

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR DISASTER?

GALVESTON COUNTY OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
DISASTER GUIDE



 @GalvestonCountyTX

 @GalvestonCountyTX

 @GalvCountyOEM

 @galvestoncountytX



GALVESTON COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

COUNTY JUDGE

MARK HENRY

Director of Emergency Management

“At the Galveston County Office of Emergency Management, preparedness is the foundation of our work. Whether facing hurricanes or unforeseen emergencies, our team is committed to safeguarding and supporting our community. True readiness goes beyond response—it starts with proactive planning. Visit www.GCOEM.org for essential tools to build your emergency kit, receive real-time alerts, and develop a safety plan for your family. Strong preparation today helps ensure a safer tomorrow for everyone.”

The Texas Government Code designates the County Judge as the county's Emergency Management Director.

GCOEM CONTACT INFORMATION



1353 FM 646 Rd. West
Dickinson, TX 77539



(281) 309-5002



www.GCOEM.org

HURRICANE SEASON

JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

Know Your Risk

Hurricanes bring many hazards to the Texas Gulf Coast, including storm surge, inland flooding, strong winds, and even tornadoes. Understanding each threat helps you prepare smarter and stay safe when a storm approaches.



Storm Surge

Storm surge can push seawater far beyond the shoreline, sweeping away structures and cutting off evacuation routes.



Inland Flooding

Inland flooding can overwhelm drainage systems and fill neighborhoods with fast-rising water long after the storm makes landfall.



Strong Winds

Strong winds can snap trees, tear apart roofs, and send large, heavy objects flying through the air which can further damage property and threaten lives.



Tornadoes

Tornadoes, while rare, can occur in the outer bands of a hurricane and can strike with little warning and cause severe, localized destruction.

CATEGORY 1



Winds: 74-95 mph

MINIMAL

CATEGORY 2



Winds: 96-110 mph

MODERATE

CATEGORY 3



Winds: 111-129 mph

EXTENSIVE

CATEGORY 4



Winds: 130-156 mph

EXTREME

CATEGORY 5



Winds: 157+ mph

CATASTROPHIC

Understanding Our History

Galveston County is no stranger to the dangers of hurricanes. Due to our proximity to the Gulf of America, tropical cyclones are more likely to hit our region than most other regions in the United States. Our county has also been victim to some of the deadliest and costliest storms in United States history.



1900 Storm

Deadliest Storm in U.S. History



Hurricane Ike

Historic Storm Surge



Hurricane Harvey

Historic Flooding

MAKE A PLAN

PREPARE FOR ALL HAZARDS

Why Make A Plan?

Disasters can happen without warning—and when they do, your family may not be in the same place. Making a plan now ensures that when disaster strikes, everyone knows what to do, where to go, and how to reconnect.

Communication

- Choose someone out of area to coordinate information
- Sign up for mass notifications
- Save a hard copy of essential/emergency phone numbers
- Have an AM/FM radio with alternative power sources
- When cell towers are overwhelmed, try texting
- Choose rendezvous location in advance

Plan for All-Hazards

- Hazardous Materials Release
- Power Outages
- Severe Storms
- Flooding events
- Tropical Weather
- Winter Weather



BUILD A KIT

PERSONALIZE YOUR SUPPLIES

Be Ready When It Counts

When disaster strikes, help may not arrive right away. Roads close, stores run out, and first responders may be overwhelmed. A 3-day supply of essentials per person in your household can be the difference between calm and chaos.

Below is a recommended list of items to consider when building your emergency kit. Every household is different, so use this checklist as a starting point and tailor it to your family's needs.

Basics

- ☐ Water (one gallon per person, per day)
- ☐ Food (non-perishable)
- ☐ Baby food/formula
- ☐ Flashlight with batteries
- ☐ Cash and bank cards
- ☐ Weather appropriate clothes, sturdy shoes
- ☐ Tent, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags



Documents

- ☐ Insurance policy
- ☐ IDs, birth records, Social Security card
- ☐ Deeds, leases, and titles
- ☐ Home inventory
- ☐ Digital backups
- ☐ Photos of property
- ☐ Family photos
- ☐ Vet records



First Aid/Medical

- ☐ Prescription medication
- ☐ Allergy and pain medication
- ☐ Bandages and gauze
- ☐ Antibiotic cream
- ☐ Medical gloves
- ☐ Tourniquet
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Bug spray



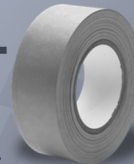
Communication

- ☐ Cell phone
- ☐ Contact list
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Writing supplies
- ☐ Charger
- ☐ Batteries



Tools/Misc.

