TEXSAR:
Texas Search and Rescue

P.O. Box 171258
Austin, Texas 78717
512-956-6727 (Office)
512-994-4727 (Activation)

www.texas.org
“Committing to service-above-self, perpetual training, and inter-agency cooperation to maintain a constant state of readiness for search, rescue, incident response and above all else, safety.”

Core values:

- Integrity and Responsibility
- Fiscal Accountability
- Teamwork
- Excellence
- Training
- Operations
Thanks to Your Donations,  
**TEXSAR Expands Capabilities**

October 2017

Friends of TEXSAR,

Hurricane Harvey was the costliest disaster to ever strike the United States, bringing with it record flooding and catastrophic winds along the Texas coastline. Texas Search and Rescue answered the call from agencies all across Texas, providing more than 700 volunteer hours by 85 members who rescued over 700 people and pets from Harvey floodwaters.

Immediately following Hurricane Harvey, the 2nd annual TEXSAR Search Party fundraiser took place on September 30th where TEXSAR members and supporters gathered for an evening of remembrance, fun and fellowship. The TEXSAR Search Party is our primary fundraising event, generating well over 50% of our annual income.

Over these past two months, TEXSAR has received an outpouring of generosity from our supporters both in the form of moral, in-kind donations and financial support. And, because TEXSAR is 100% funded through donations, grants and membership dues, we wanted to take a moment to share with you how we are investing these monies directly back into the team. We are committed to financial transparency and fiscal responsibility, but more importantly, we are excited to have the wherewithal to increase our capabilities we can offer to our customers (requesting fire, police and emergency management agencies who never get charged for our services).

We constantly evaluate our capabilities and services through feedback from agencies we work with and team members who participate in deployments, exercises or planned events. Through your generous donations and member reinvestment, we are excited to announce the following investment in assets and training of over **$115,000** improving TEXSAR’s capability to aid and assist our communities during times of need:

1. **TEXSAR Dive Team** - Effective early 2018, TEXSAR will field fully equipped, trained and certified members who will respond to water recovery needs in support of our ground search and rescue and swiftwater teams.
2. **Two High Profile Vehicles** - After proving their unmistakable value during Hurricane Harvey, we invested in an additional 5-ton high profile vehicle and a Humvee high clearance vehicle.
3. **Digital Radio Communications Upgrade** - The ability to communicate during an emergency or a disaster is critical. TEXSAR will invest in a significant upgrade to our communications capability, including mobile repeaters, mobile radios, comms trailers and handheld radios.
4. **Mobile Command Trailers** - After receiving generous donations of two travel trailers, we will modify the units to serve as mobile command and rehabilitation trailers for deployments.
5. **Rescue Boat Operator Training** - TEXSAR will sponsor and pay for a rescue boat operator course that will result in an additional 12 members receiving their RBO certification, extensively increasing our on-water capability.
6. **Annual Team Training** - The 2018 TEXSAR annual team training and meeting will be free to members.

TEXSAR is very grateful and humbled by our donors and members generosity and believe that investing back into the team and our communities is at the very core of our success. We continue to believe that fiscal responsibility and respect for our donor’s dollar is paramount and will always be part of our core value.

We are proud that over 90% of your donated dollar goes directly to team operations, equipment, supplies and deployment expenses. The other 10% funds our Executive Director and insurance expenses. We are very proud that this year we achieved Platinum Level Status on GuideStar ([https://www.guidestar.org/profile/84-1644603](https://www.guidestar.org/profile/84-1644603)) and were recognized by GreatNonprofits as a 2017 Top-Rated Nonprofit ([https://greatnonprofits.org/org/texsar-texas-search-and-rescue](https://greatnonprofits.org/org/texsar-texas-search-and-rescue)) for our fiscal and operational transparency.

Thank you for your amazing generosity and know that you are making a difference in your communities and the communities of your fellow Texans. All of us at Texas Search and Rescue know the value of your donation and want to ensure you that your money is being spent responsibly.

Sincerely,

Justen R. Noakes  
CEO  
justen.noakes@texsar.org
TEXSAR wishes to thank the following Board members for their service during 2017.

