

Houston FEB Update #1
September 8, 2017

Lifted water notices and unsafe water notices have replaced the previous information in the body of this email (green text with URL links).

- EZTAG lanes continue to be free of charge for Houston drivers.

More FEMA Rumor control:

There are reports that disaster survivors should not remove flood-damaged sheetrock, flooring, carpet, etc. until the house is assessed by FEMA or insurance adjustors. This is FALSE. (September 1)

Cleaning up and making temporary repairs to your storm-damaged property will not disqualify you from federal disaster assistance. Property owners are encouraged to document storm damage to their properties – either with photographs or video – and to then begin cleaning up and making whatever temporary repairs are necessary to make their homes safe and habitable again. Put your health and safety first, take pictures of your damaged home, make repairs to prevent further damage to your property, and keep your receipts to show the inspector.

There are rumors that the fuel shortages in Texas are due to either FEMA blocking sales or fuel being committed elsewhere. This is FALSE. (September 1/Updated September 2/September 4)

Gasoline Stations – Fuel Shortages

It is true that there are sporadic and localized fuel supply disruptions in the southeast and Texas due to the impacts of Hurricane Harvey. Gasoline retailers obtain gasoline supplies based upon the nature of their relationship with their suppliers and can cause shortages at stations when supply is tight. There are three primary fuel supply arrangements: 1) major oil company owned and operated, 2) branded independent retailer who sign a supply contract with a major oil company and 3) an unbranded independent retailer (who purchases gasoline from the open market). With tight supplies due to Hurricane Harvey impacts gas stations that purchase fuel on the open market may not be able to acquire fuel supply since pre-existing supply contracts will be met before gasoline is placed in the open market.

Gasoline prices are also increasing in several regions. <http://fuelinsights.gasbuddy.com/HeatMap>; <http://gasprices.aaa.com>; <http://www.gaspricewatch.com>

Colonial Pipeline Operations

Colonial Pipeline east of Lake Charles, LA is operating intermittently when refinery and terminal product is available to fill the line. The portion of the pipeline between Houston and Hebert remains down and Colonial is estimating returning this portion of the line to service this Monday. The lack of fuel is caused by a combination of factors including: refinery damage, preemptive shutdowns, damage to fuel terminals, and restricted port access for oil delivery in the region.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve

In response, the Department of Energy (DOE) authorized the Strategic Petroleum

Reserve (SPR) to negotiate and execute emergency exchange agreements authorizing 5.3 million barrels of sweet crude oil and up to 300,000 barrels of sour crude oil to be drawn down from SPR's West Hackberry and Bayou Choctaw sites. In addition, DOE and EPA have issued waivers to Colonial which will allow it to accept more product into its pipeline. More information about DOE's response can be found in its Hurricane Harvey Situation Reports. (Updated September 2)

Info from FEMA Region VI (thank you Tony Robinson): If you applied for @FEMA disaster assistance, here's what to expect next. You may receive an application to apply for a low-interest long-term SBA Disaster Loan. Completing the SBA loan application is an important step in finding out what aid may be available for you.

As a homeowner you may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair/replace your primary residence, and up to \$40,000 to repair/replace personal property	You are not required to accept the loan in order to receive FEMA assistance, but it may enable you to be considered for additional types of assistance.
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An Inspector will contact you to schedule a visit, be ready to:

- Keep your scheduled appointment.
- Appointments take 30-40 minutes and you must be present.
- Contact your insurance agency, if you have insurance.
- Prove your identity.

Show these documents:

- Photo ID: drivers license or passport.
- Proof of occupancy; lease or utility bill
- Proof of ownership; deed, title, mortgage payment book or tax receipts.

During the Inspector's visit:

Inspectors will.. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear official FEMA ID badges • Confirm your disaster registration number • Review structural and personal property damages • Ask you to sign official documentation • Verify ownership & occupancy 	Inspector's won't... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine eligibility • Cost any money • Ask for credit card information • Take the place of an insurance inspection.
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After the Inspector's visit:

You will be sent a decision letter.

If approved for aid:

- You will receive a check or an electronic funds transfer.
- A follow-up letter will explain how the money can be used.

If you have questions regarding the letter, you can visit a Disaster Recovery Center in your area (fema.gov/drc) or call us at **800-621-3362**

7 Texas counties added today to the federal disaster declaration! Residents can register at <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov> or 800-621-3362.

