

Hurricane Season 2020

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Hurricane season for the Atlantic basin, which includes the Gulf of

Mexico, runs from July 1st through November 31st each year. Preparing for the 2020 hurricane season may require additional planning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hurricane Harvey on the verge of making landfall on the Texas coast on August 25, 2017, (flickr.com/photos/noaasatellites/36816394625: accessed July 16, 2020), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, crediting Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIARA).

Below we've listed state and federal resources related to hurricane preparedness, emergency planning and management, and disaster assistance. Several include information that addresses the additional challenges to emergency management created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please use the contact information on the respective organizations' websites for any questions specific to their purposes.

Looking for historical gubernatorial disaster declarations or legislative reports? Our [Texas Governors database](#) includes past gubernatorial proclamations, including disaster declarations related to hurricanes. The database contains a link to the popular search [Disaster declarations and related materials, 2001-present](#). Our [Legislative reports database](#) also contains committee reports related to [tropical storms](#), [Hurricane Harvey](#), and [emergency management](#).

Texas Resources

Office of the Texas Governor

- [Texas Hurricane Center](#)

Provides guidance and resources on how to prepare for a hurricane. Updated to include timely information related to evacuations and open emergency shelters.

Public Utility Commission of Texas

- [Storm Resources](#)

Provides information on road closures, utility contacts, and an electric outage map.

Texas.gov

- **Texas Emergency Portal**

Provides access to critical information during emergencies. Includes information related to the hurricane season: preparing for a storm, evacuating to safety, accessing government resources, dealing with emergencies, and avoiding scams and frauds.

Texas A&MAgriLife Extension Service

- **Hurricanes**

Lists links to resources related to hurricane preparation as well as recovery after a disaster, including animal issues.

Texas Department of Insurance

- **Disasters: How to Prepare and Recover**

Includes links to resources related to home, property, and auto insurance coverage for disasters, including reviewing policies and filing claims.

Texas Department of Transportation

- **Hurricane Information**

Includes maps of evacuation routes from the Texas coast and a link to guides for traveling major highways in the region during an evacuation.

Texas Division of Emergency Management

- **State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)**

A voluntary registry for individuals who may need assistance during an emergency. Provides local emergency planners and emergency responders with additional information on the needs in their community.

- ***Local Emergency Management Planning Guide*, January 2008**

Provides recommendations to local officials on how to prepare and keep current a local or inter-jurisdictional emergency management plan. Outlines local, state, and federal government emergency management responsibilities.

- **State of Texas Emergency Management Plan**

Includes links to the basic emergency management plan for the state and plans for more in-depth emergency support functions.

Federal and National Resources

American Flood Coalition

- *A Dual Disaster Handbook: 6 Recommendations for Local Leaders Responding to Floods during COVID-19*, May 2020
Provides recommendations for local leaders dealing with flooding during the COVID-19 pandemic. Includes a checklist of recommended actions and issues to consider.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States Department of Health and Human Services

- *Natural Disasters, Severe Weather, and COVID-19*
Includes information and resources related to preparing for hurricanes and natural disasters during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), United States Department of Homeland Security

- *DisasterAssistance.gov*
Allows users to find and apply for disaster assistance. Includes an interactive map of current federally-declared disasters.
- *COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season*, May 2020
Describes planning considerations for emergency managers in light of the challenges to disaster operations posed by COVID-19.
- *Ready.gov*
- *Prepare Your Organization for a Hurricane: Playbook*
Provides community leaders and employers with tools and resources to support hurricane preparedness efforts.
- *Local Emergency Management Information*
Lists contact information for local emergency management departments found within each state, including Texas.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Department of Commerce

- *National Hurricane Center*

Provides up-to-date forecasts and warnings of hazardous tropical weather, including tropical storms and hurricanes.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OHSA), United States Department of Labor

- **Hurricane Preparedness and Response**

Documents employer responsibilities and workers' rights associated with response and recovery operations after a hurricane. Includes links to fact sheets for related worker safety and health resources.

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