

# Emergency Management & Hurricane Preparedness

## **Pre-Season:**

Before hurricane season, citizens should ensure their property insurance is up to date, homes and businesses are storm ready (trees trimmed, shutters on hand), an evacuation plan is in place (where to go, what to take), and other measures as needed. Preparedness information is available on this website.

## **Partners in Emergency Management:**

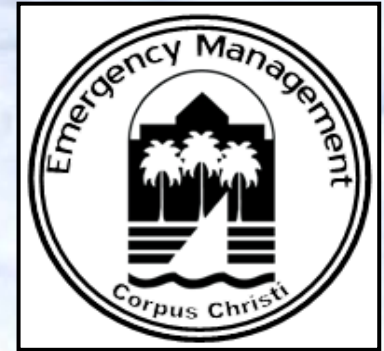
Responding to a disaster requires the assistance of multiple local, state, federal agencies and local volunteer groups including: FEMA, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), and many others.

## **Government:**

By State Statute, Chapter 418 of the Local Government Code, the Mayor is the Emergency Management Director. The Mayor is assisted by an Emergency Management Coordinator. During disasters, the Mayor has the authority to issue a local declaration of disaster which may order evacuations, curfews, and other emergency orders.

When a disaster occurs, the Mayor may request additional assistance through County, State and Federal agencies. These agencies augment local resources.

Under the Stafford Act, the Federal Government may reimburse a municipality for 75% of certain expenses incurred to manage the storm response and recovery. FEMA may provide assistance to private citizen as well. See [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) from more information.



## **Essential Services Coordination:**

Each year, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) reviews and updates planning efforts with all of our partners including our essential services providers. The OEM conducts training and exercises with local agencies that provide power, water, utilities, food, ice and other essentials.

## **Public Information:**

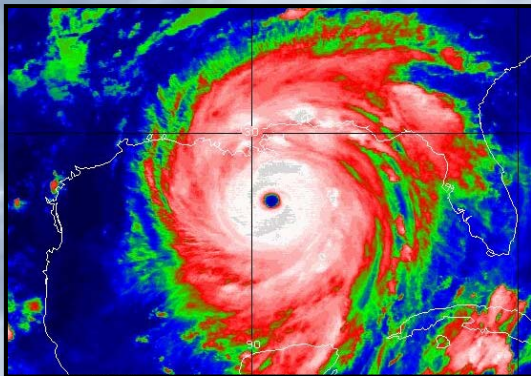
Information regarding disaster planning and response is available here: [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov), [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) and many others. See links on this website.

When the area is threatened by a hurricane, information is distributed through local media, [www.cctexas.com/eoc](http://www.cctexas.com/eoc), Facebook, Twitter, Cable Channel 20, and other sites.

## **Disaster Assistance:**

The City maintains contracts with private providers to assist in disaster recovery. These include debris removal contracts, debris project management, damage assessment and contracts to provide additional equipment.

State and volunteer agencies are ready to respond to a disaster area. These assistance teams are ready to provide help with rescue, evacuation coordination, incident management, special needs assistance, shelter management, food-water-ice distribution public works, hazardous materials handling, and more. These teams are ready to deploy as soon as storm conditions allow.



# Before A Hurricane Makes Landfall

## Evacuation:

Evacuation is the best option. A direct strike on Corpus Christi of even a small storm may result in widespread power outages lasting up to a week or more. A more serious storm will cause flooding, structural damage, power outages and loss of cell phone communications for some time. Included in this website are maps that show multiple hurricane evacuation routes. We encourage everyone to use alternate routes whenever possible, and to evacuate early when possible. If you delay and evacuate as the storm approaches the area.....traffic is going to be heavy. The roadways will be clogged and slow-going. Don't wait until the last minute.

Citizens needing transportation assistance should call 211 and register with the Transportation Assistance Registry. Transportation assistance to inland shelters is accomplished using Corpus Christi Independent School District buses as well as buses, ambulances, and aircraft (if necessary) contracted through the State and Federal government. It is important to note that the City will begin evacuating these citizens as early as 48 to 60 hours before the onset of tropical storm force winds. A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) composed of local volunteers in the special needs community has been created to assist with evacuation efforts.

## Emergency Operations Center:

As a storm approaches, our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated. Following guidelines established in the National Response Framework (NRF), EOC personnel will oversee incident preparations and responses. Heightened communications and coordination with Local, State and Federal agencies including: the local office of the National Weather Service, the Department of Public Safety, the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Hurricane Center will commence. The most up-to-date technologies are used to enhance situational awareness and ensure communications are maintained. Weather forecasts are closely monitored and evaluated. EOC staff will participate in State-wide conference calls and ensure local officials are well informed. During this phase, equipment and personnel are pre-positioned and contracts with disaster response companies are initiated.

## Refuges of Last Resort:

Rather than "riding-out" a storm, our emphasis is on evacuation. Regardless of whether your home withstand the high winds, it is certain that there will be widespread power, water and sewer outages that may last weeks or more. Please note that there are no official hurricane shelters within hurricane strike zones in Texas. In the event of an unforeseen emergency (rescue) a "refuge of last resort" may be opened. A refuge is not intended to be a hurricane shelter and may provide only limited protection. There may be no back-up power, no food, bedding or other amenities. The decision to open such refuge is a last resort option. As there are no hurricane shelters in Texas coastal zones, citizens should be prepared to evacuate if directed. Assistance with evacuation can be found by registering with the 211 Transportation Assistance Registry.



# Recover Efforts

## Life and Safety:

Immediate, post storm focus will be on Search and Rescue (SAR) as well as damage assessment. SAR efforts will be augmented by the US Coast Guard, Texas Military Forces and Texas Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue teams.

## Response Teams:

The State will deploy teams to assist with issues ranging from animal rescue to hazardous material recovery. A Public Works Response Team made up of volunteer employees from other municipalities will begin the restoration of essential services: electricity, water and wastewater. Depending on the extent of damage to the infrastructure, this effort could continue for an extended period of time.



## Short-Term Shelters:

Should a need for post storm shelters be required, those efforts will be coordinated through the American Red Cross. Sites will be announced through local media as they become available.

## Citizen Re-Entry:

Re-entry into the City after a storm is a phased approach. Initially emergency crews will begin clearing downed power lines and debris from roadways. Supporting relief agencies will follow, and as areas of the City are assessed and deemed safe, citizen re-entry is allowed.