The Houston Independent School District (HISD), along with county and city officials, will be distributing thousands of free school uniforms to students at seven locations across the city from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 8 and Saturday, Sept. 9. Students must be present to be fitted in order to receive clothing. HISD has relaxed its school uniform policy until January 2018, but students may wear uniform clothing to school if they have purchased or received those items. The distribution locations are:

Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center
6402 Market Street
Houston Texas 77020
[832-395-0895](tel:832-395-0895)

Hardy Senior Center
11901 West Hardy Road
Houston, Texas 77076
[281-260-6772](tel:281-260-6772)

Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center
3810 West Fuqua
Houston, Texas 77045
[832-393-4200](tel:832-393-4200)

Northeast Multi-Service Center
9720 Spaulding
Houston, Texas 77016
[832-395-0470](tel:832-395-0470)

Southwest Multi-Service Center
6400 High Star
Houston, Texas 77074
[832-395-9900](tel:832-395-9900)

Third Ward Multi-Service Center
3611 Ennis Street
Houston, Texas 77004
[832-393-4051](tel:832-393-4051)

YET Center
4900 Providence
Houston, Texas 77020
[713-676-0519](tel:713-676-0519)

VA Regional Office has staff in two of the Disaster Resource Centers. If you know veterans needing assistance, please direct them to the Houston Center where they will have access to a full range of assistance, including their VA benefits.

The State of Texas says please don't donate or send more unsolicited goods at this time. Cash donations are best, to trusted organizations.

FEMA Info: Texans affected by the flooding in April will not lose Social Security benefits, pay additional taxes, or give up income-based benefit programs if they accept federal or state disaster aid.

This includes homeowners, renters and businesses in Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Parker, San Jacinto, Waller and Wharton counties who register for disaster assistance.

In most cases, the Social Security Administration does not count federal or state disaster aid as income, according to recovery officials from the state of Texas and FEMA.

A few questions that often come up following a federal disaster declaration are:

FEMA Grants

Question: I'm between 62 and 65 years of age, and have chosen to receive Social Security benefits. If my income is more than a certain amount each year, I must reimburse a portion of my Social Security payment. Will FEMA grants add to my income and require me to repay Social Security?

Answer: No. FEMA grants for housing and other disaster assistance are not counted as income.

Taxes

Question: I'm over 65, but if I earn more than a certain amount, I must pay tax on my Social Security income. Will FEMA grants boost my income and require me to pay tax on my Social Security income?

Answer: No. The IRS does not count FEMA grants for housing and other disaster assistance as income.

Other Assistance

Question: Will receiving a grant cause my income to increase to the point that I am no longer eligible for Medicaid, welfare assistance or food stamps?

Answer: No. Grants for housing and other disaster assistance are not counted as income in determining eligibility for income-tested benefit programs that the U.S. government funds.

Texans can register online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by phone at [800-621-3362](tel:8006213362) (FEMA). Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call [800-462-7585](tel:8004627585). Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service may also call [800-621-3362](tel:8006213362).

The toll-free numbers are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Multilingual operators are available.

Harris County: Take Pictures and Save Your Receipts: Document! Document! Document!

If you are throwing out carpet, furniture or other items lost to flooding, take pictures of

the lost items before they leave your property. Also, save any and all receipts related to the repair and recovery of due to flooding. This extremely valuable when you are seeking reimbursement of any kind from both your insurance company or FEMA.

Check your water, gas and electric lines for damage when clearing debris. Harris County Debris Pickup has begun: [713-274-3880](tel:713-274-3880)

The segments of SH 99/ Grand Parkway operated by TxDOT continue to be toll free until further notice. More info at <http://www.txtag.org> .

