

# State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) Local Officials



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# What is STEAR?

- Executive Order RP57 requires the establishment and implementation of a data base to assist in the evacuation of special needs populations.
- Originally known as Transportation Assistance Registry (TAR), which was instituted following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. TAR focused on helping to determine what kinds of transportation the individual would require.
- In 2013 TAR was replaced by the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) focusing on gathering more information about additional needs an individual may have for all-hazards.
- The STEAR program is a free registry for Texans of any age that needs additional assistance during an emergency event due to a disability, functional and/or access need, or lack of transportation for evacuation.
- STEAR registry information provides local emergency planners and responders with information about the needs of individuals in their community.



# What is STEAR? Continued

- Texas communities use the information in different ways and available services will vary by community.
- The registry is completely voluntary and free to local governments and to Texas citizens with the exception of the 3 statue requirements.
- Registrants are required to re-register every January to ensure accurate and up-to-date information is available to emergency planners and responders.
- All the information provided will be kept completely confidential.
- Registering in STEAR DOES NOT guarantee specific service during an emergency.
- Registering at last minute prior to a weather event or 12 hours prior to the landfall of tropical system is strongly discouraged. Last minute registrations may not make it to local emergency managers.



# **Laws and Regulations**

# Chapter 242.0395 and 247.0275

- The Health and Safety Codes requires nursing homes and assisted living facilities to register with the Texas Information and Referral Network to assist the state in identifying persons needing assistance if the area is evacuated because of a disaster or other emergency. The facilities are not required to identify individual residents who may require assistance, but are required to notify each resident and the resident's next of kin or guardian regarding how to register with the Texas Information and Referral System (2-1-1).



# Chapter 142.0201

- The Health and Safety Code requires home and community support services agencies to assist their clients as necessary with registering for disaster evacuation assistance through 2-1-1 services provided by the Texas Information and Referral Network.



# **Title 40, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter C, Division 3, Rule 97.256**

- Emergency Preparedness Planning and Implementation, of the Texas Administrative Code requires that if a home and community support services agency identifies a client who may need evacuation assistance, agency personnel must provide the client with the amount of assistance the client requests to complete the STEAR registration process.



# Who Should Register?

- People with Disabilities
- People with access and functional needs such as:
  - People with limited mobility
  - People who have communication barriers
  - People who require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
  - People who require transportation assistance
  - People who require personal care assistance





# How To Register

- Register online at <https://STEAR.tdem.texas.gov>
- Dial 2-1-1 or use your video phone relay options of choice to contact 211 at 877-541-7905 (Texas Information Referral Network)
- Electronic/Paper Forms
  - Individual registration forms can be found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/stear/>
  - Completed forms can be faxed or emailed
    - Email: [STEAR@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:STEAR@tdem.texas.gov)
    - Fax: 866-557-1074



# Required Information to Register

- Name
- Address (Do not use a P.O. Box as the physical address)
- Phone Number
- Primary Language



# Additional Questions Asked to Capture Vital Information for Local Emergency Planners and Responder

- Emergency Contact Information
- Caregiver Information
- Pets
- Transportation assistance for home evacuation
- Communication Barriers
- Disability, Functional, or Medical Needs



# What happens with the STEAR Information when there is a Disaster?

- Information will be provided to participating local governments for their use in developing emergency management plans and to assist them in preparedness and response activities.
- Each local government uses the information in different ways and registering in the system does NOT guarantee an individual will receive additional assistance during an event. Contact the local Emergency Management Coordinator to determine their level of participation in this program.



# Appointed STEAR Custodian Duties

- Jurisdictions can register more than one Data Custodian.
  - NO sharing passwords. Each STEAR custodian should have their own username and password.
- Custodians should be logging in quarterly, however monthly is suggested to ensure up to date information as well removing outdated and duplicate entries.
- Use STEAR data as part of preparedness activities. STEAR custodians should practice accessing their account, exporting data, and providing updated reports to their local EMC.
- Publicizing and marketing in the community about the program. Using the city or county social media pages throughout the year to ensure proper awareness to the program.



