

HURRICANE **INFORMATION** **STRAIGHT TALK** **for BAYTOWN** **residents**

BE SAFE
BE PREPARED
We may be next!

The City of Baytown is providing this guide to help our residents prepare in advance for a possible hurricane.





Dear Baytown Neighbors:

Another hurricane season is approaching and we all need to prepare ourselves, our families, our homes, and our community for the possibility of a hurricane affecting us. We are each responsible for the preparedness and the care of our families should disaster interrupt the services we rely upon every day. These services will not be available after a hurricane strike and we will each have to rely upon ourselves and our neighbors for at least the first 3 days following a strike.

By developing a family disaster plan, we can make sure that our families remain safe when we are threatened by a calamity. By preparing ourselves early, we can spread the costs of additional canned food, water, and other essential supplies over time and be assured that we have those supplies when we need them.

The Baytown City Council and our City employees are working diligently to prepare our publicly owned buildings to minimize damages. We are also continuing to train and equip our personnel to be able to respond to our residents and businesses as effectively as possible after a disaster. It is equally important that each of you take those same steps to prepare your families.

If you live in an evacuation zone and you are told to leave, please leave promptly when told to do so. Your failure to evacuate may very well lead to the death of you and your family. That is a loss that would cut to the very heart of our community.

This booklet contains information, checklists, and references that will help you to prepare. Please take a few minutes to read it, discuss it with your family, and then make your own plan to get ready.

Sincerely,

Stephen DonCarlos
Baytown Mayor



Each of us knows that we are responsible for the health and safety of our families and ourselves. It is also our responsibility to plan and prepare our families for hurricanes. We are individually responsible to purchase, store, and to have on hand at least 3 days of food (9 complete meals per person) and water (at least 2 gallons per day, per person), 2 complete changes of clothing per person, 30-day supply of medications, first aid supplies, and sleeping and comfort items. We will probably be completely on our own without outside assistance for at least 3 days after a disaster event. This requirement is based on the time that it takes for federal, state, and local agencies to assess damages, then to transport supplies and establish relief distribution sites in the disaster area.

If you choose not to prepare yourselves, then you have made the choice not to have food, water to drink, or a safe place to live should a disaster strike us.

You may also have made the choice for you and your family not to survive at all.

THE AFTERMATH – *What to expect from the city/county*

The role of the City of Baytown and Harris County governments in the aftermath of a disaster event is to provide search and rescue, disaster area security, damage assessment, and road clearance activities for at least the first 72 hours immediately after the storm passes. This is the period of time that we must each plan on taking care of our families and ourselves. The city and county governments do not have the resources or personnel to provide food, water, gasoline, or financial assistance to residents. We can expect very little, if any, outside support during this first 72-hour period. After this initial period, city and county government will continue emergency response activities, in-depth damage assessment, and will be coordinating with outside agencies to ensure effective distribution and delivery of relief supplies in the neediest areas. At the end of these three days, state and federal agencies should begin providing assistance to our citizens by opening neighborhood aid distribution points and FEMA disaster assistance registration centers.



As the days after become weeks after, Baytown and Harris County governments will shift from response activities to long-term recovery. At this point, emphasis on business restoration, structural rebuilding, and re-establishing the community's overall financial health will become priority.

The state and federal government will begin developing plans for long-term disaster housing aid, reconstruction loans, and small business restoration assistance.

EVACUATION

The guiding principle in hurricane evacuation is that ***We Flee From Flood and Hide from the Wind.*** The determination of whether your home is at great risk for destruction is based upon two major factors: the storm surge (flood) vulnerability and type of home construction.

The major vulnerability is from drowning and structural failure due to storm driven floodwaters (called storm surge). This is a large mass of water pushed up by the low atmospheric pressure and the high winds of the hurricane. This storm surge can reach 28 feet or more during a Category 4 or greater hurricane, and pushes inland in just minutes. This surge typically traps residents in their flooded homes where they drown. Unfortunately, most of Baytown South of Interstate 10, is in the

Major Hurricane Evacuation Zone. You **MUST** determine if you are in an evacuation zone. If you **DO** live in an evacuation zone, then you must decide whether you will leave the area altogether or shelter with family or friends living outside of the storm surge area. If you do not leave if ordered to do so, then you have made a decision that may lead to the death of your family by drowning in your own home.