Harris County & FEMA are asking residents to be aware of potential fraud:

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is raising awareness that Hurricane Harvey disaster survivors, and their friends and family, must be alert for false rumors, scams, identity theft, and fraud. Although many are working hard to help their neighbors in Harris County and the surrounding areas, during chaotic times, some will always try to take advantage of the most vulnerable.
- To dispel some of the false rumors circulating on the internet and social media, FEMA created a dedicated website to address some of the most common themes. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Visit <https://www.fema.gov/hurricane-harvey-rumor-control> to get the most accurate information from trusted sources.
- FEMA inspectors will be surveying areas in Harris County starting today. Here is how to protect yourself, or someone you care about, from disaster fraud:
 - Federal and state workers **do not ask for, or accept, money**. FEMA staff will never charge applicants for disaster assistance, home inspections, or help filling out applications. Stay alert for false promises to speed up the insurance, disaster assistance, or building permit process.
 - In person, **always ask to see any FEMA employee ID badges**. FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance teams may be in impacted communities providing information and assisting survivors with the registration process or their applicant files.
 - A FEMA shirt or jacket is not proof of identity. All FEMA representatives, including **our contracted inspectors, will have a laminated photo ID**. All National Flood Insurance Program adjusters will have a NFIP Authorized Adjuster Card with their name and the types of claims they may adjust.
 - If you are unsure or uncomfortable with anyone you encounter claiming to be an emergency management official, do not give out personal information, and contact local law enforcement.
 - **If you suspect fraud, contact the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721** or report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov.

- More information on disaster-related fraud is available at the Texas Attorney General's Office website at texasattorneygeneral.gov/cpd/disaster-scams or call -800-252-8011.
- In Louisiana, disaster-related fraud information is available on the State Attorney General's Office website at <http://www.agjefflandry.com> or contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud's hotline at 1-866-720-5721.
- For more information about recovery resources in Harris County, visit <http://harrisrecovery.org/>.

The Hurricane Harvey curfew imposed for Friendswood will end September 7 at 6:00 a.m. The 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew, implemented on August 27 to prevent looting within flood-affected areas, will no longer be enforced after that time.

Mayor Turner is encouraging Houstonians to use the Metro. "Now is a great time to utilize public transit. Please get familiar with METRO and visit <http://ridemetro.org/Pages/index.aspx> to plan your trip.

Houston: Parking meters will not be enforced this week. Follow safety regulations for the safety of you and others.

City of Houston: Regular trash is running. Heavy debris has commenced, but recycling is suspended temporarily. Take recyclables here (open 8-8) <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/depositories.html>

City of Houston has partially lifted the curfew. Portions of west Houston remain under curfew until further notice. Areas still under curfew from midnight to 5:00 a.m. is

- West of Gessner
- East of TX Hwy 6
- South of I-10/Katy Freeway
- North of Briar Forst Drive

The curfew does NOT apply to:

- City of Bunker Hill Village
- Those engaged in emergency response, as authorized by City officials
- Late shift workers
- Emergency volunteers traveling through the area
- People seeking medical attention or shelter
- People travelling through the city to a destination outside of the city.
- Individuals who are on private property with permission from the owner and who are not subject to a mandatory evacuation order.

- Lost immunization records for students displaced by Harvey can be accessed online. More info at <http://dshs.texas.gov/immunize/>

Harris County Public Health issues unsafe water notices for the following (links provide instructions for the area):

Lifted Water Notices

Residents of Nottingham Country MUD at 11302 Tanner Rd, Houston, Tx 77041-6902
 Residents of Lake Forest Utility District
 Residents of Aldine Village Subdivision 711 Corvette Ct, Houston, Tx 77060
 Residents of Western Pines Mobile Home Community
 Residents of Beaumont Place Subdivision
 Residents of Aldine Meadows Subdivision
 Residents of Country Club Green
 Residents of Cypress Fields Subdivision
 Residents of Cypress Place Subdivision
 Residents of Dorsett Place, Killough Dr & Comet Dr, Houston, TX 77086
 Residents of Inverness Forest Improvement District, 21811 Hardy Rd, Houston, TX 77002
 Residents of Marks Glen Subdivision
 Residents of Mobile Home Estates, TX-249, Lynda Dr, Houston, TX 77038
 Residents of P & B Water System at PO Box 451984, Houston, TX 77245
 Residents of Pine Trails Utility 6018 Woodbend Dr, Houston, TX 77049
 Residents of Rolling Oaks 8111 Rolling Oaks Dr S, Spring, TX 77389
 Residents of Royalwood MUD 13510 Beaumont Hwy, Spring, TX 77383
 Residents of Summer Lake Ranch 12301 1/2 Summer Lake Ranch, Houston, TX 77044
 Employees of Tuboscope North at 10222 Sheldon Road, Houston, TX 77049
 Employees of Tuboscope South at 9015 Sheldon Road, Houston, TX 77049
 Residents of Walraven Subdivision
 Residents of Westgate Subdivision

