



August 30th, 2017

## Disaster Recovery Information

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those affected by the historic and catastrophic damage of Hurricane Harvey. We are fortunate that the Chamber office received no major damage and we will be open as a resource hub for any business that may need assistance during this time. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

We will be posting updates on our Facebook page .

### **BUSINESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Please let us know what your current needs are so we can find the resources for you. The resources available through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, Texas Association of Business, Texas Chamber Executives, Small Business Association, and our Chamber members are quite diverse, and we are happy to put you in touch with a trusted source to fulfill your needs.

### **BUSINESS RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**

Please let us know if you have any resources available to help other businesses in need.

### **OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

Please let us know if you are back in business so we can help spread the word via our social media and communication channels.

### **HOUSING NEEDS**

Hotels, motels, real estate agents, and condominiums, please let us know the following so we can let people know.

- Do you have vacancy/short-term rental availability?
- What is your pet policy?
- Do you accept FEMA vouchers?

### **CURRENT SHELTERS AVAILABLE**

**Dickinson:** Dickinson High School

**League City:** HomeTown Heroes Park 1001 East League City Parkway. This shelter is a consolidation shelter for all the other ones that were open in the city. The Salvation Army will be serving food at this location.

**Hitchcock:** 7801 Neville Road @ Hitchcock High School in TX Moody Gym. The Salvation Army has a canteen and is serving food.

**Texas City:** Mainland Mall behind World Gym. This is a temporary shelter but the Salvation Army is serving food.

**Galveston:** Salvation Army Center of Hope. Currently operating under disaster mode, will not turn anyone away until further notice. People in Galveston looking for food can come to the COH for a meal.

## **VOLUNTEER**

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit

[www.nvoae.org](http://www.nvoae.org)

### **RESOURCES QUICK LINKS**

- **HARRIS COUNTY RECOVERY**
- GALVESTON COUNTY RECOVERY - (281) 309-5002
- **US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
- **TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS**
- **ACCE DISASTER RECOVERY RESOURCES**
  
- **DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
- **FEMA ASSISTANCE**

Connect with us



## **Open Businesses in our Community**

Below is a list of open businesses in our community at this time. *Some are LIMITED HOURS...Please check with each individual business for times of operation.*

### **Restaurants/Bars:**

1000 Degree Pizza, Nassau Bay- (281) 532-6877  
Bullritos- NASA - (281) 333-0300  
Chuck's Sports Bar & Memorabilia - (832) 632-1325  
Center Court Pizza – (281) 339-7462  
Crazy Alan's Swamp Shack - (281) 334-5000  
Hubcap Grille Kemah - (281) 339-7116  
Little Daddy's Gumbo Bar (Limited Menu) - (281) 524-8626  
Jackie's Brickhouse - (832) 864-2459  
Jersey Mike's - Free meals for emergency workers  
Webster- [\(832\) 905-2985](tel:8329052985)  
League City - [\(281\) 724-1089](tel:2817241089)  
Jason's Deli League City - (281) 309-0007  
Jimmy John's, Nassau Bay - (281) 335-1210  
Luna's - (281) 334-0300  
Avenida Brazil (Formerly Tradicao) - (281) 557-9999  
Nothing Bundt Cakes - (281) 332-7100  
Mario's Flying Pizza, Seabrook, dine-in and carry-out - (281) 474-5103  
Menchies Frozen Yogurt at League City parkway - (281) 334-0660  
Robinette and Company- 281.326.3663  
Salata – Baybrook, (281) 819-4515 & Nasa Rd. 1- (281) 532-6988  
Tony's Pizzeria – (832) 863-3398  
T-Bone Tom's Kemah- (281) 334-2133  
Kemah Boardwalk – (877) 285-3624  
Pomodoro's- (281) 480-0700  
Mamacita's - (281) 332-5362

### **Groceries:**

Erma's Nutrition Center and Natural Market & Nassau Bay Farmers Market Saturday from 10am to 2pm  
(281)832-3466  
HEB Bay Colony - (281) 337-5142  
Wal-Mart , League City - (281) 337-9700  
Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market - (281) 724-6750

### **Health:**

UTMB Clinics – (409) 772-2222  
Memorial Hermann Urgent Care, Webster – (281)316-0885  
NightLight Pediatric Urgent Care clinic – (281) 658-1617  
Elite Care 24 Hour Emergency Room, League City – (281) 337-7500  
Clear Lake Modern Dentistry - (281) 990-9400

**Financial Institutions & Tax Services:**

Texas First Bank Kemah- (281) 538-4483  
Moody Bank – (281) 998-3337  
ACU of Texas (except for Bay Colony HEB and Pasadena Kroger)  
TDECU-Pasadena (drive thru only) - (800) 839-1154  
Shell FCU- (713) 844-1100  
Ham, Langston & Brezina, LLP – (281) 481-1040

**Housing:**

The Towers at Seabrook - Short term leases available on select units.  
Pet policy- \$250 pet fee, \$250 pet policy, \$10 pet rent, per pet, up to 2 pets per home. No weight restrictions for dogs. Breed restrictions apply. Will allow FEMA vouchers on approved applicants.

