

Texas State Disaster Coalition
July 16, 2015, Meeting Notes

Melissa Hield welcomed the group and reviewed the antitrust statement.

Legislative update: Mark Webb said TDI is accepting applications for the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association board of directors as required by Senate Bill 900 passed by the 84th Legislature. The deadline for applications is August 15. Application forms are available on the TDI website at: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/forms/publicaffairs/PA032.pdf>. For more information about TWIA board applications, contact TDI Government Relations at 512-676-6605.

May Severe Weather disaster event: TDI and state agency members of the Emergency Management Council staffed the State Operations Center during May's severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that began on May 4. The event was declared a major disaster on May 29. TDEM and FEMA began opening disaster recovery centers (DRCs) on June 10. TDI sent volunteers to Wimberley, Houston, Bastrop, San Marcos, Taylor, Rosenberg, and Edinburg to help consumers with insurance questions and claims through June 25.

TDEM and FEMA establish and manage the DRCs. In the past, DRCs were opened as soon as possible in a disaster area, and served as the places where people could go for assistance from FEMA, state agencies, and volunteer organizations. Based on the size of the May disaster event and other factors, TDEM decided to open a DRC in an area after the number of people who registered with FEMA had reached a certain threshold; as a result, the DRCs opened weeks after the floods ended and the DRC's were where people who had questions about their FEMA applications for assistance could go for help. Because of this change in strategy, TDI is assessing how it will conduct outreach during future disaster responses. TDI will keep TSDC informed.

TDI has received 200 flood-related calls and 98 complaints from Texans with auto and HO insurance affected by the floods. Four complaints were related to NFIP policies and were forwarded to the NFIP's new call center, which opened on June 15. This call center is staffed with case managers to assist consumers with flood policies and can be reached at 800-621-3362.

Weather brief: Scott Helmcamp said that, after the record-setting precipitation Texas received in May, almost 85 percent of the state is now completely drought-free, with no areas of extreme drought for the first time since November 2010. Only a few abnormally dry areas still exist in parts of central Texas and the Panhandle. Reservoir conditions have improved dramatically, with levels increased to 79 percent full from 62 percent full six months ago, an increase of more than 3.3 trillion gallons of water.

Warm sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean in place since fall 2014 have an 80 percent chance of continuing through 2015. Based on this El Nino feature and its connection to Southern Plains weather, the most recent seasonal outlook favors above-normal rain chances and below-normal temperatures for the entire region, except for south Texas. The National Weather Service to date has tracked three named storms in the Atlantic and six named storms (four of which are hurricanes) in the Pacific; currently there are no Atlantic storms. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts a below-normal Atlantic hurricane system due to El Nino.

Next TSDC quarterly meeting: October 15, 1:30 p.m. Central daylight time, via conference call