



Review of the National Weather Service's Actions to Support Kerr County During the Catastrophic Flash Flood in Texas

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► **What We Reviewed** | We reviewed the actions taken by the National Weather Service (NWS) prior to and during the catastrophic flash flood that occurred in Kerr County, in central Texas, on July 4, 2025.

This review provides a snapshot of key NWS actions and responses during the flood. It focuses on NWS staffing, coordination, forecasting, and issuance of flood alerts, with an emphasis on NWS support provided to Kerr County, Texas.

► **Why This Matters** | When severe weather strikes, NWS is relied on for timely weather information and alerts. NWS plays a key and statutorily mandated federal role in ensuring national preparedness related to weather events.

Given the catastrophic nature of the Texas flash flood event, plus ongoing concerns about staffing levels at NWS, members of Congress asked OIG to examine NWS's response and resources both in central Texas and nationwide. Separately, we have initiated a project on NWS staffing, to review staffing levels, hiring limitations, and operational practices at NWS field offices around the country.

► **What We Found** | On July 4, 2025, flash flooding occurred in central Texas when water levels along the Guadalupe River rose rapidly, causing widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life. Throughout the flash flood, NWS was responsible for coordinating with its core partners and issuing timely weather and emergency alerts.

The Austin/San Antonio Weather Forecast Office (WFO) coordinated and communicated with core partners and issued multiple flood alerts on July 3 and 4. Although staffing vacancies existed at the WFO, staff asserted that the vacancies did not affect their ability to forecast, issue flood alerts, and provide support to Kerr County officials and other core partners.

NWS has an established lead time performance goal for its flash flood warnings. Longer lead times allow the public more opportunity to take precautionary measures and prepare for a flash flood. This report includes NWS's lead time estimates for river gauge locations along the Guadalupe River and its tributaries.