The other vulnerability is the type of building construction. As a rule, mobile or manufactured homes are not safe to inhabit during ANY

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hurricane. Historically, they fail structurally under the unrelenting impact of high winds and wind propelled debris. If you live in a mobile or manufactured home, you must leave when a hurricane threatens.

If you decide to leave the area, you must do that VERY EARLY in the hurricane's approach to our area. If you wait until the Emergency Managers declare a mandatory evacuation, leaving will be an ordeal. The roadways will be completely congested and in a stop and go condition. During the Hurricane Rita evacuation, trips to inland Texas that would ordinarily take a couple of hours, took all day. Make sure that you leave while the roadways are still relatively free of evacuation traffic.

If you don't live in an evacuation zone and live in a conventional home, you may choose to ride out the storm in your home. If you can ride out the storm in a conventional home with protected windows and doorways, that would be far superior to living in a public hurricane shelter. Protect your windows, prepare your food, water, and the rest of your hurricane kit, and try to enjoy the hours spent with family or friends.

If you are homebound, have no transportation, or have special medical needs, you will need to register for assistance. It is ESSENTIAL that you call 2-1-1 and register so that Baytown can make sure that you get the assistance you need to evacuate!

If you have nowhere else to go, then an out-of-area public hurricane shelter may be your only choice. You will have very limited floor space and no privacy, no showers, no cot or bed, and no choice of whom you "live" next to. Essentially, you will share a wide-open floor space in close quarters with hundreds or thousands of other men, women, and children. It is not pleasant or comfortable by any definition, and not something most people care to repeat if they have

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Make sure that every family member knows what their responsibilities are under your family disaster plan.

Protect important papers, and have cash on hand for essential items.

a safe alternative. Watch your local television news station or listen to local radio stations for the location of shelters that are being opened.

DEVELOP AND DISCUSS A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

You should make sure that every family member understands what their responsibilities are under your family plan, and when and where they are to meet, leave, and how to establish contact. Your plan should include an out-of-state contact who knows your family plan and who can serve as a connection should family members be separated and unable to contact each other.

You should have a quantity of cash on hand in small bills (\$1, \$5, & \$10) that would allow you to make essential purchases until electricity (and banks) can be restored. Important papers should be placed in sealable plastic bags for waterproofing and either stored in a safe deposit box out of the flood risk area or readily available for you to take with you.

STORE 3 DAYS of FOOD, WATER & MEDICINES

Before hurricane season starts is the time to purchase enough food to last each person at least 3 days. That means you need to store 9 complete meals per person and at least 2 gallons water per day, per person. A 30-day supply of medications is recommended along with a first aid kit. Store your supplies where they are easily accessible and refresh them every year. A checklist is provided in this booklet to help you. If you purchase a small amount each week or month starting in January, by June you would have your supplies complete.



PROTECT HOME WINDOWS AND DOORS

The greatest risk to the structural integrity of your home from hurricane winds is from breaking windows and collapsed garage doors. As long as the outside of your home remains intact, it should remain reasonably safe and sound. However, once the windows or doors fail, the effects of the wind and windborne debris will demolish your home and threaten your life.

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The most effective method of protecting your windows is to have rated hurricane shutters installed over all glass, and a hurricane rated garage door installed or retrofit kit installed. A cheaper, unrated, do-it-yourself window protection can be provided by installing 5/8" or 3/4" plywood panels over your windows. Instructions for making and installing plywood panels can be viewed or downloaded from the City's website www.baytown.org and follow the link to the Emergency Management section. Additional information is available from www.ready.gov.

IDENTIFY & PROTECT PERSONAL, MEDICAL & FINANCIAL RECORDS

Home mortgages, birth certificates, licenses, Social Security cards, deeds, titles, insurance policies, prescriptions, and registrations are all examples of critical records that should be sealed in waterproof bags or containers and securely stored. These should be kept where they would be reasonably available, but secured in an area outside of the hurricane storm surge vulnerability. If you wish to bring them with you, then seal them in waterproof bags and lock them in a security lockbox, and then secure that box inside of your evacuation kit.

CREATE A PORTABLE EVACUATION KIT

Your hurricane supplies should be separated from the items used in daily life and stored in wheeled luggage, military duffle bags, backpacks, or medium sized stackable plastic tubs. Each of these will



allow storage of a relatively large amount of items, yet will be easy to move. Backpacks and duffle bags have the advantage of being easily carried and reasonably priced, but are typically not waterproof (rainproof) and not easily stacked. Wheeled luggage is usually already on hand, not as easily carried, more stackable than backpacks, but also not waterproof. Stackable plastic tubs are more difficult to carry, but are easily stacked and quite waterproof (rainproof). Some combination of all three may be the best solution, but ultimately, the best solution is the one that you like and you will use!

