



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS HOUSTON

OEM

City of Houston
Office of Emergency Management
houstonoem.org



PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

1 MAKE AND PRACTICE YOUR FAMILY
EMERGENCY PLAN 

2 BUILD AN
EMERGENCY KIT 

3 BE INFORMED 

4 KNOW YOUR
NEIGHBORS 

MAKE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

YOUR PLAN

- ✔ Keep relatives and friends informed of your well being
- ✔ Determine how you will keep yourself and your pets safe
- ✔ Stock up on water, food, and medication
- ✔ Identify a safe room in your house to ride out the storm
- ✔ Identify an evacuation route

PREPARING YOUR HOME

- ✔ Install safety features (smoke detectors, carbon monoxide, etc.)
- ✔ Post emergency numbers in plain view.
- ✔ Know how and when to turn off electricity and water if needed.

BUILD AN EMERGENCY KIT

GO BAG

- ✓ Copies of your important phone numbers
- ✓ Prescriptions & Medications
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Toiletries & Clothes
- ✓ Cell phone charger
- ✓ Food, Water, & Snacks
- ✓ Masks and hand sanitizer

STAY AT HOME KIT

- ✓ Water & Food (7 days)
- ✓ Flashlights / tools
- ✓ Plastic tarps
- ✓ Fire extinguisher
- ✓ Camp stove / Sterno
- ✓ Plywood for windows

BUILD AN EMERGENCY KIT

PET EMERGENCY KIT

- ✔ Immunization records
- ✔ Strong leash/ collar
- ✔ Pet carrier
- ✔ Current photo of pets / microchip Information
- ✔ Food & water

UNIQUE FAMILY NEEDS

- ✔ Medications
- ✔ Special care items
- ✔ Infant formula
- ✔ Diapers

STAY INFORMED

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- ✓ Local TV & Radio
- ✓ OEM Direction
- ✓ Social media
- ✓ Emergency Alert System
- ✓ Weather websites

ALERT SYSTEMS

- ✓ AlertHouston.org
- ✓ Wireless Emergency Alerts

**WIRELESS
EMERGENCY
ALERTS**



KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

- ✔ Strong communities recover faster
 - ✔ Neighbors can be a resource
 - ✔ Sharing supplies and skills
- Neighbors helping Neighbors
 - Look after the elderly and vulnerable



PEOPLE WITH FUNCTIONAL OR ACCESS NEEDS

BUILD A SUPPORT SYSTEM

- ✔ Enlist the help of friends, neighbors, family, and caretakers
- ✔ Know what accommodations you need for your daily activities

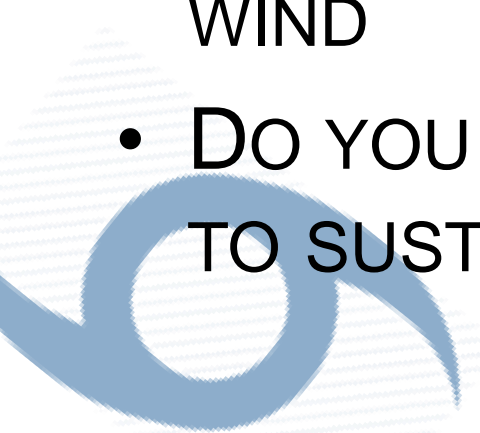
STATE OF TEXAS EMERGENCY

ASSISTANCE REGISTRY

- ✔ Confidential registry for individuals who have functional or access needs.
- ✔ Register online at texasstear.org or by calling 211.