Unsafe Water Notices

Residents Fatima Family Village Water System
 Residents McGee Place Water System
 Residents SRC Water Supply/Lass Water Company (Sellers Estates)
 Residents UV6 Water System
 Residents Bentwood Estates Mobile Home Park, 2719 3rd St. Huffman, TX 77336
 Residents Brittmore Utility Company Water System
 Residents Kenwood Subdivision Water System
 Residents North Woods Estates Water System
 Residents Redwood Estates Mobile Home Park Water System
 Residents Windwood Water System
 Residents Associated Supply Company Water System
 Residents Red Dot South RV Park Water System
 Residents Alton Theiss Subdivision Water System
 Residents Boudreaux Gardens Water System
 Residents Hunter's Village Water System
 Residents House Corral Street Water System in Pinehurst, TX 77362
 Residents Colonial Hills Water System
 Residents Grantwood Subdivision Water System
 Residents Peek Road Mobile Home Park Water System
 Residents Peek Road Utilities Water System
 Residents Estates of Holly Lakes

Critical Infrastructure:

- Airports:
 - Jack Brooks Regional (BPT) closed except for emergency and humanitarian aid; will remain closed until September 5;
 - Texas Gulf Coast Regional (LBX) - Closed except for relief aircraft; restricted flights until September 8 due to flooding.
 - Houston Executive (TME) - Restricted operations; two hour prior permission required due to military operations
- Ports: Upper Houston Shipping Channel above Mitchells Point/Baytown Highlines closed to ship traffic but open to tug and barge tow traffic Port of Victoria open with restrictions P
- Roads:
 - Beaumont, TX area continues to experience widespread flooding impacting almost all major and minor routes in the area Most major highways in the Houston area have reopened with the following exceptions (greatest impacts now in the areas southwest of Houston):
 - I-10 is closed in both directions east of Beaumont to the LA state line and between Mile Post (MP) 854 and MP 860 east of Houston due to flooding
 - Sam Houston Tollway (SL 8) is closed in both directions between IH-10 and Westheimer and Texas State Highway 6 is closed north and southbound between Clay Road and IH-10, both due to high water
 - TX-87 is closed due to wash-out (structural damage), and may take longer to re-open than other roads Northbound US-96 is closed over Village Creek Relief in Lumberton, TX
- Power Outages: 64,379 outages in TX
- Communications: 102,617 landline consumers out of service
- Oil and Natural Gas: Eight of ten previously closed refineries are in process of restarting, four are operating at reduced rates, no refineries have returned to normal rates
- Water: Limited or no water capacity in 23 of 36 declared counties and limited or no sewage capacity in 13 of 36 declared counties
- Beaumont's wastewater treatment plant is fully operational and running; all units are being powered by generator and fully functional; city is focusing majority of its resources on drinking water issues; drinking water plant expected to take more than a week before being fully capable of meeting demand and lifting the boil notice
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- Currently, properly identified FEMA representatives are going door-to-door in an area of east Houston near the Trinity and Houston Gardens community to register residents for disaster assistance. You can still register at www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling [800-621-3362](tel:800-621-3362).
- Two of Houston Water's **wastewater treatment plants** in west Houston (West District and Turkey Creek) which provide sanitary sewer service to zip codes: 77024, 77041, 77043, 77055, 77077, 77079, 77080, and 77094, remain flooded

in up to 8 feet of water as of **Monday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m.** Wastewater is water that goes down the drain and into the sanitary sewer system. In homes this includes water from sinks, showers, bathtubs, toilets, washing machines and dishwashers. Houston Water is asking the community in the impacted areas to please help conserve wastewater to avoid sanitary sewer backups.