- Shawn Hohnstreiter, Hohnstreiter Construction and Remodeling — Chair
- Jennifer Failla, Strada Wealth Management — Vice Chair
- Justen R. Noakes, H-E-B Emergency Preparedness - CEO
- Brandon Goering, REAL-COMP Data and Marketing— Secretary & Treasurer
- Dr. Tyler Jorgensen, Board Certified Emergency Physician
- Dawn Keller, Health, Slingshot Inc.
- Brandon Goering, REAL-COMP Data and Marketing— Secretary & Treasurer
- Justen R. Noakes, H-E-B Emergency Preparedness - CEO
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- Brandon Goering, REAL-COMP Data and Marketing— Secretary & Treasurer
- Dr. Tyler Jorgensen, Board Certified Emergency Physician
- Dawn Keller, Health, Slingshot Inc.
- Joe McComb, Mayor, Corpus Christi
- Justin McInnis, Hays CO. OEM — Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator
- Ed Norman, Fort Bend CO. OEM - Community Preparedness Planning Coordinator
- Chief Sean Ford, Former Chief of Police, Sunset Valley
- Bill Sleep, Commitment to Coaching Inc.
- Jackie Dobson, Fund Racing Adventures
- Deke Pierce, Williamson County Constables Office

Paula DeLaCruz, Executive Director

Ex-officio Board members include Greg Fair, North Texas Team Leader, Laura Norman, Gulf Coast Team Leader, Shawn Hohnstreiter, Central Texas Team Leader, Andy Anthony, K9 Team Leader, and Dawn Keller, West Texas Team Leader.

Advisory Committee

TEXSAR wishes to thank the following Advisory Committee members for their service during 2017.

- Troy Kimmel (Weather)
- Jeff Mundy (Legal)
- Martin Ritchey (Emergency Management)
- Gene Robinson (UAV)
- Bryan Kassa (Technical Communications)
- Oscar Lopez (Law Enforcement)

A very special thank you to Karen Knox, TEXSAR’s first Executive Director, who served from 2016-2017.
2017

Deployments and Event Support

January
Wildfire
Caldwell County, Texas
Missing Person Search
Graham, Texas

February
Evidence Search
Alpine, Texas

March
Rodeo Austin
Austin, Texas
Missing Child Search
Pearland, Texas
Missing Person Recovery Search
San Angelo, Texas
BBQ Austin
Austin, Texas

April
Standby Request
Hays & Caldwell Counties, Texas
Missing Person Search
Abilene, Texas

May
Missing Persons Search
Victoria, Texas
Bolivar Memorial Day Event
Galveston County, Texas

June
Tropical Storm Cindy
Galveston, Texas
IMT Support
Galveston, Texas

July
Float Fest 2017
San Marcos, Texas
Caldwell County Fire
Caldwell County, Texas
Bolivar July 4th
Galveston County, Texas

August
Harvey Relief
Beaumont, Texas
IMT Support Harvey
Richmond, Texas
Hurricane Harvey
Gulf Coast, Coastal Bend, Central Texas
City of Galveston EOC
Galveston, Texas
Hurricane Harvey Search
Friendswood, Texas

September
Wharton Harvey Response
Wharton, Texas
Hurricane Harvey Deployment
Beaumont, Texas
Hurricane Harvey Search
Friendswood, Texas

October
No Deployments

November
Granite Gripper
Fredericksburg, Texas

December
Wharton Holiday Support
Wharton, Texas
Lonestar Rally IMT Support
Galveston, Texas
As the National Hurricane Center began predicting a Texas coast landfall for Hurricane Harvey, TEXSAR began receiving calls for pre-staging and deployment. The City of Galveston requested Incident Command volunteers to staff their Office of Emergency Management, beginning August 24. Additional requests were made for Flood and Swiftwater (FAST) and Rescue Boat Operator (RBO) personnel. Along with Galveston and the city of Corpus Christi, additional requests came in from multiple counties around Texas, including:

- Friendswood PD
- Fort Bend County
- Beaumont
- Nueces County
- Caldwell County
- Harris County
- Hays County
- Montgomery County
- Galveston County

TEXSAR rescue boat operators and flood and swiftwater personnel from across the state were assigned to teams and deployed to their destinations. TEXSAR members brought with them necessary assets - outfitted rescue boats, an evacuation boat, a 5-ton high water vehicle, and medical supplies that were in high demand.

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**Hurricane Harvey Stats**

Dates of Deployment: 8/25/2017 - 9/4/2017  
Responded to Call: 100 members  
Calls Received: 688  
Miles Driven: 46,838  
Total Number of Hours Deployed: 7,000 hours (equivalent to $278,907 in volunteer hours)  
Number of Rescues/Evacuations: Est. 700 persons (and dozens of pets)  
New Member Applications Since 8/21/2017: 203  
Donations Received: In excess of $100,000 including various in-kind donations

TEXSAR received an unprecedented number of media requests during Harvey and the social media exposure doubled. TEXSAR was contacted by the following local, national and international media outlets:

- BBC News in London - Rylee Carlson  
- Discovery Channel Canada - Alison Kroeker  
- Al Jazeera English - James Hamilton  
- CBSN New York - Meghan Zusi  
- Reuters - Don Pessin  
- NBC News - Nick Brennan/Lester Holt  
- Weather Channel - Neil Katz  
- TFV Media - Mohammad Khursheed  
- Giving City - Monica Williams
2017 By the Numbers

