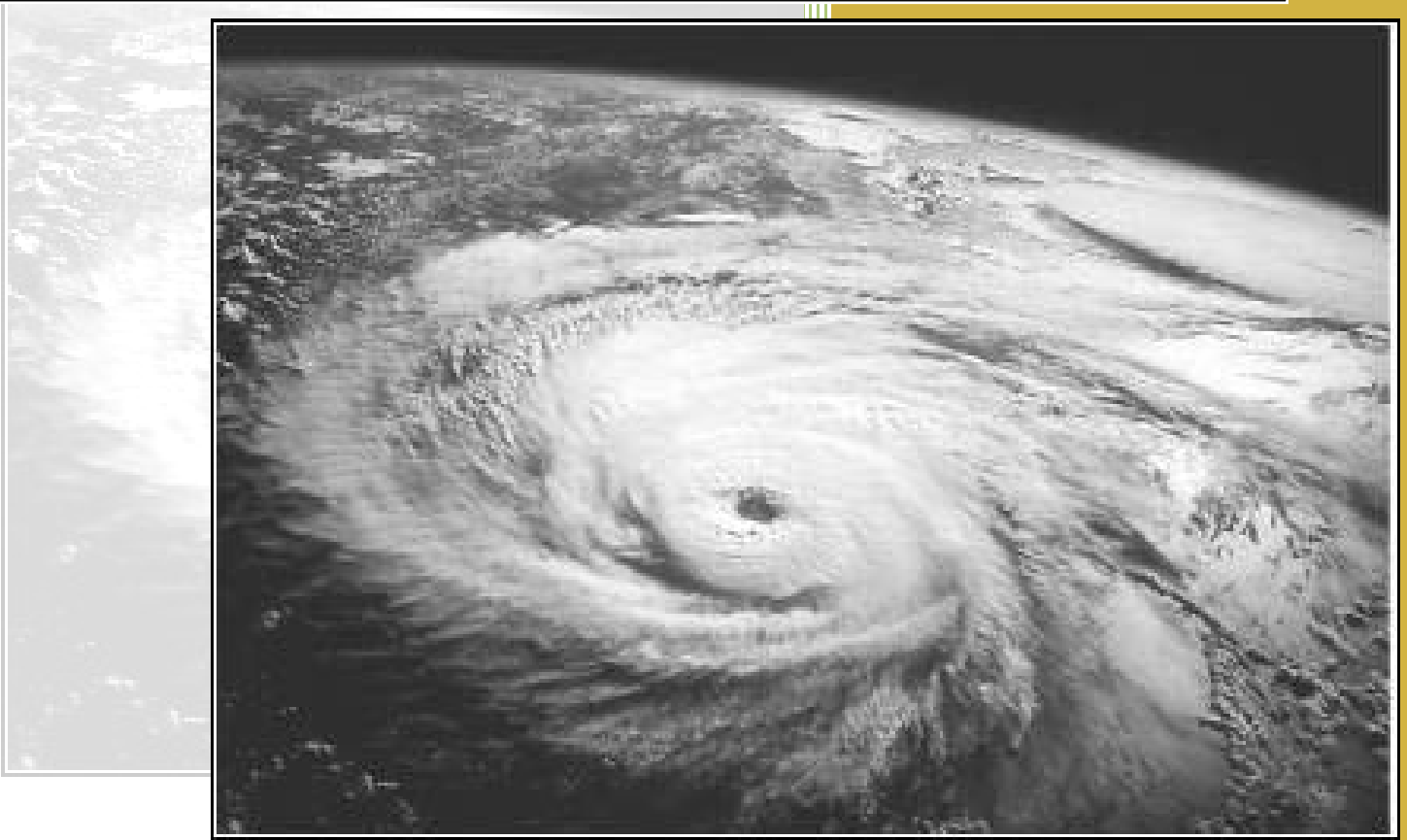


2009

VICTORIA CITY/COUNTY



Hurricane

Preparedness

Are you READY?



VICTORIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK: May 24 – 30, 2009

Smart Planning for Hurricane Season

VICTORIA – Hurricane season officially began June 1 and continues through November 30. Start planning early to protect your families and property. If you live in an area threatened by storm surge – an EVACUATION ZONE – discuss evacuation plans with your family. Check with city or county officials to find out if your home is in an evacuation zone.