- A few ways to help conserve wastewater include minimizing laundry use, taking shorter showers, not running the dishwasher, and flushing the toilet a little less. Houston Water crews and partners in the Energy Corridor are working together to try to restore the wastewater treatment plants as quickly as possible. The City of Houston's drinking water remains SAFE; this includes the tap water that comes out of the faucet.
- Free legal help for Hurricane Harvey survivors. Call the State Bar of Texas Disaster Helpline at [800-504-7030](tel:800-504-7030) or visit texasbar.com/disasters for more information
- Due to extensive damage sustained by Hurricane Harvey, the Downtown Herbert W. Gee Municipal Courthouse (Central Municipal Courts Building), located at 1400 Lubbock will be closed until further notice. The Municipal Courts Department (MCD) will open all of it's 5 satellite locations TOMORROW (Tuesday, September 5) for resets, walk-ins, and payments. For additional information regarding options available online, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/courts/>, or call 311. Court Documents may also be submitted via the U.S. postal service. Any defendant who missed court due to Hurricane Harvey from August 26, 2017 through September 5, 2017 will have until 5 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2017 to come in person to reset their case. As always, anyone with a future court date may come in person to any Municipal Court location before their court date to request a reset. Also, there will not be any arraignments, trials or jury service until further notice.
- Those in westside evacuation zone: If you don't have water in your home and are without power, please call CenterPoint Energy [713-207-2222](tel:713-207-2222).
- Houston Office of Emergency Management: Solid waste crews are busy removing curbside debris & need vehicles removed from the street so they can get large haulers to people's homes.
- TX Dept of Insurance has revealed another scam: An Inspector claims to be from FEMA then tries to charge you. FEMA DOES NOT CHARGE FOR INSPECTIONS!
- Harris County wants everyone to know that FEMA has no business re-entry list. Before attempting to enter a disaster-impacted area, check with local officials.
- Good news for those who need FEMA assistance - FEMA is now set up in the Community Center (2407 Market St, Baytown).
- Opportunity to pose questions to clarify assistance programs, if they are not clear or you have specific questions concerning benefits available to you. Please share these questions with your agency leader who will collect them and pass to the Federal Executive Board.
- **FEMA ASSISTANCE**
 - Register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov. If you are unable to access the internet, call [1-800-621-3362](tel:1-800-621-3362).

- Download the [FEMA Mobile App](#) to receive alerts from the National Weather Service, get safety and survival tips, customize your emergency checklist, and find your local shelter.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

- For a list of food pantries and other food assistance, contact the Houston Food Bank at www.houstonfoodbank.org/services/if-you-need-food, or call [832-369-9390](tel:832-369-9390).
- For disaster food stamp benefits, reach the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) at [1-877-541-7905](tel:1-877-541-7905).

CITY OF HOUSTON 311 HELP AND INFORMATION LINE

Phone: 311 or [713-837-0311](tel:713-837-0311)

City TDD: [713-837-0215](tel:713-837-0215)

Email: 311@houstontx.gov

Website: www.houstontx.gov/311/

Smartphone App – Available at App Store & Google Play

To request information about:

- Food assistance
- Water safety concerns
- Referrals to shelters
- Heat emergencies
- Trash pickup schedules
- Evacuation registration
- City curfew

To report:

- Flood damage to your home
 - Flood hazards
 - Illegal dumping
 - Traffic signal outage
 - Potholes
- Landlords are encouraged to join Harris County's Free Listing Service to Help Harvey Survivors. The Harris County Housing and Community Resource Center is a free marketing service to all Landlords. They are invited to sign up property today and update it regularly with specific information about rental units available. This is particularly helpful at this time for those displaced by Harvey wishing to do a customized search. If you have any special offers for Harvey survivors, you may indicate it. For those SEEKING rental property, please go to: <http://www.housingandcommunityresources.net/>