- ☐ Pet food
- ☐ Pocket knife
- ☐ Saw or hatchet
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Matches
- ☐ Duct tape



Hygiene

- ☐ Trash bags
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Dental care products
- ☐ Diapers and wipes
- ☐ Towels
- ☐ Hand sanitizer



STAY INFORMED

CONNECT WITH OFFICIAL SOURCES

About Our Office

The Galveston County Office of Emergency Management is the only emergency management office in the United States to be co-located with the National Weather Service. This allows us to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information before, during, and after natural disasters occur. Follow the steps below to receive alerts and updates from the Galveston County Office of Emergency Management.

Follow Us

-  @GalvestonCountyTX
-  @GalvestonCountyTX
-  @GalvCountyOEM
-  @galvestoncountyttx



www.GCOEM.org



HOW TO SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

- 1 Go to **www.GCOEM.org** and click "Sign Up To Receive Alerts"
- 2 Choose your city
- 3 Fill out the form to sign up

REGISTER FOR STEAR

About STEAR

The State of Texas offers the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency management planners and responders with information related to your needs during an emergency.

Register annually if you or a family member may need assistance during an active emergency or evacuation.

Registering in STEAR does NOT guarantee you will receive a specific service during emergencies. Cities are responsible for STEAR registrants within their limits. Local jurisdiction and county government officials are responsible for establishing positive contact with those registered with STEAR.

Who Should Register?

People who

- have a disability
- are medically fragile
- have limited mobility
- have communication barriers
- require additional medical services
- require transportation assistance
- require personal care assistance

STATE OF TEXAS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REGISTRATION



CALL 2-1-1 OR VISIT [STEAR.TEXAS.GOV](https://www.stear.texas.gov)

PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY

CHECK AND UPDATE INSURANCE

Review your insurance policies annually to ensure that your property and vehicles are covered for all hazards.

In Galveston County, carrying flood, windstorm, and homeowner's insurance is a necessary investment to ensure you have the coverage and resources you need to recover when disaster strikes.

Have you invested in adequate insurance?



**Fire, Theft,
& Vandalism**



**Windstorm
& Hail**



**Business
Interruption**



Flooding



FEMA

fema.gov/flood-insurance
National Flood Insurance Program



twia.org

Texas Windstorm Insurance



tdi.texas.gov

Texas Department of Insurance

PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY

HOME STORM PROTECTION

Prepare Now, Not Later

The best time to prepare for emergencies is now. Following the steps below can help mitigate damage and enable you to evacuate quickly if needed. Always remember to turn off utilities before you leave. Preparedness can protect your home and save lives.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Do this when a disaster is imminent



