Hello South Texas Residents,

Hurricane Season is upon us and it is time to get prepared. In-fact, historically 14 hurricanes have struck the Texas Coast in the month of June, so it is important to be ready before the start of the season, which begins on June 1st. As we saw with Harvey, hurricanes can be devastating and many residents are still recovering two years after the storm.

Hurricanes bring a multitude of hazards including deadly storm surge, damaging winds, flooding rain and tornadoes. These destructive forces can displace you from your home for months or years. This is why residents should take planning for hurricanes very seriously. This updated guide can help you and your family get prepared. Learn what to do before, during and after a storm. Your plan should include preparations for your home, gathering supplies, ensuring your insurance is up to date, and planning for an evacuation.

There are many great organizations that can help you get prepared. The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH.org) has a wealth of information on preparing your property before a storm. If you will need any form of assistance, be sure to register for the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (simply dial 2-1-1 to register). More information about these groups and others can be found in this guide.

Do not be distracted by the hurricane seasonal outlook. It is important to be fully prepared each season. Once a storm develops, obtain the official forecast from your National Weather Service or local media outlets, and be sure to heed the advice from local officials. Take this time to ensure you and your family are ready!

I hope you have a safe hurricane season!

Sincerely,

John Metz
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service
Corpus Christi, Texas
Hurricanes form over warm ocean waters, like those found in the Gulf of Mexico. The hurricane season starts June 1 and ends November 30. The peak threat for the Texas coast exists from August through September. However, hurricanes can and have struck the Texas coast during every month of the hurricane season.

Since 1851, 64 hurricanes have struck the Texas coast. That is one every three years on average.
Storm Surge Defined

Storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tides. This rise in water level can cause extreme flooding in coastal areas resulting in storm tides reaching up to 20 feet or more in some cases. Along the Texas coast, these flood waters can penetrate far inland depending on the elevation of the land. If the storm tide is greater than the land elevation (even if well inland) then storm surge flooding will be possible.

Storm Surge Can Be Deadly! Here are 6 Tips to be Ready

1. Storm surge flooding is often the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane. It poses a significant threat for drowning. A mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles.
2. Storm surge can cause water levels to rise quickly and flood large areas in just minutes, and you could be left with no time to take action if you haven’t already evacuated as instructed.
3. Storm surge is not dependent on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Hurricane categories are based only on winds and do not account for storm surge. Any wind category can all cause life-threatening storm surge.
4. Many Gulf Coast areas are vulnerable to storm surge including areas many miles inland from the coastline depending on elevation of the coastal plain. Find out today if you live in a storm surge zone (see pages 5-7 in this guide).
5. Storm surge can occur before, during and after the center of the storm passes through an area, and can sometimes cutoff evacuation routes. The water can also rise well in advance of the coming storm, in some cases 36 hours or greater. When an evacuation is ordered, do not wait until the last minute to leave.
6. During the peak of a storm surge event, it is unlikely that emergency responders will be able to reach you if you are in danger.

For more information about storm surge, please visit the new NHC Storm Surge Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBa9bVYKLP0
Above: This map shows the height above ground the water could reach and depicts the reasonable worst-case scenario from storm surge flooding.

“The greatest potential for loss of life related to a hurricane is from the storm surge.”

-National Hurricane Center
Above: This map shows the height above ground the water could reach and depicts the reasonable worst-case scenario from storm surge flooding.
Above: This map shows the height above ground the water could reach and depicts the reasonable worst-case scenario from storm surge flooding.

Want to see more high resolution storm surge maps? Visit: National Storm Surge Hazard Maps
Five Practical Ways to Protect Yourself and Others From the Dangers of Inland Flooding

Protect Your Personal Documents and Special Items

- Store valuables in plastic tubs with locking tops
- In case of an evacuation, you should be able to secure and move all your valuables within 15 minutes

Buy Flood Insurance – A Plan for Replaceable Items

- The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is available from an insurance agent or the NFIP
- For more information see www.floodsmart.gov

Flood Proof Your Home – Take Steps to Minimize Flood Damage

- Shut off the main circuit breaker to prevent appliances from short circuiting and eliminate the threat of electrocution
- Raise outside air conditioning units onto platforms above ground level
- Store rarely used or expensive items in the attic or on high shelves

