

FEB Update #6

August 30, 2017

- Harris County Emergency Mgmt: Bayous/Creeks update (Aug 30, 1 PM): Widespread house flooding still underway as rain ends; Reservoirs still rising.
- City of Houston: Regular trash pickup probably resumes next week. Heavy trash pickup underway!
- If outside A/C unit gets under water, mud & water may accumulate in controls. Have it check by qualified A/C tech. Trying to restart flood-damaged appliances could result in further damage and costly repairs.
- Harris County continues to monitor the Arkema chemical plant facility in Crosby, TX. The evacuation of residents within 1.5 miles of the facility is still in effect.
- Harris County Sheriff's Office says, "If you are awaiting rescue, hang a towel or sheet prominently so we can find you. Addresses are hard to spot." IMPORTANT: ***If rescued, REMOVE white towel/sheet before leaving. Rescue time wasted on empty homes, while others still wait.***
- Water rescues are still occurring. Houston Fire Department has done 50 since midnight. The Police Dept has done approx 40.
- Houston Office of Emergency Mgmt: "We have received an overwhelming amount of support from people offering their boats for rescue. Thx to them, we have all the assets we need."
- I've attached a one-page illustration of simple tips from @CDCemergency to keep in mind DURING and AFTER a flood (see attached jpg)
- NWS notice: We know it's daylight, but please do not go sight-see! Rescues are still ongoing & you may endanger yourself or others by being in the way. Return home ONLY when authorities indicate it is safe. Roads may still be closed as they may be damaged or still under water (do NOT drive around barricades). Stay away from damaged areas unless your help has been specifically requested by Police, Fire or a relief organization. Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly to foundations. Turn off your home's electricity at the main breaker or fuse box, even if the electricity is off in your community; this will let you determine when your home is dry enough to turn it back on.
- Floating colonies of fire ants (as many as 500,000 in a group) are banding together to stay afloat in flood-wracked Houston; they bite! So be aware of your surroundings when wading through flooded areas.
- A hurricane-specific resource collection is offered through the Disaster Behavioral Health Information Series (DBHIS) from the SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Center (DTAC). A flood-specific resource collection is also available. Learn more about floods and emotional distress (<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline/disaster-types/floods>). SAMHSA also offers the following tip sheets on coping, stress, and trauma after hurricanes and other disasters (<https://www.samhsa.gov/dbhis-collections/disaster-specific-resources?term=Hurricane-DBHIS>):
 - Tips for Talking With and Helping Children and Youth Cope After a Disaster or Traumatic Event: A Guide for Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers – 2012 covers signs of stress reactions in different age groups and how to help. <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Tips-for-Talking-With-and-Helping-Children-and-Youth-Cope-After-a-Disaster-or-Traumatic-Event-A-Guide-for-Parents-Caregivers-and-Teachers/SMA12-4732>
 - Tips for Disaster Responders: Preventing and Managing Stress – 2014 includes strategies to help disaster responders prevent and manage stress during assignments. This tip sheet is also available in Spanish. <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Preventing-and-Managing-Stress/SMA14-4873>
 - Tips for Survivors of a Disaster or Other Traumatic Event: Managing Stress – 2013 discusses stress-relief strategies and when to seek professional help. This tip sheet is also available in Spanish. <https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA13-4776/SMA13-4776.pdf>
- City of Houston: Curfew in Effect from Midnight - 5am until Further Notice
- Veterans needing prescriptions filled: present to CVS or HEB with your VA ID card & prescription bottle ask the pharmacist to call Heritage Health Solutions [866-265-0124](tel:866-265-0124), Mon-Fri, 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Representative will qualify the request by asking a few questions. No controlled medications will be processed. If you have a controlled medication needing refilled, contact your provider or call the Telecare Pharmacy, [800-639-5137](tel:800-639-5137) Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