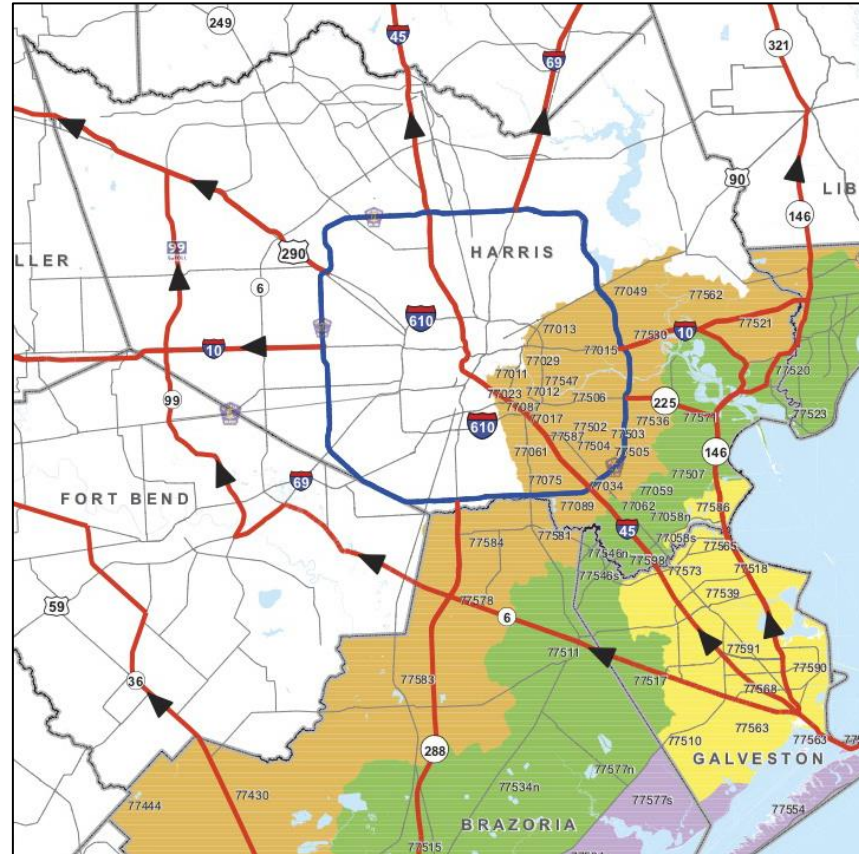
DO I NEED TO EVACUATE?

- ARE YOU IN AN EVACUATION ZONE?
 - RUN FROM THE WATER / HIDE FROM THE WIND
 - DO YOU NEED ELECTRICITY OR OXYGEN TO SUSTAIN LIFE?
- 

EVACUATION

- ✓ Know Your Zone
- ✓ Know Your Route

ZIP ZONE COASTAL				
77414s	77422s	77465s	77534s	77541
77550	77551	77554	77563	77577s
77623				
ZIP ZONE A				
77058s	77510	77514s	77518	77539
77563	77565	77568	77573	77586
77590	77591			
ZIP ZONE B				
77058n	77059	77062	77414n	77422n
77465n	77507	77511	77514n	77515
77517	77520	77523	77531	77534n
77546n	77546s	77560	77566	77571
77577n	77597	77598	77665	
ZIP ZONE C				
77011	77012	77013	77015	77017
77023	77029	77034	77049	77061
77075	77087	77089	77430	77444
77480	77486	77502	77503	77504
77505	77506	77521	77530	77535
77536	77547	77562	77578	77581
77583	77584	77587		



EVACUATION ROUTES

✓ Evaculanes

- Opened to facilitate additional traffic flow.
- First step used to alleviate traffic.



✓ Contraflow

- Reverses traffic along major traffic thoroughfares.
- Routes:
 - I-10 to San Antonio
 - I-45 to Dallas
 - US-290 to Brenham/Austin
 - US-59 to Nacogdoches

EVACUATION

- ✔ Evacuation is only done when removing yourself from danger is the only way to save life.
- ✔ Evacuations may be called for neighborhoods or for large areas.

- ✔ Listen for evacuation orders from officials.
- ✔ Local Media will also broadcast our message and instructions

HURRICANES

- ✔ During the Hurricane
 - Remain Indoors until the storm has fully passed
 - Best place is an interior hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest level
 - Shelter under something sturdy.

HURRICANE STRENGTH

Category	Wind Speed (mph)	Damage
1	74-95	Some
2	96-110	Extensive
3	111-129	Devastating
4	130-156	Catastrophic
5	157+	Catastrophic

HURRICANES

- ✔ **Storm Surge**
 - Waves of water pushed onshore by incoming hurricane
- ✔ **Hurricane Wind**
 - Devastating winds that can compromise structures and bring down power lines

KNOW THE TERMS

- ✔ **Hurricane Watch**- Issued when Hurricane force winds (>74mph) are about 48 hours away
- ✔ **Hurricane Warning** – Issued when Hurricane-force winds are 36 hours out.
- ✔ **Storm Surge Watch** – Possibility of life threatening storm surge in 48 hours
- ✔ **Storm Surge Warning** – danger of life-threatening storm surge in 36 hours



SEVERE WEATHER

- ✓ **Thunderstorms**
 - A storm containing lightning caused by unstable air.