- Harris County wants to remind you that whether your yard got a little wet or you had flood water in your home, be SMART about cleaning up the mess. Wear gloves and dispose of items that cannot be thoroughly cleaned. Work with someone else when using a ladder or other equipment. Get rid of standing water where possible. Recover SAFELY and stay HEALTHY.
- METRO opens most HOV/HOT Lanes Tuesday. All Park and Ride facilities will also be operational Tuesday.
- Texas Department of Insurance has their Help Line open 8-5 this weekend and Labor Day to help with your insurance questions. [1-800-252-3439](tel:1-800-252-3439)
- The Texas Department of Agriculture has a website and phone line set up with information regarding hay and feed for livestock. The phone line and website is for producers in need of feed/hay, as well as for people wanting to donate feed/hay. Feel free to pass it on to anyone inquiring information about livestock feed. <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/HayHotline>
- Hay Hotline: **(512) 463-9360** Email: HayHotline@TexasAgriculture.gov Reports of missing livestock, deceased livestock are coming into the various State Ag related agencies. Producers can call **800-242-7820** to report lost or found livestock. Plans are underway by these agencies to establish an Animal Response ICP in the field but will wait a few days to determine the best location. Field assessments will begin in a day or two once it is safe.
- Under State law, Houston Mayor has issued a mandatory evacuation order for about 4,700 homes already flooded by water in west Houston. The limited mandatory evacuation has been issued ONLY for flooded homes in the following areas: From State Highway 6 east to South Gessner, from I_10/Katy Freeway south to Briar Forest. If you live in the impacted area and have water in your home, you are being asked to evacuate as soon as possible. CenterPoint Energy will begin disconnecting power to the flooded homes beginning at 7 a.m., Sunday (today).
- President Donald J. Trump today made additional disaster assistance available to the state of Texas by authorizing an increase in federal funding for certain eligible costs. The President's action today authorizes 90 percent Federal cost share for debris removal, including direct Federal assistance; and a 100 percent Federal cost share for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for 30 days from the start of the incident period, and then a 90 percent Federal cost share thereafter. Under the President's major disaster declaration issued for the state of Texas on August 25, 2017, federal funding was made available for Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Other Needs Assistance Programs at 75 percent federal funding of total eligible costs.
- The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department is asking residents to remove all parked vehicles from the streets when debris crews are working in your neighborhood. Debris should be placed close to the side of the road away from mailboxes, trees, meters, fire hydrants and other structures. Please do not

place debris in the roadway. If debris crews are unable to pass safely along the streets, they will not be able to remove your debris.

- The Houston Health Department today (Sept. 2) opened four Women, Infants and Children (WIC) sites dedicated to help people affected by Harvey's unprecedented flooding. The sites will begin registering pregnant women, women who recently had a child, infants and children under the age 5 for WIC benefits at the shelter set up at the George R. Brown Convention Center and Walmart stores at 111 Yale Street, 11210 W. Airport and 9460 W. Sam Houston Parkway. Hours of operations are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. WIC clients who evacuated and left behind their WIC card, food or formula benefits can replace the items by going to an open WIC clinic.
- Houston Health Department testing water from private wells in 17 area counties impacted by Harvey, call [832-393-3939](tel:832-393-3939) for info.
- Cleaning up after Harvey won't disqualify you from disaster assistance, but it's important to keep these tips in mind: 1)Take photos of the damage to your home & belongings before you clean up. 2)Make a list of damaged/lost items & gather any original receipts you have for those items. 3)Save all receipts for repairs, cleanup & disaster-related costs.
- EZTAG lanes continue to be free of charge on all HCTRA roads until further notice. Follow the green arrows thru the non-stop #EZTAG lanes.
- Not necessarily helpful, but interesting. Houston's 2017 rainfall total is 70.82 inches (38.8 inches above normal). The highest recorded was 72.86 inches in 1900.

This is the 1st of the Month when Social Security, OPM retirement, Railroad Retirement and VA checks come out. U.S. Postal Service Houston District is providing additional information on how customers displaced by Hurricane Harvey can retrieve Treasury checks they receive, via U.S. Mail. They will also distribute identifiable medications sent through the mail. Customers are reminded that, in order to retrieve their check, proper ID must be provided. In addition to retrieving checks, customers can also complete a Change of Address (COA) request, especially if they expect to be out of their homes for an extended period. Below is a list, by ZIP Code, where checks will be made available for pick-up. Simply locate your 5-digit ZIP Code on the left side to find the nearest Post Office location which will have your check available, beginning Friday, September 1. Customers may pick-up checks at any location between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday – Sunday.