When making a family plan for any hazard, choose a place to call and a place to meet. Give all family members the name and phone number of someone outside your city or state. Anyone separated from the group should call that number to let others know where they are. Learn to use the American Red Cross “Safe and Well” Web site: disastersafe.redcross.org

Put an emergency supply kit together now. Refill and re-check supplies AFTER EVERY STORM. After the storm hits, you may be able to return home in a matter of days. But re-entry may take much longer, depending on storm damage. Because hurricanes are extremely dangerous and unpredictable, officials plan for storms to be one category worse than predicted. So should you.

- Learn evacuation routes BEFORE storm season. If possible, practice driving the route out of town ahead of time. Make sure you have a full tank of gas before you leave. Expect delays and longer drive-times than normal. **Just like any rush hour, traffic congestion in an evacuation is unavoidable.**
- An emergency supply kit includes: NOAA weather radio and batteries, flashlight and batteries, extra eye glasses, bottled water, non-perishable food, dry clothes, bedding, medications and copies of prescriptions, special products for babies, elderly and medically fragile family members, cash, credit cards, photo IDs, important documents and records, proof of residence and information your agent will require to process insurance claims.
- Make a checklist of preparations to be made before an evacuation and go over it with your family. Review it again when a storm is in the Gulf of Mexico.
- If you plan to stay in a hotel or motel, make reservations and confirm your reservations before you leave. If you plan to stay in a shelter, bring what you need to be comfortable, including bedding and toys for kids. Shelters will vary in what they offer evacuees.
- Contact your local office of emergency management to get information on making arrangements for anyone in your household who may need special assistance during an evacuation.
- Prepare an emergency kit for your pets and a plan for how to care for them when you are on the road and in a shelter or motel. Do not leave your pets behind.

For more information on Hurricane Preparedness Week, see:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml> or
http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/espanol/intro_espanol.shtml
www.Ready.gov and www.redcross.org.



For more information, contact the Victoria Office of Emergency Management 361-485-3362
Or visit Our Web site <http://www.victoriatx.org/oem/index.asp>



VICTORIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK: May 24 – 30, 2009

Learn the Dangers of Nature's Most Powerful Storms

Victoria – Hurricanes are nature's most powerful storms and can wreak havoc hundreds of miles from the coastal area where they make landfall. The four major hazards from hurricanes include: **storm surge, high winds, tornadoes** and **heavy rains**.

Hurricane season officially begins June 1 and continues through November 30. Monitor weather broadcasts during storm season and listen to instructions from local officials. If you live in an area threatened by storm surge, called an **EVACUATION ZONE**, be prepared to leave when officials call for an evacuation.

Storm surge is a dome of high water that can affect hundreds of miles of coastline. Storm surge – produced by a combination of high winds and normal to high tides – can rise as high as 20 feet or more as it sweeps inland, flooding evacuation areas in its path. Much of the Texas Gulf Coast is less than 10 feet above mean sea level. Areas along rivers near the coast also may be affected.

High winds from 74 mph to 200 mph or more. Even the weakest hurricane can damage buildings, flood roads, knock down power lines and uproot trees. The strongest storms can destroy buildings and property. Debris propelled at 74 miles an hour can kill.

Tornadoes can be spawned by hurricanes far from the center of the storm. They may be small, difficult to track by radar and deadly, striking even at night. Hurricane Beulah in 1967 spawned 115 tornadoes throughout central and south-central Texas.

Flooding caused by torrential rains can occur in both coastal and inland areas. The slower the storm moves, the greater the flooding may be. Heavy rainfall can occur hundreds of miles away from the center of the storm. Many people killed by hurricanes drown in inland floods.

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK: May 24 – 30, 2009

Storm Watches and Warnings

Victoria – Hurricanes are the greatest weather threat to Texas. Hurricane categories are based on the level of damage from hurricane winds. Here is how these dangerous storms form. Air over the ocean warms, picks up moisture and begins a circular motion. This forms a tropical depression, an area of low pressure that draws more air in from other areas.

When the wind speed increases above 39 mph, the tropical depression becomes a tropical storm and the storm is given a name. When the winds reach 74 mph, the storm becomes a hurricane.

A **tropical storm watch** is issued when a tropical storm system is about 36 hours away from land.

A **tropical storm warning** is issued when a tropical storm is about 24 hours away from land.

A **hurricane watch** is issued when a hurricane is about 36 hours away from land.

A **hurricane warning** is issued when winds reach 74 mph or more, and the storm is 24 hours away or less.

When there's a major storm in the Gulf of Mexico, monitor broadcast media and listen for instructions from local officials. Do not take tropical storms for granted. Even slow moving tropical storms can be deadly.