Develop a Family Flood Plan

- Develop a plan of action to keep from panicking or withdrawing during an emergency
- Have an evacuation route and alternatives planned in the event you are asked to evacuate
- Communicate your plans with friends or family outside of your home area
- Battery powered radios or televisions can be used in the event of a power outage

Never Drive on Flooded Roads

- Driving into flooded roadways puts your life and the lives of others at risk
- Unless told to evacuate, you are probably safest staying at your current location
- If you encounter flood waters when driving, Turn Around, Don’t Drown!
Tornadoes and Destructive Winds

Tropical cyclones also produce tornadoes. These tornadoes most often occur in thunderstorms embedded in rain bands well away from the center of the hurricane; however, they can also occur near the eyewall. Tornadoes produced by tropical cyclones are relatively weak and short-lived, but still pose a threat.

Hurricane force winds of 74 mph or more can destroy buildings, mobile homes, trees and power poles. Debris such as signs, roofing material, siding, and small items left outside become flying missiles in a hurricane. The strongest winds occur in a region of the hurricane called the eyewall. Wind gusts in the right side of the eyewall are the most destructive. Hurricane force winds can be felt as far as 150 miles from the coast.

MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS MUST EVACUATE!

- No mobile home or manufactured home - no matter how new it is - can provide safe shelter from hurricane force winds.
- Straps or other tie-downs will not protect a mobile home from the high winds associated with a hurricane.
- Mobile home residents must evacuate when told to do so by local authorities.

Saffir Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

- Category 1 - Winds 74 to 95 mph
- Category 2 - Winds 96 to 110 mph
- Category 3 - Winds 111 to 129 mph
- Category 4 - Winds 130 to 156 mph
- Category 5 - Winds 157 mph or higher
Home Preparation

Elevation Matters
- Know the elevation of your home! Are you in a flood and/or evacuation zone?

Mobile Homes
- Check tie-downs for rust or breakage.
- Residents of mobile homes must evacuate when told to do so!!

Landscaping
- Trim trees, shrubbery and dead limbs, especially ones close to your home.
- Repair or replace broken or damaged fences.

Roofing
- Inspect the roof for loose tiles, shingles or debris. Consider replacing old or damaged shingles with new ones rated for hurricane force winds.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.

Doors
- Reinforce garage doors and tracks or replace with a hurricane tested door.
- Reinforce double entry doors with heavy duty foot and head bolts.
- Use a security dead bolt with a one inch minimum bolt length.

Windows
- If possible, install tested/manufactured hurricane shutters.
- Inspect existing shutters to ensure they are in good working order.
- Alternative: Use 5/8” or greater exterior grade plywood secured by 2 1/2” screws and/or special clips. Obtain wood and fasteners, cut wood to size, pre-drill holes and place anchors on homes.

For more information on home preparedness, please visit the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) at:
http://www.flash.org/

Above: This well built home in the community of Copano Village in Aransas County, TX survived Hurricane Harvey in 2017.
Business and Employee Preparation

- Identify and protect vital records. Backup and store key files off site.
- Protect electronic equipment from possible water damage.
- Have extra cash and blank checks in case extra money is needed after the storm.
- Develop a 24-hour emergency contact with phone numbers of key employees.
- Set up telephone numbers for employees to check in and receive company information.
- Establish a temporary location for business operations in case your facility is damaged.
- Give employees enough time to secure their homes and families.
- Consider paying employees before they leave to prepare their homes.

Marine Preparations

- Check with the manufacturer for proper ways to secure your boat during a storm.
- Purchase necessary hurricane materials such as additional mooring lines, crew anchors, fenders, fender boards, chafing gear, and anchors.
- Safe storm moorings should consist of good condition ropes of sufficient diameter and length, with at least three or four substantial anchor points.
- Do not moor parallel to bank. Receding tides often capsize boats in this type of anchorage.

