EMERGENCY AND DISASTER GUIDE

GALVESTON COUNTY

ARE YOU READY?
The mission of the Galveston County Office of Emergency Management is to save lives, protect critical infrastructure, preserve property and reduce the impact of all-hazard incidents and disasters through planning, preparedness, response, and recovery activities. We proactively build a more resilient community through collaborative relationships with government agencies, emergency services, private sector partners, faith-based organizations, volunteer agencies and the citizens of Galveston County.

281-309-5002 or 888-384-2000
FOR LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES CALL 911
MAKE A PLAN

Fill out a Family Emergency Communications Plan. Create a paper copy of important contact information for family, friends, schools, doctors and work. Keep a copy in your bag.

Fill out a Family Evacuation Plan. Learn your evacuation Zip Zone. Find the supported evacuation routes from your area. Supported routes may offer your family additional resources as you travel to your safe evacuation area. If you need assistance with transportation, have access, functional or medical needs or are a person with language barriers, contact 2-1-1 and register with STEAR. Develop a plan to meet your individual and family needs for all hazards.

Hurricane Planning Information:
https://www.ready.gov/plan

The Galveston County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) provides free training to help prepare you to respond to emergencies in your own neighborhood. CERT facilitates hands-on instruction throughout the year to prepare ordinary citizens to support their neighbors in times of disaster.

For more information go to:
https://galvestontxcert.samariteam.com/
INSURANCE

Begin your disaster recovery now with adequate insurance for your home and possessions. Separate flood insurance is available, even if you are not in a flood zone. Separate windstorm insurance covers wind and hail damage. Document all repairs and do a full inventory of your possessions prior to hurricane season. Notify your insurance company immediately if you experience any covered losses and begin the claims process.

FEMA

In the event of a Federally Declared Disaster, you may be eligible for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). If your home is damaged and not safe to live in, you may be eligible for temporary housing assistance. If you are a homeowner, you may be eligible for money to help pay for the cost of repairs and lost or damaged possessions not covered by insurance. The maximum FEMA assistance per household is currently $34,000, with the average grant being around $4000.

SBA

The Small Business Association (SBA) offers very low interest disaster loans to assist homeowners and small businesses in their recovery. To be considered for a loan or certain types of FEMA grant assistance, such as transportation, personal property, and moving and storage, you must complete and return a SBA application.

FEMA Disaster Assistance: (800) 621-3362
SBA Disaster Customer Service: (800) 659-2955
Flood Insurance Program Referall: (888) 379-9531
Texas Windstorm Insurance Association: (800) 788-8247
PROTECTING YOUR HOME BEFORE A STORM

Assess your family’s insurance needs each year, including flood insurance for your home.

Trim your trees and shrubs; removing any dead limbs that might break off in a storm.

Store tools and materials to use to protect your windows from wind blown objects.

Move your vehicles into the garage or other secure location before threatening weather.

Bring outdoor items inside to keep them from damaging your home in strong winds.

Lock all of the doors and windows on your property, including the garage door.
**BUILD A KIT**
Fill your disaster kit with items that meet the needs of those living in your home, including access, functional and medical needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVACUATION ITEMS</th>
<th>TOOLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Road maps</td>
<td>- Radio with batteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Full fuel tank</td>
<td>- Extra phone charger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cash and credit cards</td>
<td>- Flashlight and batteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Car repair items</td>
<td>- Pocket knife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tent, blanket, pillows</td>
<td>- Whistle and mirror</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Clothes, sturdy shoes</td>
<td>- Plastic tarp, duct tape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rain gear and towels</td>
<td>- Saw or hatchet</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Books, games and toys</td>
<td>- Trash bags</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Work gloves and goggles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Cleaning supplies</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>FIRST AID KIT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- CAT or Soft-T tourniquets</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Band-aids and gauze</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Antibiotic cream</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Benedryl and pain reliever</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Thermometer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Medical gloves</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Elastic wrap</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOD AND WATER</th>
<th>DOCUMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- 7 day supply of food</td>
<td>- ID, birth record and Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Plastic plates and utensils</td>
<td>Security card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1 gallon of water per person</td>
<td>- Insurance policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Manual can opener</td>
<td>- Deeds, lease and titles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Baby food and formula</td>
<td>- Home inventory and photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Computer back-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Utility bills and extra keys</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Family photos</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSONAL ITEMS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Prescriptions in bottles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Other medications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cooler for meds if needed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Hand sanitizer, wipes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Toilet paper, paper towels</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Dental care products</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Hearing and vision aids</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Hygiene and comfort items</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sunscreen and bug spray</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Diapers and wipers</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Medical and mobility devices</td>
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**EVACUATION**

**VOLUNTARY** evacuations are issued when forecasted conditions indicate that it is not safe for you to remain in the area. These are issued by your Mayor or the County Judge.

