

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS SPECIAL EDITION

Información acerca de la preparación para huracanes en Español: www.westbellfortpoa.com y <http://www.houstonoem.org/go/doctype/4027/97747/Disaster-Preparedness-Guide>

WBPOA is patrolled by :
Harris County Constable Precinct 7
Constable May Walker
Precinct 7 Dispatch 713 / 613-6602

Deputies assigned to WBPOA:

Sgt. P. Basralian
Deputy Nowlin
Deputy Dickson
Deputy Antone

Please contact your alarm company and have the Constable's precinct listed as the first police authority contact.

Going on vacation? Please register for vacation watch by visiting the Precinct 7 website and select "Vacation Watch"
<http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/conpct7/>

WBPOA BOARD MEMBERS:

Barbara Hite, President
Jeannette Calhoun, Vice President
Phil Abrams, Secretary
Marc S. Warren, Treasurer
Jonah Nathan, Board Member
Tom Roberts, Board Member
Danny Fishman, Board Member
Dyaz Godfrey, Board Member
Mari Angelo, Board Member
Neal Harris, Board Member
Asher Belles, Board Member
Barbara Gretzer, Board Member
Zally Lazarus, Board Member

June 2014

DUES REMINDER!

For the HOA to best serve our community and properly maintain our amenities, we need to receive your HOA dues promptly. The fees were due on January 1, 2014. If you have not already paid your HOA fees, please contact Ry Reid at Sterling ASAP for total amount due inclusive of late fees and any additional charges that may have been incurred.

Thank you!

WBPOA MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Ry Reid, PCAM, AMS, CMCA
Sterling Association Services
11201 Lake Woodbridge Drive
Sugar Land, TX 77498
Phone: 832-678-4500
Fax: 281-598-4487
Emails: ry@sterlingasi.com

Ludington Clubhouse Rental

Joy Cunningham 713 / 729-1053
Joycunningham@sbcglobal.net

Braesridge Clubhouse Rental

Jeannette Calhoun 713 / 203-2407
jcalhoun@insurepointe.com

NEIGHBORHOOD ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Great progress is being made with the construction along Ludington and Pembridge on the south side of West Bellfort. The 270-day construction timeline began in September 2013 and is currently 90% completed, definitely on track to finish by the end of June. The city is updating the infrastructure in our neighborhood by putting in 42" waterlines. This project will prove a great benefit to our neighborhood, and your continued patience during this process is greatly appreciated. *If you have any questions regarding the road construction, please feel free to contact City Services by dialing 311, or 713-837-0311, or by contacting Barbara Hite, District K at barbara.hite@houstontx.gov or 832-393-3016.*

Volunteers Needed to Serve as Block Captains

Block Captains are residents who volunteer their time and efforts to our community to serve as "point persons" between the residents, the HOA Board, its committees and our property management team. Responsibilities could involve personally delivering any pertinent papers or obtaining signatures on HOA proxies, such as the upcoming proxy addressing the need to revise our HOA bylaws to protect us from the Chapter 42 amendment (see next page). You may also deliver information issued by the HOA such as newsletters or event announcements, etc. as well as assist in keeping neighbors informed of emergency situations such as hurricanes. You will NOT be asked to do anything that puts yourself in harm's way nor will you be asked to do things such as enforce HOA deed restrictions. The time involved is minimal, usually requiring only the optional attendance of the HOA Board meetings once a month. However, by

Serving as the "eyes and ears" of our community, you will play a big part in keeping it safe, friendly and beautiful. You can even "co-share" and team up with a neighbor. If you have an interest in serving as a Block Captain, please contact any of the Board members or Ry Reid, or attend the upcoming Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 27 at 7:00pm, Braes Ridge Clubhouse.



Important News

As mentioned in previous newsletter, in early 2013, Houston's City Council approved amendments to Chapter 42 and Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances involving Houston's urban planning. In summary, the amendment makes the City of Houston entirely urban. Simply stated, historically developers in the City of Houston have been allowed to develop multi-plex residences (such as high rise condo developments, etc.) in neighborhoods within the inner-610 Loop area (previously the only area of Houston defined as "urban"). You may recall that residents in the Rice University area have been fighting a battle against the development of the Ashby Highrise since 2007. The new amendment now allows this type of development to occur ANYWHERE within the entire city limits. Since Houston does not have zoning, the only real protection Homeowner Associations have to keep such multi-plex developments from occurring within their subdivisions is to update their HOA bylaws by a certain deadline. The WBPOA board is in the process of amending our bylaws to protect our neighborhood and our home values, which will require a 55% homeowner approval via a special vote in order to pass. As such, sometime within the next few months, you will receive a special proxy to vote for or against the amendment to the West Belfort Property Owners HOA bylaws. We hope you vote FOR the acceptance of the newly amended bylaws, as your Board believes the amended bylaws will protect our home values as well as the peaceful aesthetics of our neighborhood. If you would like to research this issue further, please visit www.planninganddevelopment@houstontx.gov.

UPDATE: On May 1, 2014, State District Court Judge Randy Wilson denied a motion to stop construction of the 21-story Ashby Highrise in Rice Village. Developers plan to start construction immediately. This motion will make it that much easier for such developments to occur in our neighborhood in the future should the amendment to the WBPOA bylaws not be approved.

Did You Know?

The original Meyerland Plaza opened on October 31, 1957 to much fanfare. Cancan and flamenco dancers, helicopter rides and an actual balloon used in the film *Around the World in 80 Days* were just some of the entertainment offered during the 4-day long grand-opening ceremonies. Grand-opening prizes included two, 33-day trips around the world and a 1958 Chevrolet given away by Meyer Brothers, who had opened their 10th store in the Plaza. For a number of years, there were public Easter egg hunts in the field across from the open-aired mall.

By the 1980s, the Plaza had fallen on hard times due in part to the infamous Houston Oil Bust. The center was also in very bad condition and its open-aired concept had become outdated. The center finally hit rock bottom in 1987, when the then current owner, The Meyerland Co, filed for Chapter 11. The lender foreclosed on the center later that year. It was then discovered that Mr. Adkinson, the President of Meyerland Co, had tried to use the Plaza in various schemes to defraud several savings and loans. He and several others were convicted on federal bank fraud charges in 1992.

Even after foreclosure, bad fortune continued to plague the Plaza. It switched hands many times due to the banking crises of the late 80's, finally ending up with the Resolution Trust Corporation. The Plaza's fortunes finally changed in 1991 when the RTC sold the property to Ed Wulfe. It took several more years for Mr. Wulfe to untangle the web of liens and conflicting claims and settle long-term leases. Eventually, Mr. Wulfe was successful and in 1994, the original Plaza was razed and a complete new concept was built literally from the ground up. The revitalized Meyerland Plaza celebrated its grand reopening in 1995, albeit a much quieter affair than its original opening 38 years prior. The Plaza was sold in September 2013 and is now owned by Fidelis Realty Company and a joint-venture partner. We can only hope the new owners continue to take good care of the Plaza and appreciate her triumph over her past challenges as well as her place in the hearts of the residents of our area.

Want to be an active member of your community? Come to a Board meeting, contact one of your HOA Board Members or Ry Reid to find how you can serve on one of the Board committees or serve as a Block Captain!

Our Community

Community News

Work on the new location for the SEPHARDIC GAN/TORAT EMET (SG/TE) is coming along very well and it looks like things are on track for the school to move in very soon! Please see the pictures at the back of this newsletter on how this exciting addition to our neighborhood is expected to look once it is completed!

Community Parks

The West Belfort POA has two great community parks for your family enjoyment! Be sure to take advantage of our great weather by visiting either the Ludington or Kittybrook parks. But please keep in mind that if our parks look trashy, so does our neighborhood. So please take pride in our beautiful parks and neighborhood and clean up after your visits!

We are happy to report that the revitalization of the tennis court is complete! Check out the pictures attached for the new look! A new lock system will be installed shortly, but the court is re-opened and ready for use. **HAPPY PLAYING!**

Community Clubhouses

Please consider renting one of the clubhouses for your next event. Jeanette Calhoun or Joy Cunningham will be happy to assist you in providing nice facilities that are close to home. Their contact details are on the front of the newsletter.

Ludington Pool

The pool is open!! Hopefully you were able to stop by and pick up your pool tags last month but if not, it is not too late! Please contact Ry Reid to get your tags. PLEASE NOTE: There is a small fee for ordering your tags through the management company. Also, a reminder that in order to enjoy the pool and any of the community amenities, your homeowner dues must be paid in full. You cannot obtain pool tags if your dues are not paid.


HOA Rules Regarding Garbage / Recycling / Heavy Trash / Tree & Yard Trash

Garbage and recycle bins are not to be placed at the curb until the night before pick up (ie, Wednesday nights for pick up on Thursday). Bins are to be kept out of sight at all times except for pick up days. Bins are to be removed from the curb and placed out of view no later than the same evening as pick up.

Heavy trash, tree and yard waste are never to be placed at the curb until the day before scheduled pickup. Heavy trash and yard trash pickup dates alternate months and are noted on the last page of the newsletter and on the WBPOA website. If the waste is not picked up, you are responsible for removing the items until the next pick up date. Heavy trash and yard waste are not to remain at the curb longer than one day.

HOA Rules Regarding Home Improvements

Reminder that before doing any landscaping or home improvement project involving the exterior of your home (including the front AND back yards), such as painting, the construction of patio covers, pools, etc., you MUST obtain approval first from the Architectural Control / Review Committee by completing the Architectural Control Application. The application can be found on the WBPOA website, and a copy is attached to this newsletter. Failure to receive approval for the improvement and / or change may result in you having to remove, alter or change the improvement in order to comply with the rules and regulations of the HOA, as well as possibly incurring fines and / or liens.



Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you will land among the stars. ~Brian Littrell

Community Events and Things to Do

Tune in for different events and places highlighted each month!

For Adults

Blue Box Theater - Jazz & Wine
www.blueboxtheater.com
First Saturday Art Crawl
<http://houstonocialites.com/>
The Dinner Detective
www.thedinnerdetective.com

For Children

Monday Night Strike (Bowling)
www.bowlmor.com
Schlitterbahn Waterpark
www.schlitterbahn.com
Hockley Oil Ranch
www.oilranch.com

For Free!

Weekend Guided Hikes & Programs
(kids free) www.brazosbend.org
Miller Outdoor Theater
www.milleroutdoortheatre.com
Hermann Park
www.houstontx.gov/parks

Other Events in Houston

For many more ideas, visit <http://www.visithoustontexas.com/travel-tools/events/>

Every First Saturday through May 2015: First Saturday Arts Market. Bring the family and come enjoy live music and delicious fare from some of the area's best gourmet food trucks. www.firstsaturdayartsmarket.com

May 30 – Jun 29: Good People. Nominated for a 2011 Tony Award for Best Play. A funny, tough and tender story about the insurmountable class divide. Alley Theater, Neuhaus Stage. www.alleytheatre.org

May 31: FREE Hurricane Workshop. George R. Brown Convention Center. See Page 7 for more details.

