

CITY OF WHARTON

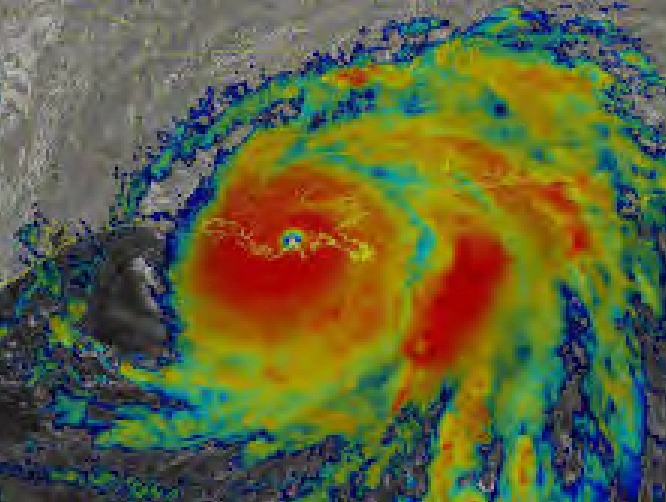
2022 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



**ARE YOU
PREPARED?**

**EVACUATION PLANS * EMERGENCY
INFORMATION * COMMUNITY PLANNING**

**THIS BOOKLET CONTAINS VITAL INFORMATION
TO ASSIST YOU THROUGH YOUR HURRICANE
SEASON. KEEP THIS GUIDE READILY AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT THE SEASON AND BY YOUR
SIDE DURING AN EVACUATION.**



Dear City of Wharton Citizens,

We are providing this brochure to ensure that all residents in the City of Wharton are prepared in the event of a weather emergency.

As hurricane Harvey has shown us, hurricanes can cause massive property damage and loss of life. History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threats among all major hurricane disasters.

Preparedness is the key to protecting your family and property. Please do not have a false sense of security believing that “It won’t happen to me”. Don’t be a casualty during our next hurricane.

By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

Make your plans now. By doing so, you will ensure that you and your family will survive any hurricane that may threaten our area.

Sincerely,
City of Wharton Emergency
Management

IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION

**IF YOU THINK YOU NEED TO EVACUATE,
LEAVE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.**

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO EVACUATE?

**LOCAL OFFICIALS WILL MAKE MANDATORY
EVACUATION DECISIONS BEFORE A STORM
MAKES LANDFALL. HURRICANES ARE
EXTREMELY UNPREDICTABLE AND CAN
BECOME MUCH MORE DANGEROUS IN A
MATTER OF HOURS. PLEASE BE PREPARED
TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.**

WHERE SHOULD I GO?

**YOU MAY EVACUATE TO ANY CITY YOU
CHOOSE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE HOTEL
RESERVATIONS OR FAMILY YOU CAN STAY
WITH, YOU MAY EVACUATE TO THE PUBLIC
SHELTERS.**

WHAT ROUTE SHOULD I TAKE?

**THERE ARE NO MANDATORY EVACUATION
ROUTES YOU MUST USE WHEN EVACUATING.
THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT ROUTES
YOU CAN TAKE. WHEN WEATHER IS
GOOD, TAKE YOUR FAMILY ON AN OUTING
TO CHECK ROUTES AND BECOME FAMILIAR
WITH ROADWAYS.**

WHEN EVACUATING YOU SHOULD:

- COORDINATE YOUR DEPARTURE
WITH THE PEOPLE YOU WILL
BE TRAVELING WITH**
- NOTIFY AN OUT OF AREA
PERSON OF YOUR PLANS**
- MAKE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR YOUR PETS**
- PACK YOUR DISASTER
SURVIVAL KIT INTO YOUR
VEHICLE**
- SECURE YOUR HOME**
- DOUBLE CHECK YOUR
EVACUATION ROUTE AND
LEAVE**

WHEN SHOULD I RETURN?

**JUST BECAUSE YOU HEAR A FRIEND
OR NEIGHBOR HAS RETURNED
AND THEIR HOME IS OKAY DOES
NOT MEAN IT IS SAFE FOR YOU
TO RETURN. LOCAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT WILL UTILIZE LOCAL
MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA WHEN
IT IS SAFE TO RETURN.**



IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION

FUEL

- KEEP YOUR GAS TANKS HALF FULL DURING HURRICANE SEASON AT A MINIMUM
- MOTORISTS SHOULD FILL THEIR TANKS BEFORE EVACUATING
- TXDOT HAS WORKED WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ENSURE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE FUEL AVAILABILITY DURING AN EVACUATION
- TXDOT COURTESY VEHICLES WILL BE PATROLLING MAJOR EVACUATION ROUTES FOR STRANDED MOTORISTS

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBER

THE NUMBER TO CALL FOR ROAD CONDITIONS OR COURTESY VEHICLES ON STATE HIGHWAYS IS 800-452-9299





PREPARE YOUR VEHICLES

– DON'T FORGET YOUR TIRES, CHECK FOR PROPER AIR PRESSURE BECAUSE HOT ROAD SURFACES ARE ROUGH ON TIRES. BE SURE THAT YOUR SPARE TIRE HAS AIR AND THAT YOU HAVE THE PROPER EQUIPMENT TO CHANGE YOUR TIRE. ENSURE YOU HAVE A JACK AND LUG WRENCH IN YOUR VEHICLE AND KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. YOUR OWNERS MANUAL SHOULD HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHANGING TIRES AND FLATS.