**Cover Doors
and Windows**

Tip: Locate materials now



**Secure
Outdoor Items**

*Tip: Locate storage
options now*



Turn Off Utilities
If you need to evacuate

*Tip: Locate utility
shut-offs now*

MAINTAIN PREPAREDNESS

Regular maintenance can help protect your property during disasters

**Trim trees
and remove
dead limbs**

**Keep gutters
clean and
drainage flowing**

**Replace
loose roof
shingles**

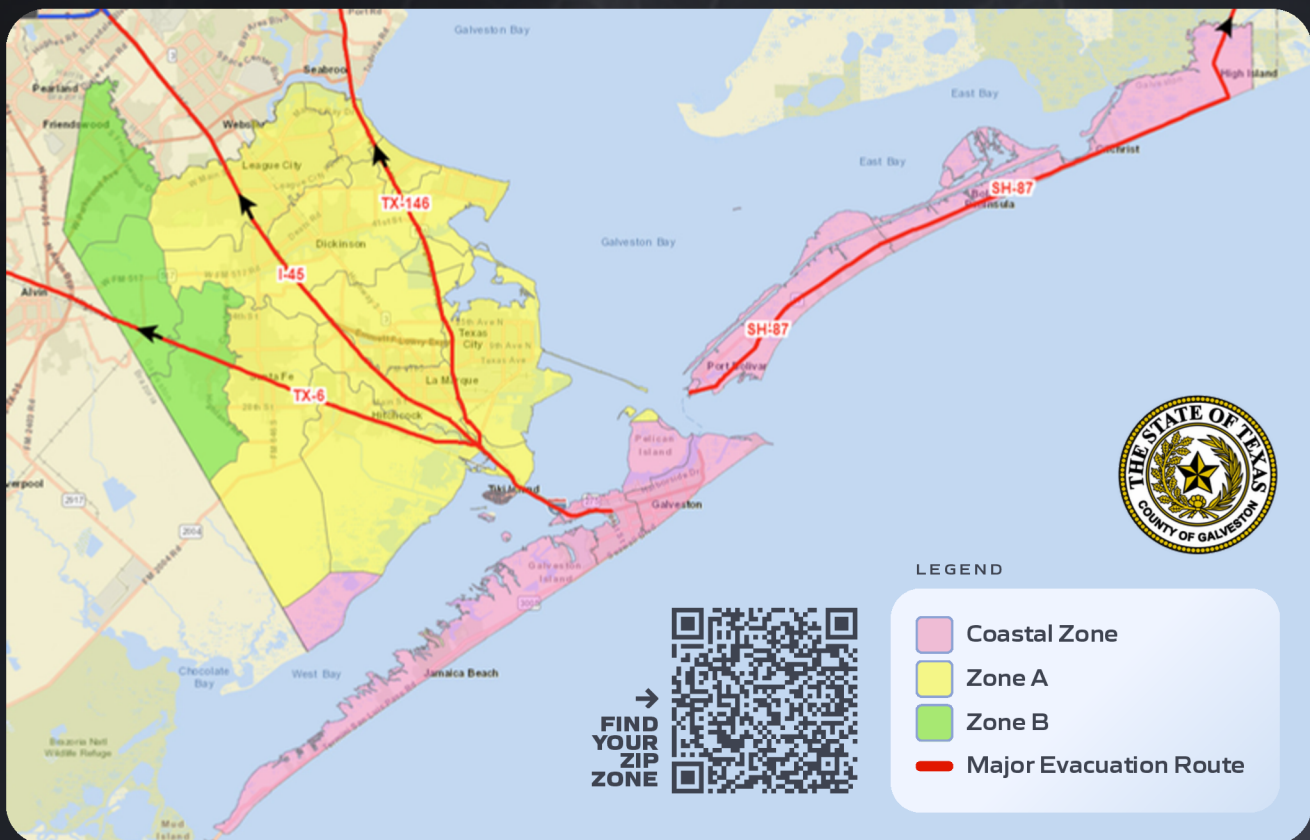
**Maintain
fences and
secure gates**

**Plant
landscaping with
deep roots**

**Call utility
company to trim
growth around
powerlines**

EVACUATION INFORMATION

Galveston County Evacuation Zones & Routes



Evacuation zones are sorted by zip code and routes may be supported by the State with fuel, food, and water.

VOLUNTARY EVACUATIONS

These are issued when forecasted conditions indicate that **it may not be safe** for your to remain in the area.

MANDATORY EVACUATIONS

These 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 approve.

SHELTERS DURING DISASTERS

WHAT TO EXPECT

Prepare Your Family to be Self-Sufficient

Consider the needs of each family member, including pets. Bring any medication, mobility, and medical devices that each individual requires.

Evacuation Packing List

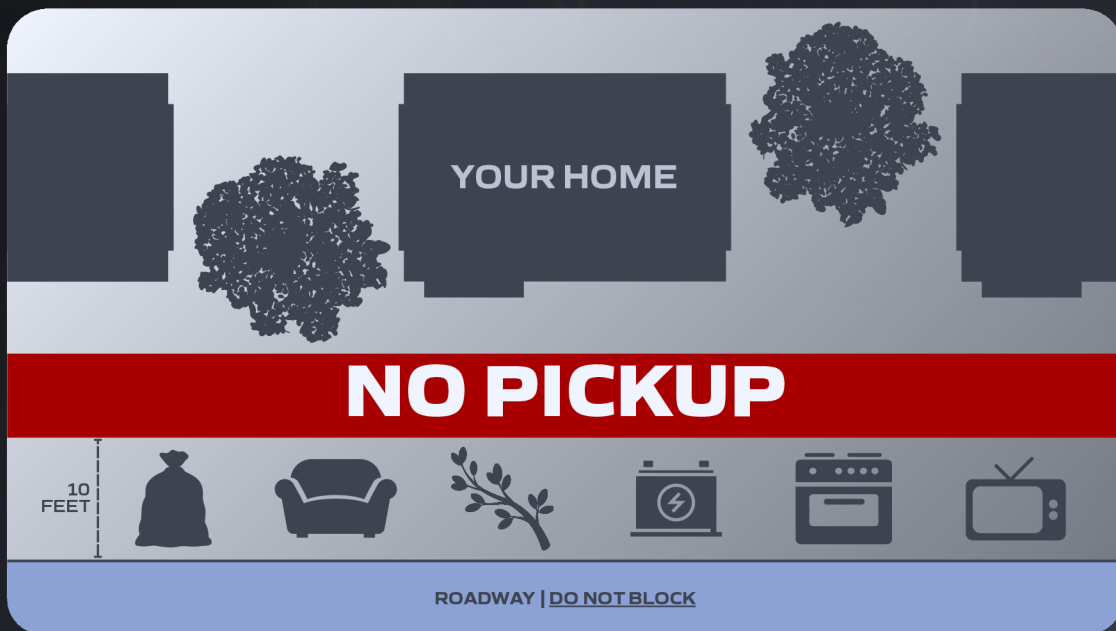
- ☐ Medications in original prescription bottles
- ☐ Mobility aids and medical devices
- ☐ Hearing aids/batteries and eyewear
- ☐ Mobile devices and charges
- ☐ Hygiene items
- ☐ Diapers and formula
- ☐ Pet supplies & crate
- ☐ Food and water for a week
- ☐ Blankets and pillows
- ☐ Important documents
- ☐ Digital inventory of personal property
- ☐ Extra clothing
- ☐ Cash