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK: May 24 – 30, 2009

Storm Surge Kills

Victoria – Storm surge from hurricanes is deadly. If you live in an area threatened by storm surge, called an **EVACUATION ZONE**, be prepared to leave when officials call for an evacuation. Ignoring an evacuation order will put your life directly in danger.

Hurricane season officially begins June 1 and continues through November 30.

If you live in a county on the Texas coast and you want to find out whether you live in an evacuation zone, contact your local county or city officials. Learn your evacuation routes and make your evacuation plans now.

Storm surge is a dome of high water that can affect hundreds of miles of coastline. Water weighs 1,700 pounds per cubic yard. That means three cubic yards of surge – crashing into a house again and again – strike with the force of a truck repeatedly smashing into a house.

Storm surge – produced by a combination of high winds and normal to high tides – can rise as high as 20 feet or more. Much of the Texas Gulf Coast is less than 10 feet above mean sea level. Areas along rivers near the coast also may be affected.

As Texans learned during Hurricane Ike in 2008, storm surge as high as 20 feet can be generated even by a Category 2 hurricane. Large areas of Galveston Island were submerged in storm surge.

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK: May 24 – 30, 2009

Wind Speed Information

VICTORIA – Hurricanes can grow much stronger in only a few hours, tremendously increasing the amount of damage they do. Any tropical storm can cause severe floods in areas near the Texas coast. If you live in an evacuation zone, monitor media and be prepared to leave when local officials call for you to do so.

Category 1: 74 to 95 mph – Minimal damage to building structures. Damage primarily occurs to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery and trees. Some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage. Debris propelled at 74 mph can injure or kill.

Category 2: 96 to 110 mph – Moderate damage. Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes and piers. Small boats in unprotected anchorages break moorings.

Category 3: 111 to 130 mph – Extensive damage to small residences, utility buildings and other smaller structures, with a minor amount of curtain wall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Larger structures damaged by floating debris.

Category 4: 131 to 155 mph – Extreme damage, including more extensive wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach area. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore.

Category 5: Over 155 mph – Catastrophic damage, including complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet above sea level.

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VICTORIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK: May 24 – 30, 2009

Emergency Preparedness Supplies

VICTORIA – The Governor’s Division of Emergency Management, the Victoria Office of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service urge coastal residents to gather supplies and documents they will need BEFORE a hurricane threatens Texas. Hurricane season runs June 1 through Nov. 30. Keep your emergency supplies in easy-to-carry containers. Re-check and refill your hurricane supplies after every storm. Use this checklist:

- First-aid kit, prescription medications, copies of prescriptions, other special medical items, hearing aids and batteries, eye glasses
- Important documents and records, photo IDs, proof of residence, information to process insurance claims
- Credit cards and cash (with power out, banks and ATMs may not be available)
- Battery-operated radio, NOAA Weather Radio and extra batteries
- Phone numbers of family, friends and other important phone numbers
- Road maps, a travel plan, hotel reservations, list of places between your town and your destination to stop if the highways are clogged
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food, one gallon of bottled water per person per day, coolers for food and ice storage, paper plates, utensils
- Manual can opener, knife, tools, booster cables, fire extinguisher, duct tape, tarp, rope, flashlight with extra batteries
- Extra keys
- Blankets, pillows, sleeping bags for each person, extra clothing, toys for children
- Supplies for babies, the elderly and family members with special health care needs
- Toilet paper, cleanup supplies, personal hygiene products
- Leash, food, cleaning supplies and veterinary records for pets

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VICTORIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK: May 24 – 30, 2009

Evacuating Is the Smartest Move

VICTORIA – When a hurricane threatens and you are living in an evacuation zone, the smartest thing to do is leave when local officials tell you to do so. Review this checklist and read it again before you leave. Monitor broadcasts for instructions.

Officials always plan for storms that are one category worse than predicted. So should you.

BEFORE THE HURRICANE OR TROPICAL STORM

- Check with local officials to find out if you live in an evacuation zone – an area that can be flooded by hurricane storm surge – and if so, make plans to leave when local officials call for a mandatory evacuation.
- Learn your evacuation routes.
- Prepare an evacuation plan.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit.
- Review your insurance policy for protection against wind and flood damage, and prepare an inventory of personal property needed for insurance settlements.
- Obtain waterproof containers for carrying important papers such as proof of insurance and medical prescriptions.
- Obtain items needed to board up windows and protect your home.
- Make plans for family members with special needs and for your pets.

