

**EXSUM Organizational Behavior & Theory:**

**National Disaster Response: Texas Department of Public Safety**

**Question:**

What is the role of the Texas Department of Public Safety during an emergency situation in the context of the National Response Framework?

**Domain/Competencies:**

Leadership and Organizational Management

Individual and organizational behavior

**Method of research/Model:** Case Study & National Response Framework

**Assumptions:**

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) response to the scenario given in the case study will follow that of the *Basic Plan* as published by the Texas DPS including the DPS emergency management objectives; operational guidance; the Incident Command System (ICS); state, federal, and other assistance; and actions by phase of emergency management.

**Overview:**

TX DPS is a state agency that has three main divisions: Homeland Security, Operations, and Services.

Homeland security: main areas of concentration are emergency management; media communications, and government relations.

Operations Division: Texas Rangers, Criminal Investigations, Intelligence and counter-intel, and the highway patrol. The operations division is broken down into 7 geographical regions.

Services Division: include the administrative functions to run DPS, the drivers license offices, and law enforcement support (crime labs, criminal records, and public safety communications-disseminates emergency information).

**Findings:**

- DPS follows the all hazards approach to disasters: Preparedness, Response, recovery, Mitigation
- DPS is the integrated link between local, regional, state, and federal level response agencies.
- DPS carries out a comprehensive, all-hazards emergency management program for the state and assists cities, counties, and state agencies in planning and implementing their emergency management programs.

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- Upon notification of an emergency, DPS executes primary duties in accordance with state of Texas Emergency Management Plan. The State Operations Center is run by DPS and will task agencies within DPS to execute their primary duties.

- Notification that DPS services are required occurs when the local jurisdictions coordinate with their regional disaster district committee to ask for assistance from the state government.
  - Mayor asks Governor for help; governor tasks DPS to assist as necessary.
  - If the disaster is of the magnitude that requires federal assistance- DPS coordinates with FEMA for assistance.
  - The State Operations Center is a critical C2 node to coordinate all these communications

- After a disaster is declared: may commandeer facilities, control access to areas,

Primary Duties: evacuation/law enforcement/public information and safety/transportation direction and control/terrorism incident response

Secondary duties: communications; radiological emergency management; firefighting; animals-agriculture-food and feed safety; hazardous material and oil spill response; search and rescue/transportation

- The National Response Framework: The NRF is a guide to how the Nation responds to all types of disasters and emergencies. It is built on scalable, flexible, and adaptable concepts identified in the National Incident Management System. The NRF ties together agencies from the local, state, federal and international levels to respond to disasters.

- When an incident occurs: local first responders and state agencies request federal assistance

### **Lessons Learned:**

It is imperative for organizations to communicate and coordinate in order to develop a plan and successfully carry out that plan