77326; 77532: Greens North-1530 GREENSMARK DR. HOUSTON 77067

77707: Martin Luther King, 9444 Cullen Blvd, Houston 77051

77422: Alvin, 455 E House St, Alvin 77511

77360: 100 Cannan Dr, Angleton 77515

77630, 77659, 77368, 77662: Beaumont MPO, 5815 Walden Rd., Beaumont 77707

77502: 4115 5th St, Brookshire 77423

77371;77476; 77705; 77521; 77480; 77486: 2121 E Wm J Bryan Pkwy, Bryan 77801

77084: Sam Houston, 1500 Hadley St, Houston 77002

77612: 6500 De Moss Dr, Houston 77074

77332, 77615, 77629: 531 Sheldon Rd, Channelview 77530

77619: 1324 Port Neches Ave, Port Neches 77651

77650: 2500 Broadway Ave, Port Bolivar 77650

77362: 815 Goodson Rd, Magnolia 77355

77336: 110 S Mechanic St., El Campo 77437

77701; 77372; 77706: 1202 1st St E, Humble 77338

77378: 3190 Highway 30W, Huntsville 77340

77334; 77494: 20180 Park Row Dr., Katy 77449

77365; 77585; 77374; 77376: 1245 S Pine St, Kountze 77625

77657: 509 Laurel St, La Marque 77568

77538; 77024; 77364; 77582: 1515 Sam Houston St, Liberty 77575

77539: 1199 Pasadena Blvd, Pasadena 77501

77655; 77650: 345 Lakeshore Dr., Port Arthur 77640

77616; 77626; 77664: 4956 FM 3063, Village Mills 77663

77422; 77415; 77463; 77480: 350 W Brazos Ave, West Columbia 77486

77420; 77468: 141 E Milam St, Wharton 77488

77622;77623; 77358; 77363; 77367; 77661: 324 Highway 124, Winnie 77665

77327; 77357: 23550 Partners Way, Porter 77365

77560; 77597: 411 W Main St, Anahuac 77514

77624: 120 County Rd 1520, Warren 77664

77625: 111 W Avenue P, Silsbee 77656

77331: 1350 S Byrd Ave, Shepherd 77371

77333: 20821 Eva ST Ste H, Montgomery 77356

77614: 11424 Highway 12, Mauriceville 77626

77656: 650 S Main St, Lumberton 77657

77350: 7440 US Highway 59 S, Goodrich 77335

77577: 6003 5th St, Danbury 77534

77359: 14231 State Hwy 150 W, Coldspring 77331

77335; 77351; 77369: 1213 E Houston St, Cleveland 77327

- **Emergency Leave Transfer Program is warranted:** Agencies with employees adversely affected by Hurricane Harvey are in the best position to determine whether, and how much, donated annual leave is needed by their employees and which of their employees have been adversely affected by the emergency within the meaning of OPM regulations. Agencies are responsible for administering the ELTP for their own affected employees. Therefore, employees who wish to donate annual leave must contact their own agencies, not OPM, to determine if there are any affected employees in their agency and how to donate annual leave to them.
- Sheltering and Immediate Assistance Available after Hurricane Harvey <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2017/08/30/sheltering-and-immediate-assistance-available-after-hurricane-harvey>
- Know of a resident in a shelter that needs a sign language interpreter? contact the Harvey Interpreter Hotline tel: [281-845-4443](tel:281-845-4443)
- FLOOD TIP: disinfect items that touch floodwaters: 1 cup bleach/5 gallons CLEAN water. Trash whatever can't be washed.
- FAA warns drone operators that flying an unauthorized drone could interfere with local, state and federal rescue and recovery missions. You could be subject to significant fines if you interfere with emergency response operations. [Flying a drone](#) without authorization in or near the disaster area may violate federal, state, or local laws and ordinances, even if a TFR is not in place. Allow first responders to save lives and property without interference.
- US Office of Personnel Management is permitting solicitation of charitable contributions outside the CFC for organizations assisting those impacted by Hurricane Harvey (details sent in separate email). See your agency for guidance.
- 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.
- With its app working in Houston again, Uber offers free rides to and from shelters (up to \$50 per trip). Thank you!
- People in the Iverness Forest Subdivision are urged to boil their water due to possible contamination from flooding; this includes water for pets, and any other use. (Harris County OEM)
- City of Houston Health Dept has coordinated an emergency preparedness cookbook helps turn your emergency food supply into life-saving meals. It is available in 6 languages. English: http://www.houstontx.gov/health/OSP/English_cookbook.pdf
- 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).***
 - 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](tel: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/>.
 - 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, 2006;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.
- 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
 - 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

From the City of Houston Emergency Information Center

For emergencies call 911.

For non-emergencies call HPD at [713-884-3131](tel:713-884-3131).

LOCATE LOVED ONES: To find family or friends or to register yourself as safe, visit the @redcross Safe & Well site: <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/>.