RETURNING HOME

Residents returning after a disaster may find fuel, food, water, and utilities unavailable. Plan to be self-sufficient.

When it is safe to return, Galveston County officials will notify you of reentry plans. Bring supplies from outside the affected area, as they may not be available after reentry. Document all damages to your property and contact your insurance company immediately. Report property damage at [GCOEM.org](https://www.gcoem.org).



 **Household Garbage**
Bagged garbage, discarded food, paper, packaging

 **Vegetative Debris**
Tree branches, leaves, logs, plants

 **Large Appliances**
Refrigerator, washer/dryer, HVAC, stove, water heater, dishwasher

 **Construction Debris**
Buildings materials, drywall, lumber, carpet, furniture, plumbing

 **Hazardous Waste**
Oil, batteries, pesticides, paint, cleaning supplies, compressed gases

 **Electronics**
Television, computer, stereo, phone, DVD player

Mucking and Gutting After Floods

If your home is flooded, you may need to remove mud and silt with a flat shovel to prevent falls. Wet drywall must be removed quickly to slow the growth of mold. If the home received less than 4' of flooding, remove the lower 4' of drywall.

RECOVERY RESOURCES

WEATHERING THE STORM

DISASTER RECOVERY CHECKLIST

STEP 1

Document property damage
& report to insurance

STEP 2

Fill out official disaster survey
provided by local government

STEP 3

Register with FEMA if a
disaster is declared

STEP 4

Apply for SBA Loan for
damages not covered by
insurance or FEMA

STEP 5

Contact Galveston County
Long Term Recovery Group
for additional resources:

GalvestonCountyRecovers.org



Develop business resiliency plans for:

- Disaster Recovery
- Business Continuity
- Employee Protection
- Property Preservation
- All-Hazards Insurance

SEVERE WEATHER THREATS

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

HEAVY RAINS & FLOODING

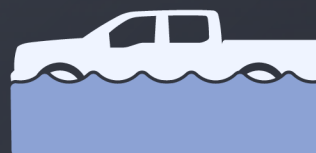
Turn around, don't drown.



6 inches of water can carry away an adult



12 inches of water can carry away a small car



18-24 inches of water can carry away a truck

STAYING SAFE IN TORNADOES

Tornadoes can strike without warning, unleashing violent winds capable of damaging buildings, overturning vehicles, and turning debris into deadly projectiles.



Get In

Go indoors quickly if you can do so safely



Get Down

Find an interior room on the lowest level



Cover Up

Use your arms or nearby items to protect yourself from injury



Stay Away

Avoid windows, doors, and outside walls

Driving in bad weather

Maintain a safe buffer from other vehicles, reduce your speed and signal early when approaching hazards, and never attempt to drive through standing water.

WINTER WEATHER

PREPARE FOR COLD TEMPERATURES

Protect the 4 P's



PEOPLE

Check on vulnerable family members.



PETS

Bring pets inside when it's cold.



PIPES

Insulate pipes before a freeze. If home is vacant, turn off water & drain pipes.



PLANTS

Keep trees trimmed away from power lines & bring in or cover outdoor plants.

Winter Weather Road Safety

When traveling in winter weather, choose a route that avoids bridges and overpasses. Double your distance between other vehicles and don't use cruise control.