Jun 1: Houston Wedding Showcase, Reliant Center. Chat with the area's most talented and trustworthy wedding professionals. Enter promo code SAVE2 to receive 20% off each ticket purchased online. www.houstonweddingshowcase.com

Jun 2-4: Cruz Baseball Summer Camps. For kids ages 7 to 12. Carnegie Vanguard High School (additional dates June 9-11 July 21-23 July 28-30). www.cruzbaseball.com

Jun 5 – 15: Swan Lake. Come enjoy this classic ballet. Wortham Center. www.houstonballet.org

Jun 6: Following General Sam Houston, 1793-1863 by Bernhardt Wall. The exhibit will also feature some personal objects from the Houston family. The Heritage Society, www.heritagesociety.org/calendar.html

Jun 7: Creation Station / Indian Folk Art. Celebrate Madhubani artwork from Bihar, Patas from West Bengal, and similar traditions from across India. Asia Society Center, <http://asiasociety.org/texas/events>

Jun 7 - 8: Houston New Home and Remodeling Show. For home buyers, home builders, or if you are doing remodeling, redecorating, landscaping or considering a pool, spa or hot tub. Reliant Park, www.associationevent.com/Houston_NHRS/summer/index.htm#

Jun 8 – Aug 3: Pippi Longstocking. Musical play based on the novel by Astrid Lindgren. www.mainstreettheater.com/youththeater/pippi.html

Jun 19 - 22: Texas Black Expo / Juneteenth Summer Celebration. Concerts, parties and more make up this four-day event. George R. Brown Convention Center, <http://texasblackexpo.com>

Jun 20: Gabriel Iglesias. This comic's style has made him popular among fans of all ages. Toyota Center. www.houstontoyotacenter.com/events/detail/gabriel-iglesias-1

Jun 26 – Jul 27: I Wish You Love. An intimate portrait of Nat King Cole, his music, and the dreams of a nation. The Ensemble Theater, www.ensemblehouston.com/season/seasonlineup13.html

Local Community Centers and Parks

Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston, 5601 S Braeswood Blvd, Phone: (713) 729-3200 / Website: www.erjchouston.org

Brazos Bend State Park and George Observatory, Needville, Texas. www.brazosbend.org -- See page 7 for further details on this fascinating park and observatory

AWESOME



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www.houston.gov

Andy, The Awesome Possum

WELCOME BACK, KIDS! I hope you enjoyed soaring the skies with the Chimney Swifts in last month's newsletter. This month, I am going stay "aloft" with an amazing flying mammal... BATS! I know, bats have a bad "rep", but I hope to teach you that bats are very important to our ecology and they are indeed quite fascinating.

The US is home to 47 bat species and Texas has the highest diversity of all – 31 bat species! The largest bat in Texas is the Western Mastiff and the smallest is the Western Pipistrelle, both of which live primarily in west Texas. Houston is home to 11 bat species: Mexican free-tailed bat, big brown bat, evening bat, Eastern red bat, Northern yellow bat, Eastern

Pipistrelle, hoary bat, Seminole bat, Southeastern myotis, silver-haired bat and Rafinesque's big-eared bat, which is on the State's threatened species list. The Mexican Free-Tailed Bat is the official bat of the State of Texas. The Mexican free-tailed bat is one of the most widespread mammals in the Western Hemisphere. Some colonies migrate, but the ones in Texas tend to live here year round, which, being a native Texan, I can totally understand!

Bats find their prey with echolocation. What is echolocation? It is an awesome type of biological sonar where ultra-high frequency sounds are emitted, and then they listen to the echoes of the sounds that return. These echoes help bats to navigate and find food – IN THE TOTAL DARK! That's like having a super power! Wouldn't it be cool to have an internal sonar to help you find food and get around in the dark? Well, I guess you don't have to find food as your moms fix it for you, but wow, that would sure make things easier for me!

Contrary to popular belief, bats are not blind. They have average vision and an excellent senses of hearing. Because they can sense objects in front of them so well, bats don't become tangled in people's hair or land of people with specifically-colored shirts, contrary to another popular myth.

Texas bats love bugs! Bats are important for pest control since they eat insects and agricultural pests. Favorites on the bat menu are moths, ants, beetles and mosquitos. Bats can eat up to two-thirds of their body weight in insects. The estimated 100 million Mexican free-tailed bats living in the Texas Hill Country can eat up to 1,000 tons of insects each night! Here in Houston, the estimated 250,000 Mexican free-tailed bats at Waugh Drive bridge can eat almost 2 ½ tons of insects each night. That sure is a lot of bugs!!

Bats are also efficient pollinators. Their pollination of sugar cane as well as their consumption of insects that damage sugar cane crops is one of the reasons why Bacardi Ltd. features the Mexican free-tailed bat as its logo. Also, according to Cuban and Spanish lore, bats symbolize good health, good fortune and family unity.

Bats live in caves, under bridges, buildings, tunnels and bat houses all across Texas. Baby bats are known as pups. Mothers have one pup each spring and leaves it behind each night when she goes to hunt. Each mother is able to find her pup among the thousands in the colony each day by remembering where she left her pup and by recognizing her pup's unique voice and scent. Aww....now that's a mother's love!

The Mexican free-tailed bat is a gentle creature that will not harm humans if left alone. However, don't ever touch a bat as it may bite in self-defense. It is a wild, after all! Bats, as with all mammals, can catch the rabies virus, but it is pretty rare, despite common belief. Research shows that less than ½ of 1 percent of a bat population contract the virus. The ill bat dies quietly, unlike stories about dogs and other mammals. So if you ever see a bat on the ground, NEVER touch it.

If you want to see our Houston bats emerge at night, then visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/bats.html for information. Please be sure to carefully read the rules about bat viewing as well. Have fun and see you next month!!

Be sure to stay posted for more fun Texas wildlife facts from Andy, the Awesome Possum!

See Something, Say Something!

Help keep our neighborhood safe! One of the MOST effective ways to achieve this is through the eyes and ears of our neighbors. Please practice the "See Something, Say Something" motto and call our Constable's dispatch (713 / 613-6602) if you see anything or anyone suspicious. If it turns out to be nothing, no harm done. But you may prevent a serious crime from occurring. You do not have to be involved anymore than a phone call – our Constables will take it from there. To make things easier, program the dispatch number into your cell phones. And... while we can't move the apartments from outside our neighborhood, we can help turning ourselves into victims. So please, do not "dangle a carrot" in front of criminals' noses and then get upset when they go for it. Prevent crime by keeping your cars locked, hide your valuables (or better yet, remove them from the car), keep your garages closed and your houses locked. And CALL if you see or suspect something – a minute of your time can prevent a serious issue. On behalf of the neighborhood, thank you!

ACROSS

- 1) Models strike them
- 6) Simplicity
- 10) ___-Cola
- 14) Crosswise, nautically
- 15) Urban blight
- 16) Wrinkly Jamaican fruit
- 17) Prank played in a pasture
- 19) ___, mean, fighting machine
- 20) Group doctrines
- 21) Debased
- 23) Perlman of "Cheers"
- 25) "Be glad to"
- 26) Balaam's beast
- 29) Time of "comfort and joy"
- 31) Play ___ (feign death)
- 35) Response to a fleecing?
- 36) Old computer accessory
- 38) Big underwater ray
- 39) Never-say-die attitude
- 43) Place to exchange vows
- 44) Slangy turndown
- 45) Ballgoer, for short
- 46) Completely stump
- 48) Guitar-playing tool
- 50) Before
- 51) Dishonestly acquired riches
- 53) Show signs of life
- 55) What's seen in a mirror?
- 59) Deciduous ornamental shrub
- 63) Attempt to convince
- 64) Rodeo activity
- 66) Depend (on)
- 67) Stadium or wedding cake feature
- 68) Relish
- 69) Santa's load
- 70) Bump off a dragon
- 71) Coyote relative

Puzzle Page

Answers for puzzles appear next newsletter

STEER CLEAR

By Mary Jersey

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17					18						19			
20							21			22				
			23			24		25						
26	27	28		29			30		31			32	33	34
35					36			37		38				
39			40	41					42					
43						44						45		
46					47		48			49		50		
			51			52		53			54			
55	56	57					58		59			60	61	62
63						64			65					
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

DOWN

- 1) Accord
- 2) High-pitched wind instrument
- 3) Held on by a thread
- 4) "Peter, Peter, Pumpkin ___"
- 5) He strikes while the iron is hot
- 6) Clairvoyance, for short
- 7) Betwixt
- 8) Measures of loudness
- 9) Certain breakfast container
- 10) It provides no outlets
- 11) Curved molding
- 12) Family reunion group
- 13) "___ That a Shame?"
- 18) Not real
- 22) Appetite stimulus
- 24) Put in rows
- 26) Successor to Arafat
- 27) ___ Ste. Marie, Mich.
- 28) Like the sea
- 30) Bar, at the bar
- 32) Nasty, as a remark
- 33) Unconditional
- 34) "We'll see"
- 37) Foreign Legion hats
- 40) Eel look-alikes
- 41) Recovers from a flood
- 42) It's bee-quested
- 47) Chooses by ballot
- 49) Put the ___ on (stop)
- 52) One way to attract a lifeguard
- 54) Settle, as a debt
- 55) Mongols' tent
- 56) Lunchbox cookie, sometimes
- 57) Like Quasimodo
- 58) Tiny circus performer
- 60) "___ and Let Die"
- 61) Abetting, as with a scheme
- 62) Indian tourist city
- 65) Cook bacon

3				7	5	4		6
					8			
7				9		3	2	
4				1	9			3
						1		
		1	2		3	9	6	
7	6					8		
	2			8			5	
9	5				1			

A SUMMER DAY SCRAMBLE

CABHE _____

OTRSHS _____

WMAR _____

SGHNFII _____

NSUIEHSN _____

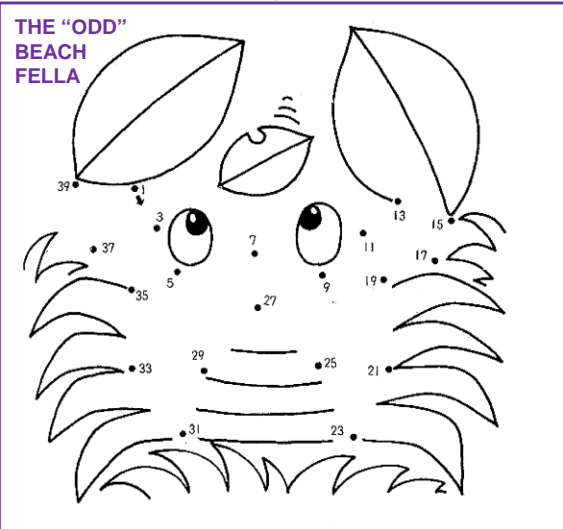
GNCMIAP _____

IVNCAAOT _____

NSIMGMIW OLOP _____

ICPCIN AKESBT _____

ELWOT _____



PRESTO CHANG-O!
Change the first word to the last by changing one letter in each step

POUCH

PEACE

Pardon Me?
Oh No! I can't understand Frank! Help me figure out what he is trying to tell me by saying these phrases SLOWLY:

- Abe Odd Hull Up Hop _____
- Abe Rye Tidy Yeah _____
- Abe Who Beat Wrap _____
- Able Ankle Hook _____
- Able Hiss Heard _____

What Do They Have in Common?

Arthur – Kong – Herod _____

Base – Beach – Billiard _____

Coat – Spice – Bicycle _____

Green – Black – Iced _____

Rain – Black – Enchanted _____

JOKE CORNER (Answers on page 8)

- What kind of button won't unbutton?
- Why do sea-gulls fly over the sea?
- What dog keeps the best time?
- What starts with a P, ends with an E, and has a million letters in it?
- Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?

"You have brains in your head
and feet in your shoes.
you can steer yourself in any
direction you choose!"
--Dr. Seuss

TRIVIAL PURSUIT

- What is the name of the biggest ocean on Earth?
- True or false? The Yangtze is the longest river in the world.
- Stratus, cumulus, cirrus and nimbus are types of what?
- What is the name of a person who studies earthquakes?
- What is the name of the highest mountain on Earth?