FATALITIES

- The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences is maintaining a list of Hurricane Harvey-related deaths. Visit their website at <https://ifs.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/MissingPersons.aspx> to check the list.
- To report the location of a body, call 911. Please do not attempt to move or disturb the body in any way.

HEALTH INFORMATION

The Houston Health Department urges people impacted by Harvey flooding to take steps to stay safe and healthy. Good hygiene and food safety are of utmost importance:

- Practice good hygiene such as handwashing after any contact with floodwaters. Wash children's hands frequently, especially before meals.
- Do not allow children to play in floodwater areas.
- Do not eat any food that was in contact with floodwaters.

People who experienced flooding but are now able to enter their homes safely can begin cleaning and sanitizing their homes.

- If rain or floodwaters got into your home, take steps to prevent mold growth. First, wash surfaces with soap and warm clean water to remove dirt and debris. Next, sanitize surfaces with household bleach. Clean it with a solution of 1 cup household liquid bleach per 5 gallons of water. Remember:
- Keep children and pets out of the affected area until cleanup has been completed.
- Remove and discard items that cannot be washed and disinfected (such as, mattresses, carpeting, carpet padding, rugs, upholstered furniture, cosmetics, stuffed animals, baby toys, pillows, foam-rubber items, books, wall coverings, and most paper products).

- Remove and discard drywall and insulation that has been contaminated with sewage or flood waters.
- Thoroughly clean all hard surfaces (such as flooring, concrete, molding, wood and metal furniture, countertops, appliances, sinks, and other plumbing fixtures) with hot water and laundry or dish detergent.
- Help the drying process by using fans, air conditioning units, and dehumidifiers.

STORM DEBRIS COLLECTION

Storm debris will be collected on an ongoing basis until further notice. Please place debris at the curb separated into the following piles:

- Leaves, logs, plants, tree branches (do not bag).
- Construction & demolition material - carpet, drywall, furniture, lumber, mattresses
- Appliances – dishwashers, freezers, refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, water heaters
- Electronics – computers, radios, stereos, televisions, other devices with a cord.
- Household Hazardous Waste – cleaning supplies, batteries, lawn chemical, oils, oil-based paints, stains and pesticide

Neighborhood Depositories

Neighborhood depositories will be open 7-days a week from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. until further notice.

- North - 9003 N Main 77022
- Northwest - 14400 Sommermeyer 77041
- Northeast - 5565 Kirkpatrick 77028
- Southeast - 2240 Central Street 77017
- South - 5100 Sunbeam 77033
- Southwest - 10785 SW Freeway 77074

No household garbage, electronics or household hazardous waste is accepted at the neighborhood depository locations. No pets are allowed on the premises.

Customers must provide the following at the Neighborhood Depository Locations*:

- A current Texas Driver's license or State Issued I.D.
- A current utility bill or city property tax receipt.

* Addresses and names on all presented documents must match and electronic records are NOT accepted. No proof of residency is required for recycling only.

Garbage Collection Schedule

Normal collection services will resume on the schedule as follows:

- Thurs., Aug. 31, 2017 - normal collection schedule
- Friday, Sept. 1, 2017 – normal collection schedule
- Mon., Sept. 4, 2017 - no collection for Labor Day
- Tues., Sept. 5, 2017 - Monday's garbage will be collected
- Wed., Sept. 6, 2017 - Tuesday's garbage will be collected
- Thurs., Sept. 7, 2017 - normal garbage schedule resumes

Recycling Collection

Curbside single stream recycling collection will be suspended until further notice. Customers may bring recyclables to neighborhood depository locations or the Westpark Recycling Center located at 5900 Westpark, Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed Sept. 4 for Labor Day.

Yard, Junk, And Tree Waste Collection

Yard, junk, and tree waste collections will be suspended until further notice due to the need of extra personnel for debris collection related to disaster recovery.

For more information, visit www.HoustonSolidWaste.org or call 3-1-1.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Be cautious of those in the criminal element who are trying to feed on the misfortune of others.

- To report price gouging, suspected contractor scams and other types of consumer exploitation, contact the Texas Attorney General at consumeremergency@oag.texas.gov or call 800-621-0508.
- To verify organizations requesting donations for Hurricane Harvey relief, visit either the Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster website for a list of vetted disaster relief organizations at <https://txvoad.communityos.org/cms/node/104> or the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster website at <https://www.nvoad.org>.