

September 27, 2023
Greater Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee
Bi-Monthly Meeting Notes

Logistics

10:00AM – 12:00PM

American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77098

Welcome

Business

Introductions

Chair/Vice Chair Report

- Pipeline Emergency Response Grant (*PHMSA PERG 693JK323NF0001*) Status – In progress
- LA Times Article “*Commentary: Complaining that Tropical Storm Hilary was overhyped? Welcome to the club, L.A.*” August 21, 2023, <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2023-08-21/how-much-hype-was-appropriate-for-tropical-storm-hilary>
- Potential Fund Raisers under consideration: BBQ Cookoff; Cars, Trucks and Coffee; Golf Tournament; and Requests for sponsors via mail/email
- Convenience Store fuel spills
- Houston Community College – active participation; new interim Chancellor
- Brazos County LEPC – upcoming meeting; leadership updates

Meeting Notes (available at <https://ghlepc.org/information>)

Treasurer Report – as provided in the meeting

Member Reports / Local Updates – see below

TCEQ Updates – see below

EPA Updates – see below

Officers nominated and voted in by voice for the 2024-2025 Term

Denise Chatam Walker – Chair

Karen LaFleur – Vice Chair

Cathy Johnson – Treasurer

PIO Report

Houston Fire Department Updates –

New PIO Assigned to GHLEPC Captain Dana Brown, Hazmat.

Special thank you to Captain Jason Wilson for his service to the GHLEPC

Presentation – TCEQ Small Business & Local Government Assistance Section (SBLGA), Ms. Becky Rebecca Costigan and Ms. Theodora Jacobs. (See <https://ghlepc.org/information> for presentation)

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, November 29, 2023**

LOCAL UPDATES

1. New Harris County Industrial Liaison OEM, Brett Conaway. He may be reached at brett.conaway@oem.hctx.net, 832.207.3323, or 832.657.5338.
2. **Texas Southern University Fall 2023 Tiger Career Fair**, Wednesday, October 4th, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the HP&E Arena, Texas Southern University.
(<https://www.tsu.edu/students-services/departments/career-services/career-fairs/>)
Registration Details:
 - Corporations and For-Profit Employers: \$650.00
 - Government Entities: \$350.00
 - Non-Profit Organizations and Schools: \$200.00
3. **EHCMA** (ehcma.org)
 - **2023 Workforce Development Golf Tournament** on October 27, at Wildcat Golf Club, 12000 Almeda Road, Houston, TX. 7:00 AM - Registration & Breakfast, 8:15 AM - Scramble Shotgun Start. Team spots and event sponsorships are available! To register visit <https://birdease.com/23710> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsyZrZ44dpY>)
 - **Webinar - "Rebuilding Relationships After a Crisis"** Free, Live EHCMA Webinar on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 (To register visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYuc-GrrzorH9ROpb-VWmMlgDWZMkdXt0yD#/registration>)
 - **2023 EHCMA Annual Meeting** is scheduled on Wednesday, December 13, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the Sylvan Beach Pavilion, 1 Sylvan Beach Drive, La Porte, TX 77571

STATE UPDATES

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

1. **Water Quality/Stormwater Seminar on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023!**
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/stormwater.html>
2. TCEQ is accepting applications under the Governmental Alternative Fuel Fleet (GAFF) Program. The GAFF Program will be providing an estimated \$3.9 million in grant funding to help government entities with 15 motor vehicles or more purchase or lease new vehicles that operate primarily on compressed natural gas, liquified natural gas, liquified petroleum gas (propane), hydrogen fuel cells, or electricity. (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/gaff>)
3. **Rulemaking Adoption Chapter 338, Aboveground Storage Vessel Safety Program Rule Project No. 2022-015-338-CE.** Amends the Texas Water Code (TWC) by establishing a new Aboveground Storage Vessel Safety (ASVS) Program to provide for the protection of groundwater and surface water resources in the event of an accident or natural disaster; identify new safety elements that the TCEQ must include in the ASVS Program; and define the universe of regulated entities. It also establishes a registration/certification program, along with providing the fee structure that would be needed to fund the program. Approved 8/02/2023
(https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/adoptions/22015338_aex.pdf)
4. **Chapter 50, Actions on Applications and Other Authorizations Update to 30 TAC §50.131 Rule Project No. 2023-130-050-LS** Recent interest in air standard permit applications has brought to light an inconsistency between the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ, agency, or commission) rules in Chapter 50 and statutory requirements in Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC), §382.061(b). The rulemaking would clarify that air quality standard permits are reviewable through the commission's motion to overturn process by amending 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §50.131(c)(1) to state that the exemption applies except when a registration to use a standard permit requires a decision by the executive director.
(https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/adoptions/23130050_aex.pdf)