3-DAY SUPPLY KIT

(using pencil will allow you to reuse the checklists)

FOOD: Per Person (Suggested menu, adjust to your tastes!)

Breakfast

- Large box high fiber cereal -OR-
- Box of 6 assorted instant oatmeal, cream of wheat, etc.
- Dried fruit, raisins.
- Milk (Parmalait or similar shelf-stable packaged milk)
- Instant coffee, tea, creamer, sweetener
- _____
- _____

Lunch

- 3 – Cans of soup, stew, chicken, tuna, spaghetti, etc.
- 3 – Cans of fruit or fruit cocktail, assorted
- Small plastic jar (4 oz) peanut butter
- Small plastic jar (4 oz) jam or honey
- Melba Toast or Club crackers
- Powdered drink mix
- Crackers or chips
- _____
- _____



Supper

- 3 – Pouches of commercially pre-cooked main entrées:
Jambalaya, chicken, spaghetti, stew, etc.
- 3 – Pouches of commercially pre-cooked rice, pasta, or potatoes
- 6 – Cans assorted vegetables
- Crackers, chips, breadsticks, etc.
- Cookies, snack cakes, solid chocolate bars, etc.
- _____
- _____

Snacks

- Trail mix
- Unsalted nuts
- Hard candies
- Granola bars
- Dried fruit mixes
- _____
- _____

(NOTE: ALL OF THESE CAN BE EATEN WITH MINIMAL HEATING OR WITHOUT COOKING IF NECESSARY)

BEVERAGES Per Person

- 6 – Gallons of clean, safe drinking water (May use empty & cleaned plastic gallon or 1/2 gallon milk jugs filled with tap water)
- Powdered drink mixes
- Powdered milk
- Instant coffee or tea with powdered creamer & sweetener
- Reconstituted lemon, lime, or other fruit juices
- _____
- _____

(NOTE: AVOID SODA OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. THEY MAY COMPOUND THIRST AND TEND TO BE NUTRITIONALLY POOR.)



COOKING AND EATING SUPPLIES (per family, unless otherwise noted)

- 2 – Mechanical can openers
- 2 – “Church key” bottle openers
- 10 – Paper plates (per person)
- 10 – Sets plastic knife, fork, spoons (per person)
- 10 – Plastic, paper, or styrofoam cups (per person)
- 1 – “Safety Fuel” heating stove (uses jelled alcohol, like Sterno or Chafing fuel)
- 3 – Cans “safety fuel”
- 2 – Small pots (1 – for heating food, 1 – for heating water)
- 1 – Small fry pan (optional)
- 1 ea – Sturdy plastic/nylon spatula and cook spoon
- 1 – Pint plastic bottle cooking oil
- Small plastic bottles favorite spices
- 1 – Pint plastic bottle hand dishwashing detergent and bleach
- 1 – Plastic/nylon dish sponge/scrubber
- 3 – Rolls paper towels
- 12 – Assorted sealable plastic bags
- 12 – Tall kitchen trash bags
- 2 – Boxes of 50 wooden safety matches (sealed in plastic bag)
- 1 – Small fire extinguisher
- 1 – Cooler for ice
- _____
- _____

CLOTHING & BEDDING per person

- 2 – Pair jeans or heavy workpants
- 1 – Pair shorts
- 4 – Heavy work shirts and t-shirts
- 2 – Belts
- 4 – Sets underclothing
- 4 – Pairs work socks
- 1 – Set raingear
- 1 – Windbreaker light/medium weight jacket



- 1 – Set sweatpants/shirt
- 1 – Pair work shoes or work boots
- 1 – Pair sneakers
- 1 – Cap or work hat
- 2 – Sets sleeping wear
- 2 – Shower/bath towels
- 2 – Washcloths
- 1 – Set bedding sheets & blanket
- 1 – Cot, air mattress full size, max), or sleeping bag
- Pillows
- 1 – Small flashlight
- 1 – Battery powered book light
- 1 – Battery powered AM/FM/cassette/CD player with earphones
- 3 – Sets replacement batteries for each above
- _____
- _____

