



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
SITUATION REPORT
September 7, 2017, 2:00 PM EDT

Hurricane Harvey (Category 4) – Gulf of Mexico

Overview. Beginning as early as August 17, 2017, the National Hurricane Center reported the development of a low-pressure area east of Lesser Antilles that was expected to become the eighth named tropical storm in the Atlantic Ocean this season. Harvey continued to intensify into a major Category 4 Hurricane just before making landfall near Rockport, Texas, on August 24, 2017. Harvey produced major to record flooding due to the heavy rains along several basins in south central and southeast Texas, including San Bernard, Colorado, Navidad, and Guadalupe. Catastrophic flooding resulted from rainfall amounts of more than 50 inches in the Houston metro area. In addition, several tornadoes were reported in the Houston area.

Current. Response and recovery efforts continue throughout the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana. Rivers continue to recede in the region, however major to record levels will persist through late this week or early next week for several areas, including Houston and Beaumont.

Declaration Activity

Texas:

Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-4332-DR-TX effective August 25, 2017

- Amendment No. 5, effective September 4, adds seven additional counties (Austin, Bastrop, DeWitt, Gonzales, Karnes, Lavaca, and Lee) for Individual Assistance and assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance Program, bringing the total number of counties under disaster declaration to 43.
- Amendment No. 4, effective September 2, authorizes 90% federal cost share for debris removal, including Direct Federal Assistance, and a 100% federal cost share for emergency protective measures, including Direct Federal Assistance, for 30 days from the start of the incident period, and then a 90% federal cost share thereafter.
- Amendment No. 2, effective August 30, includes 11 additional counties approved and added for Individual Assistance (Category A and B.)
- Amendment No. 1, effective August 27, includes 19 counties.
- The Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) is Kevin L. Hannes.
- The Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC) is Mike Byrne.

Counties: Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Bexar, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Dallas, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tarrant, Travis, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton

Louisiana:

Emergency Declaration FEMA-3382-EM-LA effective August 27, 2017

- There are 12 total number of parishes under disaster declaration.
- The FCO is William J. Doran II.

Parishes: Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine, Vermilion, Vernon

PRIORITIES FOR HUD

- **Protect the health and safety of HUD employees.** HUD regional offices are closely monitoring the storm and guidance provided by state and local officials to protect the health and safety of HUD personnel. HUD offices will make decisions on office closures based on local information. Office of Field Policy and Management (FPM) is tracking and reporting office closures.

Status (as of August 30, 2017, preliminary check of staff completed):

- All offices in Texas and Louisiana are open and fully operational.
 - All staff are safe and accounted for.
- **Assess potential impacts to HUD programs and clients:**

Healthcare Section 232/242	Number of Properties in the Impacted (PDD) Area	Number of Beds in the Impacted (PDD) Area
Texas	40	4,704

Multifamily Housing	Number of Properties in the Impacted (PDD) Area	Total Number of Units in the Impacted (PDD) Area	Number of Assisted Units in the Impacted (PDD) Area
Texas	454	50,818	20,971

Public and Indian Housing	Number of Housing Authorities in the Impacted (PDD) Area	Total Number of Properties in the Impacted (PDD) Area	Total Number of Units/Households in the Impacted (PDD) Area
Texas	42	773	199,494

- **Provide staffing support to the Joint Field Office (JFO) Austin, TX**
- **Coordination of long-term recovery efforts**

Actions Taken

- HUD activated Disaster Management Group (DMG) which is comprised of senior leadership and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs.) HUD continues deployment efforts; HUD is currently embedded at FEMA's National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, DC and JFO Austin, TX.

