

FEB Houston Update #3

August 31, 2017

- EZTAG announced Tolls remain waived on the entire Harris County toll system until further notice.
- Mayor Turner reported that Police made water rescues of 18 people last night and wants to remind everyone that while the crisis is ebbing, it is far from over.
- Metro Update with Additional Routes METRO Resumes with Limited Services Today, see route information and frequency at: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXMETRO/bulletins/1b427b6>
- Galveston Ferry is running today with two boats and they are reporting only minimal wait times on both sides.
- 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.
- Rumor Control! Change in State Law affects insurance beginning tomorrow (NOT FEMA assistance)! Go to <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/> to register for assistance.
- 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.
- City of Houston Disaster Debris from Hurricane Harvey will be collected on an ongoing basis until all material has been collected. Please place your debris at the curb **as soon as possible**. It is essential the piles be accessible by the collection crews therefore please do not park on the street blocking piles, and make sure the material is clear of tree branches, fire hydrants, utility lines. Please divide debris into the following categories.
 - Vegetative Debris – leaves (do not put in bags), logs, plants, tree branches.
 - Construction & Demolition Debris – building materials, carpet, drywall, furniture, lumber, mattresses and plumbing.
 - Appliances & White Goods – air conditioners, dishwashers, freezers, refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers and 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 pesticides
- Hobby Airport: Flights still limited today. If you have questions about a flight, contact your carrier. Telephone at BW8 flooded all other roads are clear.
- Houston Bush Airport: Flights still operating at limited capacity today. If you have questions about a flight, contact your carrier. IB and OB roads are clear.
- 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
- 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.***
- 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](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/>.
- 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.
- 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](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