MEDICATIONS & HYGIENE per person

- 30 – Day supply of ALL prescription medications in original prescription containers
- 1 – Small box Aspirin, or other OTC (over the counter) analgesic
- 1 – Small bottle of OTC allergy antihistamine
- 1 – Small bottle of rubbing alcohol
- 1 – Small box band aids, antiseptic ointment
- 1 – Small bottle OTC anti-diarrhea medication
- 1 – Bottle antacids
- Feminine hygiene supplies
- Toothbrush & toothpaste, floss, etc.
- 1 – Small plastic bottle antiseptic mouthwash
- Shaving supplies and kit (manual only, no electric)
- Small box of pre-moistened "baby wipes".
- Shower/bath soap, shampoo, etc.
- Hair care products
- Skin care products, makeup, etc.



- 1 – Plastic bottle (4 - 8 oz) mosquito repellent (with DEET)
- Small sewing kit with needle, thread, spare buttons, etc.
- Spare glasses, hearing aids, contact lenses, etc.
- 1 – Roll toilet paper
- 1 – Plastic bottle (4 – 8 oz) SPF 30 sunscreen
- 1 – Small bottle waterless hand sanitizer
- _____
- _____

STORAGE of Supplies

- 2 – 18 gallon (or larger) plastic storage tubs with snap on lids (lockable is optional).
- 1 – Small hard sided luggage (for personal hygiene, medications, etc.)
- 1 – Medium-sized backpack (for portability)
- 1 – Metal lockable box for cash and personal papers

MONEY and PAPERS per person (Sealed in plastic bags)

- Cash in small bills (\$1, \$5, & \$10) sufficient for 3 – 5 days until access to banks or ATM's can be established
- Social Security card
- Health care insurance card
- Home insurance card or policy number
- Driver's license (make sure address is current!)
- Vehicle insurance card
- Birth certificate
- COPY of Warranty Deed (to prove home ownership)
- List of critical personal and family addresses and phone numbers
- List of medications and health concerns
- Credit card information
- Bank account numbers
- Texas road map
- _____
- _____



PETS

- Arrange for a shelter if you evacuate
- Proof of vaccinations and medications
- Collar with identification and a leash
- Pet carrier
- Food and water
- Microchip your pet
- Photo of you and your pet

MISCELLANEOUS

- Keys
- Small toolkit, nails, screws, rope, duct tape, tarps
- Toys, books and games
- Camp toilet with disposable bags or use a bucket and bags
- Photograph or film your house outside and inside
- List your valuables, serial numbers, age, and cost
- Chemical light sticks
- Battery powered smoke detector
- _____

FAMILY DISASTER PLAN (Do this before hurricane season)

- Discuss with your family the type of hazards you may encounter
- Locate a safe room or area in your home if you are staying
- Find shelter locations and requirements
- Determine escape routes and establish a meeting place
- Have an out-of-state friend/family member as a contact
- Plan now for your pet's safety and/or shelter
- Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers
- Check your homeowner's insurance policy before hurricane season begins; flood damage is not usually covered!
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies before hurricane season
- Get your disaster supply kit assembled and ready
- Check your radio and replace the batteries
- Know basic first-aid and CPR and keep a first-aid kit
- _____



Resources:

General Information:

www.Baytown.org

Go to the emergency Management section for links to information, services, and assistance.

www.nhc.noaa.gov

Contains a wealth of information including: securing your home, supplies needed, pet safety, tornadoes, and storm surge.

www.ready.gov

Great deal of information on personal, family, and business disaster preparedness plans.

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org or

www.houstonredcross.org

Assistance: 1-866-438-4636 (GET-INFO)

Donations: 1-800-435-7669 (HELP-NOW)

FEMA

www.fema.gov

Salvation Army

www.salvationarmy.org

**While this plan and supplies focus on hurricane preparedness,
they are invaluable for your health and safety
in ANY disaster.**



This information is brought to you by
the City of Baytown
as a service to our residents.

Please read and heed.

Our goal is help all our valued citizens
remain safe in the face of a
possible emergency.



Stephen DonCarlos, Mayor
Councilmembers

Lena Yopez
District #1

Scott Sheley
District #2

Brandon Capetillo
District #3

Don Murray
District #4

Lynn Caskey II
District #5

Sammy Mahan
District #6

City Manager, Garry Brumback
Deputy City Manager, Bob Leiper
Assistant City Manager, Kelvin Knauf
Emergency Management Coordinator, Bill Vola

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