TEXSAR Member Statistics

340 Active Members
215 Deployable Members

13 K9 Handlers
22 K9’s

25 Incident Management
23 Wildland Firefighters

180 GSAR Techs
97 FAST Techs

22 Rescue Boat Operators
32 Medical Personnel

22 Mantrakcers
8 Vertical Rescue Techs

Deployment Statistics

18 Total Deployments
31 Days Deployed

26,595 Hours Volunteered
178,466 Miles Traveled

$634,920 Value of Donated Time

Members by Region

TEXSAR is the largest wilderness search and rescue organization in the State of Texas and it continues to grow.
Members participated in multiple training opportunities throughout the year. Members are required to maintain current certifications and attend regular trainings in order to be field deployable. Certification courses are paid for by the members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPR</th>
<th>Land Navigation and Maps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR)</td>
<td>Water Rescue Support</td>
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<td>Mantracking</td>
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<td>Blood Borne Pathogens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orthopedic Injuries</td>
<td>Electric Shock Drowning</td>
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<td>Patient Packaging</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
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<td>Evidence Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fitness and Fitness Pack Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haz Mat and PPE</td>
<td>Wildland Fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident Management and Incident Command</td>
<td>Flood and Swiftwater Rescue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Slope Evacuation</td>
<td>Hypothermia/Hyperthermia</td>
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In addition, TEXSAR member-volunteers participated in FEMA self-paced training programs which provide training and resources on the Incident Command System (ICS). All members are required to complete ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800. Advanced courses ICS 300 and 400 expand upon the basic information covered in the basic courses and prepares members for Command Leadership positions within the organization.

In addition to investing hours of their time in training and deployments, TEXSAR members invest on average $1450 into their personal training, gear, uniforms, and transportation costs.
It is because of our generous donors that we are ready to serve the great state of Texas.

We are sincerely grateful for your donations and continued support.

$50,000
Anonymous Foundation

$10,000 - $49,999
H-E-B
Scott A Freund Memorial Foundation
Hohnstreiter Construction and Remodeling

$5,000 to $9,999
Cristen & Alan Daniel
Erik Strelnieks
Fill the Boot Campaign Donors
ionDesign, Inc.
Jennifer Failla & Joshua Hoffman
Valero

$1,000 to $4,999
Amy & Shawn Hohnstreiter
Amy Burton
Ann & Deke Pierce
Big Help Now!
Cabela’s
Calwell County HSEM
Christi Adams
Craft Pride
CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery
David Harris
Harrison’s Landing, Corpus Christi
Horizon Printing
IBM
Jacaruso Enterprises
Jennifer & Gavin Finlay
Jim Donovan
Kelly Janysek
Kirby Inland Marine
Laura & Edward Norman
Lee Shellberg
Margaret & Joe Huston
Martha & Charles DeCou
Meyers & Associates, Washington, DC
Michelle & Paul Olsen
Nick Brown
Pam & Mike Spann
Panorama Fiber Arts
Port of Corpus Christi
Real-Comp
Richard Belliveau
Roxie & Justin McInnis
St. David’s South Medical Center
State Employee Charitable Campaign &
Combined Federal Campaign
Susie & Jeff Turk
Suzanne & Davis Johnson
Texas Skyward Users Group
TOPPS
Valerie & Tyler Jorgensen
W.O. Harrison
Wade & Sally Monroe Family Fund
We wish to thank the following organizations for their partnership during 2017.

Abilene Police Department  
Alpine Police Department  
Bandera CO. Sheriff’s Department  
Beaumont Office of Emergency Management  
Brazos River Authority  
Brewster County Sheriff’s Office  
Cabela’s-Ft. Worth  
Caldwell CO. Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
Camp Mabry  
Central Texas Climbing Committee  
Central Texas Food Bank  
CenTex Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)  
Aransas Pass Office of Emergency Management  
Cedar Ridge Nature Preserve  
City of Austin Police Department  
City of Corpus Christi Office of Emergency Management  
City of Friendswood Police Department  
City of Galveston Office of Emergency Management  
City of Grand Prairie Police Department  
City of Maxwell  
City of Miami Office of Emergency Management  
City of Sunset Valley  
City of Wharton  
Crystal Beach Volunteer Fire - Rescue Station  

Ft. Bend CO. Office of Emergency Management  
Ft. Hood  
Galveston County Office of Emergency Management  
Galveston CO. Sheriff’s Department  
Georgetown Rodeo  
Guadalupe CO. Office of Emergency Management  
Harris CO. Office of Emergency Management  
Harris CO. Fire and Sheriff Training Academy  
Hays CO. Office of Emergency Management  
Hedwig Village Police Department  
Houston Arboretum & Nature Center  
Houston Food Bank Conference Center  
Montgomery CO. Office of Emergency Management  
Nueces CO. Office of Emergency Management  
Pearland Police Department  
Port Bolivar Volunteer Fire Department  
Texas A&M Veterinary School of Medicine  
Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM)  
Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)  
Tom Green CO. Sheriff’s Department  
The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
Travis CO. Sheriff’s Department  
Texas Rangers  
Young CO. Sheriff’s Department

TEXSAR also maintained memberships with the following during 2017.