JUNE 2014

June is named after Juno, the goddess of marriage and the well-being of women

Birthstone: Pearl
Flower: Rose
Zodiac Signs: Gemini and Cancer

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Shavuot (Start)	4 Shavuot	5 Shavuot	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Recycle Pick Up	13 Lailatul Barat Heavy Trash – North Side*	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19 Heavy Trash – South Side*	20	21 Summer Solstice
22	23	24 HOA Board Meeting – Ludington Clubhouse 7:00pm	25	26 Recycle Pick Up	27	28 Ramadan (Start)
29	30	Joke Corner Answers: 1. A bellybutton / 2. Because if they flew over the bay they would be bagels / 3. A watch dog / 4. Post Office / 5. Because then it would be a foot				

* WBPOA – Northfield III and IV (North Side of West Bellfort): Heavy Trash 2nd Friday of even months / Tree & Yard Trash 2nd Friday of odd months
 * WBPOA – Northfield V (South Side of West Bellfort) – Heavy Trash 3rd Thursday of even months / Tree & Yard Trash 3rd Thursday of odd months



Brazos Bend State Park is a 5,000-acre gem about 40 miles from Houston off both US 59 South and Highway 288 South. The park offers a wide variety of activities for every age: biking, fishing, hiking, birding, camping, star-gazing, and opportunities to learn about Texas' bountiful natural history via free programs and guided hikes. The park is an ideal habitat for the American alligator, as well as a rich diversity of other reptiles, amphibians and mammals. The park is an important refuge for birds and butterflies. The park includes an accessible nature trail and interpretive exhibit project designed with the assistance of Houston's disabled community. The George Observatory, a satellite of the Houston Museum of Natural Science, is also located in the park. There is usually a group of amateur astronomers with personal telescopes as well willing to help children learn about our great universe. Depending on the time of the month and the season of the year, visitors are able to observe a variety of astronomical phenomena. Be sure to visit www.brazosbend.org for more information on the park and www.hmns.org to learn more about the observatory.

HURRICANE WORKSHOP

Hurricane Season Begins! Temporada de huracanes comienza!

Información acerca de la preparación para huracanes en Español: www.westbellfortpoa.com y <http://www.houstonoem.org/go/doctype/4027/97747/Disaster-Preparedness-Guide>

The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially starts on June 1st and goes through to November 30th. There is a FREE hurricane preparedness workshop that will be held at the George R Brown Convention Center on Saturday, May 31 from 10am to 3pm. Please visit www.hurricaneworkshop.com to register for this event. However, if you are unable to attend, this edition of the newsletter includes information about hurricanes and other tropical activity as well as pointers on how to prepare for a storm as best as possible. PLEASE NOTE: a Spanish version of information is available on the WBPOA website, and additional information in various languages is available at <http://www.houstonoem.org/go/doctype/4027/97747/Disaster-Preparedness-Guide>

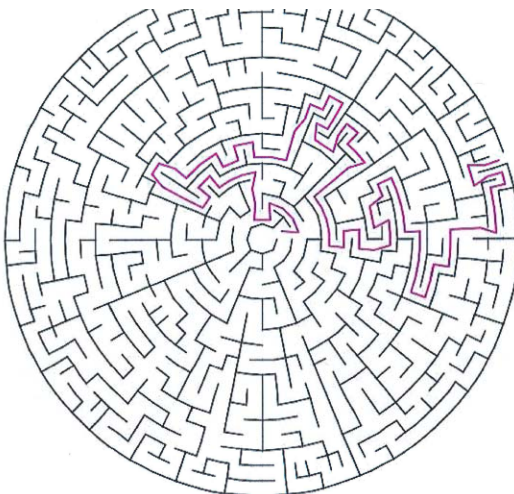
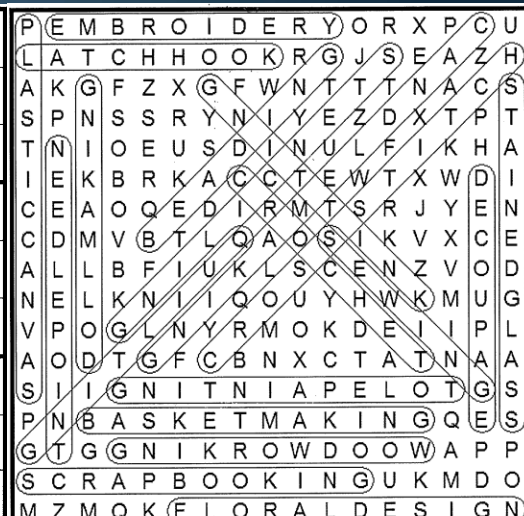
Answers to May 2014 Puzzles

MIDDLE GROUND?

By Luke Cayton



2	3	1	4	5	9	6	8	7
7	5	6	2	8	3	4	1	9
4	8	9	1	7	6	5	3	2
9	6	2	7	3	4	8	5	1
3	4	7	8	1	5	9	2	6
5	1	8	6	9	2	7	4	3
8	7	5	3	6	1	2	9	4
6	2	3	9	4	8	1	7	5
1	9	4	5	2	7	3	6	8



Conscientious Objector Cryptogram Solution:

My theory on housework is, if the item doesn't multiply, smell, catch fire or block the refrigerator door, let it be. No one else cares. Why should you? ~ Erma Bombeck

Trivial Pursuit Answers:

1. Yes. It comes right after the 3rd
2. Two (2). You took two oranges, so YOU have TWO.
3. One (1). You can only be born once
4. Twelve (12). All of them have at least 28 days.
5. Six (6). Don't forget there is a top and bottom to every inning

Recipe for Kids

CORN DOG BITES

NOTE: Recipe will require help from parents for cooking in the oven.

- 1 package cornbread mix
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup milk
- 6 hot dogs, cut into 1 inch pieces
- Honey and mustard, optional

Mix the package of cornbread mix with the egg and 1/3 cup milk. Pour the mix into a lightly-greased mini-muffin pan, filling each "cup" about two-thirds (2/3's) full. Poke the 1-inch pieces of hot dogs into the middle of each mini-muffin. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. If desired, brush each muffin lightly with honey while still hot. Cool and remove from pan. Serve with mustard or other preferred condiment.

- 2 refrigerated pie crusts
- 2 to 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cooked and chopped OR about half of rotisserie chicken, skinned and deboned (*save remaining for later use in another dish*)
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 15-oz bag frozen vegetables
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- Salt, pepper and other seasonings, to taste

EASY CHICKEN POT PIE

Line small baking dish with one crust (including sides, if possible), put second crust aside. Combine all remaining ingredients in a large bowl (vegetables do not need to be thawed). Put mixture on top of crust in the baking dish. Top with remaining crust. Cut several slits in crust. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to one hour, or until bubbly and crust is golden.

and... for both! 😊

Recipe for Adults

ICE CREAM SANDWICH CAKE

(made without variations, this tastes just like a Dairy Queen peanut parfait!)

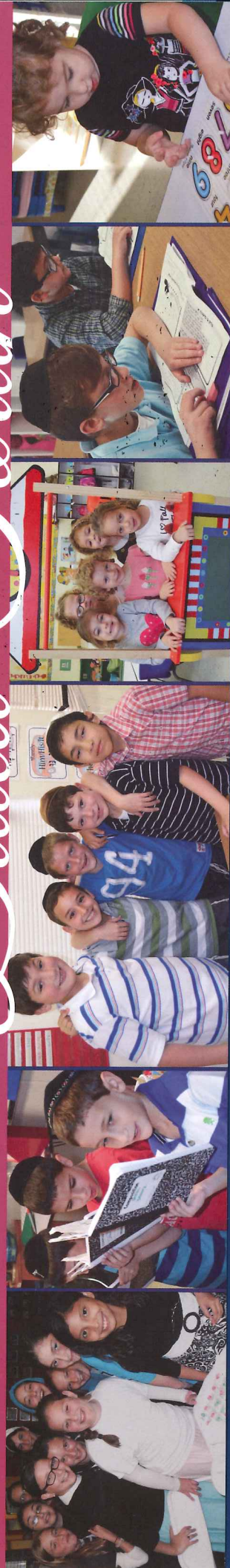
- 24 Ice cream sandwiches
- 2 small jars of hot fudge sauce (or one very large one) – NOT heated
- 1 container of Spanish Redskin peanuts (*do not use regular peanuts, must be Spanish redskins*)
- 1 large container Cool Whip, thawed

Unwrap 12 ice cream sandwiches and place them in the bottom of a 9 X 12 pan, cutting to fit if needed (keep the other 12 in the freezer for now). Carefully spread the hot fudge sauce (straight out of the jar, NOT heated) on top of the sandwiches. Sprinkle with 1/2 of the peanuts. Unwrap remaining 12 ice cream sandwiches and layer on top of the peanuts. Can spread with more fudge sauce if preferred, opening second jar if required. Top with cool whip. Sprinkle remaining peanuts on top. Wrap with plastic wrap and keep in freezer until ready to serve. VARIATIONS: Can use any kind of ice cream sandwiches. If you use the Mississippi mud ones, then do not use the second layer of fudge sauce. Can make this "lighter" by using diet ice cream sandwiches, sugar free fudge sauce and light Cool Whip. NUT ALLERGIES: substitute sliced fresh strawberries for peanuts.





A TIME TO *Build Torah*





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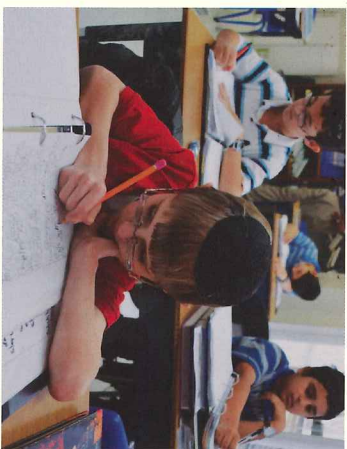
בני תורה מביאים את התורה אל הילדים Building Torah

The Vision & The Realization

SEPHARDIC GAN/TORAT EMET (SG/TE) is an accredited Orthodox Jewish day school in Southwest Houston. SG/TE was founded in 2005 with a handful of students and in just eight years has reached an enrollment of more than two hundred students in its Early Childhood, Lower, and Upper School divisions.



AT SG/TE, we are committed to excellence in both our general studies and Judaic studies programs. Lessons in science, math, and history are integrated with Judaic topics and concepts, providing a framework for our students to integrate Jewish ethics and morals in their daily lives. Additionally, we emphasize a strong foundation in Hebrew language skills. Our phenomenal and dedicated teachers work tirelessly to develop within each student a strong and proud Jewish identity, and the social, emotional, physical and cognitive skills that are the foundation for future academic and social success.



SG/TE provides a nurturing environment where Jewish children from all backgrounds feel welcome. As a result, our school has attracted families from throughout North America and across the Jewish spectrum, positively impacting the growth of the Jewish community in Houston.



DUE TO OUR RECENT DRAMATIC GROWTH (see timeline), our current leased facility can no

longer accommodate our space requirements. We have identified a new property, centrally located within the Orthodox community where the vast majority of our student population lives. Upon completion of the proposed construction project, SG/TE's new home will fulfill all of the space requirements essential to service our current needs and future projected growth. We invite you to participate in this historic project, which will establish a new base for the future of Torah education here in Houston!