Preparing for Your Pet’s Safety

- Your pet should be part of your overall hurricane preparation plans. Below are a few important things to help you prepare:
- Make sure your pet’s vaccinations are current and have proof they are current. DO NOT assume that a public shelter or hotel will accept your pet.
- Be sure to have a current photo of your pet.
- Each animal should have a properly sized pet carrier. The carrier should be large enough for the animal to stand up and turn around.
- Pack enough food and bottled water for the duration of your evacuation. DO NOT let your pet eat food or drink water from outside that may have become contaminated.
- Be sure to pack all medications your pet may need along with a muzzle, collar, leash, paper towels, and trash bags.
- Make sure your pet has a proper ID collar.
### Insurance Tips

#### Before the Storm

- New and existing policies will not be written or modified when a storm nears the Gulf of Mexico.
- Make sure you fully understand what perils are covered and excluded in your policy.
- Make sure your coverage is adequate to replace your home and contents in today’s dollar.
- Determine whether your policy covers additional living expenses for a temporary residence if you are unable to live in your home because of damage from a disaster.
- Before hurricane season, prepare detailed written and/or photographic inventory of your home’s contents and store it in a safe place with your policy.
- If your insurance company does not cover flood or windstorm perils, ask about coverage through the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association or the National Flood Insurance Program.

#### After the Storm

- Give prompt written notice to your insurance company.
- Photograph or videotape damaged structures and all damaged property. Make a list of damaged or lost items.
- DO NOT throw out damaged property before your adjuster has inspected the debris unless it is a health hazard or impedes local cleanup.
- Protect your property from further damage.
- Keep an accurate record of temporary repair and living expenses if a loss of use is suffered.

### Important Online Insurance Information

- Texas Windstorm Insurance Association [www.twia.org](http://www.twia.org)
  Consumer help line 800-788-8247
- Texas Department of Insurance [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)
  Consumer Help Line 800-252-3439
Emergency Contact Information

Out of Town Contact Address: ________________________________
Out of Town Contact Phone Number: __________________________
Work Telephone Number: _________________________________
Cell Number/Spouse Cell Number: _____________________________
Children Cell Number: _________________________________
School Telephone Number: _________________________________
Doctor Telephone Number: _________________________________
Bank/Credit Card Telephone Number: _________________________
Insurance Company Information: _______________________________

Whatever comes your way, you'll know what to do.

Red Cross mobile apps put help in your hand.

24 hour number to call for assistance
1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767)
Your chapter of the American Red Cross recommends that you have the following items in your Hurricane Supply Kit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least a 7-day supply of non-perishable food and water. One gallon of water per person per day is recommended</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Battery powered portable television or radio with extra batteries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flashlight with extra batteries</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Aid kit and manual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanitation and hygiene items such as instant hand sanitizing gel, moist towelettes, toilet paper, and feminine hygiene products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whistle</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kitchen accessories, cooking utensils, and manual can opener</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra clothing, blankets, and sleeping bags</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matches in a waterproof container</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photocopies of identification, insurance, prescriptions, household inventory, credit cards, and your latest utility bill</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD or photocopies of important documents such as birth/marriage certificates and titles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prescription medications, eyeglasses, contact lens solution, and hearing aid batteries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formula, baby food, diapers, and pacifiers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pet carriers, leashes, shot records, and food for each animal evacuating with you</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A good map showing county roads and highways</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tire repair kit, booster cables, pump, and flares</td>
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<tr>
<td>White distress flag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toys and games for children</td>
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<tr>
<td>List of family phone numbers and addresses outside the area</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Have you ever wondered how a hurricane gets its name? The National Hurricane Center actually does not name tropical storms and hurricanes. Instead, the names are established by the World Meteorological Organization and then rotated every six years. If a storm is too deadly or costly, the name will be retired and never be used again.

For a printable hurricane tracking map, please click on this [link](#).

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<th>2019</th>
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<td>Wilfred</td>
<td>Wanda</td>
<td>Walter</td>
<td>Whitney</td>
<td>William</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

- This NHC product provides an overview of all tropical cyclone activity and indicates areas of interest that have potential for tropical cyclone development.

NHC Forecast Advisory

- Most recent position for a storm along with all coastline watches and warnings. Includes a 3 or 5 day track with error cone.
- Error cone represents a 5 year average error. Storms only stay within the error cone 67% of the time.
- DO NOT focus too closely on the exact track forecast – the little back line.
- Impacts may occur well outside the cone.
Time of Arrival Graphics

- These maps are useful planning tools.
- One map shows the earliest reasonable arrival time of tropical storm force winds.
- A secondary map will show the most likely arrival time of tropical storm force winds.

Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map

- If a hurricane is threatening your community, go to hurricanes.gov and view the potential storm surge flooding map, which will show the reasonable-worst case scenario from storm surge inundation for your area.

