How Can DSHS Assist?

- Help identify ongoing mass fatality management planning initiatives
- Help connect you to regional mass fatality response resources
- When requested through your local Emergency Operations Center, DSHS can deploy resources such as:
  - Disaster Portable Morgue Unit
  - Funeral Director Strike Team
  - Refrigerated Trailers
  - Body Bags
  - Disaster Behavioral Health Services

Mass Fatality
Every Disaster is Local

DO YOU KNOW THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ROLE IN A MASS FATALITY INCIDENT?

West, Texas (2013)
### What Is My Role?

- Satisfy the legal requirements of Chapter 49 of the Code of Criminal Procedures
  - Conduct an inquest
  - Maintain custody of the human remains in order to determine identity, make notification to family and authorities, determine cause and manner of death, issue a death certificate, and coordinate release of remains to the next of kin.
- Assist in developing local solutions for remains recovery, transportation and storage, morgue operations, identification, and remains release for final disposition
- Participate in the planning effort

### How Do I Get Started?

- Contact your local or county Emergency Management Coordinator.
- Contact your local health department. If you are in a county without a local health department, contact the preparedness manager in your Health Service Region.
- If mass fatality planning is not taking place, advocate for mass fatality planning in your region or county

### How Can I Learn More?

- Read the following documents:
  - DSHS Mass Fatality Toolkit: [http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/cmmprep/planning/toolkits.aspx](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/cmmprep/planning/toolkits.aspx)
- Find trainings:
  - Talk to your Emergency Management Coordinator about ongoing trainings within your area.
  - Preparing Texas [https://www.preparingtexas.org/index.aspx](https://www.preparingtexas.org/index.aspx) (Keyword: Fatalities)
  - DSHS [http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/cmmprep/training/MFMOnline.aspx](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/cmmprep/training/MFMOnline.aspx)

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