

---

# Mass Casualty Preparedness Across Texas

---

July 15, 2025



**DRAWN TOGETHER  
SINCE 1951**

# TEXAS COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTERS



# TEXAS COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTERS

A DECADE OF DISASTERS



- 2016: Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, FL
- 2017: Las Vegas, NV shooting
- 2017: Sutherland Springs, TX church shooting
- 2017: Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana
- 2017: Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico
- 2018: Thousand Oaks, CA nightclub shooting
- 2018: Parkland, FL High School shooting
- 2019: Midland/Odessa, TX motorist shooting
- 2019: El Paso, TX Walmart shooting
- 2019: Dayton, OH nightclub shooting
- 2021: Hialeah, FL concert shooting
- 2022: New York City, NY subway shooting
- 2022: Highland Park, IL parade shooting
- 2022: Uvalde, TX school shooting
- 2022: Colorado Springs, CO nightclub shooting
- 2023: Monterey Park, CA dance studio shooting
- 2023: Dadeville, AL birthday party shooting
- 2023: Baltimore, MD shooting
- 2023: Lewiston, ME bowling alley shooting
- 2024: Birmingham, AL bar shooting
- 2024: Kansas City, MO parade shooting
- 2025: Texas floods

# BLOOD CENTER DISASTER RESPONSE

## INITIAL RESPONSE

“THE BLOOD ON THE SHELVES IS  
WHAT SAVES LIVES IN A DISASTER”

## IMMEDIATE LOCAL RESPONSE

- Blood centers generally stock:
  - **3-7** days of the community's needs of **red blood cells**
  - **3-7** days of the community's needs of **whole blood**
  - **2** days of the community's needs of **platelets**
  - **30** days of the community's needs of **fresh frozen plasma**
  - ETA at scene or hospital: 30 mins-1 hour
- 1-2 days of inventory is in the processing stage at all times- can be emergency released if necessary
- Product transfer- move blood products to where they are needed most
  - Regional disaster communications are imperative to assess impact and to potentially assist with product transport

# BLOOD CENTER DISASTER RESPONSE

## SECONDARY RESPONSE

- The **Blood Emergency Readiness Corps (BERC)** created by **Alliance for Community Transfusion Services (ACTS)** is a group of blood centers across the nation who commit to joining together to be prepared for mass transfusion disasters that may strike.
- 39 members
- Every week 12 blood centers on call, each reserving 10 O+ and 4 O- RBCs
- Total reserve 120 Units of O+, 48 Units of O-
- ETA: 1-3 hours
- A process for nearby blood centers to immediately provide needed products and be backfilled is in place

## Participating Blood Centers



**ACTS**  
Alliance *for* Community Transfusion Services

# BLOOD CENTER DISASTER RESPONSE

## SECONDARY RESPONSE

### AABB Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism

- AABB
- Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)
- America's Blood Centers (ABC)
- American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB)
- American Hospital Association (AHA)
- American Red Cross (ARC)
- Blood Centers of America (BCA)
- College of American Pathologists (CAP)
- National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)
- Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA)
- Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

# BLOOD CENTER DISASTER RESPONSE

## SECONDARY RESPONSE



## AABB Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism

### BCA

- 60+ independent community blood center members
- BCA serves as the disaster inventory coordinator for independent blood centers
- Initial ETA: within 1-2 hours or longer
- Ongoing assessment and response

# BLOOD CENTER DISASTER RESPONSE

## RECOVERY RESPONSE



## DONOR MANAGEMENT

- Donor communications are critical
- Accurate messaging assures appropriate community response and help tailor collections to immediate and ongoing needs
- Collections during and immediately after a disaster replenish what was used during the event
- Strategies to collect blood during and after a disaster or Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) may include
  - Opening longer hours/after-hours
  - Special blood drives

# BLOOD CENTER DISASTER RESPONSE

## RESPONSE SUMMARY

### ORDER OF INVENTORY USED DURING A DISASTER OR MCI

1. Hospital inventory
2. Blood center inventory
3. Inventory at hospitals not impacted by event
4. Imported products from nearby blood centers
5. Imported products from BERC and other BCA blood centers
6. Emergency release of in process inventory



# BLOOD CENTER DISASTER RESPONSE

## PROS AND CONS

### PROS

- Existing organized pathways and relationships ensure fully tested blood products from around the country can be obtained
- Minimal communication by the impacted blood center is required: the blood center needs to communicate needs only to the Task Force or BCA representative who will work with all other centers to secure needed products

### CONS

- Turnaround times to receive products can vary depending on event location, availability of products at nearby blood centers and transportation limitations

# QUESTIONS?

Justine Garza  
[jgarza@weareblood.org](mailto:jgarza@weareblood.org)  
512-206-1156

---

# THANK YOU

---



**DRAWN TOGETHER  
SINCE 1951**