- At the request of the Emergency Support Function (ESF) Coordinator for Department of Justice's Alcohol Tobacco Firearms (ATF), HUD provided a list of the 14 volunteer agents, including a manager, to be deployed for up to 30 days to Houston, TX. Agents will deploy from Denver, Louisiana, Philadelphia, and DC.
- Attended the daily FEMA Tropical Harvey VTC at 12:30 p.m.
- Attended the daily National Incident Communication Conference Call Line (NCCL) at 11:00 a.m. to discuss federal coordination and response to Hurricane Harvey.
- Provided vacancy list to FEMA on HUD assisted units.
- Issued Disaster Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
- As directed by and in coordination with FEMA, deployed Public Affairs Officer (PAO) SME to perform duties associated with ESF #15 *DHS/FEMA External Affairs*, in support of response operations.
- The Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) sent electronic versions (.pdf files) of its housing-related mold safety publications to the University of Houston and the Houston Health Department, which are working with local shelters and the Houston Public School District.
- The OLHCHH held a conference call with Houston Health Department on their request for assistance or, if possible, financial support for development of an environmental health and housing registry. The OLHCHH advised that CDBG-DR funds could be used for this purpose and is further exploring other funding options and relevant contacts for any resources that might already exist.
- The OLHCHH enhanced its disaster recovery website, Post-Disaster Healthy Housing Resources (www.hud.gov/healthyhomes/disasterrecovery), which is linked from the Departmental Hurricane Harvey website (www.hud.gov/harvey), and provided links for materials to be added to the Office of Policy Development and Research's (PD&R) Disaster Recovery Tool Kit website (www.huduser.gov/portal/sandy.html)
- The OLHCHH continues to provide social media messaging related to disaster recovery and added disaster-related content for its lead regulations hotline (202-402-7698).
- The Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) field staff are in regular contact with affected Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to gather information on families displaced, units available for leasing and impacts to properties. As data is available, it is entered in the daily and weekly reports to HUD HQ. All PHAs have been advised of flexibilities PIH can offer, such as postponed physical inspections and reporting extensions. As PHA staff are busy assisting displaced residents, PIH works to balance demands on and support of the PHA staff.
- PIH is in daily contact with Houston to ensure safety of all its staff.
- The eGIS team continues to provide daily updates of selected datasets and resources to inform the response and recovery efforts for DR-4332. The primary Situational Awareness (SIT-REP) tool developed for this event can be found using the following link: <https://hud.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=30f7639585c9430c810dd3577a16b01d>
- PD&R is working with FEMA to facilitate information transfer which will allow HUD to identify the assisted housing residents in FEMA shelters and hotels. This will allow HUD to coordinate with grantees to get those families rehoused.
- Region VI participated in a conference call with San Antonio FO and Houston HA to discuss additional voucher issuances for displaced families. Discussed HUD and PHA roles in GRB shelter in Houston. Requested list of affected tenants who are not currently in Temporary Sheltering Assistance (TSA) but unit is uninhabitable.
- Region VI handled multiple inquiries from FEMA Disability Integration and Individual Assistance on displaced Section 8 persons.

- Region VI collaborated with PIH to obtain damage assessment data and current vacant units which are being collected from the region.
- Region VI performed training for FEMA Individual Assistance shelter teams in the JFO (attendance between 50-75). Training included HUD programs, HUD shelter support and ongoing monitoring of HUD clients.
- Region VI worked with FEMA Individual Assistance on receiving confirmed shelter numbers throughout Texas; this data was used to determine placements for inbound disaster volunteers.

Next Steps

- Once deemed safe, HUD Program Offices will conduct damage assessments.
- FPM Customer Relationship Management (CRM) disaster module will be implemented across 30+ staff at Ft. Worth office handling customer service calls. Initial training was completed on 9/1. Additional training will be provided to Ft. Worth and deployed staff over the next two weeks.

Issues/Challenges

- Information on persons with Housing Choice Voucher assistance will be delayed, as the PHAs need time to assess habitability of all privately-owned rental properties. PIH will report any relevant information as it is received.
- As reported from the field, HUD assisted persons are being told by other agency staff that they are not eligible for FEMA assistance and should go through their PHA for assistance. *(Already reported)*
- The requisite daily vacancy data due to HUD HQ has been a challenging ask to the PHAs in the field given they are extremely busy assisting their residents and new applicants for assistance.
- There are numerous reports of impacts to HUD properties and displaced clients in shelters. Pre-disaster homeless populations are also emerging in the shelters. Damage assessments are in process but slowed by the ongoing disaster conditions and access to impacted areas.
- There are duplications of benefits issues across HUD clients that were discussed with FEMA at the Region VI JFO.

AVAILABLE HUD DISASTER ASSISTANCE

- **Assist the State of Texas and local governments in re-allocating existing federal resources toward disaster relief.** HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs give the state and local communities the flexibility to redirect millions of dollars in annual formula funding to address critical needs, including housing and services for disaster victims. HUD is currently contacting State and local officials to explore streamlining the Department's CDBG and HOME programs to expedite the repair and replacement of damaged housing.
- **Grant immediate foreclosure relief.** HUD has granting a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures and forbearance on foreclosures of Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured home mortgages. There are approximately 200,000 FHA-insured homeowners living in these impacted counties.
- **Make mortgage insurance available.** HUD's Section 203(h) program provides FHA insurance to disaster victims who have lost their homes and are facing the daunting task of rebuilding or buying another home. Borrowers from participating FHA-approved lenders may be eligible for 100 percent financing.

- **Make insurance available for both mortgages and home rehabilitation.** HUD's Section 203(k) loan program enables those who have lost their homes to finance the purchase or refinance of a house along with its repair through a single mortgage. It also allows homeowners who have damaged houses to finance the rehabilitation of their existing single-family home.
- **Offer Section 108 loan guarantee assistance.** HUD will offer state and local governments federally guaranteed loans for housing rehabilitation, economic development and repair of public infrastructure.
- **Provide information on housing providers and HUD programs.** HUD will share information with FEMA and the state on housing providers that may have available units in the impacted counties. This includes Public Housing Agencies and Multi-Family owners. HUD will also connect FEMA and the state to SMEs to provide information on HUD programs and providers.

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