Storm Surge Watch/Warning

- A storm surge watch is the possibility of life-threatening storm surge within 48 hours.
- A storm surge warning is the danger of life-threatening storm surge within 36 hours.
- If you are located in a storm surge watch or warning, you are not safe. Take action to protect your life. Promptly follow evacuation and other instructions from emergency management officials.

Hurricane Threats and Impacts

- This product issued by local NWS offices will summarize potential impacts expected from a tropical cyclone.
- Click on the colored area and text that describes potential impacts will display.
- www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=crp
### Local Tropical Webpage

#### NWS Corpus Christi Tropical Webpage

**Outlook**

| There are currently no active storms in the North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico. |

**Local Briefing from the National Weather Service office in Corpus Christi**

- **Two-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook**
  - National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida

- **Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook**
  - National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida

Click each image above to view the full-size image.

**Tropical Weather Outlook**

NWS National Hurricane Center Miami FL
800 PM EDT Fri Jun 1 2018

For the North Atlantic...Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico:

Tropical cyclone formation is not expected during the next 5 days.

$$
Forecaster Blake
$$

Oprima aquí para ver la Perspectiva sobre las Condiciones del Tiempo Tropical en Español

- **One-Stop Shop** for all tropical related forecast information, tailored to each forecast area along U.S. coastline.

- **Active Storms** tab appears when NHC initiates Tropical Cyclone advisories.

- **Local Products** tab also becomes active when WFO Issues Watches/Warnings for local area.

- **Satellite and Radar** data is always available.

- **Preparedness** tab is always available and provides quick access to local evacuation maps, preparedness guides, and videos.

- Scrolling down the page provides access to NHC products related to each active storm and WPC rainfall products.
Actions to Take When a Storm is in the Gulf

- Listen frequently to radio, TV, or NOAA weather radio for bulletins and forecasts of the storm’s progress.
- Double check items in your emergency supply kit.
- Fuel and service your vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie-downs.
- Board up windows (if shutters do not exist) in case storm moves quickly and you have to leave!
  **TAPE PROVIDES NO PROTECTION!**
- Store lawn furniture and other loose, light weight objects, such as garbage cans and garden tools.
- Garage or store vehicles that are not being used.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials.
  **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY IF ORDERED TO DO SO!**

Final Actions to Take if Leaving

- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Empty refrigerator and freezer.
- Turn off utilities if ordered to do so.
- Lock home securely.
- Take pets with you.

Final Actions to Take if Staying

- Close storm shutters.
- Notify family members of your evacuation plans.
- Lower water level in swimming pool by one foot.
- Turn refrigerator or freezer to coldest setting and open only if necessary.
  (25 pounds of dry ice will keep a 10-cubic foot freezer below freezing for 3-4 days.)
- Follow instructions from emergency managers and be prepared to turn off utilities if ordered to do so.
- Board up remaining doors, brace garage door, and remain inside. Stay away from boarded up windows.
- Take refuge in a predetermined safe room, such as an interior closet, bathroom, or hallway.
- **DO NOT EXPECT EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE DURING A LANDFALLING HURRICANE!**
Hurricane Surf

Along with big surf come strong rip currents. Rip currents are the leading surf hazard for all beach goers and result in over 100 drownings every year in the United States. The strength and size of rip currents are related to the size of the surf and wave period. Rip currents typically form at the low spots in the surf, at the breaks in the sandbars, and near jetties and piers.