# Using STEAR in Planning, Preparedness, and Response

- STEAR data can be utilized for all hazards such as: tornados, flood events, evacuations, wildfires, man-made emergencies, power outages, search and rescue, etc.
- Planning:
  - Mapping: determining the proximity to known risk areas and identifying clusters versus isolated individuals or facilities.
  - Coordination: assess procedures for response operations, identify potential resource needs, identify resource availabilities and gaps, and develop contingencies.
- Preparedness:
  - Use STEAR during city/county full scale exercises.



# Using STEAR in Planning, Preparedness, and Response Cont.

- Build relationships with the public and private sector groups in your community:
  - Home Healthcare
  - Meals-on-Wheels
  - Nursing Homes
  - Assisted Living Centers
  - Hospice
  - Dialysis Centers
  - Schools
- Response:
  - Follow evacuation procedures for your city/county.
  - Care Operations
    - Shelters for general population versus medical needs
    - PODs



# Be Prepared for All Hazards

The registry DOES NOT guarantee assistance and individuals need to have a personal emergency plan in place.

- Put together a grab it and go bag. These items are essential to getting through an emergency.
- Make plans for your service animals and pets.
- Create a household plan with your family.
- Tune into local news and listen to your weather radio for more information on the hazard in your area.





# Grab It and Go Bag

- When creating this bag think of the hazards that happen where you live, work, and go to school.
- It's important to know what you are able to carry in an emergency without assistance in the event of an evacuation.



# Grab It and Go Bag Item Examples

- Your emergency bag can include but are not limited to:
  - Emergency health information, contact lists, and medication lists. Put important documents in waterproof bags.
  - First Aid Kit
  - Medical supplies to last you up to one-two weeks (medications, syringes, ostomy bags, catheters, extra hearing-aid batteries, etc.)
  - Food and Water
  - Flashlight and Extra Batteries
  - Filter Mask
  - Cell Phone Chargers
  - Medical Equipment
- For more prepping tips visit <http://txready.org/> or <https://www.ready.gov>



# Pet Emergency Supplies

- Just as you do with your personal or family's grab it and go kit you will want to do the same for you service animal or pet.
- Bag can include but are not limited to:
  - Important documents (registration paperwork, vaccination documents, and medical records)
  - Food for at least 3 days in an airtight container
  - Water
  - Extra leash
  - Transportable Pet Kennel
- For more pet prepping tips visit <http://txready.org/> or <https://www.ready.gov>



# Household Plan with Family Members or Support Network

- Develop a communication plan with your family and support network.
- Have emergency contact information easily accessible in the event you are not together.
- Inform your support network where you keep your emergency supplies.
- If you have a communication disability, make sure to have emergency information notes on what the best ways are to communicate with you.



# Frequently Asked Questions

- Do I have to fill one STEAR form out for each individual additional assistance needs?
  - Yes, each individual who needs assistance during an emergency event will need to register.
    - Nursing homes and assisted living facilities should fill out the individual registration forms for their clients and if possible registering clients into STEAR.
  - Can a STEAR form be filled out by someone else?
    - With their permission, a family member or volunteer can register another individual through 2-1-1 or by filling out the registration form.



# Frequently Asked Questions Continued

- How long will my information be kept in the system?
  - Information is normally kept in the system for 1 year. It is important to re-register every January.
- What do I do if I no longer need assistance?
  - You should contact 2-1-1 to re-register if you move or no longer need assistance. You can also contact your local Emergency Management Coordinator to be removed from the system.



# Contact Us

- For more information about the program please visit: <https://tdem.texas.gov/stear/>
- Email us at [STEAR@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:STEAR@tdem.texas.gov)
- Contact you local Emergency Management Coordinator