2004
School founded and directed by Rabbi Avraham and Rachel Yaghoobian
12 students • 5 staff
2 classes (Toddler- Pre-K)
1,500 SF space rented at the JCC Bertha Alyce Center

2006
48 students • 11 staff
6,000 square foot space rented at West Airport/ Fondren

2008
81 students • 20 staff
8 classes (Tiny Toddlers- 3rd Grade)
Rabbi Yehoshua Wender hired as principal

2010
125 students • 32 staff
Construction adds two more classrooms

2012
200 students • 35 staff
16 classes (Tiny Toddlers- Upper School Boys/Girls)
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston accepts Sephardic Gan/Torat Emet as a beneficiary institution

2005
33 students • 7 staff
New Early Childhood class opened up mid-year

2007
54 students • 15 staff
13,000 square foot space at 9730 Hillcroft

2009
94 students • 27 staff
New Upper School Boys' Division

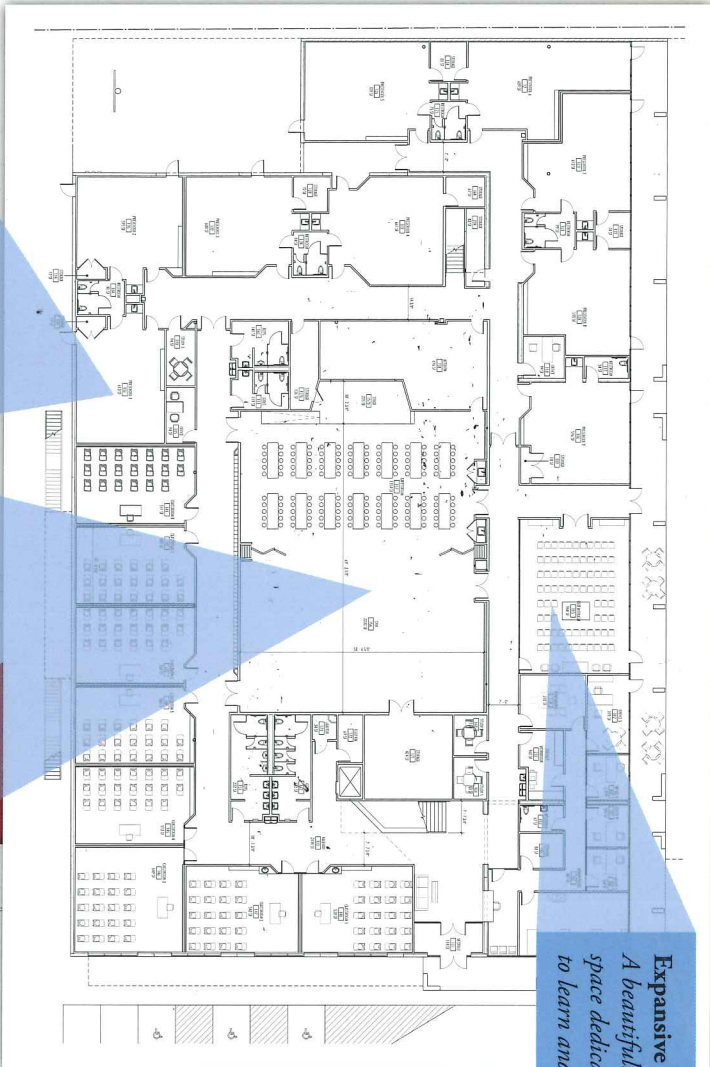
2011
171 students • 35 staff
Rabbi Yerachmiel Garfield hired as principal
TAAPS Accreditation

2013
221 students • 42 staff
19 classes - 3 sets of parallel Early Childhood Classes
First graduating class of the school

2004-2014

Building Our Future

FIRST FLOOR



Expansive Beit Mitrash
A beautifully furnished space dedicated for students to learn and daven

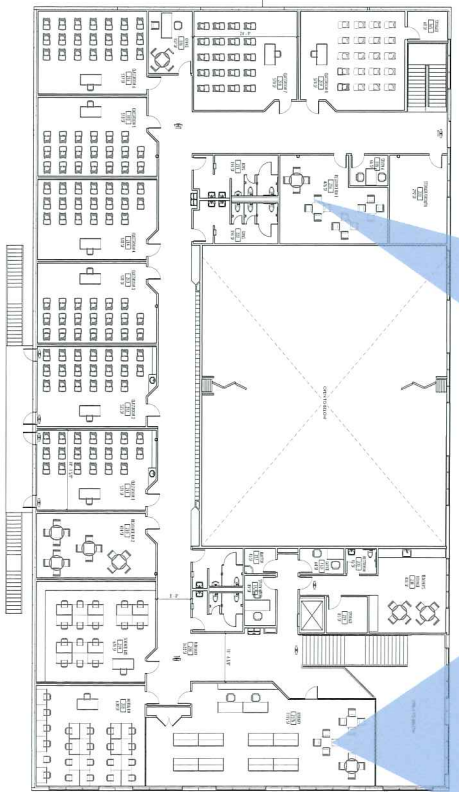
Outdoor Play Area
Large grass playground area and ball field

Multiple Resource Rooms
Dedicated areas for one-on-one learning with extra attention

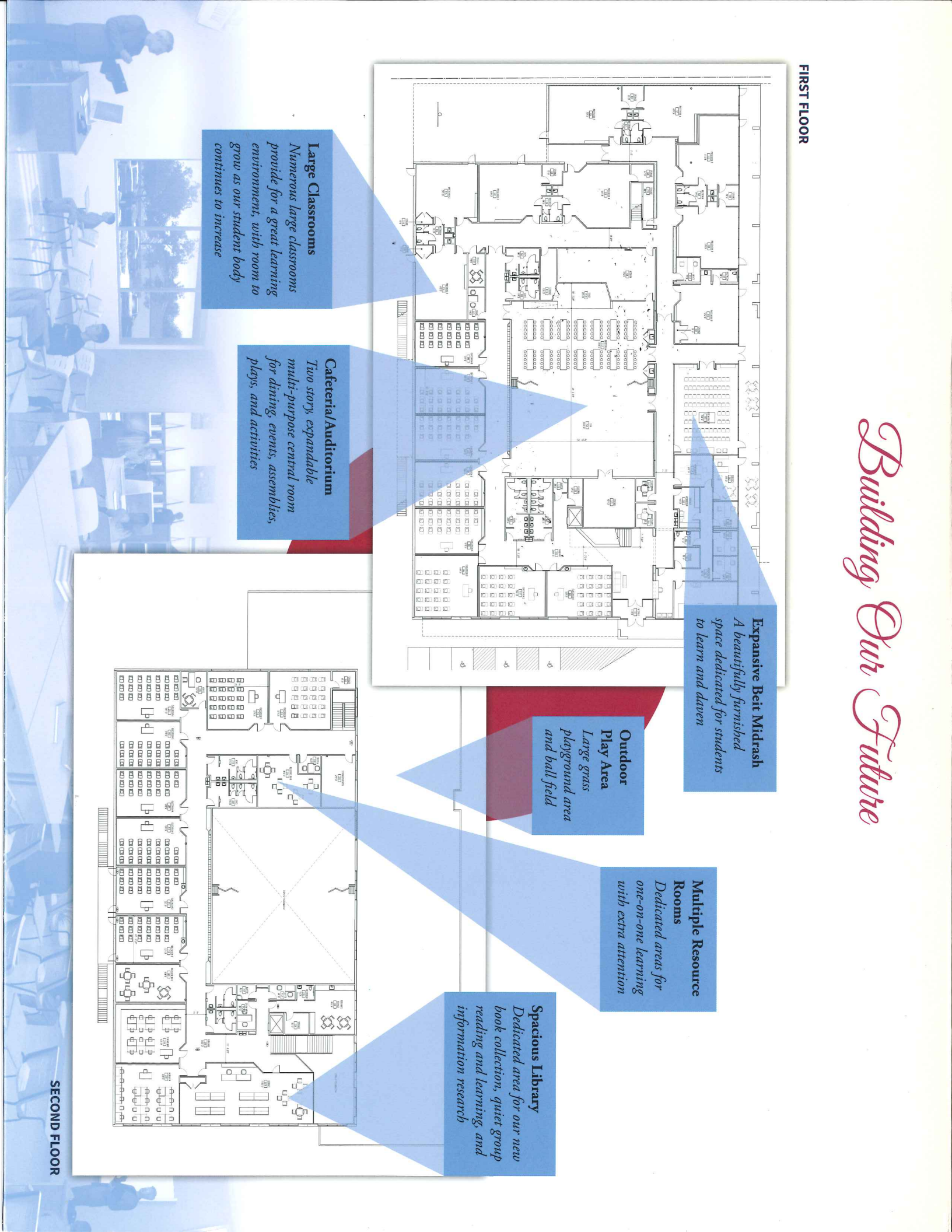
Spacious Library
Dedicated area for our new book collection, quiet group reading and learning, and information research

Large Classrooms
Numerous large classrooms provide for a great learning environment, with room to grow as our student body continues to increase

Cafeteria/Auditorium
Two story, expandable multi-purpose central room for dining, events, assemblies, plays, and activities



SECOND FLOOR



Join us in building our future

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

School Name Dedication	\$2,500,000
Early Childhood Name Dedication	\$1,000,000
Campus Name Dedication	\$1,000,000
Early Childhood Wing Dedication	\$500,000
Elementary School Wing Dedication	\$500,000
Second Floor Wing Dedication	\$250,000
Beit Midrash Dedication	\$250,000
Entranceway/Lobby Dedication	\$250,000
Gymnasium Dedication	\$250,000

Building Cornerstone	\$200,000
Cafeteria Dedication	\$150,000
Elementary Playground Dedication	\$150,000
Early Childhood Playground Dedication	\$100,000
Library Dedication	\$100,000
Art Center Dedication	\$100,000
Computer Laboratory Dedication	\$100,000
Science Laboratory Dedication	\$100,000
Holocaust Remembrance Display	\$100,000

MEZUZOT

Front Entrance Mezuzah	\$25,000
Beit Midrash Mezuzah	\$10,000
Administrative Offices Mezuzah (5)	\$2,500
Early Childhood Classroom Mezuzah (9)	\$5,000
Elementary Classroom Mezuzah (16)	\$5,000

OFFICES/FACILITIES

Kitchens	\$100,000
Principal's Office	\$50,000
Dean's Office	\$50,000
Executive Director's Office	\$50,000
Upper School Administrative Office	\$50,000
Early Childhood Administrative Office	\$50,000
Early Childhood Classroom Dedications (9)	\$50,000
Classroom Dedications (16)	\$50,000
Easy Access Elevator	\$50,000
Teacher's Lounge	\$36,000
Conference Room	\$36,000
Reception/Switchboard Area	\$25,000
Landscaping Dedication	\$20,000
Israel War Memorial	\$20,000
Washing Stations	\$10,000
Builder's Plaque	\$5,000
Water Fountains (6)	\$3,600
Playground Bench Dedications (10)	\$2,500
Sponsor's Plaque	\$1,000
Donor's Plaque	\$500
Brick	\$500

BEIT MIDRASH

Aron Kodesh	\$85,000
Sefer Torah	\$50,000
Jerusalem Stone Walls	\$50,000
Furnishings	\$25,000
Bimah	\$20,000
Ner Tarnid	\$18,000
Seforim	\$18,000
Parochet	\$10,000
Amud	\$10,000
Siddurim/Chumashim	\$10,000
Shelves	\$10,000
Light Fixtures	\$10,000
Yizkor Wall	\$10,000
Bimah Cover	\$5,000
Mechitzah	\$2,500
Yizkor Plaque	\$500



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

713-721-3900
building@texc.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Sephardic Gan/Torat Emet is dedicated to instilling Torah values and positive character traits within its students. We are committed to helping each child reach their potential and encourage close cooperation between home and school.

