



FEMA

E-News Update

This E-News update includes information on federal and state resources available to help Texas businesses and employees recover from Hurricane Ike. We welcome your comments, questions, good stories and suggested topics. See below for details.

GALVESTON RECOVERY GROUP FINALIZING LONG-TERM PLANS

Galveston currently has two Community Long-Term Recovery Committee Meetings scheduled for Mondays, March 2 and March 9. The meetings will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Galveston Island Convention Center, 5600 Seawall Blvd. Additional meetings are being considered.

Plans are coming together for a presentation of the findings from all their meetings on Saturday, March 28, also at the Convention Center. The time for this meeting was not immediately available. Citizens are encouraged to refer to the Web site below for updates about meetings, times and locations.

For more information, contact the Galveston Community Recovery Committee at recoverygalveston.org or the Galveston City Planning Department, recovery@cityofgalveston.org, 409-797-3660.

COUNTY COMMITTEES CRAFTING LONG-TERM RECOVERY PLANS

Long-term recovery groups in Chambers and Jefferson counties are scheduled to meet through March to develop plans to meet the needs of their citizens.

This week, Chambers County Recovery Team (ChaRT) groups met to discuss wildlife habitat; economics and industry; infrastructure; and healthcare and emergency services. The infrastructure and the community development workgroups will meet on Friday. Next week, the Trinity Bay workgroup meets on Monday. From Wednesday, March 3, forward, the Chambers Steering Committee is scheduled to meet every other Wednesday. For more information, contact ChaRT Chairman Guy Robert Jackson at 409-267-6681.

In Jefferson County, City Manager Steve Fitzgibbons is the point-of-contact appointed by the mayor for Port Arthur / Sabine Pass. The Sabine Pass Working Group meeting is held every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, Fitzgibbons can be reached at 409-983-8102.

FEMA HURRICANE IKE WEB PAGE OFFERS RESOURCES

Announcements, success stories, media releases, video webisodes, links to recovery information and more are available at: www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/2008/ike/.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SITUATION UPDATE:

CLOSE OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 2009

- Housing and Other Needs Assistance disbursed grants: **\$502,426,886**
- Small Business Administration approved loan amounts: **\$570,555,000**
 - Including **1,355** low-interest business loans: **\$157,322,000**
- Current Deadlines:
 - Transitional Sheltering Assistance in Hotels & Motels (TSA): March 13, 2009
 - SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan: June 15, 2009

ADDITIONAL 90 DAYS GRANTED FOR FILING NFIP LOSS STATEMENT

Texans who suffered flood losses due to Hurricane Ike and had policies backed by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) have an additional 90 days, until June 8, 2009, to file their proofs of loss. Local insurance agents sell flood policies backed by NFIP.

A proof of loss is a sworn statement from the policyholder that substantiates the insurance claim and is usually required to be submitted within 60 days of the loss. FEMA, which administers the NFIP, approved an additional 120 days late last year. The new approval gives policyholders another three months to get their paperwork in.

There were 504,409 NFIP policies in force in September 2008 in the 34 Texas counties eligible for federal disaster assistance in connection with Hurricane Ike. More than \$58.1 billion was the amount of coverage provided by the NFIP policies in those 34 counties.

NFIP policyholders are urged to report their losses as soon as possible. Policyholders can report losses by calling their insurance companies or agents. This is the first step in the claims process. After a loss is reported, it is assigned to an adjuster, who contacts the policyholder for an inspection. Due to the large number of insured losses occurring nationally, adjusters are in short supply.

After the adjuster's initial visit, the policyholder may need to contact contractors and meet again with an adjuster to settle on the dollar amounts of losses. After the policyholder and adjuster come to agreement, the proof of loss is filed. Payment is made after the insurance company approves the proof of loss.