**MANDATORY** evacuations are issued when forecasted conditions indicate that it is not safe for you to remain in the area. It is also an indication that emergency services may not be available until conditions improve. These are issued by your Mayor or the County Judge.
WHAT TO EXPECT AT A SHELTER

If you must evacuate and you do not have a place to stay, you may end up in a shelter until it is safe for you to return home. At most shelters you will find showers, restroom facilities and cots. Many offer meals for those who have evacuated, but may not be able to accommodate special dietary requests. Be sure that you bring any special items your family might need like: diapers and formula, medications, medical and mobility devices, snacks, games, books and phone chargers. Blankets are usually offered at the shelter but you might feel more comfortable with bedding from home.

WHAT CAN I DONATE AND WHERE?

Community support after disasters is generous, but can be overwhelming if it is not delivered in a way that the impacted neighborhoods can use it. Many cities find themselves with mountains of clothes and household goods without the capacity to sort and deliver these items. If you would like to help, consider a cash donation to local charities working in your area or if you can donate your time and labor, consider looking at the local non-profits below that provide disaster relief and response to Galveston County residents.

4B Disaster Response Network  www.4BResponse.Org  
Galveston Co. Community Emergency Response Team  galvestontxcert.samaritteam.com  
TEXSAR - Texas Search and Rescue  www.TEXSAR.org

Lighthouse Charities  www.lighthousecharityteam.com  
Medical Reserve Corps  www.GCHD.org  
Team Rubicon  www.teamrubiconusa.org
REGISTER EVERY YEAR IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE EVACUATING IN A DISASTER OR EMERGENCY.

Who should register?
- People with disabilities or limited mobility
- People who need medical assistance
- People with functional and access needs
- People who require transportation
- People with communication barriers

CALL 2-1-1 OR GO TO: https://tdem.texas.gov/stear/

Local Assistance
Salvation Army 409-935-1190
Catholic Charities 409-948-0405
Santa Fe Family Services 409-927-4133
Hitchcock Family Welfare 409-986-5632
Interfaith Caring Ministries 281-332-3881
MI Lewis Social Service Center 281-534-2043
THE COST OF FLOOD INSURANCE IS A DROP IN THE BUCKET COMPARED TO THE COST OF FLOOD DAMAGE

FLOOD WATER RESCUES
- Heed weather warnings and follow directions.
- If water enters your home, shut off the main breaker for electricity as well as the gas.
- Go to the highest level of your home. **DO NOT ENTER ATTIC SPACES.** Climb on the roof only if absolutely necessary.
- If a rescue boat is floating down your street, get in it. Wear a life jacket if available.

Don’t underestimate the power of water!

- 6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.
- 12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.
- 18-24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks.
COMING HOME after a flood

Your home may be contaminated with mold or sewage—wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, and goggles during cleanup.

Make sure the electricity and gas are shut off to avoid fire or getting hurt. Have an electrician check the house before turning the power back on.

Photograph flood damage for insurance purposes.

Contact your insurance agent as soon as possible to talk through your options.

Debris removal guidelines

In efforts to expedite the debris removal process, please follow these rules:

1. Placing debris near or on trees, poles or other structures makes removal difficult. This includes fire hydrants and meters.
2. Debris separation
   - Please separate debris into the six categories, shown below.
     - Electronics
       - Television, computer, stereo, phone, DVD player
     - Large Appliances
       - Refrigerator, washer/dryer, air conditioner, stove, water heater, dishwasher
     - Hazardous waste
       - Oil, battery, pesticide, paint, cleaning supplies, compressed gas
     - Vegetative debris
       - Tree branches, leaves, logs, plants
     - Construction debris
       - Building materials, drywall, lumber, carpet, furniture, plumbing
     - Household garbage
       - Bagged garbage, discarded food, paper, packaging
3. Debris should be placed curbside.
4. Debris should not block roadways.
Human beings are not the only ones displaced in a disaster. Flood waters and high winds can send snakes, spiders, fire ants and alligators running for shelter. You may find unwanted guests in receding waters, debris piles and inside your home. Prepare your family for these encounters with free first aid training. Call 281-309-5009 for more information. Mosquito populations increase dramatically after tropical weather events. Consider adding insect repellant to your kit to keep your family safe.
WHEN YOU HEAR IT DO IT