Sephardic Gan/Torat Emet prides itself on excellence in both Judaic and general studies. The students gain a love of Torah, as well as an excitement and interest in all Judaic aspects of life. In addition, there is a focus on Sephardic tradition, with an emphasis on Ivrit.

The creation of the State of Israel is one of the seminal events in Jewish history. Recognizing the significance of the State and its national institutions, we seek to instill in our students an attachment to the State of Israel and its people as well as a sense of responsibility for their welfare.



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INFORMATION ON HURRICANES & OTHER TROPICAL CYCLONIC ACTIVITIES

Hurricane season is upon us! The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially starts on June 1st and goes through to November 30th.

The great state of Texas has seen its fair share of tropical cyclonic activity. Tropical cyclones are defined as rotating, organized systems of clouds and thunderstorms that originate over tropical or subtropical waters and has a closed low-level circulation. Tropical cyclones rotate clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere and counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere.

WATCHES VS. WARNINGS

A **watch** lets you know that weather conditions are favorable for a hazard to occur. It literally means "be on guard!" During a weather watch, gather awareness of the specific threat and prepare for action - monitor the weather to find out if severe weather conditions have deteriorated and discuss your protective action plans with your family.

A **warning** requires immediate action. This means a weather hazard is imminent - it is either occurring (a tornado has been spotted, for example) - or it is about to occur at any moment. During a weather warning, it is important to take action: grab the emergency kit you have prepared in advance and head to safety immediately. Both watches and warnings are important, but warnings are more urgent.

CLASSIFICATIONS OF TROPICAL CYCLONES

Classification of tropical cyclones are as followed:

- Tropical Depression: maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less
- Tropical Storm: maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph
- Hurricane: maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher:
 - Category 1: maximum sustained winds of 74 mph to 95 mph
 - Category 2: maximum sustained winds of 96 mph to 110 mph
- Major Hurricane (Categories 3, 4 and 5):
 - Category 3: maximum sustained winds of 111 mph to 129 mph
 - Category 4: maximum sustained winds of 130 to 156 mph
 - Category 5: maximum sustained winds of 157 and greater

Tropical cyclones form over most of the world's tropical waters between about 5^o and 22^o latitude, except for the Southeast Pacific and the South Atlantic Oceans, where environmental conditions are not favorable. Tropical cyclonic activity in our hemisphere typically generate from tropical waves coming off the west coast of Africa, particularly later in the season, although it is not uncommon for storms to appear suddenly anywhere in the Atlantic Ocean or in the Gulf itself.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HURRICANES, CYCLONES AND TYPHOONS?

There is no difference at all, other than the location where storms form. The different regions where tropical cyclonic activity occurs uses different terminology to refer to storms:

- Atlantic and Northeast Pacific – the term "hurricane" is used
- Northwest Pacific – the term "typhoon" is used
- South Pacific and Indian Ocean – the term "cyclone" is used

The three regions where hurricanes generate use their own set of names for storms. Tropical cyclones are named once they become a tropical storm. After hurricane hunters find sustained wind speeds of more than 40 mph lasting approximately 1 to 10 minutes (depending on which area it originates), the designation of the storm changes from "tropical depression" to "tropical storm".

WHAT IS A MILLIBAR AND HOW DOES THAT HELP DETERMINE THE IMPACT OF A HURRICANE?

A millibar ("mb") is a unit of pressure used by meteorologists (and others) in measuring atmosphere conditions. Hurricanes have very low pressures. The lower the pressure the more intense the storm is considered. The normal sea level pressure in the US is 1013.25 (mb), and a hurricane's pressure drops much lower. The lowest hurricane pressure on record is Hurricane Wilma in 2005 with a central pressure of 882 mb with maximum winds of 175mph. The Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 had a low pressure of 892 mb with maximum winds of 200 mph. While the Labor Day Hurricane had stronger winds, Wilma's lower pressure wins out on the intensity scale. In fact, Hurricane Wilma is the most intense storm ever recorded in the Atlantic Basin.

WHAT IS "THE EYE OF THE STORM" AND HOW CAN IT HAVE AN IMPACT?

The eye is a region of mostly calm weather at the center of tropical cyclonic activities (usually connected with hurricanes, but does occur with all tropical cyclonic events). The eye is the area where the atmospheric pressure at sea level is the lowest, and is a roughly circular area, typically 20 to 40 miles in diameter. In stronger storms, the eye is characterized by light winds and clear skies and in weaker tropical cyclones, the eye is less well defined, and skies can be overcast. Regardless of how defined it is, the storm's eye is surrounded on all sides by a towering eyewall.

Generally speaking, the lower the millibars (see above), the more defined the eye is and the more narrow. However, as already illustrated, hurricanes do not all follow the same pattern. Eyes can range in size from 200 miles across to 1.9 miles, the smallest on record (Hurricane Wilma). While it is not common for storms with larger eyes to become very intense, it does occur. Hurricane Isabel, the costliest, deadliest and strongest hurricane in the 2003 Atlantic hurricane season, reached Category 5 status during her history, before reducing to a Category 2 when she hit the North Carolina Outer Banks – her eye was approximately 40 to 50 miles wide for several days prior to making land fall.

There are two ways the eye of the storm has serious impact: First, the eye is surrounded by the eyewall, which is where the most severe weather and strongest winds occurs within a storm. Secondly, there is typically very little wind and rain in the eye itself. A common mistake therefore, especially in areas where hurricanes are uncommon, is for residents to exit their homes to inspect damages while the calm eye passes over, only to be caught off guard by the violence of the opposite eyewall. Many people have died as a result. That is why the National Weather Service strongly discourages leaving shelter before residents receive confirmation that the storm has completely passed.

WHY ARE STORMS NAMED?

The tradition of naming storms began in 1950 to help differentiate storms within the three regions as well as help with confusion between storms within the same regions. Names from the international phonetic alphabet in use at the time - Able, Baker, Charlie, etc. In 1953, forecaster began using female names, and male names were added in 1979. Male and female names are alternated each year, and the World Meteorological names have six sets of alphabetical names (from A to W, with the letters Q, U, X, Y and Z not used). One of each set is used per year for six years, then start back at the first set of names.

Whenever a hurricane has had a major impact, any country affected by the storm can request that the name of the hurricane be "retired". Retiring a name actually means that it cannot be reused for at least 10 years, to facilitate historic references, legal actions, insurance claim activities, etc. and avoid public confusion with another storm of the same name. If that happens, a like gender name is selected in English, Spanish or French for Atlantic Storms. In cases of severe impacts, such as Hurricanes Carla and Katrina, the names are never used again.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A HURRICANE HUNTER?

Hurricane hunters are aircrews that fly into tropical cyclones in the North Atlantic Ocean and Northeastern Pacific Ocean to gather weather data.

It all started in 1944 as a dare, when two Army Air Corps pilots challenged each other to fly through a tropical storm. On July 27, 1943, Major Joe Duckworth flew a propeller-driven, single-engine North American AT-6 "Texan" trainer into the eye of a tropical storm. Duckworth flew into the eye of that storm twice that day, once with a navigator and again with a weather officer. These were generally considered to be the first airborne attempts to obtain data for use in plotting the position of a tropical cyclone as it approached land. Duckworth's pioneering efforts paved the way for further flights into tropical cyclones.

Before satellites were used to find storms, military aircraft flew routine weather reconnaissance tracks to detect formation of tropical cyclones. Today, satellites have revolutionized weather forecasters' ability to detect signs of such cyclones before they form, yet they cannot determine the interior barometric pressure of a hurricane nor provide accurate wind speed information — data needed to accurately predict hurricane development and movement. This can only be determined by literally flying into the storm.

As such, hurricane hunters collect valuable data from areas where it is impractical or impossible to have ground observation stations, or where weather satellites cannot provide complete information. During hurricane season, hunters provide surveillance of tropical disturbances and hurricanes in the western Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico for the National Hurricane Center in Miami. They may also fly missions for the Central Pacific Hurricane Center in Honolulu.

Their jobs are not over after hurricane season, however. From November 1 through April 15, the unit also flies winter missions off both coasts of the United States supporting the National Center for Environmental Prediction. These missions can be just as challenging as hurricane missions, with turbulence, lightning and icing.

Currently, the US units which fly these missions are the United States Air Force Reserve's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hurricane Hunters; such missions have also been flown by Navy units and other Air Force and NOAA units. Five U.S. aircrews have been lost during such missions since they started during World War II.

Narrowing the warning area lends greater credibility to forecasts and enables more controlled and limited coastal evacuations. As coastal populations continue to grow, evacuation decisions need to be made earlier. Some areas already require more than 48 hours in advance of a major hurricane. Hurricane hunters are an invaluable source of providing accurate forecasting and more time for storm preparations and evacuations.

HOW PRONE IS THE TEXAS GULF COAST TO TROPICAL ACTIVITY?

Attached is a table which shows how many hurricanes have hit the US from 1851 to 2012 (numbers do not necessarily tie due to a storm's ability to have multiple landfalls). On the average, with 64 storms, Texas is second only to Florida in the number of hurricanes which have hit the state. Texas has also been impacted by 56 Tropical Storms since the 1850's, for a total of about 120 storms that have our state.

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF STORMS PER YEAR?

For the Atlantic region, on average 10.1 named storms occur each season, with an average of 5.9 becoming hurricanes and 2.5 becoming major hurricanes (Category 3 or greater). The most active season on record is 2005, during which 28 tropical cyclones formed, of which a record 15 became hurricanes. The least active season was the 1914, with only one known tropical cyclone developing during that year.

Worldwide, tropical cyclone activity peaks in late summer, when the difference between temperatures aloft and sea surface temperatures is the greatest. However, each particular basin has its own seasonal patterns. On a worldwide scale, May is the least active month, while September is the most active. In the Northern Atlantic Ocean, a distinct hurricane season occurs from June 1 to November 30, sharply peaking from late August through September, with the peak around September 10.

The 2005 Atlantic hurricane season was the most active Atlantic hurricane season in history, shattering numerous records. This the only year in recorded history that the entire list of storm names was used, and six Greek letter names had to be used. A record 28 storms formed, of which a record 15 became hurricanes. Of these, seven strengthened into major hurricanes. A record-tying five became Category 4 hurricanes and a record four reached Category 5 strength. The impact of the season was widespread and ruinous with an estimated 3,913 deaths and record damage of about \$159.2 billion. Of the storms that made landfall, five of the season's seven major hurricanes—Dennis, Emily, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma—were responsible for most of the destruction. Among these Category 5 storms were Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma, respectively the costliest and the most intense Atlantic hurricanes on record.

WHAT IS THE WORST STORM THAT HAS EVER HIT THE TEXAS GULF COAST?

Attached is a historical list of known storms that have hit Texas. The storms highlighted in red are considered to top deadliest and / or costliest storms that have hit the state, with the Great Galveston Hurricane of 1900 being the deadliest and costliest (even adjusted to today's economic terms) natural disaster to ever hit the United States. The Galveston Hurricane resulted in anywhere from 6,000 to 12,000 deaths, with 8,000 being the official count.

As a result of the Galveston Hurricane, the city built the Galveston Seawall (began in 1902), constructed an all-weather bridge to the mainland to replace the ones destroyed by the storm, and most dramatically, actually raised the city itself by as much as 17 feet above its previous elevation of 8 feet above sea level. This was done by dredging sand from the Gulf of Mexico. Over 2,100 buildings were raised in the process, including the 3,000-ton St. Patrick's Church. The seawall and raising of the island were jointly named a National Historical Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2001.