To be eligible for a flood insurance payment, policyholders need to have experienced direct physical loss by or from flooding resulting from Hurricane Ike and they need to have had a policy in effect at the time of the loss. It is not necessary for the policy to still be in effect when the loss is reported and the proof of loss filed. Additional information about the NFIP is available from **local insurance agents**, online at www.floodsmart.gov or by calling **1-800-638-6620**.

FEMA ADVISERS AT TEXAS HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTERS

Teams of FEMA hazard mitigation specialists are at Texas stores, answering questions about protecting homes and businesses from future disaster damage and other storm-damage topics.

The FEMA representatives explain flood- and wind-resistant building techniques and offer advice on topics such as building elevation, safe rooms, wind straps, flood insurance and other measures to make buildings stronger and safer. They also offer publications on similar topics. FEMA specialists will not be available on Wednesdays and Sundays at any of the locations.

Brazoria Co	McCoy's Building Supply	1300 N. Hwy 288B Mon-Tues & Thurs-Fri - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Clute, TX	Through March 12 Sat - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Galveston Co	The Home Depot	3200 Gulf Freeway Mon-Tues & Thurs-Sat - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Dickinson, TX	Through March 12
Harris County	Lowe's	19225 Gulf Freeway Mon-Tues & Thurs-Sat - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Webster, TX	Through March 12
Harris County	McCoy's Building Supply	330 Ward Rd. Mon-Tues & Thurs-Fri - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Baytown, TX	Through March 12 Sat - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Harris County	Home Depot	999 North Loop West Mon-Tues & Thurs-Sat - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Houston, TX	Through March 12
Harris County	Home Depot	6800 W Sam Houston Pkwy S Mon-Tues & Thurs-Sat - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	S Houston, TX	Through March 12
Harris County	Home Depot	4159 FM 1960 Rd W Mon-Tues & Thurs-Sat - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Houston, TX	Through March 12
Montgomery Co	Home Depot	6119 FM 1488 Mon-Tues & Thurs-Sat - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Magnolia, TX	Through March 12
Orange County	McCoy's Building Supply	4514 W. Lutchter Dr. Mon-Tues & Thurs-Fri - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Orange, TX	Through March 12 Sat - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

QUICK REFERENCE

FEMA Helpline	800-621-3362	www.fema.gov
FEMA Disaster Recovery Center Locations	http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/dr1791_drc_list.htm	
TX Hurricane Ike web page	http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10570	
SBA Disaster Information Helpline	800-659-2955	www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance
IRS Disaster Assistance Hotline	866-562-5227	www.irs.gov
FEMA Landlord Registry – to list rentals	512-820-7838	or 866-766-6086
FEMA Housing Portal – to find rentals	https://asd.fema.gov/inter/hportal/home.htm	
TX Disaster Legal Services Hotline	800-504-7030	
EPA Orphan Container Hotline	800-671-6022	
FEMA for Kids	http://www.fema.gov/kids	

PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICE TRANSITIONS OPERATIONS TO REGION

The FEMA Region VI Headquarters Private Sector Office (PSO) in Denton, Texas, will take over the work of the Austin PSO beginning this weekend.

The **E-News Update** will continue to be published periodically by the Region VI office. The Region VI PSO can be contacted either through the e-mail address at the bottom, or by calling **940-898-5200**.

FEMA had a private sector Field Liaison working pre-landfall for Hurricane Ike. In early November, FEMA opened in Texas their first-ever fully staffed PSO operation with Field Liaisons in Beaumont, Galveston and Houston supported from the Austin Joint Field Office.

FEMA PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICE

This **E-News Update** is provided periodically by the FEMA Private Sector Office. If you no longer wish to receive these Private Sector **E-News Updates**, reply with your contact information and the word "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. If someone forwarded you this e-mail and you would like to be added to the distribution list, send an e-mail with your contact information and the word "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line to FEMA-TX-Private-Sector@fema.gov.

Contact Phone: 940-898-5200 **e-mail:** FEMA-TX-PRIVATE-SECTOR@FEMA.GOV

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