Rip Currents

If caught in a rip current, don’t panic, but swim parallel to the shore. The current is usually only about 50 feet wide and you should be able to swim out of it. At that point, you can swim back to shore. If you are still unable to reach the shore, draw attention to yourself: face the shore, wave your arms, and yell for help.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Information Checklist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Assure that all contact information and emergency contact information is accurate with your campus’ registrar’s office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If your campus offers an emergency management communication system, register as a user of the system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Plan your method of evacuation and your destination before a storm enters the gulf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Monitor local radio and TV stations for updates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contact your campus Student Affairs Office if you need assistance with evacuation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If you require any assistance due to a disability-related accommodation, please contact your campus Disability Services Office to make necessary arrangements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Communicate with your family regarding status and location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If your campus is evacuating, you will not be allowed to remain on-campus and it is highly recommended that you leave the city. Do not go to a coastal location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Take your driver’s license, student I.D. card, and a copy of your housing lease as well as medical insurance cards and other important documents when you evacuate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If you bank with a local bank or credit union whose infrastructure may be damaged by the storm, withdraw some funds as you may not have access to them once you leave the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• International students must take passports with US student visa inside, I-20, I-94, student I.D. and class schedule.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If using personal transportation, take as many of your valuable or irreplaceable items as you are able.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If driving, make sure all roads that you are driving are open and safe. You can call the Department of Transportation at 1-800-452-9292 or check on-line for conditions at <a href="http://www.txdot.gov">www.txdot.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Follow baggage limits if participating in an assisted evacuation program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Take a 30-day supply of medications in original pharmacy containers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Make a record of any valuables left behind (description, serial numbers, etc). Take pictures of all belongings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If you are evacuating to a shelter, make appropriate arrangements for pets. Most shelters do not accept pets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Do not plan to return to campus until an all-clear is given (monitor media and campus web-site).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you or anyone you know need some form of assistance during times of an emergency/disaster event? The state of Texas offers Texans the option to register with the STEAR program, a FREE registry that provides local emergency planners and responders with additional information on the needs in their community.

(Texas communities use the registry information in different ways. Registering yourself in the STEAR registry DOES NOT guarantee that you will receive a specific service during an emergency. Available services will vary by community. For more information on how your community will use information in the STEAR registry, contact your local emergency management office.)

Who Should Register?
- People with Disabilities
- People with access and functional needs such as:
  - People who have limited mobility
  - People who have communication barriers
  - People who require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
  - People who require transportation assistance
  - People who require personal care assistance

Required Information to Register
- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Primary Language

Registration is VOLUNTARY.

Additional questions asked to capture vital information for local emergency planners and responders
- Emergency Contact Information
- Caregiver Information
- Pets
- Transportation assistance for home evacuation
- Communication Barriers
- Disability, Functional or Medical Needs

All of the information you provide will be kept COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.
Evacuees need to consider the projected path of the hurricane when choosing an evacuation route and destination. When evacuating, be sure to check local weather and highway conditions before departing. When local authorities order an evacuation of your area, leave immediately!

**Final Actions before Evacuating**

- Follow evacuation orders provided by your local officials.
- Once the evacuation order has been given, LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
- Take your Hurricane Supply Kit with you.
- Leave as early as possible to avoid heavy traffic and hazardous weather.

- Do not stay in a mobile home near the coast under any circumstance.
- Remember that large boats and travel trailers may not be allowed to cross local bridges and causeways once high winds commence.
- Prepare to stay at your evacuation destination for a week or more, as re-entry into the affected area may be restricted.

**Texas Road Information**

- TXDOT Highway Conditions 1-800-452-9292 or [www.drivetexas.org](http://www.drivetexas.org)
- TXDOT Corpus Christi Office 1-361-808-2660
- Emergency Broadcast Information KLUX Radio 89.5 FM
- Twitter @TxDOT_CRP
Bus Loading Points will open on an as-needed basis. DO NOT go to Bus Loading Points unless directed to by public officials.

For more information regarding the city of Corpus Christi’s hurricane evacuation bus assistance plan, please download this [PDF](#).

### Corpus Christi
- Any RTA Bus Stop
- Evacuation Hub @ Corpus Christi Gym
  - 3202 Cabaniss Road
  - Corpus Christi, TX 78415

### San Patricio County
- San Patricio County Fairgrounds
  - 219 W 5th Street
  - Sinton, TX 78387
- Aransas Pass Civic Center
  - 700 W Wheeler Avenue
  - Aransas Pass, TX 78336

### Nueces County
- Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds
  - 1213 Terry Shamsie Boulevard
  - Robstown, TX 78380

### Kingsville
- Kleberg County Courthouse
  - 700 East Kleberg Avenue
  - Kingsville, Texas, 78363

### Victoria
- Victoria Community Center
  - 2905 East North Street
  - Victoria, TX 77901

### Port Lavaca
- Bauer Community Center
  - 2300 State Highway 35 North
  - Port Lavaca, TX 77979

### Aransas County
- Live Oak Learning Center
  - 31 Griffith Drive
  - Rockport, Texas 78382
Returning Home

IF YOU EVACUATED THE AREA, WAIT FOR AN ALL CLEAR FROM THE CITY OR COUNTY BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO RETURN TO YOUR HOME. BE PREPARED TO SHOW PROOF OF RESIDENCE BY HAVING A COPY OF YOUR LATEST UTILITY BILL.