Many things contributed to the severe impact of the Galveston Hurricane, with the primary reason being the belief that any hurricane of significant strength could never reach the island, which led to the lack of any kind of seawall or even sand dune protection. Secondly, reports of the storm's location were incorrect, so when the storm clouds began to appear over the city, people thought it was just another severe thunderstorm that tends to hit Texas in the summer. Sadly, by the time people realized just what was happening, the storm surge had already begun and no one could escape the devastation that began with a 15-foot storm surge created by the Category 4 hurricane that soon hit.

THIS IS THE 21ST CENTURY WITH GREAT TECHNOLOGY. SO WHY CAN'T WE PREDICT STORMS WITH 100% ACCURACY?

Perhaps taking a look at Tropical Storm Allison is best for this answer. Tropical depressions in our area usually take days to form and build into tropical storms. They also usually start further out in the Atlantic, giving weather forecasters and the National Weather Center plenty of time to start preparing, including sending hurricane hunters into the storm to determine its current strength and how organized it is as well as keeping the public informed as to predicted paths.

But Mother Nature is quite fickle and she likes to keep us on our toes, as in the case of Tropical Storm Allison. Allison began on May 21, 2001 as a tropical wave off the African coast, similar to most tropical activity that hits Texas. The wave eventually dissipated...for the most part. The wave continued on a mid-level until she entered the Gulf in the very early hours of Tuesday, June 5, 2001. Since it had a cool center, the wave was not anticipated to do much of anything. However, the wave shocked everyone by developing within just a matter of a couple of hours into Tropical Storm Allison. Later that same day, the storm hit Freeport, Texas, where she rapidly weakened back to a tropical wave. Expecting the storm to follow typical patterns, the National Weather Service discontinued any advisories on Wednesday, June 6th.

However, Allison was an unwelcome visitor who refused to leave. Climate conditions worked in Allison's favor: she stalled over East Texas and redeveloped into a Tropical Depression before being pushed back into the Gulf, where she continued to sit for several days. The storm eventually made a second landfall in Morgan City, Louisiana on June 11th. Still, she persisted. Allison eventually moved along the Gulf Coast states, through Florida and along the East Coast states (where she was responsible for 7 deaths in Pennsylvania), all the way to Newfoundland until all remnants finally dissipated on June 20th.

Starting with where, when and how she developed, to how quickly she turned into a Tropical Storm and, finally, her absolute refusal to leave, Tropical Storm Allison was so radically different from all historical tropical storms that not even the best technology could predict her erratic patterns. Tropical Storm Allison is the ONLY tropical storm in history to have its name retired. Interesting enough, the name "Allison" was in fact a replacement for the retired name of "Alicia", the hurricane that hit Texas in 1983. This only goes to emphasize that even the best technology cannot control climate conditions, which means that Mother Nature will always triumph over man's technology. After all, it is impossible to ask a storm to read history and follow known patterns!

AREN'T THE "NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS" OF A STORM ALWAYS THE SAME? A HURRICANE IS A HURRICANE IS A HURRICANE, AFTER ALL. RIGHT?

WRONG! Storms can have the same development conditions and patterns. Some have even followed almost exactly the same path as previous storms. But due to uncontrollable climate conditions, no two storms are ever the same.

It is interesting to note that while hurricanes can reach a Category 5, the Gulf of Mexico is a relatively shallow body of water. As such, hurricanes and other tropical activity can begin to lose strength when entering the Gulf as the land beneath the water helps "sheer" the storm. This does not mean that a Category 5 storm will never make landfall in the Texas Gulf, however! Regardless, the strength (or category) of a storm is just one thing to consider.

Some tropical cyclonic activities are “wind events” where there is not much rain but there are tremendously high wind speeds. Other tropical activities are “rain events”, such as Tropical Storm Allison, where the winds are considered weak, but rain totals can go off the charts. Also, while technology can help pinpoint when and where a storm will hit, exact predictions as to landfall even up to the day of anticipated landfall will always be tricky as storms can change paths or stall out. Some storms have been known to be heading full force into the Gulf of Mexico only to literally “pop” and fizzle out at the last minute. Further, storms such as Hurricane Ike are huge in sheer size alone, which can create extremely high storm surges and extreme long periods of hurricane force winds, both much more than storms of similar categories have historically produced.

Referring back to Tropical Storm Allison, she never reached hurricane force and was considered a rather weak storm – in both size and wind strength. Most tropical storms die after just a couple of days. However, because of climate conditions, the storm developed suddenly and persisted for a total of 15 days – almost 2.5 times longer than average. The storm also created record breaking rains and floods – a total of over 39 inches of rain fell in the Houston / Galveston area in less than 3 days (in non-drought ridden years, the typical annual rainfall for this area of Texas is 48 inches). The floods from Tropical Storm Allison created what is known as a “500-year flood event”, which in turn permanently changed the flood zones in this area of Texas.

Looking at another example, at his peak, Hurricane Ike became a Category 4 storm, but the sheer of the Gulf helped decrease its strength to a Category 2 hurricane by landfall. Ike was not considered to be much of a “rain event”, as there was not much rain along with the winds in comparison to similar storms. Also, Category 2 hurricanes are not typically known to have large storm surges. However, Hurricane Ike was huge – a record 300-miles wide! The incredible size of the storm created a larger than anticipated storm surge of about 15 to 20 feet, and because surges are pushed ahead of the storm, Ike’s storm surge arrived much earlier than predicted. As such, many people who were making evacuation preparations were caught and could not evacuate due to flooded exit paths. In addition, the sheer size of the storm coupled with its relative slow movement also meant the hurricane force winds of up to 143 miles per hour lasted for hours on end, resulting in almost total devastation of Galveston, Kemah, High Island and other surrounding areas.

Therefore, no matter how advanced technology becomes, no two hurricanes or other tropical cyclonic activity will ever have the same temperament or characteristics. Therefore, storms will always remain notoriously difficult to predict due to their erratic nature and the whims of climate changes.

WITH TODAY’S ADVANTAGES, WHY DO HURRICANES AND OTHER TROPICAL CYCLONIC ACTIVITY STILL RESULT IN DEATHS?

The advances in technology since the devastating 1900 Galveston Hurricane and the lessons learned from that hurricane as well as other storms have made it possible to decrease the number of deaths and the amount of destruction from hurricanes. However, one must always consider one very important factor in all tropical cyclonic activity: the human element.

The sheer suddenness of the storm coupled with her persistence and high rainfall totals resulted in a total of 41 deaths in the 15-day life of Allison, 23 of which were in the Galveston / Houston area alone. The official death toll of Hurricane Ike is 195 – 73 were killed in Haiti and another 112 in the US. However, at least 23 people are still missing. The official death toll of the devastating Hurricane Katrina which hit Louisiana in 2005 is 1,833, with many still missing. The official death toll of Hurricane Rita, which hit the Sabine Pass just days after Hurricane Katrina, stands at 125, of which 113 were in Texas. The deaths contributed to these storms are due in part to the damages caused by the size, strength and other natural makeup of the storms themselves.

Yet, unfortunately, human error also plays a part in storm deaths – the breaking of levees in New Orleans (which were known for decades to be weakening) during Katrina, the lack of proper maintenance of a nursing home bus resulted in a fire which killed several evacuees in Rita and the very early arrival of the storm surge before the onslaught of Ike resulted in the inability of many residents to evacuate the Galveston and surrounding areas.

Perhaps the horrifying events during the evacuation of the Houston / Galveston prior to Hurricane Rita are the best ways to highlight the one most important human error in all storms: the fact that some people simply refuse to evacuate.

In 2005, Hurricane Rita hit the Texas Gulf Coast less than one month after Hurricane Katrina had devastated New Orleans. With the horrifying events of Katrina at the forefront, for the first time in the metro area’s history, most of the population decided to leave and the Houston / Galveston metro area experienced an evacuation on

a level never before seen. Millions of people tried to evacuate, but total chaos ensued as the state refused to open both sides of the freeways to allow better evacuation (the city could not override the state as the state controls the major freeways), people were stranded for hours on roads and the terrible nursing home bus fire occurred. To add insult to injury, Hurricane Rita turned at the last minute and hit further up the coast, with little to no impact on the Houston / Galveston metro areas. The appalling events of Hurricane Rita only served to further enhance people's stance that "there is no need to evacuate".

Result: fast forward three years later when Hurricane Ike headed to the Coast in 2008: while some people were in fact making preparations to evacuate but got stranded by the storm surge, most refused to leave because they had "ridden out so many storms in the past and nothing ever happened before, and besides, look what happened during Rita." But no one expected Ike's winds to last as long as they did – in addition, the eye of the storm never crossed Galveston, so there was no break in the winds at all for over 6 to 8 hours!! In the end, the refusal to evacuate perhaps played the largest role in the death toll from Hurricane Ike.

PEOPLE FORGET THE PRIMARY THING ABOUT STORMS: NO TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE. The only true predictable thing about any tropical cyclonic activity: they are unpredictable!

As such, storms such as Hurricanes Katrina, Ike and Tropical Storm Allison are just a few reasons why it is absolutely critical for people to evacuate when a hurricane or even a tropical storm is headed toward the Texas Gulf Coast. You are not a super hero – they only exist in the comics and sci-fi movies! Therefore, you staying in your house is not going to help protect it from the force of Mother Nature at her worst. The best you can do is prepare your home as much as possible, including ensuring you have the proper insurance coverage, including flood insurance, then evacuate with a well-thought out plan.

PREPARATION TIPS

Developing and following an evacuation plan is one of the best ways to prepare for a storm. However, when planning your evacuation, it is also very critical to pay attention to the anticipated path of a hurricane or tropical storm AFTER it makes landfall. For example, if the storm is expected to turn north, then it is best to evacuate to the west or south. Basically, go the opposite direction away from where the storm is expected to turn after landfall. Although hurricanes will obviously downgrade after they make landfall, they still remain a danger with high winds, rain, potential tornadoes and flooding, as shown by the long-lived Allison.

If you do stay, then you need to "batten down the hatches" of your home as best as possible and stay informed at all times. Use the tips provided in this packet, as these tips and others (such as those found at www.ready.gov) will help you get prepared as best as possible for hurricanes and other tropical activity that can hit the Texas Gulf Coast.

As Benjamin Franklin was said: "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." A home or business can always be rebuilt – furniture, cars and other "things" can always be replaced. However, a lost life can never be restored.

DO'S AND DON'TS OF NATURAL DISASTERS

The following are just a few tips to help prepare for the events of tropical cyclonic activity. Other useful information can be found at www.ready.gov:

BEFORE:

- DO have a well-thought out evacuation plan
- DO make sure your windows are protected and your home is secured
- DO bring your pets inside
- DO remove all objects from the yard, including outdoor furniture and barbeque pits. Even the heaviest is no match for hurricane force winds
- DO keep a well-stocked disaster supplies kit, including bandages and other medical supplies. Don't forget that all important non-electric can opener
- DO ensure you have an ample supply of all medications
- DO ensure you have enough water and non-perishable food for at least three days
- DO clean containers for cleaning water. Line the bathtub with plastic sheeting or a clean shower curtain, or caulk the drain with silicone caulking — it holds water for weeks and cleans up easily when dry. Plan on three gallons per person, per day for all uses (including flushing the toilet).
- DO ensure important documents are either in a safety deposit box, or sealed in Ziploc bags
- DO ensure your gas tanks are full for all vehicles
- DO use storm tracking charts (available available online, from grocery stores and from local new stations)
- DO have plenty of batteries on hand for radios, flashlights, etc. Perhaps invest in a hand-cranked weather radio
- DO ensure you have enough baby supplies and pet supplies for at least three days
- DO have large tarps, tools and other supplies for minor home repairs. You may have to wait for months for available contractors after a storm

DURING:

IF you stay home, then be sure you are well prepared. Howling winds, driving rain and the threat of tornadoes make riding out a storm a scary ordeal. Follow these tips for staying safe in your home during a hurricane:

- DO stay inside and away from windows, skylights and glass doors. In the event of a tornado, find a safe area in your home (an interior room, a closet or bathroom on the lower level)
- DO turn off electricity at the main breaker if flooding threatens
- In the event of power loss, DO turn off all major appliances such as the air conditioner, water heaters (non-gas), etc. to reduce damages from electric surges
- DO NOT electrical appliances, including your computer.
- DO NOT GO OUTSIDE. If the eye of the storm passes over your area, there will be a short period of calm, but at the other side of the eye, the wind speed rapidly increases to hurricane force and will come from the opposite direction. Also, do not go outside to see "what the wind feels like." It is too easy to be hit by flying debris.
- DO beware of lighting. Stay away from electrical equipment. DO NOT use the phone or take a bath/shower during the storm.

