

# Texas Responder Reentry Overview

**This document provides a quick reference for reentry authorities in the State of Texas. It is not intended to be all-encompassing or all-inclusive.**

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In the State of Texas, municipal and county chief elected officials (mayors and county judges) are responsible for deciding the specifics of the reentry process. As a result, reentry processes may differ among counties or municipalities. Because of this, the state reentry strategy is designed to operate in tandem with varied local response and recovery efforts and to support associated requirements.

A local jurisdiction may request support for field reentry operations from their Disaster District Committee (DDC) when the jurisdiction anticipates a depletion of resources, identifies a gap in resources or exhausts resources. These requests may include:

- Decision-making support.
- Providing reentry placard templates and guidance.
- Perimeter security and access control.

## Decision Making

Local emergency management directors (mayors and county judges) are responsible for making a number of key decisions about access control based on hazard impacts. These include:

- The timing and implementation of reentry plans.
- The tier of personnel allowed to reenter the area of operations (AO).
- Security levels in the AO.

If requested by the local emergency management director (mayor or county judge), the DDC chairperson (a THP captain/command lieutenant) and district coordinator (DC) are prepared to provide recommendations about the implementation of perimeter security, access control points, security levels and other components.

## State Tiered Reentry

The state has categorized response personnel into four tiers. The recommended personnel for each tier are shown in the table below.

Tier	Responders
ER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SAR</li><li>• Fire and EMS</li><li>• Law enforcement</li><li>• Emergency management</li><li>• Hazmat and oil spill investigation teams</li><li>• Public Works and Transportation</li><li>• Military</li><li>• Locally designated response personnel</li></ul>

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Tier	Responders
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIKR damage assessment teams</li> <li>• Hospital staff &amp; emergency responders</li> <li>• Damage assessment team</li> <li>• Animal health</li> <li>• VOADs active in response</li> <li>• Locally designated response personnel</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIKR restoration teams</li> <li>• State agency facility assessment team</li> <li>• Health care personnel</li> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Local businesses as needed and approved</li> <li>• Locally designated response personnel</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VOADs active in recovery</li> <li>• Other business operators and residents as appropriate</li> <li>• Locally designated response personnel</li> </ul>

## Credentialing Purpose and General Guidance

Each local jurisdiction has the authority to determine who receives credentials and how that process occurs. The purpose of credentialing is to ensure and validate the identity and attributes of an individual. An effective credentialing solution enables a local incident commander to request, receive and use personnel from outside their jurisdiction.

Credentialing should take place before an incident occurs. Some incidents, however, may require the activation of a just-in-time process for validating, issuing and tracking credentials.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has developed a National Incident Management System (NIMS) Guideline for the Credentialing of Personnel. The processes laid out by DHS are voluntary and do not override the authority of local officials or states to manage response operations.

## Authorities

### Sec. 418.1015. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS

(a)The presiding officer of the governing body of an incorporated city or a county or the chief administrative officer of a joint board is designated as the emergency management director for the officer's political subdivision.

(b)An emergency management director serves as the governor's designated agent in the administration and supervision of duties under this chapter. An emergency management director may exercise the powers granted to the governor under this chapter on an appropriate local scale.

(c)An emergency management director may designate a person to serve as emergency management coordinator. The emergency management coordinator shall serve as an assistant to the emergency management director for emergency management purposes.

(d)A person, other than an emergency management director exercising under Subsection (b) a power granted to the governor, may not seize state or federal resources without prior authorization from the division or the state or federal agency having responsibility for those resources.

**Sec. 418.050. PHASED REENTRY PLAN**

(a)The division shall develop a phased reentry plan to govern the order in which particular groups of people are allowed to reenter areas previously evacuated because of a disaster or threat of disaster. The plan may provide different reentry procedures for different types of disasters.

(b)The phased reentry plan shall:

(1)recognize the role of local emergency management directors in making decisions regarding the timing and implementation of reentry plans for a disaster; and

(2)provide local emergency management directors with sufficient flexibility to adjust the plan as necessary to accommodate the circumstances of a particular emergency.

(c)The division, in consultation with representatives of affected parties and local emergency management directors, shall develop a reentry credentialing process. The division shall include the credentialing process in the phased reentry plan. The Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas shall provide support for the credentialing process.

**Sec. 418.0501. REENTRY CREDENTIALING PILOT PROGRAM**

(a)The division shall consider implementing a pilot program for a reentry credentialing process for reentry into areas previously evacuated because of a disaster or threat of disaster.