

# Private Sector Update

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Federal Emergency Management Agency

## **FEMA URGES RESIDENTS TO LISTEN TO TEXAS AND LOUISIANA OFFICIALS**

### **AS STATES BRACE FOR IMPACTS OF HURRICANE HARVEY**

**Landfall Expected on Middle Texas Coast Tonight or Early Saturday**

**August 25, 2017**

**FEMA, through its Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) in Denton, Texas, and the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, D.C. is monitoring Hurricane Harvey as it moves toward the Texas coast. FEMA's liaisons to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, are also actively monitoring the track of the storm.**

**According to the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Harvey will make landfall on the middle Texas coast tonight or early Saturday. The hurricane is then likely to meander near or just**

**inland of the middle Texas coast through the weekend. Some strengthening is possible, and the hurricane is expected to become a major Hurricane before it reaches the middle Texas coast. Hurricane Harvey is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 15 to 25 inches and isolated maximum amounts of 35 inches over the middle and upper Texas coast through next Wednesday. During the same time period Hurricane Harvey is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 7 to 15 inches in far south Texas and the Texas Hill Country eastward through central and southwest Louisiana, with accumulations of up to 7 inches extending into other parts of Texas and the lower Mississippi Valley. Rainfall from the hurricane will cause devastating and life-threatening flooding.**

- As of 5 a.m. ET, the National Hurricane Center issued the following watches and warnings:**
  - o A Hurricane Warning for Port Mansfield to Sargent, Texas.**
  - o A Hurricane Watch south of Port Mansfield to the mouth of the Rio Grande River.**
  - o A Tropical Storm Warning north of Sargent to High Island, Texas and south of Port Mansfield to the mouth of the Rio Grande.**
  - o A storm surge warning from Port Mansfield to High Island, Texas, and a storm surge watch south**

of Port Mansfield to the mouth of the Rio Grande River.

If local officials give the order to shelter in place, take action to do so. The risk of flying debris and rapid, severe flooding is extremely high. FEMA encourages individuals and families in the affected areas to continue to monitor local radio or TV stations for updated emergency information, and to follow the instructions of state, tribal and local officials. Only enter areas that have sustained damaged after local officials have said it is safe to do so.

Shelters are open across the potentially affected areas. Download the [FEMA mobile app](#) to set up alerts for the latest weather updates, shelter information, disaster resources, preparedness information, and safety tips, in English and in Spanish. The app provides a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, maps of open shelters and recovery centers, disaster survival tips, and weather alerts from the National Weather Service. The app also enables users to receive push notifications reminding them to take important steps to prepare their homes and families for disasters.

### **FEMA Actions**

- Six federal Urban Search & Rescue task forces with the National Urban Search and Rescue System are staged in San Antonio, Texas prepared

**to support potentially affected states as needed and requested.**

- FEMA established Incident Support Bases (ISB) near Seguin, Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, and Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, to pre-position supplies including water, meals, blankets and other resources closer to the potentially affected areas, should they be needed and requested by the state. State, local, and tribal officials are responsible for distributing supplies to the community.**
- As of this morning, more than 96,000 liters of water, 306,000 meals, and 4,500 tarps are at the ISB in Seguin, Texas should they be needed and requested by the state. Additional commodities have been ordered and are in route to the ISBs in Texas and Louisiana in anticipation of requests for assistance from potentially affected states.**
- Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) personnel and equipment are in Fort Worth, Texas to support the state with secure and non-secure voice, video and information services to support emergency response communications needs.**
- Two FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT) are in place at the Texas state emergency operations center to support any requests for federal assistance.**

- **An IMAT is also on the ground at the emergency operation center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to provide support to state and local officials as requested.**
- **FEMA activated its National Business Emergency Operations Center to facilitate coordination between government and private sector organizations as the hurricane gets close to landfall.**
- **The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has General Adjusters situated in Texas and Louisiana to support initial damage assessments and assist with positioning adjuster resources following the event.**

### **Safety and Preparedness**

- **If you are in a high rise building and choose to shelter in place, go to the first or second floor hallways or interior rooms. You want to stay on floors above floodwater or storm surge, but do not go to the highest floors due to wind impacts.**
- **Storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane. It poses a significant threat for drowning and can occur before, during, or after the center of a storm passes through an area. Storm surge can sometimes cut off evacuation routes, so do not**

delay leaving if an evacuation is ordered for your area.

- There is the potential for flooding with this storm. Driving through a flooded area can be extremely hazardous and almost half of all flash flood deaths happen in vehicles. When in your car, look out for flooding in low-lying areas, at bridges and at highway dips. As little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- If you encounter floodwaters, remember – **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.**
- Be familiar with evacuation routes, have a family communications plan, keep a battery-powered radio handy and have a plan for pets. Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or [www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov) to learn these and other preparedness tips for tropical storms.
- Know your evacuation zone and be sure to follow the direction of state, local, and tribal officials if an evacuation is ordered for your area.
- Businesses of all sizes are encouraged to follow local public safety authority direction and to share safety messaging with employees in order to reduce risk.
- If you have a NFIP flood policy, you may be eligible for reimbursement for actions taken to

**protect your property. Call your insurance agent to find out more. To file a flood insurance claim under the NFIP, contact your insurance agent immediately. You can also call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) – select option 2 – to learn more about your policy, and be directed to the appropriate claims resource.**

- Get to know the terms that are used to identify severe weather and discuss with your family what to do if a watch or warning is issued.**

**For a tropical storm:**

- o A Tropical Storm Watch is issued when tropical cyclone containing winds of at least 39 MPH or higher poses a possible threat, generally within 48 hours.**
- o A Tropical Storm Warning is issued when sustained winds of 39 MPH or higher associated with a tropical cyclone are expected in 36 hours or less.**

**For a hurricane:**

- o A Hurricane Watch is issued when a tropical cyclone containing winds of at least 74 MPH poses a possible threat, generally within 48 hours.**
- o A Hurricane Warning is issued when sustained winds of 74 MPH or higher associated with a tropical cyclone are expected in 36 hours or less. A hurricane warning can remain in effect**

when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

**For coastal flooding:**

- o A Coastal Flood Watch is issued when moderate to major coastal flooding is possible.

- o A Coastal Flood Warning is issued when moderate to major coastal flooding is occurring or imminent.

- o A Coastal Flood Advisory is issued when minor or nuisance coastal flooding is occurring or imminent.

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or at [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov).

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