

TFDA
Mortuary
Disaster
Response
Team



Texas Mortuary Disaster Response Team

Who are we and what do
we do?



History

Texas Mortuary Disaster Response Team

- Founded in 1985 by Funeral Directors as part of the Texas Funeral Directors Association to assist funeral home across the State of Texas and beyond when they have exhausted their capabilities
- TMDRT has been called on numerous times over the years to assist Funeral Homes in their time of need
- TMDRT contracted with DSHS about 20 years ago to provide Fatality Management, Morgue Trailer Management and Mortuary Strike Teams as needed
- TMDRT has deployed to every natural disaster and mass fatality within Texas and beyond since the partnership with DSHS

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Mission

TFDA Mortuary Disaster Response Team provides assets to support overwhelmed jurisdictions. We assist with fatality management operations, including decedent processing, morgue trailer management and Mortuary Strike Teams

Deployment and Situation



DSHS Incident: 25-0026 02 Jul Severe
Weather



STAR # 00-340372



Severe Weather and heavy rains have
caused flooding in South Texas



Activating TFDA assets to support
impacted jurisdictions with Fatality
Management support

Rainfall

- Parts of Kerr County, Texas received **10 to 12 inches of rain in just a few hours** on July 4, 2025, leading to a deadly flash flood emergency. The heaviest rainfall was concentrated in the southern and central parts of the county, particularly around the community of Hunt.
- **July 4 - Guadalupe River**

12:00 am (midnight) 53 gallons per second

3 hours of straight rainfall

3:00 am 264 gallons per second

3:30 am 125,000 gallons per second

4:00 am 950,000 gallons per second

To show a comparison, Niagara Falls average flow is 75,750 gallons per second. The Guadalupe River flow was more than 10x the flow of Niagara falls.

Source: Kerr Co Judge

Results of Record Rainfall

- **Rapid accumulation:** The deluge occurred overnight and into the early morning of July 4, with rainfall rates of 2–4 inches per hour in some areas
- **Flash Flood Emergency:** At 4:20 a.m. on July 4, a "Particularly Dangerous Situation" and a Flash Flood Emergency was declared by the National Weather Service for south-central Kerr County, with radar estimating 5 to 10 inches had already fallen
- **Massive water volume:** It is estimated that 100 billion gallons of water fell on the county in just a few hours, a volume greater than the daily flow over Niagara Falls
- **Guadalupe River surge:** The heavy rainfall caused the Guadalupe River at Hunt to rise a staggering 27 feet in just 45 minutes. It reached its second-highest level on record, higher than the 1987 flood

TFDA-Timeline

● **July 04, 2025**

Torrential Rainfall causing wise-spread flooding to Kerr and surrounding counties.

● **July 05-24, 2025**

TFDA assist with decedent processing, mortuary assistance to Grimes Funeral Home and coordination with out-of-town funeral homes for decedent identification and pickup

July 05, 2025

TFDA activated by DSHS to deploy to Kerr Co with Morgue Trailer to Grimes Funeral Home.

July 24, 2025

Demobilize all TFDA deployed personnel and Morgue Trailer

Kerr County
Arrival:

July 5, 2025











TMDRT Summary for Kerr Co Deployment

Resources

- 20 Days total deployment
- 4 Personnel deployed
- 150 Body Bags
- 40 Ft Morgue Trailer

Accomplishments

- Assisted with processing of all Kerr Co decedents.
- Assisted with personnel and mortuary support for Grimes Funeral Chapel and Kerrville Funeral Home
- Coordination of decedents to out-of-town funeral homes
- Assisted families with the identification process
- Assisted with decedent transportation to Bexar and Travis County Medical Examiner



W. Scott Smith

Questions