AFTER:

Typically, more deaths occur after a hurricane than during. These deaths come from people being too anxious to get outside and survey the damage where they come into contact with downed power lines or unstable trees, etc. Follow these suggestions for staying safe after the hurricane:

- DO NOT venture out until weather officials have issued an "all-clear"
- DO NOT drive around or walk around the area the first day or so – not only could you impede any rescue efforts, you could also come across fallen electric lines, etc.

- DO NOT fallen or low-hanging wires of any kind under any circumstances. Stay away from puddles with wires in/near them.
- DO NOT touch trees or other objects in contact with power lines.
- DO NOT walk in flood waters. Houston is home to 26 bayous filled with alligators and poisonous snakes which could be loose flood waters. Also, if you cannot see debris, you may hurt yourself
- USE PHONES ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES. Call 911 only for life-threatening situations.
- DO call police or utility companies immediately to report hazards such as downed power lines, broken gas or water mains, overturned gas tanks, etc.
- DO watch for weakened roads, bridges, tree limbs or porches which could collapse unexpectedly.
- DO get out and check for damages to your home and yard, and do as much clean up as possible
- DO NOT attempt any home repairs you cannot easily and safely handle
- DO check on your neighbors and their homes to see if they are in need of assistance or help them retain their security of their homes
- DO check refrigerated / frozen food for spoilage after power has been restored (spoiled food is the cause of much sickness two days to a week after the storm.)
- DO check in all directions for nearby power lines when reinstalling a CB, TV or satellite antenna. The same goes for climbing trees to clear debris.
- DO report any suspicious activity in and around your area – vandals and thieves do as much or more damage than storms
- **Do not operate charcoal grills, propane camping stoves or generators indoors or within 5 feet of open windows. Many have died from carbon monoxide poisoning!**

STAYING AT A PUBLIC SHELTER

Area public shelters are for people who have no other place to go. If you must stay in a shelter, listen to news broadcasts for announcements of shelter openings. Shelter volunteers do their best to make you comfortable, but a shelter is not a very comfortable place. Stay with friends or relatives if at all possible.

- Those with special medical needs (oxygen, etc.) should go to special needs shelters only. Special needs shelters do not provide hands-on medical care, only medical monitoring. Bring a caregiver with you if needed.
- Only service animals are permitted in public shelters.
- Eat before you arrive. Meals may not be available during the first 24 hours. Bring snacks.
- Bring your identification, valuable papers and medications in their original containers.
- Bring baby supplies.
- Bring blankets/sleeping bags, pillows. Those are either not provided or limited in supply.
- Bring cards/games/books to pass the hours.
- Bring flashlights and a battery operated radio or TV with extra batteries for all.
- Stay inside and follow directions that are given for your comfort and safety.
- You will not be allowed outside until the official "all clear."

**ABOVE ALL:
STAY INFORMED!
STAY SAFE!**

Before a Hurricane

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- To begin preparing, you should [build an emergency kit](#) and [make a family communications plan](#).
- Know your surroundings.
- Learn the elevation level of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you know how your property will be affected when storm surge or tidal flooding are forecasted.
- Identify levees and dams in your area and determine whether they pose a hazard to you.
- Learn community hurricane evacuation routes and how to find higher ground. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate.
- Make plans to secure your property:
- Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" exterior grade or marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Another year-round option would be installation of laminated glass with impact-resistant glazing. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Install a generator for emergencies.
- If in a high-rise building, when high winds are present, be prepared to take shelter on a lower floor because wind conditions increase with height, and in a small interior room without windows. When flooding may be occurring, be prepared to take shelter on a floor safely above the flooding and wave effects.
- Consider building a safe room.

Hurricanes cause heavy rains that can cause extensive flood damage in coastal and inland areas. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection. Flood insurance is the only way to financially protect your property or business from flood damage. To learn more about your flooding risk and how to protect yourself and your business, visit the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (NFIP) Web site, www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419.

During a Hurricane

If a hurricane is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- Secure your home, close storm shutters and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- [Turn off utilities](#) if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks
- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Moor your boat if time permits.
- Ensure a [supply of water](#) for sanitary purpose such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.
- Find out how to [keep food safe](#) during and after an emergency.

You should evacuate under the following conditions:

If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.

- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure – such shelter are particularly hazardous during hurricane no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building – hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an island waterway.

Read more about [evacuating yourself and your family](#). If you are unable to evacuate, go to your wind-safe room. If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

- Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm – winds will pick up again.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.
- Avoid elevators.

After a Hurricane

- Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- If you have become separated from your family, use your [family communications plan](#) or contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS/1-800-733-2767 or visit the American Red Cross Safe and Well site: www.safeandwell.org
 - The [American Red Cross](#) also maintains a database to help you find family. Contact the local American Red Cross chapter where you are staying for information. Do not contact the chapter in the disaster area.
- If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- If you cannot return home and have immediate housing needs. Text **SHELTER** + your ZIP code to **43362** (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: **shelter 12345**).
- For those who have longer-term housing needs, FEMA offers several types of assistance, including services and grants to help people repair their homes and find replacement housing. [Apply for assistance](#) or [search for information about housing rental resources](#)
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Stay off the streets. If you must go out watch for fallen objects; downed electrical wires; and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks.
- Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.
- Walk carefully around the outside your home and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage before entering.
- Stay out of any building if you smell gas, floodwaters remain around the building or your home was damaged by fire and the authorities have not declared it safe.
- Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes. If you have any doubts about safety, have your residence inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.
- Use battery-powered flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles. Note: The flashlight should be turned on outside before entering - the battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.
- Watch your pets closely and keep them under your direct control. Watch out for wild animals, especially poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.
- Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- **NEVER** use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.



Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



Ready

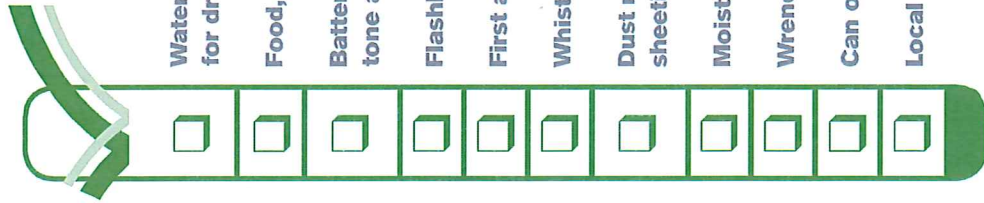
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.®

Emergency Supply List



FEMA

www.ready.gov



Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation

Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food

Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both

Flashlight and extra batteries

First aid kit

Whistle to signal for help

Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place

Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities

Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)

Local maps

Through its Ready Campaign, the Federal Emergency Management Agency educates and empowers Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks. **Ready** asks individuals to do three key things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

All Americans should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive for at least three days if an emergency occurs. Following is a listing of some basic items that every emergency supply kit should include. However, it is important that individuals review this list and consider where they live and the unique needs of their family in order to create an emergency supply kit that will meet these needs. Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.



FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, DC 20472



Ready

Family Emergency Plan



FEMA

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed. ®



Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supply kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Out-of-Town Contact Name: _____	Telephone Number: _____
Email: _____	
Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____	Telephone Number: _____
Regional Meeting Place: _____	Telephone Number: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Telephone Number: _____

Fill out the following information for each family member and keep it up to date.

Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____

Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans that you and your family need to know about.

Work Location One Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Evacuation Location: _____	School Location One Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Evacuation Location: _____
Work Location Two Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Evacuation Location: _____	School Location Two Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Evacuation Location: _____
Work Location Three Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Evacuation Location: _____	School Location Three Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Evacuation Location: _____
Other place you frequent Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Evacuation Location: _____	Other place you frequent Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Evacuation Location: _____

Important Information	Name	Telephone Number	Policy Number
Doctor(s):			
Other:			
Pharmacist:			
Medical Insurance:			
Homeowners/Rental Insurance:			
Veterinarian/Kennel (for pets):			

Dial 911 for Emergencies



Ready

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Family Emergency Plan




FEMA



Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Fill out these cards and give one to each member of your family to make sure they know who to call and where to meet in case of an emergency.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION:


Family Emergency Plan 

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____


OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: _____

Ready 

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

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ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION:


Family Emergency Plan 

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____


NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: _____

Ready 

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION:


Family Emergency Plan 

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____


OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: _____

Ready 

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

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ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION:


Family Emergency Plan 

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: _____

Ready 

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES



Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.

1. Get a Kit of pet emergency supplies.

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water.

- ✓ **Food:** Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- ✓ **Water:** Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets, in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.
- ✓ **Medicines and medical records:** Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.
- ✓ **First aid kit:** Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.
- ✓ **Collar with ID tag, harness or leash:** Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit.
- ✓ **Important documents:** Place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and also add them to your kit.
- ✓ **Crate or other pet carrier:** If you need to evacuate in an emergency situation take your pets and animals with you, provided that it is practical to do so.
- ✓ **Sanitation:** Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach), or in an emergency you can also use it to purify water. Use 8 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water, stir well and let it stand for 30 minutes before use. Do not use scented or color safe bleaches or those with added cleaners.
- ✓ **A picture of you and your pet together:** If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics.
- ✓ **Familiar items:** Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

Consider two kits. In one, put everything your pets will need to stay where you are and make it on your own. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away.

2. Make a Plan for what you will do in an emergency.

Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Be prepared to assess the situation. Use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pet's safety during an emergency.



Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.

Evacuate. Plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you, if practical. If you go to a public shelter, keep in mind your pets may not be allowed inside. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care. Consider family or friends outside your immediate area who would be willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency. Other options may include: a hotel or motel that takes pets or some sort of boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place. Find out before an emergency happens if any of these facilities in your area might be viable options for you and your pets.

Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Talk with your pet care buddy about your evacuation plans and show them where you keep your pet's emergency supply kit. Also designate specific locations, one in your immediate neighborhood and other farther away, where you will meet in an emergency.

Talk to your pet's veterinarian about emergency planning. Discuss the types of things you should include in your pet's emergency first aid kit. Get the names of vets or veterinary hospitals in other cities where you might need to seek temporary shelter. Also talk with your veterinarian about microchipping. If you and your pet are separated, this permanent implant for your pet and corresponding enrollment in a recovery database can help a veterinarian or shelter identify your animal. If your pet is microchipped, keeping your emergency contact information up to date and listed with a reliable recovery database is essential to you and your pet being reunited.

Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment. Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including the Humane Society or ASPCA and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you, and one in your pet's emergency supply kit. Obtain "Pets Inside" stickers and place them on your doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency. And, if time permits, remember to write the words "Evacuated with Pets" across the stickers, should you evacuate your home with your pets.

3. Be Prepared for what might happen.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an emergency supply kit for yourself, your family and your pets, is the same regardless of the type of emergency. However, it's important to say informed about what might happen and know what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region.

Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected. Those who take the time to prepare themselves and their pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry. Take the time now to get yourself and your pet ready.

Developed in partnership with:



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

For more information, visit ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY

**Hurricane direct hits on the mainland U.S. coastline
From 1851-2012**

AREA	CATEGORY						Major Hurricanes
	1	2	3	4	5	ALL	
U.S. Coastline (Texas to Maine)	117	76	76	18	3	290	97
Texas	25	19	12	7	0	63	19
North	13	8	3	4	0	28	7
Central	7	5	2	2	0	16	4
South	10	5	7	1	0	23	8
Louisiana	19	15	15	4	1	54	20
Mississippi	2	5	8	0	1	16	9
Alabama	12	5	6	0	0	23	6
Florida	44	33	29	6	2	114	37
Northwest	27	16	12	0	0	55	12
Northeast	13	8	1	0	0	22	1
Southwest	16	8	7	4	1	36	12
Southeast	13	13	11	3	1	41	15
Georgia	12	5	2	1	0	20	3
South Carolina	19	6	4	2	0	31	6
North Carolina	24	13	11	1	0	47	13
Virginia	9	2	1	0	0	12	1
Maryland	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
Delaware	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
New Jersey	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Pennsylvania	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
New York	6	1	5	0	0	12	5
Connecticut	4	3	3	0	0	10	3
Rhode Island	3	2	4	0	0	9	4
Massachusetts	5	2	3	0	0	10	3
New Hampshire	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
Maine	5	1	0	0	0	6	0

**Texas Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
1850's - 2000's**

Tropical Cyclones Strikes By The Decade

Decade	Hurricanes	Tropical Storms	Total
1850's	3	1	4
1860's	4	1	5
1870's	2	4	6
1880's	8	3	11
1890's	3	3	6
1900's	4	2	6
1910's	7	1	8
1920's	2	3	5
1930's	5	4	9
1940's	8	6	14
1950's	2	5	7
1960's	3	3	6
1970's	2	7	9
1980's	5	4	9
1990's	1	4	5
2000's	5	5	10
Total	64	56	120
Annual average	0.4	0.4	0.8

**HISTORICAL TEXAS HURRICANES & TROPICAL ACTIVITY
1527 THROUGH 2013**

Year	Date	Name	Landfall	Winds	Category	# Deaths
1527	November		Matagorda Bay			200
1553			Lower Texas Coast			1,700
1554	April		Brownsville			50 - 100
1766	Sep 04		Galveston		2 or 3	
1791			Lower Texas Coast			
1818	Sep 12		Galveston		2 or 3	<1,000
1828			Lower Texas Coast		1	
1829	Jul 09		Rio Grande		TROP STORM	
1829	Sep 10		Brownsville			
1834	Aug 18		Brownsville			
1834	September		South Texas			
1835	Aug 18	Antigua Hurricane	Brownsville			
1835	Sep 18		Corpus Christi			14
1837	Oct 05	Racer's Storm	Brownsville			105
1838			Lower Texas Coast			
1839	Nov 05		Galveston			
1840			Brownsville			
1842	September		Galveston			
1842	Oct 05		Galveston			
1844	Aug 06		Brownsville			70
1847	October?		Galveston		TROP CYCLONE	
1848	Oct 17		Lower Texas Coast			
1851	Jun 25	Number 1	Matagorda	90	1	
1854	Sep 19	Number 4	Matagorda	105	2	20
1857	Sep 30	Number 4	Port Isable	105	2	25
1865	Sep 13	Number 4	Cameron LA	105	2	
1866	Jul 15	Number 1	Port O'Connor	105	2	
1867	Oct 03	Number 7	Entire Texas Coast	105	2	
1869	Aug 16	Number 7	Indianola	105	2	
1871	Oct 02	Number 7	Galveston	80	1	3+
1874	Sep 02	Number 1	Lower Texas Coast		TROP STORM	
1875	Sep 16	Number 3	Indianola	115	3	270
1877	Sep 16	Number 2	Entire Texas Coast	80	1	
1879	Aug 23	Number 3	High Island	105	2	
1880	Jun 21		High Island		TROP CYCLONE	
1880	Aug 12	Number 2	Brownsville	150	4	5
1881	Aug 13	Number 3	Corpus Christi	90	1	
1884	October		Brownsville		TROP DIST	
1886	Jun 13	Number 1	Cameron LA	100	2	
1886	Sep 22	Number 6	South of Brownsville	100	2	
1886	Oct 12	Number 10	Beaumont	120	3	150
1887	Sep 21	Number 9	Brownsville	100	2	
1888	Jun 16	Number 1	Matagorda	80	1	
1888	Jul 04		Galveston		TROP ACTIVITY	
1891	Jul 05	Number 1	Matagorda	100	2	
1895	Aug 29	Number 2	Brownsville	110	2	
1895	Oct 05		Entire Texas Coast		TROP ACTIVITY	
1897	Sep 12	Number 2	Beaumont	85	1	13
1898	Sep 20		Galveston		TROP ACTIVITY	
1900	Sep 08	Galveston Hurricane	Galveston	145	4	8,000
1901	Jul 02		Upper Coast		TROP ACTIVITY	
1901	Oct 07		Galveston		TROP ACTIVITY	
1902	Jun 19	Number 2	Port O'Connor	80	1	
1909	Jun 25		Lower Texas Coast		TROP ACTIVITY	
1909	Jul 21	Number 4	Velasco	115	3	41
1909	Aug 27	Number 6	Brownsville	120	3	
1910	Sep 14	Number 3	Baffin Bay	110	2	
1912	Oct 16	Number 6	Corpus Christi	100	2	
1913	Jun 27	Number 1	Corpus Christi	75	1	
1914	Sep 19		Upper Coast		TROP STORM	
1915	Aug 17	Number 2	Galveston	135	4	275
1916	Aug 18	Number 6	Corpus Christi	135	4	20
1919	Sep 14	Number 2	Corpus Christi	143	4	284

1921	Jun 22	Number 1	Matagorda	95	1	
1921	Sep 08	Number 2	Mexico as Cat 1 / Deep South & Central Texas as Trop Storm	45	TROP STORM	275
1922	Jun 13		Rio Grande		TROP ACTIVITY	
1925	Sep 06		Brownsville		TROP ACTIVITY	
1926	Aug 22		Upper Coast		3	
1929	Jun 28	Number 1	Matagorda	85	1	3
1931	Jun 24		Lower Texas Coast		TROP ACTIVITY	
1932	Aug 13	Number 2	Freeport	140	4	48
1933	Jun 27		Lower Texas Coast		TROP ACTIVITY	Several
1933	Jul 21		Matagorda		TROP ACTIVITY	
1933	Aug 05	Number 5	Brownsville	100	2	
1933	Aug 14		Port Arthur		TROP ACTIVITY	
1933	Sep 04	Number 11	Brownsville	125	3	40
1934	Jul 21	Number 3	Rockport	100	2	19
1936	Jun 27	Number 3	Port O'Connor	80	1	
1936	September		Lower Texas Coast		TROP DIST	
1938	Aug 15	Number 2	East of Sabine Pass	75	1	
1938	Oct 10		Freeport		TROP STORM	
1940	Aug 07	Number 2	East of Sabine Pass	100	2	
1941	Sep 23	Number 2	Texas City	120	3	4
1942	Mar 31	Number 1	Galveston	80	1	
1942	Sep 30	Number 3	Matagorda	115	3	
1943	Jul 27	Number 1	Galveston	100	2	19
1945	Jul 19		Corpus Christi		TROP STORM	
1945	Aug 26	Number 6	Matagorda	110	2	3
1947	Aug 24	Number 3	Galveston	80	1	1
1947	Sep 19		Upper Coast	?	4	
1949	Oct 03	Number 10	Freeport	110	2	2
1954	Jun 26	Alice	South of Brownsville	80	1	17
1954	Jul 27	Not Named	Upper Coast		TROP STORM	
1955	Sep 05	Gladys	South of Brownsville	85	1	1
1957	Jun 25	Audrey	Sabine Pass	145	4	509
1957	Aug 08	Bertha	Beaumont		TROP STORM	2
1958	Jun 14	Alma	Lower Texas Coast		TROP STORM	1
1958	Aug 08	Ella	South Texas		1	1
1959	Jul 25	Debra	Galveston	85	1	
1960	Jun 22	Not Named	Corpus Christi		TROP STORM	7
1961	Jun 29	CARLA (NAME RETIRED)	Port Lavaca	145	4	4
1963	Sep 17	Cindy	High Island	75	1	3
1964	Aug 05	Abby	Matagorda		TROP STORM	
1967	Sep 20	BEULAH (NAME RETIRED)	Brownsville	135	3	15
1968	Jun 22	Candy	Corpus Christi		TROP STORM	
1970	Aug 03	CELIA (NAME RETIRED)	Corpus Christi	125	3	11
1970	Sep 11	Felice	Galveston		TROP STORM	
1971	Sep 10	Fern	Matagorda	90	1	2
1971	Sep 16	Edith	East of Sabine Pass	100	2	2
1973	Sep 01	Delia	Galveston		TROP STORM	5
1973	Sep 09	Not Named	Upper Coast		TROP DEPRESSION	
1975	Aug 24	Caroline	South of Brownsville		TROP STORM	
1978	Jul 30	Amelia	Lower Texas Coast		TROP STORM	
1978	Aug 26	Debra	Upper Coast		TROP STORM	
1979	Jul 24	Claudette	Along Sabine Pass	60	TROP STORM	2
1979	Aug 29	Elena	Middle Coast		TROP STORM	
1980	Aug 09	ALLEN (NAME RETIRED)	Port Mansfield	115	3	15
1980	Sep 04	Danielle	Upper Coast		TROP STORM	
1983	Aug 18	ALICIA (NAME RETIRED)	Galveston	115	3	13
1986	Jun 26	Bonnie	Beaumont	95	1	4
1988	Sep 17	Gilbert	Brownsville	135	4	4
1989	Aug 01	Chantal	High Island	80	1	2
1989	Oct 16	Jerry	Galveston	85	1	3
1998	Sep 13	Frances	Near Corpus Christi	60	TROP STORM	1
1999	Aug 22	Bret	Padre Island	115	3	4
2001	Jun 05	ALLISON (NAME RETIRED)*	Freeport	60	TROP STORM	41
2002	Sep 06	Fay	Matagorda	60	TROP STORM	
2003	Jul 15	Claudette	Port O'Connor	85	1	1

2003	Aug 15	Erika	South Texas (TS) / Mexico (Hur)	60-75	TROP STORM/UPGD TO CAT 1 IN MEX	
2005	Sep 24	RITA (NAME RETIRED)	Sabine Pass	100	2	59
2007	Aug 15	Erin	Lamar		TROP DEPRESSION	
2007	Sep 13	Humberto	High Island	90	1	1
2008	Jul 23	Dolly	South Padre Island	85	1	1
2008	Aug 05	Edouard	Near Port Arthur	65	TROP STORM	
2008	Sep 13	IKE (NAME RETIRED)	Galveston	110	2	84
2010	Sep 6/7	Hermine	Mexico (TS) / South & Central Texas (TD)		TROP STORM IN MEX / DWNGD TO DPRSN IN TEX	1
2011	Jul 30	Don	Padre Island (TD)		TROP STORM / DWNGD TO DPRSN @ LANDFALL	

* Tropical Storm Allison is the only tropical storm in the Atlantic storm history to have its name retired. The name Allison was itself a replacement for the name Alicia, which was retired after 1983's Hurricane Alicia.