– IF YOU ARE STRANDED, STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE AND USE YOUR EMERGENCY FLASHERS. TIE A WHITE CLOTH ON THE ANTENNA OR DOOR HANDLE AND RAISE YOUR HOOD.

– HAVE A WORKING FLASHLIGHT AND EXTRA BATTERIES IN YOUR VEHICLE

– TAKE PHOTOS OF YOUR VEHICLE INSIDE AND OUT BEFORE A STORM HITS TO MAKE IT EASIER TO FILE ANY DAMAGE CLAIMS.

- FILL UP WITH FUEL BEFORE YOU LEAVE TOWN. IT'S SMART TO KEEP YOUR TANK HALF FULL DURING HURRICANE SEASON
- CHECK YOUR VEHICLES FLUID LEVELS AND ENSURE THERE IS ADEQUATE COOLANT.
- MAKE SURE YOU CARRY WATER AND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD IN CASE YOU BECOME STRANDED

Grab-and-Go Bag



HAVE A GO-BAG READY WITH ESSENTIALS AND KEEP IT IN A WATERPROOF CONTAINER OR BAG IN YOUR CAR



A GO-BAG SHOULD INCLUDE A FIRST AID KIT, FLASHLIGHT, EXTRA BATTERIES, MATCHES IN A WATERPROOF CONTAINER AND A WHISTLE. IT MAY ALSO BE HELPFUL TO HAVE STRONG TAPE, PLASTIC SHEETING AND A FEW TOOLS. TIP: REMOVE THE BATTERIES FROM YOUR FLASHLIGHT TO AVOID CORROSION



PUBLIC SHELTERS

IF I PLAN ON GOING TO A PUBLIC SHELTER, WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS SHOULD I TAKE ?

PUBLIC SHELTERS ARE BASIC FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR EVACUEES. MOST SHELTERS DO NOT HAVE BEDS OR COTS. YOU WILL MOST LIKELY BE SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR. SO, PACK AS IF YOU ARE GOING CAMPING. BRING:

- SLEEPING PADS OR AIR MATTRESS**
- BLANKETS OR A SLEEPING BAG**
- ROBE AND SHOWER SHOES**
- BOOKS, CARDS, GAMES & QUIET TOYS FOR CHILDREN TO PLAY WITH**

WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED AT A PUBLIC SHELTER?

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, WEAPONS, AND ILLEGAL DRUGS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN PUBLIC SHELTERS.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP OTHERS?

CHECK ON FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE TRANSPORTATION OR GO SEE IF THEY NEED HELP IN GETTING ESSENTIAL ITEMS TOGETHER SO THEY CAN BE READY TO EVACUATE. ASSIST THEM IF YOU CAN. IF YOU CANNOT, GET THEM IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

SHOULD I CARRY FOOD AND DRINKS IN MY CAR?

STOPPING FOR FOOD AND DRINKS DURING A LARGE-SCALE EVACUATION MAY SIGNIFICANTLY DELAY YOU IN GETTING TO YOUR DESTINATION. SOME RESTAURANTS AND STORES ALONG HURRICANE ROUTES MAY BE CLOSED AND THOSE THAT ARE OPEN ARE LIKELY TO BE CROWDED. ADDITIONALLY, ONCE YOU LEAVE THE EVACUATION ROUTE IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO RE-ENTER THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC.



ANIMAL EVACUATIONS

PLEASE DONT FORGET TO PACK:

- FOOD & WATER
- NON-TIPPABLE FOOD & WATER CONTAINERS
- LEASH, HARNESS OR CARRIER
- ANY MEDICATIONS NEEDED

LIVESTOCK EVACUATIONS

WHAT LIVESTOCK TO EVACUATE IS SOMETHING ONE SHOULD GIVE A LOT OF CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, "EVACUATING" DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN MOVING LIVESTOCK OUT OF THE COUNTY. MANY TIMES, LIVESTOCK CAN BE EVACUATED TO SAFER GROUNDS WITHIN THE COUNTY. WHEN HAULING LIVESTOCK IN A HURRICANE OF ANY SIZE, ANIMALS SHOULD BE EVACUATED NO LESS THAN 72 HOURS BEFORE A STORM MAKES LANDFALL.