- There are disturbing reports that people impersonating Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents are knocking on doors in the Houston area telling residents to evacuate -- presumably so these imposters can rob the empty homes. Real HSI officials wear badges that are labeled "special agent," which members of the public can ask to see and verify. ICE officers with Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) also wear badges labeled with ERO Officer. They also carry credentials with their name and organization. Members of the public who receive such visitors should ask to see these properly labeled badges, and their credentials. Houston Office of Emergency Management warns, ***To report suspicious activity or individuals you believe are impersonating ICE officials, members of the public should immediately contact ICE toll free at [866-347-2423](tel:866-347-2423).***
- The 1 trillion gallons of water that has fallen has to go somewhere, so the flooding is not over.
- At 2:00 pm Wednesday, they are standing up a Children's Services area at the GRB Shelter & are in need of donations. Donations should be clearly marked "Children's Services" and taken into GRB at Dock B. Requested items are craft items (scissors, construction paper, coloring books, crayons, glue sticks, etc). Sports equipment: balls, jump ropes, little tikes toys; books, puzzles with medium to large pieces, large pillows, large dolls. Please nothing with small pieces, no stuffed animals or anything that requires batteries. Loading Dock B is located mid-building on Chartres St.
- Big "YAY"! Harris County District Attorney released a statement saying that looters will face more time for crimes committed in a disaster area!
- Oklahoma's OG&E just sent a fleet of trucks and linemen toward Houston to assist with power restoration! (guess we're connected in a few ways)
- When in doubt, throw it out: Throw all foods that were contaminated or came in contact with floodwaters.
- If anyone needs high ground for horses, there is a private individual offering to allow pasture access with the invite that if you want to stay with your horses, you can bring a trailer. They are 3-1/2 hrs north and only want mares and geldings. I would suggest you strenuously vet someone you don't know! Some people just want to help, others have other motives. This is provided for you to determine: 936-201-6642 Ralph & Tamara Hampton.
- Lost Dogs of Texas is maintaining several active Facebook pages documenting pets they've found amid the storm. Here is some information (with photos included) on animals found Coast Bend area at: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasHurricaneHarveyPets/> and those in the Houston area at <https://www.facebook.com/HurricaneHarveyLostAndFoundPetsHouston/>.
- Our thoughts & prayers go to the family of Sgt. Steve Perez, 60, who died Sunday; caught in floodwaters while driving to duty.
- Creekwood Middle School in Kingwood is a "lilyypad" where OEM is staging individuals for transport to shelter.
- We know over 160 families of Houston Police Officers affected by the Hurricane. Many of these officers are still on the job.
- Houston Office of Emergency Management asks, Please allow available road capacity to be used by 1st responders and those trying to provide aid, supplies and resources to our area.
- Work is continuing at the NE water plant. They are making progress. Houston's water is safe.
- The City of Houston, Harris County and the Red Cross have partnered to provide shelter to those displaced by flooding. Below is an updated list of available shelters:
 - George R. Brown Convention Center (1001 Avenida de las Americas)
 - MO Campbell Center (1865 Aldine Bender Road)
 - Golden Acres Baptist Church (2813 Pansy Street)
 - Forge for Families (3435 Dixie)
 - Frank Dobie High School (10220 Blackhawk Boulevard)
 - Pasadena High School (206 South Shaver, Pasadena) *The public is strongly encouraged to use verified sources to locate available shelters, such as the Red Cross website.
- Shelter supplies are needed at Dobie High school (Pasadena). If nearby and able, please donate food, water, diapers, pet food, & toiletries
- CDC source: Hurricane-related and emergency response materials regarding mold.
 - Mold Prevention Strategies and Possible Health Effects in the Aftermath of Hurricanes and Major Floods. MMWR June 9, 2006; 55(RR08):1-27. How to limit exposure to mold and identify and prevent mold-related health effects after major hurricanes and floods.

- Mold After a Disaster FAQs and Emergency Preparedness and Response resources for flood-damaged homes.
- Health Concerns Associated with Mold in Water-Damaged Homes After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita — New Orleans Area, Louisiana, October 2005. MMWR January 20, 006;55(02):41-44. Report: Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused extensive mold damage in buildings. PDF[541 – KB]
- Population-Specific Recommendations for Protection From Exposure to Mold in Buildings Flooded After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, by Specific Activity and Risk Factor[PDF – 156 KB] Guidelines and chart showing how people particularly sensitive to mold can protect themselves.
- State of Texas source: In addition to the Federal Agencies' Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Coordinators (who can be accessed at <https://www.opm.gov/cclcontact/>), the Texas Dept of State Health offers the following: It is normal to experience different and strong emotions during and after a disaster:
 - Stress, anxiety, and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions.
 - Get help by calling 2-1-1 and selecting option 8, or visiting www.211texas.org.
 - Text with a counselor by texting HOME to 741741.
 - Find more mental health resources and information.
- FLOOD SAFETY Avoid illness and injury in floodwaters ▪ Floodwaters may contain Snakes and insects ▪ Sharp objects and debris ▪ Oil, gasoline, industrial waste or raw sewage ▪ Downed power lines. Keep children and pets from playing in flood water. ▪ Clean and kill germs* from all items touched by floodwaters, including children's toys. ▪ Throw away ▪ items that cannot be easily washed and disinfected (such as mattresses, stuffed animals, baby toys, and wood cutting boards) ▪ food that may have come in contact with flood waters ▪ Wash hands often with soap and clean water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers. * use 1 cup of unscented household bleach in 5 gallons of water
- People affected by Hurricane Harvey can apply for assistance at: www.DisasterAssistance.gov
- FAA is asking everyone to keep their drones on the ground! They are interfering with the work of First responders in their life-saving rescues.
- Price gouging is illegal, and the Office of the Attorney General has authority to prosecute any business that engages in price gouging after a disaster has been declared by the governor. The attorney general has issued stern warnings about price gouging to businesses in times of disaster, but you should still be on your guard.
- ALL METRO service will remain suspended through Wednesday, August 30, 2017 due to severe weather conditions.
- Airports are still closed. They are doing everything possible to resume operations once it is safe to do so.
- Abandoned vehicles were towed (if they were scooped up before covered with water. Any employees who had vehicles towed can visit <http://findmytowedcar.com> or call [713.308.8580](tel:713.308.8580)
- Please report storm damage to 3-1-1 (through their app, website: Houston311.org, or call 311)
- Transtar wants to remind everyone to NOT rely on your traffic app to tell you which roads are clear. Harris County has found numerous motorists led astray by this means.
- FEEA offers disaster relief grants to eligible federal employees when these disasters strike. Grant application package is at: https://feea.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/grant_app_package_8-17.pdf