Capital Area Council of Governments  
I Live Here I Give Here  
State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association  
Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
2017

Assets Procured

5-Ton Truck
LMTV
UAV
(2) Humvees

Radios
(4) Generators
Trailer

Humvee

LMTV
TEXSAR earned the 2017 Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Profile Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar, the world’s largest source of nonprofit information. By sharing metrics that highlight progress TEXSAR is making toward its mission, the organization is helping donors move beyond simplistic ways of nonprofit evaluation such as overhead ratios.

Special alert: TEXSAR has already earned the Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Profile Seal of Transparency for 2018

2017 Top-Rated Nonprofit
by Great Nonprofits

TEXSAR members have stepped up, once more, to review and help secure the impressive distinction of 'top-rated' by Great Nonprofits. Thank you for publicly sharing your support! Here are some highlights from the reviews:

"I heard TEXSAR was respected and doing great work, so I did some research and found them to be one of the most respected and highly trained volunteer first responder organizations in Texas."

"The level of dedication to the community, the team and the citizens of Texas is unparalleled. So many of these numbers give of their time and own money in quantities that far exceed any level of involvement I have ever witnessed in my nonprofit experience."

"Since I joined 5 years ago I have been so impressed with the dedication, selflessness, and professionalism of the members of this team."

To read all the reviews, and add your own, visit: https://greatnonprofits.org/org/texsar-texas-search-and-rescue

Financial Position

Jan 2017: Balance of Cash $123,421 December 2017: Balance of Cash $276,550

TEXSAR ended 2017 in healthy financial standing! TEXSAR met all financial obligations and maintained strong working capital, due to our generous donors and supporters.

TEXSAR estimates the value of its equipment inventory to be $735,600.00.

As in 2016, TEXSAR continues to work with the accounting firm of Montemayor Bratton Binder PC to prepare the 990 and file the tax return.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, financial transparency is extremely important. If you would like additional details regarding TEXSAR’s finances, please contact the Finance and Accounting Department at finance@texsar.org.
Dear Friends of TEXSAR,

The awesome generosity of our donors, the stalwart commitment of our members and the engagement of our countless supporters humble me every day. Thank you for making 2017 another fantastic year for TEXSAR, as we marked 13 years of Texans serving Texans! In spite of a challenging hurricane season, we were fortunate to grow our team in both numbers and spirit.

TEXSAR is seizing the opportunity that growth brings by refining and implementing processes and procedures, allowing new or undiscovered talent to further initiatives, and reflecting on our donors and requesting agencies. In addition, we were able to leverage our opportunities to put more assets in the field, provide a stellar annual training and increase our ability to serve whenever called. We feel the gravity of all we are entrusted with, and take the opportunity to serve agencies and donors seriously.

A few highlights from 2017:

- Large grant award of $50,000 by a private foundation
- Successful transition of the Executive Director role
- Code of Conduct presented to and adopted by membership
- Partnership with KEEN Utility to outfit TEXSAR members with footwear
- Fruitful Search Party, TEXSAR’s fall fundraiser
- Gaining almost 100 new members
- Addition of several effective field assets
- Unprecedented financial support of donors during and post-Harvey

As we look to 2018, I am excited about engaging our members in new ways. One of those ways is a new organization-wide invitation to serve in roles from development to training in support of our strategic vision. We are proud that our membership is truly reflective of the diversity found in our great state and is full of talent and knowledge.

I invite you to join me in following the work and impact of TEXSAR by liking us on social media, signing up for our newsletter or making a donation. It is the generosity of people like you that make it possible to continue serving this great state.

With sincerest thanks for your support,

Paula DeLaCruz
Executive Director
Conclusion

2017 was a tremendous year of growth for TEXSAR as we established a solid foothold organizationally that will support the Team for years to come. We continue to grow our numbers, expand our outreach, better equip our members, and build our skills to provide the best volunteer experience for our Team and service to our Customers. We look forward to a productive 2018 as we continue to focus on our Members and ensuring we continue to provide a quality product to our Customers, while always maintaining our core values. We are eager and optimistic as we enter 2018 to continue our Mission of Texans Helping Texans!

TEXSAR looks forward to continuing its service to the citizens of Texas in 2017 and beyond. For information, please contact Paula DeLaCruz, Executive Director (paula.delacruz@texsar.org).

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IRS EIN for TEXSAR Inc.: 84-1644603

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