LOCK DOWN
Lock doors - Get out of sight
Turn off lights - Stay silent
Prepare to evade or defend

LOCK OUT
Go inside - Lock doors
Business as usual
Pay attention to surroundings
Account for occupants

EVACUATE
Bring your phone - Leave stuff
Leave your stuff
Follow instructions
Account for occupants

SHELTER
Follow instructions
Tornado - Go to inside lower room
HAZMAT - Seal the room

CALL 8-1-1 BEFORE DIGGING TO AVOID PIPELINES

Texas 811
Know what's below. Call before you dig.
OUTDOOR BURNING

Outdoor burning is prohibited in the State of Texas except under certain conditions. The Galveston County Health District provides an Outdoor Burning Rule checklist that can help verify if a proposed burn meets the stipulations of the exemptions. In the event that a Burn Ban has been issued for the County, all outdoor burning is restricted for public safety.

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS
- Never re-light or pick up fireworks that fail
- Keep a hose or bucket of water nearby
- Light fireworks one at a time
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area
- Sparklers should only be used with supervision
- Keep fireworks clear of dry vegetation and homes
USEFUL INFORMATION:
Sea Turtle Rescue: 1-866-TURTLE5
Sea Mammal Rescue: 1-800-9-MAMMAL
Water Quality: www.TexasBeachWatch.com
Tide Report: https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/map/

SURF AND SUN SAFETY

RIP CURRENTS
Break the Grip of the Rip!

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT
♦ Don’t fight the current
♦ Swim out of the current, then to shore
♦ If you can’t escape, float or tread water
♦ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

HEAT EXHAUSTION OR HEAT STROKE

CALL 9-1-1
♦ Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
♦ Drink water if fully conscious
♦ Take a cool shower or use cold compresses
♦ Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RIP CURRENTS CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:
www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov
www.usla.org

SAFETY
♦ Know how to swim
♦ Never swim alone
♦ If in doubt, don’t go out
Know Where to Go
When Sheltering from a Tornado

- Top floor rooms DO NOT protect you.
- Exterior rooms and rooms with windows DO NOT protect you.
- NO PLACE OUTSIDE is safe from a tornado.
- Get away from the windows and move to an interior room.
- Quickly move to the lowest level and bring your emergency kit.

Prepare for Cold Weather
PEOPLE - Check on elderly neighbors and those with access and functional needs
PETS - Bring your pets inside
PIPES - Wrap or insulate water pipes and turn off water in vacation properties
PLANTS - Cover plants during freeze warnings

FOG SAFETY
Disabled Vehicle in Dense Fog
1. Pull well onto the shoulder
2. Turn off all lights except “flashers”
3. If possible leave your vehicle and move away from the road
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>MAIN NUMBER</th>
<th>NON-EMERGENCY</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bayou Vista</td>
<td>409-935-8348</td>
<td>409-766-2322</td>
<td><a href="http://bayovista.us/">http://bayovista.us/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friendswood</td>
<td>281-996-3200</td>
<td>281-996-3300</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us/">https://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston</td>
<td>409-797-3500</td>
<td>409-765-3702</td>
<td><a href="https://www.galvestontx.gov/">https://www.galvestontx.gov/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica Beach</td>
<td>409-737-1142</td>
<td>409-737-1142</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us/">http://www.ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Marque</td>
<td>409-938-9202</td>
<td>409-938-9269</td>
<td><a href="https://ci.lamarque.tx.us/">https://ci.lamarque.tx.us/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>League City</td>
<td>281-554-1000</td>
<td>281-332-2566</td>
<td><a href="https://www.leaguecity.com/">https://www.leaguecity.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas City</td>
<td>409-948-3111</td>
<td>409-643-5720</td>
<td><a href="http://www.texas-city-tx.org/">http://www.texas-city-tx.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiki Island</td>
<td>409-935-1427</td>
<td>409-935-0349</td>
<td><a href="http://www.villageoftikiisland.org/">http://www.villageoftikiisland.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated</td>
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Galveston County
Emergency Management

Galveston County Emergency Management 281-309-5002
Galveston County Sheriff Non-Emergency 409-766-2300
Galveston County Health District 409-945-2540
Gulf Coast Center Crisis Hotline 866-729-3848
***Call 911 for life threatening emergencies***

WEBSITE: WWW.GCOEM.ORG

County Judge Mark Henry
Emergency Management Director

Facebook: GalvestonCountyTX
Twitter: GalvCountyOEM