RE-CHECK YOUR PLANS WHEN A STORM IS IN THE GULF

- Make sure your gas tank is full and your vehicle is ready for the road.
- Review your emergency plan, including the place you and your family can meet if separated, and plans for family members with special health care needs.
- Check your emergency supply kit and map of evacuation routes.
- Notify relatives and friends about evacuation plans and confirm reservations if planning to stay at a motel.
- Double check places you can stay between your home and destination should roads become clogged.
- Double check your emergency supplies for family and pets.
- Monitor TV and radio broadcasts.

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PREPARE YOUR HOME

- To protect your home, put up shutters or plywood on all windows and openings.
- Move patio furniture, hanging plants and gas grills inside.
- If your home is vulnerable to rising water, move valuables and furniture to a higher level.
- Turn off lights, household appliances, heating systems, or cooling and ventilation systems.
- 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 the storm.
- If the house is supplied with natural or propane gas, check well in advance with your gas company on what to do.
- Fill boats with water to weigh them down and check mooring lines.
- Leave BEFORE a mandatory evacuation if you are towing a trailer or boat.
- Make a final walk-through inspection of the home before closing the door.

ON THE ROAD

- Leave with a full tank of gas.
- Leave early, remain calm and travel only as far as necessary to reach a safe area.
- Watch for instructions on Texas Department of Transportation road signs.
- Continue monitoring radio broadcasts in your vehicle.
- Be patient with road congestion because heavy traffic in an evacuation is unavoidable.
- Do not drive into water across a roadway: Turn Around, Don't Drown.
- Do not try to ride out a hurricane in your vehicle.

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VICTORIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK: May 24 – 30, 2009

Emergency Kits for Texans with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs

VICTORIA – Victoria residents with special health care needs – including people who are disabled or medically fragile – should **PLAN IN ADVANCE** for storm season. If you have special needs, live in an evacuation zone and do not have friends or family to help you leave, register **IN ADVANCE** for assisted transportation by dialing 2-1-1.

This service is for people who cannot make other transportation arrangements. If you want to register for assisted transportation and want to verify that you live in an evacuation zone, you may contact 2-1-1.

Here is an evacuation checklist for persons with special health care needs:

- ✓ Medical equipment and assistive devices (glasses, hearing aid, catheters, augmentative communication devices, cane, wheelchair, scooter, walker, dressing aids, oxygen, tubing, feeding supplies, drinking straws, etc.) Label each with your name and contact information. Be sure to have extra batteries and chargers.
- ✓ List of model numbers or serial numbers of medical devices and equipment.
- ✓ Medical alert tags or bracelets and written description of your disability-related or health care conditions.
- ✓ Medications and copies of all prescriptions, including a list of the prescription name, dosage, frequency, doctor and pharmacist. Also consider if medications need to be refrigerated and if so, bring a cooler with an ice pack or other coolant system.
- ✓ Hygiene supplies including absorbent pads and urinal as needed and personal grooming items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, towel, washcloth, comb, brush.
- ✓ Phone numbers and names of your physicians or other health care providers, health insurance information, emergency contact information including your support network members.
- ✓ Supplies for a service animal including food, identification tags, proof of up-to-date vaccinations and veterinarian contact.

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VICTORIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK: May 24 – 30, 2009

Evacuating with Your Pets

Victoria – Family pets should never be left behind in an evacuation. As families in evacuation areas prepare for hurricane season, they also need to plan for the family pet.

Decide now where you and your family will stay if local officials call for an evacuation. Many hotels or shelters may not allow pets. Prepare an emergency kit for each pet in a waterproof, easy-to-carry container. Families evacuating in their own vehicles can use this check list:

- A secure pet carrier, cage or crate, plus leash and collar or harness for each pet
- Muzzle (Anxiety and stress can cause any pet to bite. A muzzle serves to protect both the pet and other people.)
- An up-to-date identification tag on your pet's collar and proof of ownership, such as a picture of you with your pet
- Veterinary records and medications, such as flea or heartworm treatment, along with emergency contact information
- One week's worth of food and water for each pet, including dishes, spoon and a can opener
- Written feeding and medication instructions, including what NOT to feed your pet
- Clean-up supplies: paper towels, newspaper, kitty litter with pan and scoop for cats, sealable bags for disposing of waste, wet and dry wipes and hand sanitizers
- Pet toys, bedding and treats

If you will need transportation assistance during an evacuation, dial 2-1-1 in advance to add your name to the Transportation Assistance Registry. No one will be denied transportation assistance because he or she is traveling with a pet.

For more information on care for household pets and livestock during evacuation and sheltering, see:

Texas State Animal Resource Team (TXSART): www.txsart.org

Texas Animal Health Commission Web site: www.tahc.state.tx.us



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