



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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PRESS RELEASE

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Patterson approves reconstruction of coastal structures after Ike

Emergency rules adopted today to allow the rebuilding of coastal structures damaged by hurricane

AUSTIN — Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, today authorized emergency rules that allow coastal property owners to immediately begin work to stabilize and repair structures damaged by Hurricane Ike.

The emergency rules suspend the normal permit and application process required for coastal construction, and are in effect for the next 120 days. The emergency rules are only applicable in coastal counties with local dune protection and beach access plans within the counties of Nueces, Matagorda, Brazoria and Galveston.

“These emergency rules will help homeowners patch-up what’s left after Ike passes,” Patterson said. “Complete recovery’s going to be a long and arduous process, but these rules will help start that process moving.”

The Texas General Land Office is the state agency responsible for overseeing the Texas coast, erosion control and response as well as oil spill prevention and recovery. The Land Office also oversees enforcement of the Texas Open Beaches Act, the Dune Protection Act and works to maintain healthy beaches.

The emergency rules allow local governments to issue authorizations for emergency stabilization and repair of residential structures to eliminate threats to public health, safety and welfare. Under the rules, the normal permitting process will not apply. Emergency authorizations are valid for no more than 180 days after they are issued. Septic systems damaged by the storm may be authorized for repair by local governments under the emergency rules, as long as the system complies with all state and local on-site sewage storage facilities.

The emergency rules also allow local governments to begin immediate repair to any shoreline protection structures.

Coastal field staff from the Texas General Land Office will conduct damage assessments along the coast in conjunction with FEMA and local government officials. Aerial photographs will be used to determine a line of vegetation for the purpose of implementing the emergency rules.

Ike’s final impact on the coastline won’t be fully determined for several months.

“We know the line of vegetation will recover over time,” Patterson said. “A full recovery could take years.”

To see the emergency rules, visit www.glo.state.tx.us.

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