**Emergency Management Key Terms**

Department − The Texas Department of Public Safety

Disaster − The occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or manmade cause, including fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, oil spill or other water contamination, volcanic activity, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, riot, hostile military or paramilitary action, extreme heat, other public calamity requiring emergency action, or energy emergency

Division − The Texas Division of Emergency Management

Energy Emergency − A temporary statewide, regional, or local shortage of petroleum, natural gas, or liquid fuel energy supplies that makes emergency measures necessary to reduce demand or allocate supply

Inter-Jurisdictional Agency − A disaster agency maintained by and serving more than one political subdivision

Joint Board − The pattern of local government with the distribution of functions varying according to local arrangements

Local Government Entity − A county, incorporated city, independent school district, public junior college district, emergency services district, other special district, joint board, or other entity defined as a political subdivision under the laws of this state that maintains the capability to provide mutual aid

Mutual Aid − A homeland security activity that consists of arrangements made between states, communities, or governments/nations to assist each other

Organized Volunteer Group − An organization such as the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Civil Air Patrol, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services, a volunteer fire department, a volunteer rescue squad, or other similar organization recognized by federal statute, state statute, regulation, or memorandum

Political Subdivision − A county or incorporated city

Public Facility − Any location to include shelter or government office (including restaurants, hotels, and bus stations) which are open for use by all people

Responding Local Government Entity − A local government entity providing mutual aid assistance in response to a request under the system

Requesting Local Government Entity − A local government entity requesting mutual aid assistance under the system

System − The Texas Statewide Mutual Aid System

Temporary Housing − Temporary accommodations provided by the Federal Government to individuals or families whose homes are made uninhabitable by an emergency or disaster