WHETHER LIVESTOCK REMAINS IN THE COUNTY OR ARE EVACUATED OUT OF THE PATH OF THE STORM. LIVESTOCK SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED. THE BEST OPTION WOULD BE A PERMANENT HOT IRON OR FREEZE BRAND THAT IS PROPERLY REGISTERED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE. ANOTHER EXAMPLE, IS SHAVING YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH CLIPPERS INTO THE HAIR OF THE ANIMAL.

HAY AND WATER ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR LIVESTOCK IN BOTH HURRICANE EVACUATION AND RECOVERY. CARRY SUFFICIENT WATER WITH YOU ON THE LIVESTOCK TRAILER. YOU MIGHT GET CAUGHT IN TRAFFIC ON THE EVACUATION ROUTE. IT IS RECOMMENDED TO CARRY A THREE DAY SUPPLY OF WATER PER ANIMAL.



GETTING PREPARED

PREPARE YOUR HOME:

HERE ARE SOME STEPS YOU CAN TAKE BEFORE A STORM HITS

- FIND OUT THE ELEVATION OF YOUR PROPERTY AND CHECK FLOODPLAINS MAPS
- CHECK YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE. MOST HOMEOWNER INSURANCE POLICIES DO NOT COVER FLOOD DAMAGE
- LEARN ABOUT THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY
- FIND OUT IF YOUR HOME MEETS CURRENT BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH WINDS
- INSTALL COMMERCIAL SHUTTERS OR PREPARE 5/8-INCH PLYWOOD PANELS FOR YOUR WINDOWS
- GARAGE DOORS ARE FREQUENTLY THE FIRST FEATURE ON A HOME TO FAIL. REINFORCE GARAGE DOORS SO THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO WITHSTAND HIGH WINDS.
- ASSESS YOUR PROPERTY TO ENSURE THAT ALL LANDSCAPING AND TREES DO NOT BECOME A WIND HAZARD. TRIM ALL DEAD WOOD, WEAK BRANCHES AND OVER HANGING BRANCHES FROM ALL TREES.
- MOVE OUTSIDE ITEMS TO SAFETY, SUCH AS PATIO FURNITURE, PLANTS AND GRILLS.
- PUT VALUABLE DOCUMENTS IN WATERPROOF CONTAINERS AND TAKE THEM WITH YOU WHEN YOU EVACUATE.
- TURN OFF ELECTRICITY AT THE MAIN CIRCUIT BREAKER OR FUSE BOX TO PROTECT APPLIANCES FROM POWER SURGES AND REDUCE THE RISK OF LIVE DANGLING WIRES AFTER STORM.
- IF THE HOUSE IS SUPPLIED WITH NATURAL OR PROPANE GAS, TURN IT OFF AT THE METER OR TANK.
- MAKE A FINAL WALK-THROUGH INSPECTION BEFORE CLOSING THE DOOR AND EVACUATING.

FAMILY DISASTER CHECKLIST

ESSENTIALS:

- THIS BOOKLET
- BATTERY-OPERATED RADIO
- FLASHLIGHT
- EXTRA BATTERIES
- FIRST AID KIT

WATER:

- MINIMUM 3 GALLONS PER PERSON IN A FOOD-GRADE PLASTIC CONTAINER
- ADDITIONAL WATER FOR SANITATION

FOOD:

- MINIMUM 3-DAY SUPPLY OF NON PERISHABLE FOOD THAT REQUIRES NO REFRIGERATION OR PREPARATION AND LITTLE TO NO WATER
- DRY CEREAL
- PEANUT BUTTER
- CANNED FRUITS
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CANNED JUICE
- READY TO EAT- CANNED MEAT
- READY TO EAT SOUPS
- QUICK ENERGY SNACKS

SANITATION:

- DISINFECTANT
- HOUSEHOLD CHLORINE/BLEACH
- SOAP/LIQUID DETERGENT
- TOILET PAPER & PAPER TOWELS
- PERSONAL HYGEINE ITEMS
- CLOTH TOWELS
- FEMININE SUPPLIES
- PLASTIC GARBAGE BAGS W/TIES

CLOTHING & BEDDING:

- RAIN GEAR
- STURDY SHOES OR WORK BOOTS
- BLANKET OR SLEEPING BAGS
- COMPLETE CHANGE OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

TOOL AND SUPPLIES:

- WHISTLE
- CROW-BAR
- PAPER, PENCIL
- MEDICINE DROPPER
- SIGNAL FLARE
- NAILS & SCREWS
- PLIERS, SCREWDRIVER & HAMMER
- PLASTIC STORAGE CONTAINER
- CASH & CHANGE
- MESS KITS
- TAPE & DUCT TAPE
- ALUMINUM FOIL
- COMPASS
- PLASTIC SHEETING
- MATCHES
- MAP OF THE AREA
- PATCH KIT FOR TIRES