Debris Cleanup

- Cities and counties will publish a schedule for debris pick-up and removal. Debris cannot be removed from private property.
- Construction materials, vegetative debris, household hazardous waste and household appliances will need to be placed into separate piles and moved to the curbside for pick-up.

Debris Cleanup

General Cleanup

- Be cautious of structural damage and downed power lines.
- DO NOT attempt to move structural supports or large pieces of debris.
- DO NOT run power generators indoors. Inhalation of carbon monoxide from the exhaust can cause death. Ensure exhaust is well ventilated.
- DO NOT use open flames indoors.
- Restrict your driving to emergency use only. Road conditions may not be safe until road debris is cleared.

Water

- Listen for instructions regarding public water supply. Use only bottled, boiled or treated water until you know that your water supply is safe.
- You can use household chlorine bleach to treat water for drinking or cleaning. Add 1/8 teaspoon of bleach per gallon of clear water or 1/4 teaspoon of bleach per gallon if water is cloudy. Allow water to stand for 30 minutes before using.

Interior Cleanup

- Disinfect and dry interior buildings and items inside. This will prevent growth of some bacteria, viruses, mold, and mildew that can cause illness.
- Clean walls, floors, and counter tops with soap and water. Disinfect them with a solution of 1 cup of bleach to 5 gallons of water.
- Wash all clothes and linens in hot water. Air dry and spray all unwashable items with disinfectant. Steam clean carpets. Throw away all items touched by water that cannot be disinfected.
Utility Cleanup

• Check for gas leaks. If you smell or hear gas leaking, leave immediately. DO NOT use the phone or turn on lights in your home. Call the gas company from a neighbor’s phone.
• Report any visible damage of power lines to the electric company. Turn off power at main breaker if any electrical equipment or circuits have been exposed to water.
• DO NOT connect generators to your home’s electrical circuits. If a generator is on line when electrical service is restored, it can become a major fire hazard. Also, line workers working to restore power will be endangered if a generator is hooked up to the home’s circuits.
• It is likely that an electric company other than your own will reconnect the lines to your home; however, they cannot turn the service back on. Only your electric company can actually turn the power back on to your house.

Sewage Cleanup

• If you suspect water or sewage lines are damaged, do not use your plumbing (toilets, sinks, etc.). Contact the water company or a plumber for repairs.
• A chemical portable commode can be created by the following:
  • Use 5 gallon buckets with tight lids, lined with heavy duty plastic garbage bags.
  • Add kitty litter to the bucket as a disinfectant and deodorizer. Keep lids on firmly.
  • Keep buckets in a cool, dark place. Clean and disinfect buckets immediately.
• Your toilet can also be used by flushing until the bowl has no water. Then, line with heavy duty trash bags and disinfect with chlorine bleach after each use. Remove waste to an outside location.
• If significant sewer outages have occurred, instructions for disposal of human wastes will be announced.
• DO NOT dispose of human waste through your regular trash!
ARANSAS COUNTY
• Rockport Police
  361-729-1111
• County Sheriff
  361-729-2222
• City of Fulton
  361-729-5533

BEE COUNTY
• County Emergency Management
  361-621-1550 ext. 1
  www.co.bee.tx.us
• Beeville Police
  361-358-8100
• County Sheriff
  361-362-3221

CALHOUN COUNTY
• County Emergency Management
  361-553-4400
  www.calhouncotx.org
• County Sheriff
  361-553-4646

GOLIAD COUNTY
• Goliad County Judge
  361-645-3337
• County Sheriff
  361-645-3451

JIM WELLS COUNTY
• County Emergency Management
  361-668-1018, ext. 8
• Alice Emergency Management
  361-664-3111
• Jim Wells County Sheriff
  361-668-0341

KLEBERG COUNTY
• County Emergency Management
  361-595-8527
• County Sheriff
  361-595-8500

LIVE OAK COUNTY
• County Sheriff
  361-449-2271

NUECES COUNTY
• County Emergency Management
  361-888-0513
  www.co.nueces.tx.us
• City of Corpus Christi
  361-826-1100
  Ready Corpus Christi
  Facebook: Ready CC
  Twitter: ReadyCC
• Port Aransas City Hall
  361-749-4111
  www.cityofportaransas.org
• City of Robstown
  361-387-2522
  www.cityofrobstown.com
• Bishop Police
  361-584-2443
• Driscoll Police
  361-221-2902

