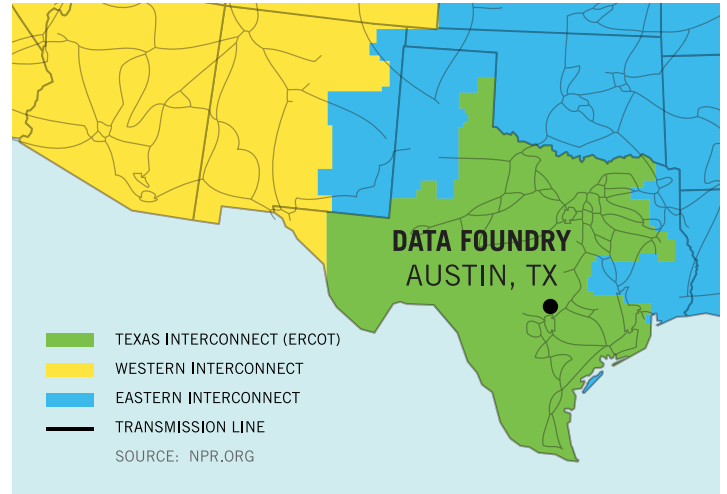


When companies are looking for a data center location to serve as backup in the event of a disaster or unexpected downtime, it's important to consider the level of risk and redundancy offered at the location in question. It's also a priority to consider a data center location that uses a separate power grid.

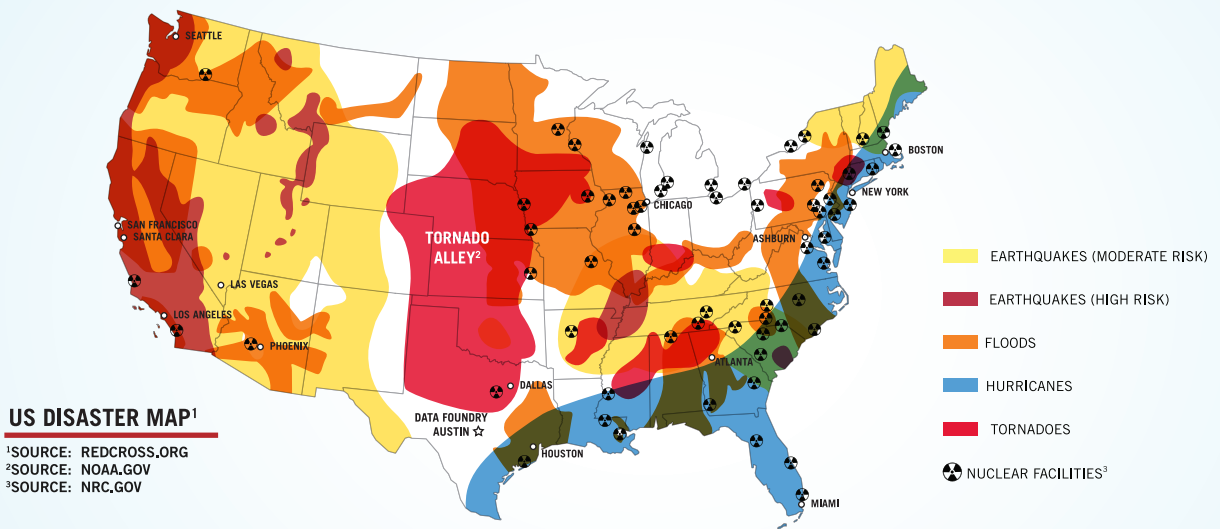
## A Distinct Power Grid

When looking for a backup data center, it's a best practice to use a facility that is not on the same power grid as your primary facility. This way if a natural disaster or a cyber attack on infrastructure affects an entire power grid, the company can continue to operate. Texas is unique in that the majority of the state utilizes a different power grid run by ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas). The entire rest of the country uses either the Eastern or Western power grid.



## A Low-Risk Location

Austin, TX is considered one of the safest locations for mission-critical operations in the United States. Compared to other major cities, Austin has an extremely low risk of being affected by a disaster. To help illustrate this point, we have highlighted below the five most common disaster concerns and their potential impact on Austin and Data Foundry's Texas 1 data center.





**TORNADO RISK ASSESSMENT: LOW**

Located more than 100 miles outside of Tornado Alley, Austin has not experienced an F3 (158+ mph winds) level or higher tornado in over 15 years. In comparison, Dallas has been hit by four F3 level or higher tornadoes during that same time span. In the event a tornado strikes Austin, Texas 1 is constructed with 10" thick concrete walls capable of withstanding winds of at least 215 mph.\*



**FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT: LOW**

Data Foundry's Texas 1 data center is located 500 feet above sea level, outside of the floodplain with no unusual flood risks present. To provide additional protection, a storm water detention pond was built adjacent to the facility designed to manage water quantity by taking in large inflows of water.



**HURRICANE RISK ASSESSMENT: VERY LOW**

Austin is situated more than 200 miles from the nearest coast. On average two named storms hit the Texas coast every year, these storms are typically reduced to thunderstorms by the time they reach Austin. In the event that a hurricane did reach Austin, the Texas 1 data center is capable of withstanding up to category 5 hurricane winds and its onsite detention pond prevents flooding.



**EARTHQUAKE RISK ASSESSMENT: REMOTE**

There has not been a notable earthquake within 50 miles of Austin in the last 50 years. The probability of an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 (slight damage) or greater is less than 1%.\*



**NUCLEAR POWER RISK ASSESSMENT: REMOTE**

Texas has two nuclear power plants – Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant and South Texas Project. Both plants are located over 160 miles from Austin. Given the infrequency of incidents and their distance from Austin, the risk of exposure or other negative effects is remote.

**Data Centers with Superior Infrastructure**

After deciding on a low-risk location for backup, the next step is to find a facility that offers a resilient building structure and redundant power, cooling and network. The most reliable type of power structure consists of dual power feeds. Many data centers claim to have dual power feeds but do not have access to power from two different substations. Some data centers have dual substations, but have a single point of failure in their automatic transfer switch. Data Foundry operates purpose-built data centers with no single point of failure. Read our white paper on [The Truth about Dual Power Feeds](#) to learn how to evaluate power structure before taking your next data center tour.

Learn about our premier **data centers** in Austin, TX.

\*<http://www.homefacts.com/tornadoes/Texas/Travis-County/Austin.html>