5. **Proposed Rulemaking Chapter 334, Underground and Aboveground Storage Tanks Amendment of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Rule to Remove Required Inventory Control Procedures at all Retail Service Stations Rule Project No. 2023-115-334-CE.** Since the beginning of Texas’ UST program in 1989, the commission’s rules have required that effective manual or automatic inventory control procedures be conducted for all underground storage tank systems at “retail service stations,” defined in 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §334.2(102). This requirement applies regardless of which release detection method is selected by an owner or operator under 30 TAC §334.50. Because newer technologies have been developed, and interstitial monitoring is required for all UST systems installed after January 1, 2009, it is unnecessary for all retail service stations to employ both inventory control procedures and the selected release detection method.
https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/current/23115334_pex.pdf

TCEQ Pending Enforcement Action – TCEQ Cases

Below are new pending enforcement actions since August 1, 2023 within the GHLEPC jurisdiction. A complete list of all enforcement actions across Texas as well as file an open records request at <https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/penenfacs/>

Case #	RN	RE Name	Respondent	Enforcement Type	Order Type	Program	Status
64825	RN102913043	THE QUEEN READY MIX 8702 LIBERTY RD HOUSTON, TX 77028	RENE D GONZALEZ	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 09/18/2023
64804	RN102576063	FLINT HILLS RESOURCES HOUSTON CHEMICAL 9822 LA PORTE FWY HOUSTON, TX 77017	INV PROPYLENE LLC	Administrative Order	1660	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening 09/13/2023
64775	RN102042512	FLEET FUEL MANAGEMENT 227 MCCARTY ST HOUSTON, TX 77029	MANSFIELD SERVICE PARTNERS SOUTH LLC	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 09/14/2023
64763	RN101226728	VFW POST 10352 16035 WAVERLY DR HOUSTON, TX 77032	SPRING ALDINE POST NO 10352 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES	Administrative Order	1660	Public water system/ supply	Initial Screening – 09/12/2023
64742	RN102444650	SYNOTT FOOD MART 3825 SYNOTT RD HOUSTON, TX 77082	SYNOTT INC	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 09/11/2023
64709	RN101236685	FATIMA FAMILY VILLAGE MHP 1003 GULF BANK RD HOUSTON, TX 77037	FATIMA FAMILY VILLAGE MHP	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 08/31/2023
64665	RN101781235	GULF FREEWAY SHELL 8115 GULF FWY HOUSTON, TX 77017	DOBANI INC	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 08/25/2023
64604	RN111214730	DAVILA, DOMINIC HUMBLE 77346	DAVILA, DOMINIC	Administrative Order	1660	OCCUPATIONA L LICENSING - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 08/25/2023
64367	RN100213107	CHANNEL ENERGY CENTER 451 LIGHT COMPANY RD	CHANNEL ENERGY CENTER LLC	Administrative Order	1660	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening 07/21/2023

Case #	RN	RE Name	Respondent	Enforcement Type	Order Type	Program	Status
64333	RN102674900	WELL 1 - 14136 HAYNES WELL 2 - 14545 CUTTEN ROAD KEY MAP 370B	CY CHAMP PUD CN601357775	Administrative Order	1660	Public water system/ supply	Initial Screening – 07/18/2023
64309	RN105507834	HARRIS COUNTY MUD 400 EAST 0 VICTORIA REACH DR HUMBLE, TX	HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT 400 CN602576126	Administrative Order	1660	Public water system/ supply	initial Screening – 07/13/2023
64229	RN101844405	(Fast & Easy) 8349 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR HOUSTON, TX 77088	A & S MEMORIAL INVESTMENT INCCN604544635	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	initial Screening – 06/21/2023
64152	RN102877776	WINDFERN PARK WATER SYSTEM8430 N SAM HOUSTON PKWY W HOUSTON, TX 77064	WINDFERN PARK OWNERS ASSOCIATION CN603547480	Administrative Order	1660	Public water system/ supply	initial Screening – 06/12/2023
64149	RN100217413	10825 TELGE RD HOUSTON, TX 77095	WYMAN-GORDON FORGINGS INC CN600129167	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	initial Screening – 06/02/2023
64135	RN102975547	KEY MAP 496D	HARRIS COUNTY MUD 8 CN600740450	Administrative Order	1660	Public water system/ supply	initial Screening – 06/08/2023
64126	RN110947363	HO CLARKE GENERATING 12584 HIRAM CLARKE RD HOUSTON, TX 77045	HO CLARKE GENERATING LLC CN605746494	Administrative Order	1660	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	initial Screening – 06/01/2023
64118	RN102473824	HANDI PLUS 12 4930 N MCCARTY ST, HOUSTON, TX 77013	FIRST WATCH SERVICE CENTER LLC CN606096030	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	initial Screening – 05/31/2023
64010	RN102186319	MIDDLESTEADT SHOPPING CENTER WWTP 14919 STUEBNER AIRLINE RD HOUSTON, TX 77069	GLADE SPRINGS MANAGEMENT LLC CN605704659	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	initial Screening – 05/12/2023

