurricane include resources/assets required to carry out those tasks (i.e. who will carry out the various tasks).
- 2) *Government Organizations* – For each task you listed in Part 1, identify the responsible government agencies and departments and describe their function/tasks in this situation (you can use the list below for assistance)

Government Agencies Responding to a Natural Disaster

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (includes the President, White House Staff, Cabinet Secretaries, Congress, Independent Agencies)

- ❖ **Department of Agriculture** - coordinates damage assessments to area crops, livestock, and other agriculture-related operations.
- ❖ **Department of Defense** - Assists FEMA and National Guard after disaster declarations are issued for assistance in security, cleanup.
- ❖ **Department of Energy** – regulates and supports oil, natural gas, nuclear industries, nation’s electric grid.
- ❖ **Department of Health and Human Services** - deploys U.S. Public Health Service Officers to effected areas on standby for deployment to support medical response.
- ❖ **Department of Homeland Security** – Manages federal assistance and provides resources to effected areas.
- ❖ **Department of Labor** – provides disaster unemployment assistance and National Emergency Grants and assists in job recovery programs.
- ❖ **Department of Transportation** - dispatches trucks deliver millions of meals ready to eat, water and supplies, mobile homes, generators, etc. to affected areas; assists in long-term repair/rebuilding of roads and other transportation infrastructures.
- ❖ **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** – provides supplies, equipment, and financial assistance to victims and Disaster Medical Assistance Teams to areas hit by natural disasters.
- ❖ **National Hurricane Center** – Tracks, names and predicts the likely behavior of tropical storms and hurricanes and issues appropriate watches and warnings to the public.
- ❖ Search and rescue.

- ❖ **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** – Plans, designs, builds and operates dams, levees and other civil engineering projects.
- ❖ **U.S. Coast Guard** – provides aircraft, patrol boats and cutters to conduct search, rescue and humanitarian aid operations.

STATE GOVERNMENT (includes the Governor, State Legislatures and Agencies)

- ❖ **National Guard** – though a federal entity, may be called by governors to provide search and rescue, assisting local law enforcement, and supplies to victims.
- ❖ **State Department of Health** – assists in disease control, and management of public health crisis in effected areas.
- ❖ **State Emergency Management Agencies** – helps to coordinate shelters, supplies, health care, and transportation for recovery efforts.
- ❖ **State Department of Education** – help displaced school children and teachers integrate back into other schools.
- ❖ **State Police** – state law enforcement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (includes Mayors, Municipal or County Boards or Councils, Agencies)

- ❖ **Local Law Enforcement** – police, sheriff departments with primary law enforcement responsibility.
- ❖ **Local Fire Department** – first responders to carry out search and rescue operations.
- ❖ **Local Emergency Services** – first responders to medical emergencies.
- ❖ **Local Public Transportation (buses, trains, subways)** – transportation for possible evacuation.
- ❖ **Social Services** – provides assistance to families, individuals in need.

PRIVATE OR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- ❖ **American Red Cross** – provides temporary shelter, supplies, relief workers and support to disaster victims.
- ❖ **The Salvation Army** - provides services (food, clothing, etc.) to survivors and first responders in the effected areas.

Sources:

<http://www.firstgov.gov>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Harvey