

# 2017

# Annual Report



## TEXSAR: Texas Search and Rescue

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

[www.texasar.org](http://www.texasar.org)



# 2017

## Mission Statement & Core Values



*“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>) and were recognized by GreatNonprofits as a 2017 Top-Rated Nonprofit (<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](mailto:justen.noakes@texsar.org)

# 2017

# Board of Directors

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.  
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*

**Hurricane Harvey Relief**  
*Beaumont, Texas*

### October

*No Deployments*

### November

**Granite Gripper**  
*Fredericksburg, Texas*

### December

**Wharton Holiday Support**  
*Wharton, Texas*  
**Lonestar Rally IMT Support**  
*Galveston, Texas*

# 2017

# Hurricane Harvey

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.



## 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: 208  
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

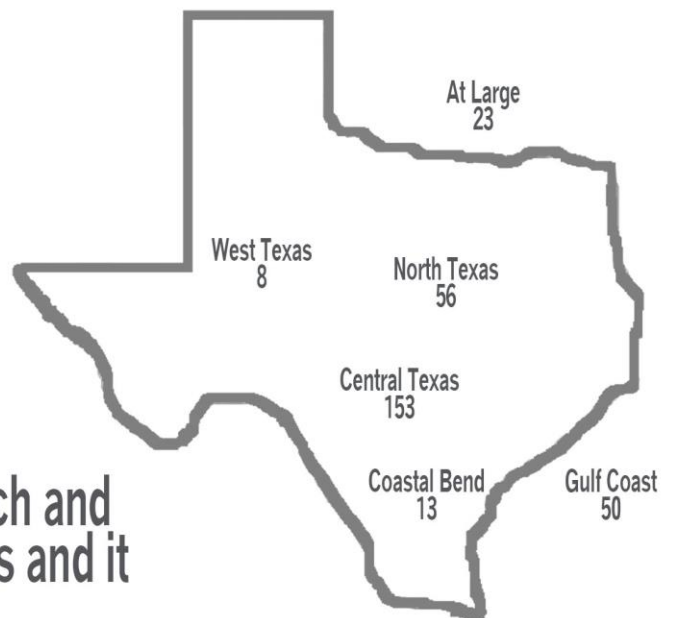
## TEXSAR Member Statistics

|                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>340</b><br>Active Members       | <b>215</b><br>Deployable Members   |
| <b>13</b><br>K9 Handlers           | <b>22</b><br>K9's                  |
| <b>25</b><br>Incident Management   | <b>23</b><br>Wildland Firefighters |
| <b>180</b><br>GSAR Techs           | <b>97</b><br>FAST Techs            |
| <b>22</b><br>Rescue Boat Operators | <b>32</b><br>Medical Personnel     |
| <b>22</b><br>Mantrackers           | <b>8</b><br>Vertical Rescue Techs  |

## Deployment Statistics

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>18</b><br>Total Deployments            | <b>31</b><br>Days Deployed       |
| <b>26,595</b><br>Hours Volunteered        | <b>178,466</b><br>Miles Traveled |
| <b>\$634,920</b><br>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.

# 2017

# Training

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.

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| CPR                                      | Land Navigation and Maps           |
| Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR)          | Water Rescue Support               |
| Mantracking                              | Witness Interviews                 |
| Blood Borne Pathogens                    | Alzheimer/Dementia                 |
| Orthopedic Injuries                      | Electric Shock Drowning            |
| Patient Packaging                        | UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle)      |
| Communications                           | Rescue Boat Operator (RBO)         |
| Evidence Collection                      | Vertical Response                  |
| Fitness and Fitness Pack Test            | Wilderness First Aid               |
| Haz Mat and PPE                          | Wildland Fire                      |
| Child Advocacy                           | Anaphylactic shock                 |
| Incident Management and Incident Command | Flood and Swiftwater Rescue (FAST) |
| Low Slope Evacuation                     | Hypothermia/Hyperthermia           |

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.



# 2017

# TEXSAR Donors

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

# 2017

## Partner Agencies and Organizations

**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



Humvee



5-Ton Truck  
LMTV  
UAV  
(2) Humvees

Radios  
(4) Generators  
Trailer

LMTV



# 2017

## Distinctions and Financial Position

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.

*Spoiler 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/texasar-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@texasar.org](mailto:finance@texasar.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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paula DeLaCruz'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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](mailto:paula.delacruz@texsar.org)).

Texas Search and Rescue

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*IRS EIN for TEXSAR Inc.: 84-1644603*

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