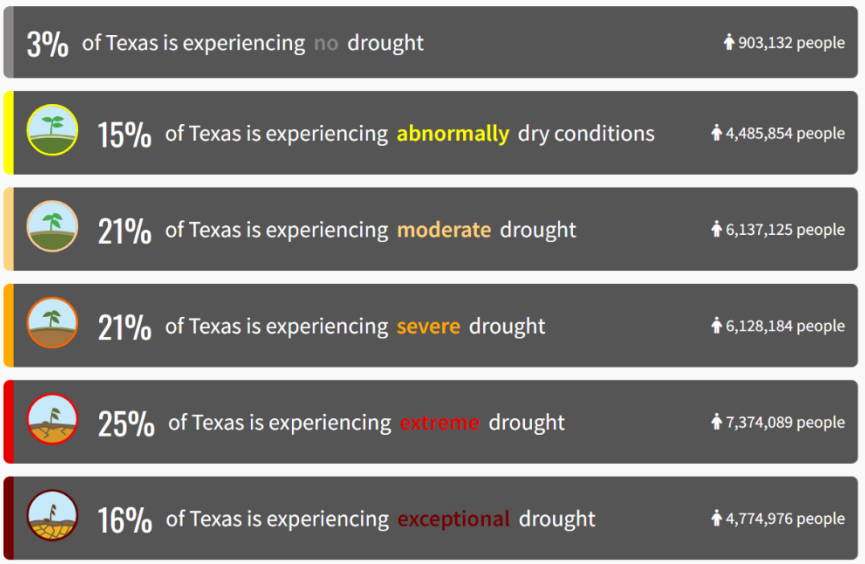
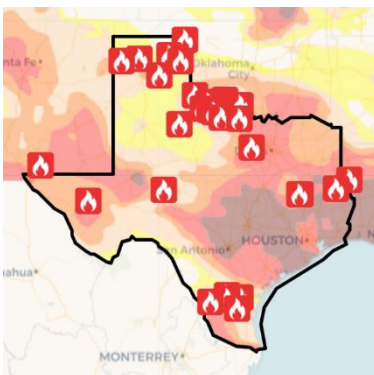
Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)

Texas Department of Insurance Updates (effective 9/1/2023) (Visit

<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/rules/index.html> for details):

1. **Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) Workplace Safety** is offering free online training for new safety professionals through a series of webinar training sessions. Part One: Safety and Health Program Development, October 24 or 26, 2023. (<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/essentialssafety.html>)
2. **Peachtree Casualty Insurance Company AKA Go Insurance Company** 4470 W Sunset Blvd Ste 107 Los Angeles, California 90027-6309. No. 2023-8150 - Official Order of the Texas Commissioner of Insurance, dated 8/28/2023, Cease and Desist Order TDI Enforcement File No. 32711 (<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/orders/documents/20238150.pdf>)
3. **HB 1040 - Electronic communication.** Allows regulated entities to conduct business electronically to the same extent as in-person transactions, provided all parties agree or receive notice and don't request otherwise. A notice of the cancellation or termination of a policy must be in paper or another nonelectronic form. (<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/billtext/html/HB01040F.htm>)
4. **HB 1900 - Earlier notice of nonrenewal or cancellation.** Requires insurance companies to give 60 days' notice (rather than 30 days' notice) for nonrenewal or cancellation of a policy. The bill applies to personal auto policies, residential property policies, and policies issued to governmental entities. (<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/billtext/html/HB01900F.htm>)
5. **HB 1706 - Right to a public adjuster.** Establishes the right of a policyholder to hire a licensed public insurance adjuster. An insurance policy may not include a provision that prohibits a policyholder from contracting with a public insurance adjuster. (<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/billtext/html/HB01706F.htm>)
6. **SB 224 - Catalytic converter theft.** Increases the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority fee from \$4 to \$5 per motor vehicle each year. SB 224 also increases criminal penalties for catalytic converter theft. (<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/billtext/html/SB00224S.htm>)

The Situation Report for Texas



Texas is 264,627 sq. mi. in size with a population of 29,806,340. There are, on average, 112.6 people per square mile. Drought data is updated every 2 weeks and was last updated 1 week ago.



