

## HURRICANE HARVEY – ANSWERING MEMBER QUESTIONS

### **Q. What is ICMA doing in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey?**

A. ICMA is working closely with the Texas City Management Association (TCMA). TCMA is collecting information from communities that need help and Texas communities that can offer help. ICMA Regional Director Karen Daly is working closely with TCMA and ICMA stands ready to assist as needed. ICMA staff are also in touch with FEMA leadership and looking for ways to support local governments in the region.

### **Q. I want to help. How can I do that?**

A. One way that members can get help to disaster survivors now is to donate to a trusted organization. The Texas Municipal League [posted this on its Twitter feed](#) for disaster relief. The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) has publicized a list of [vetted disaster relief organizations](#) providing services to survivors from the Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (Texas VOAD). National level organizations can be found at [National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster \(NVOAD\)](#).

### **Q. I would like to volunteer with an organization on the ground. How can I do that?**

A. All requests for local government teams or individuals with certified skills need to go through the State of Texas so they can be coordinated and covered by liability insurance. A Texas local government needs to request specific assistance and the Texas EOC matches that request with one of the teams or individuals that can provide it.

### **Q. Are there other ways to get local government help from a state outside of Texas into a particular community?**

A. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact operates in all 50 states, D.C., the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam, EMAC does not replace federal assistance, but complements it. Learn more about [EMAC deployments here](#).

### **Q. Can I volunteer with a nonprofit or faith-based organization?**

A. Should you wish to volunteer, you need to register with a voluntary or charitable organization, many of which are already in Texas and supporting survivors on the ground. The [National](#) and [Texas VOAD](#) websites are offering links to those who wish to register to volunteer with community- and faith-based organizations working in the field.

### **Q. Is there a problem if I volunteer on my own without going through an organization?**

A. The state of Texas is asking volunteers to not self-deploy, as unexpectedly showing up to any of the communities that have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey will create an additional burden for first responders. To ensure volunteer safety, as well as the safety of disaster survivors, volunteers should only go into affected areas with a specific volunteer assignment, proper safety gear, and valid identification.

### **Q. Are there opportunities to help affected communities with their long-term recovery needs?**

A. ICMA will be alert to opportunities where members can assist, coordinating closely with TCMA and the Texas Municipal League.