KNOW THE TERMS

- ✓ **Severe Thunderstorm Watch**
 - Severe thunderstorms are possible
- ✓ **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** – Severe thunderstorms are imminent or occurring



SEVERE WEATHER

✓ Flooding

- Flash Flooding is caused by heavy, quick rainfall over an area.
- Know your flood threat and take appropriate action



KNOW THE TERMS

- ✓ **Flash Flood Watch** – Conditions exist for Flash Flooding
- ✓ **Flood Watch (Areal or Point)** – Conditions exist for flooding
- ✓ **Flash Flood Warning** – Flash flooding is occurring
- ✓ **Flood Warning (Areal or Point)** – Flooding is occurring

SEVERE WEATHER

✔ Tornadoes

- Formed by rotating thunderstorms.
- Can form relatively quickly and cause extensive damage
- Rated based on their damage from EF-0 to EF-5



KNOW THE TERMS

- ✔ **Tornado Watch** – Conditions exist for Tornadoes
- ✔ **Tornado Warning** – A tornado has been spotted or detected on Radar
- ✔ **Tornado Emergency**– A tornado has been spotted and is an active threat to human life.

BEFORE SEVERE WEATHER

- ✔ Purchase Flood Insurance
- ✔ Find Bayous and creeks near your house
- ✔ Get Weather Alerts



FloodSmart.gov
National Flood Insurance Program

**FLOOD
EDUCATION
MAPPING TOOL**

HarrisCountyFEMT.org



nws.noaa.gov/nwr
NOAA Weather Alert Radio



DURING SEVERE WEATHER

✔ Stay informed

✔ Get to Safety

- Safest place is inside a sturdy structure
- Interior room with no windows

✔ Avoid Flooded Areas

- Turn Around, Don't Drown
- It only take 12 inches of moving water to float a car, 6 inches to knock you over.

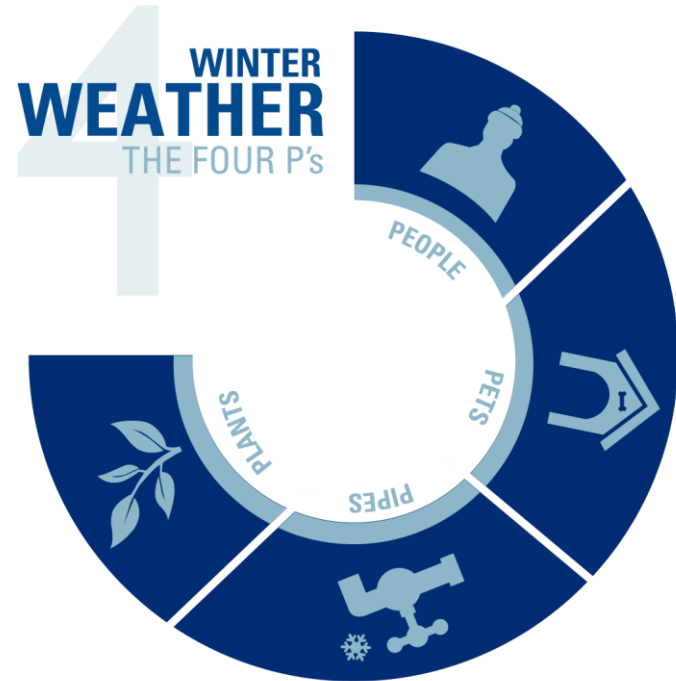


TEMPERATURE EMERGENCIES

✔ Heat Emergencies

- Excessive heat can cause dehydration, heat stroke, and death.
- Keep cool and stay hydrated.
- Check on neighbors/family

✔ Winter Weather



AFTER THE DISASTER - RECOVERY

✓ Returning Home

- Wait for official instructions to return.
- Be prepared to be without basic utilities and services for some time.
- Disasters can cause damage to homes and create safety hazards.
- Discard all food that has been left unrefrigerated or has been damaged.

✓ Assistance

- Depending on the size and scale of the emergency, some disaster assistance may be available from FEMA and other agencies.

Resources



houstonemergency.org

City of Houston Emergency Information

readyhoustontx.gov

Disaster Preparedness Resources

houstonoem.org

Preparedness Resources and Info on OEM

houston311.org or call 311

Order copies of the City's Disaster Preparedness Guide

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



- COORDINATES THE ACTIVITY OF ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS
- ACTIVATES THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER WHERE MAYOR TURNER PROVIDES DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE
- TRACKS THE STORMS, RAINFALL TOTALS, WATER LEVELS, HIGH WATER LOCATIONS, CENTERPOINT OUTAGES, & AIRPORT DELAYS
- COORDINATES THE EVACUATION HUB, REFUGE OF LAST RESORTS, AND MASS SHELTERING
- WORK CLOSELY WITH POLICE, FIRE, PUBLIC WORKS ON RESCUE OPERATIONS