REFUGIO COUNTY
• County Emergency Management
  361-526-2820
• County Sheriff
  361-526-2351

Do Not Call 911 for Non-Emergencies!
SAN PATRICIO COUNTY

• County Emergency Management
  361-587-3560

• Ingleside Police
  361-776-2531

• Portland Police
  361-777-4444

• County Sheriff
  361-364-9600

• Aransas Pass Police
  361-758-5224

VICTORIA COUNTY

• City/County Emergency Management
  361-580-5770

• Victoria Police
  361-573-3221

• County Sheriff
  361-575-0651

Additional Information

• US Department of Homeland Security
  www.ready.gov

• American Red Cross
  www.redcross.org
  (enter zip code for local office)
  24 hour number to call for assistance
  1-800-RED CROSS
  (1-800-733-2767)
On this upcoming September 14th, a century will have passed since the deadliest hurricane to affect the Coastal Bend of Texas made landfall between Baffin Bay and Corpus Christi. The hurricane devastated the Florida Keys as a Category 4 hurricane (Saffir-Simpson scale) on September 10th, 1919. The hurricane became a large storm over the Gulf of Mexico and maintained its strength as a Category 4 hurricane through the 13th. During this time, without the assistance of satellite imagery and radars in the early 1900s, meteorologists lost track of this hurricane as ship reports from the Gulf of Mexico stopped coming in.

Early in the 20th century, citizens of Corpus Christi came to believe that this sparkling city by the sea was safe from hurricanes after several near misses occurred during the early 1900s. Two Category 4 hurricanes made landfall on the Texas coast in the previous 4 years, the first at Galveston in August of 1915 and the second near Baffin Bay in August of 1916. There was also the belief that the barrier islands would serve as protection from any devastating storm surge.

By the early morning on the 14th of September, tides began to rise sharply at Port Aransas while the pressure steadily dropped as the northwest winds increased. The hurricane would weaken slightly before reaching the Middle Texas coast. The hurricane made landfall in the southern Coastal Bend as a Category 3 hurricane with sustained winds of 115 mph and a central pressure of 950 millibars.

But the large storm generated a dome of water that would serve to produce the highest storm surge in the Corpus Christi area on record. The hurricane produced a storm surge that affected the entire Texas coast into Louisiana. The highest storm surge was at Corpus Christi at 16 feet. The storm surge was 13 feet at Port O’Connor and 9 feet at Galveston. This hurricane was similar to Hurricane Ike of 2008 in regards to storm surge affecting a large area, weakening before landfall, and having a large eye of around 35 nautical miles.

The damage was catastrophic in the downtown area of Corpus Christi as water reached 11.5 feet and debris was piled as high as 16 feet. Debris littered in the downtown area included 1400 bales of cotton that were awaiting shipment. Damage was estimated at 20 million dollars, which roughly correlates to 300 million dollars today.

But the North Beach area was where the hurricane would become deadly. With warnings being issued just on that morning of September 14th and then not heeded, many people stayed in a dangerous area susceptible to the storm surge. Hundreds were swept into Nueces Bay after their homes were destroyed. Some survived their trip across Nueces Bay to White’s Point. But many perished in the surge. The official death toll was 284 people. But this is considered to be an underestimate as the total only counted those that were positively identified. Oil tanks at Port Aransas were breached during the storm. People swept into the bay along with debris were covered with heavy crude oil in the storm surge. The total was likely between 600 and 1000 people.
The citizens of Corpus Christi were resilient in rebuilding their city. On the seventh anniversary of the hurricane, the deep water port at Corpus Christi was opened in 1926. This would lead to growth of the city during the remainder of the 20th century. A seawall was constructed in 1940 in the Bayfront area to prepare for future hurricanes and the devastation possible due to storm surge.

A survivor of the 1919 Corpus Christi hurricane was Dr. Robert Simpson, who was 6 years old at the time. Dr. Simpson would be instrumental in hurricane research. He, along with Herbert Saffir, would develop the Saffir-Simpson scale for measuring the intensity of hurricanes. Dr. Simpson would become director of the National Hurricane Center from 1968 to 1974.

Above: The colored line represents the track of the 1919 Hurricane. The different colors indicate the hurricane’s category at that location.
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