

ATTACHMENT 1: Tier Definitions Quick Reference

The intent of this reentry policy is to assume immediate and unrestricted access to both Tier ER & 1 personnel as soon as the responding agency feels it safe to begin operations in the impacted area however this policy implementation will be event dependent given numerous unknown variables. The final decision will remain that of the EMD.

Responding organizations reenter at their own risk acknowledging that many unknown hazards may still exist that have not yet be identified by local officials. The local Incident Commander will have the responsibility to make determinations where personnel may further be restricted within defined areas in the impact area as outlined in the appropriate City/County Emergency Management Plan. Additionally, organizations entering an impacted area are subject to the check-in procedures established by the local Incident Commander.

Tier ER- Search and rescue (SAR) and security force operations

Tier ER personnel are typically uniformed and are in clearly identified emergency response vehicles. These organizations are not required to request or carry a reentry authorization letter however should be prepared to provide proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.

- SAR agents include local Fire/EMS, law enforcement, Texas Military Forces and other State and/or Federal emergency response teams such as Texas Task Force One/Two.

Tier 1- Immediate mass care and damage assessment.

Tier 1 personnel should travel in marked company vehicles and must possess valid agency credentials. Personnel in this category are expected request Tier 1 reentry authorization prior to hurricane season and should be prepared to provide proof of deployment orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.

- CI/KR and utilities assessment personnel must be permitted immediate access to ensure essential services, such as water, power and communications, are restored and infrastructure is intact. Municipal utilities and public works personnel are included as well as private organizations active in assessment of major industrial facilities.
- Official damage assessment teams may include Federal, State and local officials and are required to possess official agency identification credentials.
- Immediate mass care is typically provided by recognized state agencies such as Texas Military Forces and limited state VOADs such as American Red Cross, Texas Salvation Army and Texas Baptist Men. Most other disaster relief workers are classified as Tier 2.
- Other personnel at the discretion of the local Emergency Management Director.

Tier 2- Restoration of essential services, point of distribution (POD) and other support operations. Essential services include power, infrastructure, public works, wastewater/water and utility repair and restoration. Tier 2 personnel should travel in marked company vehicles and must possess valid agency credentials. These organizations are not required to request or carry a reentry authorization letter however should be prepared to provide proof of deployment

orders, mission assignment or other similar documentation authorizing work assignment in the impacted area for the designated incident.

- Relief workers will be needed to provide food and other supplies for first responders and people that did not evacuate the impacted area (s).
- Health care agency personnel, which may include hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities and dialysis centers. Credentialed volunteer health professionals possessing valid identification may be included.
- Insurance agents and adjusters.
- Reentry of key business operations and media in the impact area may be delayed until major routes are open and the threat to public safety subsides. The local Emergency Management Director will make the decision when to permit business operators into the impacted areas based on an overall evaluation of the situation. An example of businesses that may be allowed reentry as Tier 2 include those that have far reaching impact on recovery such as grocery stores, fuel providers, pharmacies, banking institutions and other “big box” providers (i.e. Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowes).

Tier 3- Business operators not allowed reentry under Tier 2 and residents.

Tier 3 operators and residents should be prepared to provide appropriate agency credentials and/or proof of residency as appropriate.

All others not defined previously are considered “general population” and will be allowed reentry after the mandatory evacuation order has been lifted.

Any conflict at designated check points will be routed through the local Incident Commander and EOC as appropriate for resolution. The safety of personnel will be the ultimate deciding factor in ALL cases.

****Nueces County Tier 1 authorization letters will only be issued on a standardized and recognizable letterhead that has been mutually agreed upon.****