Heating Safety



Never leave space heaters unattended and keep away from flammable items, such as blankets and furniture.



Never use outdoor grills or heaters indoors, as this creates a serious risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



Safety At Home

Items used everyday, such as natural gas, household chemicals, and propane, must be properly used, stored, and protected to keep your home and our communities safe.



PROPANE SAFETY

- Store in cool location
- Close valves
- Install Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Use in well-ventilated area, 20 feet from buildings



BEFORE YOU DIG

- **Call 8-1-1** before digging more than 16"
- Required by Texas Law
- Prevents dangerous, costly hits to electric, gas, and water lines



HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

- Store away from sunlight, pets, and children
- Check for leaks and obey warnings
- Call Poison Control at **1-800-222-1222** if exposed





CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES

Prepare your family for hazards of all kinds to ensure you have the information and resources you need to make decisions in disasters and emergencies.

PREPARE

The Galveston County Local Emergency Planning Committee coordinates with local industry and emergency management partners to ensure that the community is prepared for chemical emergencies.

- Check with Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Enable notifications

LISTEN

In the event of a chemical emergency, heed emergency alerts from official news sources and follow directions for any actions you may need to take.

- Listen for Emergency Alerts
- Follow directions and actions as needed

RESPOND

If Shelter-In-Place ordered:

- Go inside immediately
- Turn off ventilation, AC, or heater
- Close all windows and doors
- Wait until the “All Clear” is given



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Preparedness Training
- Citizen Response to Active Shooter
- Stop the Bleed
- Internet Safety
- School Safety Report

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Hurricane Town Halls
- Civic Groups
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Business Partners
- Services Agencies

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS



Community Emergency Response Team



Texas Search & Rescue



Medical Reserve Corps

For more information, visit GCOEM.org



Cyber security training



Emergency Operations Center training

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bayou Vista

(409) 935-8348 | Main
(409) 935-0449 | Non-Emergency

Clear Lake Shores

(281) 334-2799 | Main
(281) 334-1034 | Non-Emergency

Dickinson

(281) 337-2489 | Main
(281) 337-4700 | Non-Emergency

Friendswood

(281) 996-3200 | Main
(281) 996-3300 | Non-Emergency

Galveston

(409) 797-3500 | Main
(409) 765-3702 | Non-Emergency

Hitchcock

(409) 986-5591 | Main
(409) 986-5559 | Non-Emergency

Jamaica Beach

(409) 737-1142 | Main
(409) 737-1800 | Non-Emergency

Kemah

(281) 334-1611 | Main
(281) 334-5414 | Non-Emergency

La Marque

(409) 938-9200 | Main
(409) 938-9269 | Non-Emergency

League City

(281) 554-1000 | Main
(281) 332-2566 | Non-Emergency

Santa Fe

(409) 925-6412 | Main
(409) 925-2000 | Non-Emergency

Texas City

(409) 948-3111 | Main
(409) 643-5720 | Non-Emergency

Tiki Island

(409) 935-1427 | Main
(409) 935-6579 | Non-Emergency

**CALL 9-1-1 FOR
LIFE-THREATENING
EMERGENCIES**

Galveston County Emergency Management

(281) 309-5002 | Main
(888) 384-2000 | After Hours

Galveston County Sheriff's Office

(409) 766-2300 | Main

Galveston County Health District

(409) 938-7221 | Main
(409) 948-2485 | Animal Services
(409) 763-7202 | Birth and Death Records
(409) 938-2456 | Community Health
(409) 938-2234 | Coastal Health & Wellness
(409) 938-2411 | Environmental Services

Gulf Coast Center - Mental Health

(409) 944-4520 | Main
(866) 729-3848 | Crisis Hotline

Galveston County Parks & Senior Services

(409) 934-8101 | Main

Galveston County Mosquito Control

(800) 842-5622 | Main

Galveston County Nuisance Abatement

(409) 766-4509 | Main

Galveston County - Bolivar Beach Stickers

(409) 934-8103 | Main

Galveston County Veterans Services

(409) 766-2448 | Main

Galveston County Constables

(281) 316-8810 | Precinct 1
(409) 770-5477 | Precinct 2
(409) 770-5172 | Precinct 3
(281) 316-8711 | Precinct 4

Galveston County Clerk

(409) 766-2200 | Galveston Office
(281) 316-8732 | League City Office



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



WWW.GCOEM.ORG



@GalvestonCountyTX



@GalvestonCountyTX



@GalvCountyOEM



@galvestoncountytX