91% of Harris County is experiencing **extreme** drought

↑ 4,327,765 people



9% of Harris County is experiencing **exceptional** drought

↑ 450,600 people

Harris County, Texas is 1,749 sq. mi. in size with a population of 4,778,365. There are, on average, 2,732.5 people per square mile. Drought data is updated every 2 weeks and was last updated 1 week ago.

Source: <https://www.fireweatheravalanche.org/wildfires/dashboard/texas>

FEDERAL

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

1. \$20 million in grant funding to support training for workers who protect and treat our nation's drinking water and provide critical wastewater services. Through the **Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant** program, EPA will support training and career opportunities in the water sector. Eligible organizations interested in applying must submit their application to EPA by November 17, 2023. (<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/innovative-water-infrastructure-workforce-development-program>)
2. \$4.6 billion in competitive **grants** to fund state, local, and Tribal programs and policies that **cut climate pollution, advance environmental justice, and deploy clean energy solutions** across the country. (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-availability-46-billion-competitive-grants-cut-0>)
3. **SepticSmart Week 2023**, 9/18-22, a week-long annual campaign to educate homeowners and renters on how to properly maintain their septic systems. When septic systems are well-functioning, the health of the nation's communities and ecosystems is better protected. By being SepticSmart, homeowners can also avoid thousands of dollars in unnecessary repairs. (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-kicks-eleventh-annual-septicsmart-week>)
4. Finalizing stronger standards for individuals who use Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) in the states of Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas. The current state plans have been revised to meet or exceed the improved safety requirements in the 2017 Certification of Pesticide Applicators Final Rule (CPA). (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-approval-louisiana-new-mexico-and-texas-state-certification-pesticide>)
5. **Rice University, Houston, Texas**, a Phase I recipients will receive grants of up to \$25,000 to help develop their proof of concept and will be eligible to compete for a Phase II grant of up to \$100,000 to further implement the team's designs for Chemical-free UV Unit That Degrades PFAS in Landfill Leachate Using Non-toxic Boron Nitride (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-research-grants-21-student-teams-develop-innovative-solutions-environmental>)
6. The Environmental Justice toolkit for lead paint enforcement program have been released. The Toolkit provides strategies, examples, and other information for federal, state, Tribal and local government enforcement practitioners to use during all stages of environmental enforcement and compliance monitoring activities

designed to eliminate harmful exposures to lead paint in housing. (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-environmental-justice-toolkit-lead-paint-enforcement-programs>)

7. Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens UPRR

Anticipated Sampling Schedule

Timing	Activity
September 2023	UPRR begins the process to obtain the required access agreements for private property sampling EPA approves UPRR Vapor Intrusion Field Sampling Plan
October 2023	EPA hosts community information meeting about sampling EPA approves UPRR Background Sampling and Onsite Soils Field Sampling Plan EPA approves UPRR Off-Site Residential Soils Field Sampling Plan Preparation for field investigation activities and sampling
Nov 2023-May 2024	Field investigation activities and sampling
Summer 2024	EPA uses sampling data to determine if there is a risk from HWPW site contamination EPA produces human health risk assessment UPRR produces Removal Site Evaluation report EPA determines if cleanup is necessary based on risk to public health

*Updated 9/14/2023

(<https://fifth-ward-kashmere-gardens-uprr-epa.hub.arcgis.com/>)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Visit www.ghlepc.org/training for listing of training.
2. **TCEQ**, the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (**STEERS**), Tier II Reporting (TIERII) visit <https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/>
3. **ONLINE & IN-PERSON HazMat Training. TRANSCAER®** (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response). <https://www.transcaer.com/training>.
4. **Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC)**. Visit <https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/pipeline-safety/> for details.
5. **FEMA Virtual Instructor Led Courses**
Register on the OBP/CDP Schedule & Registration Page at: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/obp> to receive updates. Note: FEMA Student Identification (SID) number and password are required to apply. To obtain a FEMA SID, go to: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>.
6. **Other Training Opportunities:**
 - a. <https://preparingtexas.org>
 - b. www.fema.gov
 - c. www.harriscountycitizencorps.com
 - d. <https://houstonuasi.com/regional-training-registration-2021/>
 - e. Texas Department of Insurance