

CITY OF BEAUMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**DATE: 5-27-09
TIME: 3:30 PM**

OFFICER RANDY STEVENS

(News media outlets: Brad Penisson and Randy Stevens will be at the City of Beaumont EOC on Friday 5-29-09 at 10:00 AM for interviews.)

With the start of hurricane season on June 1st the City of Beaumont Emergency Management wants to help everyone prepare for it. Here are some suggestions to help you get started

WHEN LOCAL OFFICIALS CALL FOR AN EVACUATION:

WHEN THERE'S A HURRICANE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO, FILL YOUR GAS TANK AND KEEP IT FULL. START MONITORING RADIO AND TV BROADCASTS -- AND LISTEN TO INSTRUCTIONS FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS. HURRICANES MAY TAKE SEVERAL DAYS TO ARRIVE. MAKE EVACUATION PLANS BEFORE THE STORM. GET YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT READY TO GO -- WITH FOOD, WATER, BATTERIES AND OTHER SUPPLIES. WHEN LOCAL OFFICIALS CALL FOR A MANDATORY EVACUATION, FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT:

EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS CAN HAPPEN ANY TIME. KEEP EMERGENCY SUPPLIES ON HAND IN YOUR HOME, OFFICE AND CAR – ESPECIALLY DURING HURRICANE SEASON. YOU'LL NEED NON-PERISHABLE FOOD, WATER AND BATTERIES. YOU'LL ALSO NEED CASH, CREDIT CARDS, COPIES OF MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS AND INSURANCE INFORMATION. DON'T FORGET PRODUCTS FOR BABIES, THE ELDERLY AND SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS. WHEN LOCAL OFFICIALS CALL FOR A MANDATORY EVACUATION, TOP OFF YOUR GAS TANK BEFORE YOU GET ON THE ROAD.

ON THE ROAD IN AN EVACUATION:

HURRICANES ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. MAKE EVACUATION PLANS IN ADVANCE. KEEP HIGHWAY MAPS IN YOUR CAR AND LEARN EVACUATION ROUTES BEFORE THE STORM. WHEN LOCAL OFFICIALS CALL FOR A MANDATORY EVACUATION – HIGHWAYS WILL BE CROWDED. WATCH FOR TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY SIGNS – AND LISTEN TO YOUR CAR RADIO. REMEMBER, MAKE TRAVEL PLANS IN ADVANCE, MONITOR TV AND RADIO -- AND EXPECT YOUR TRIP TO TAKE LONGER THAN USUAL.

FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS IN EMERGENCIES:

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, YOUR FAMILY NEEDS A PLACE TO CALL AND A PLACE TO MEET. PLAN AHEAD TO KEEP IN TOUCH. CHOOSE A LOCATION IN YOUR TOWN TO MEET IF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS BLOCKED OFF. WHEN

LOCAL TELEPHONES DON'T WORK, YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO CALL OUT-OF-STATE. CHOOSE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE OUT OF STATE -- AND TEACH YOUR KIDS THE PHONE NUMBER. REMEMBER, PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES WITH YOUR FAMILY. CHOOSE A PLACE TO CALL AND A PLACE TO MEET.

LEAVE EARLY WITH FRAGILE FAMILY MEMBERS:

HURRICANES ARE DANGEROUS AND UNPREDICTABLE. MAKE SPECIAL PLANS FOR BABIES – THE ELDERLY – AND MEDICALLY FRAGILE FAMILY MEMBERS. IT WILL TAKE MUCH LONGER TO TRAVEL DURING A MANDATORY EVACUATION. MAKE SURE YOUR EMERGENCY KIT INCLUDES SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS – AND SUPPLIES FOR BABIES AND THE ELDERLY. MAKE TRAVEL EASIER FOR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. LEAVE BEFORE THE OFFICIAL EVACUATION BEGINS.

LEAVE EARLY IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS:

WHEN A HURRICANE THREATENS, BE PREPARED. IT WILL TAKE MUCH LONGER TO TRAVEL DURING A MANDATORY EVACUATION. IF YOU'VE GOT SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS – AND YOU CAN TRAVEL ON YOUR OWN -- IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO LEAVE AHEAD OF THE CROWD. MAKE YOUR EVACUATION PLANS IN ADVANCE. BRING SPECIAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES ALONG WITH YOUR EMERGENCY KIT. LEARN YOUR ROUTES AHEAD OF TIME. AVOID CROWDED HIGHWAYS. LEAVE EARLY -- BEFORE A MANDATORY EVACUATION BEGINS.

TRAVELING WITH EXTRA VEHICLES? LEAVE EARLY:

WHEN A HURRICANE THREATENS, BE SMART. DON'T MAKE TRAFFIC WORSE. IF YOU HAVE EXTRA VEHICLES, GET THEM OUT EARLY -- BEFORE A MANDATORY EVACUATION. IF YOU WAIT UNTIL THE MANDATORY EVACUATION – TAKE ONLY ONE VEHICLE. REMEMBER, IF YOU WANT TO TRAVEL WITH A BOAT, A CAMPER, AN EXTRA CAR OR TRUCK – DON'T CROWD THE HIGHWAYS. GET THESE EXTRA VEHICLES OUT OF THE EVACUATION ZONE BEFORE LOCAL OFFICIALS ORDER A MANDATORY EVACUATION.

HURRICANE WATCH AND HURRICANE WARNING:

HURRICANES ARE DANGEROUS AND UNPREDICTABLE. THEY CAN GET MUCH STRONGER – AND CHANGE DIRECTIONS -- IN A MATTER OF HOURS. A HURRICANE **WATCH** MEANS A HURRICANE IS ABOUT 36 HOURS AWAY. A HURRICANE **WARNING** MEANS A HURRICANE WILL HIT YOUR AREA IN 24 HOURS. WHEN A STORM IS ANYWHERE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO, BE PREPARED TO EVACUATE. MAKE YOUR EVACUATION PLANS NOW -- BEFORE A STORM. AND GET YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TOGETHER NOW -- BEFORE A STORM.

REGISTER FOR 211:

Southeast Texans who need assistance in evacuating if an evacuation is ordered, and have not already registered with 211, are urged to call 211 to register now. Authorities need to have a count of how many citizens that will need assistance to evacuate to safety. If someone has already registered with 211 but needs to update their information, such as an address or phone number change, they should not call 211 again. That would cause a duplication of records. Instead, they should call their local

jurisdiction. For Beaumont residents, that number is 409-880-3905. It is important to note that citizens will not be picked up at their homes unless prior arrangements have been made and confirmed by your city/county officials. The general population will be directed to neighborhood assembly sites where they will catch a bus to a centralized location. Once there, they will need to provide identification and get registered. Once that is completed, citizens will board buses that will transport them to shelters in counties North of the Golden Triangle.

PETS DURING AN EVACUATION:

Citizens are allowed to evacuate with pets. Those pets must be placed in a pet carrier and the owners must have a leash. Animals not in a pet carrier are required to be muzzled and leashed. It is recommended that animals have their vaccination tags attached to their collars. These rules are in place to protect the animals as well as the citizens.

**CHECK LIST TO INVENTORY YOUR POSSESSIONS FOR INSURANCE
PURPOSED:**

<http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/pubs/consumer/cb086.pdf>

WEB SITES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

WWW.SETINFO.ORG

WWW.CITYOFBEAUMONT.COM Click ON THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LINK