**Retail / REBUILD:**

Brave Boutique - (281)549-6230  
CertaPro Painters of League City - 281-724-9569  
DK's Dustbusters- (281) - 286-DUST (we can't do water damage clean up but we can do minor water extraction and spray for mold etc.)  
My Flooring America - [hurricanehelp@myflooringamerica.com](mailto:hurricanehelp@myflooringamerica.com) or call 281-338-1345  
The Tile Shop - (281) 361-1976  
Flagship Floors - 281-332-2272  
ANDRE APPLIANCE AC / HEAT - (281) 557-2220  
McCoys Building Supply on hwy 3 -

**Auto Dealers:**

Norman Frede Chevrolet - (281) 486-2200  
Mac Haik Toyota - (281) 338-9700  
Ron Cater Cadillac Hyundai Genesis – (281) 283-7000  
Advantage BMW MINI of Clear Lake is open –[www.advantagebmwcl.com](http://www.advantagebmwcl.com) [www.miniofclearlake.com](http://www.miniofclearlake.com) 281.557.7000

**Pest Control:**

Mikes Pest Control - (281) 332-0019 email [info@mikespestcontrol.net](mailto:info@mikespestcontrol.net)

**Misc:**

Butler's Courtyard - (281) 557-5551, space available with wifi for small offices and a large meeting space that can accommodate up to 150 in theater style seating.  
Minuteman Press, Bay Area - (281) 488-4100 Galveston – (409) 744-7500  
Rasa Yoga – (281) 282-9400  
Ventech Information Systems – (713) 475-4775  
Perry Family YMCA (Complimentary memberships through September 30th at no cost) -(281) 338-9622

**Volunteer / Donate:**

The Resource and Crisis Center of Galveston County is open. 24-hour hotline is (888) 919-7233. Lighthouse Christian Ministries - (281) 339-3033  
Interfaith Caring Ministries - 281.332.3881 [www.icmtx.org](http://www.icmtx.org)  
United Way Galveston County - (409) 948-4211 [www.uwgcm.org](http://www.uwgcm.org)  
League City United Methodist Church - (281) 332-1557

**Real Estate / Title:**

Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene, DJ Johnson - (832) 415-4854 Direct

Better Homes and Garden Gary Greene Bay Area, Koy Buyajian - (713)301-3053

Capital Title: 16935 El Camino Real - (281) 825-3888

**Insurance:**

Joe Cook & Associates – (281) 488-4485

**Animal / Vet Care:**

Bay Creek Animal Clinic- 281-332-3051

# My House was flooded! What do I do now?

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The following information is for anyone who has suffered damage from a hurricane or tropical storm or flash flood of any nature. There are several things to be done to get the recovery process moving and some things have priority over the others. What I hope to do here is provide you with information and priorities that you can use to help yourself recover as quickly as possible.

1. The first thing on your priority list should be to contact your insurance company. Hopefully you have flood insurance and you need to contact your agent and or claims office ASAP. If you do not have flood insurance you may want to register for assistance with FEMA. Yes, FEMA subsidizes all flood insurance but if you have not paid a flood insurance premium you have no flood insurance through FEMA. FEMA may still be able to help some but don't expect them to foot the bill to cover all of your damages. FEMA is only interested that you have a place to live that is safe, sanitary and secure. Don't expect them to replace very expensive furniture. They may help with some minimal cheap furniture but not much more than that.
2. Next comes documentation of damages. I cannot overstate this; document, document, document. Take photos and or videos of every damaged area you can find inside and out. Create a file on your device that will let you access and share these photos and videos as needed. **HOWEVER, PLEASE DO NOT ENTER ANY BUILDING THAT MAY HAVE BEEN STRUCTURALLY COMPROMISED.**

It is unlikely that simple rising water has done any structural damage. If however your property was subjected to high winds and or storm surge or currents from flooding streams that is a much greater possibility. If you have any doubt as to the structural integrity of your property, consult with a professional engineer BEFORE entering the property. Only after you are sure the property is safe should you enter and continue the documentation process.

The documentation will be very helpful as you are dealing with insurance companies, especially if you feel you are not being treated fairly. If you ever feel the need to talk to an attorney, the more documentation you have the better off you will be.

Don't limit your documentation to just photos and videos. Keep a journal. Write down the dates and times of everything you do and who was with you. Note the date and time and names of any communications you have with any insurance company or contractor and be sure to log the name of all of the individuals you deal with. Hopefully you will never need all of this documentation but if you do, it will be invaluable.

Assuming your property is safe to enter and you've got your documentation under control, you can now start the process of clean up and repair. Now is a good time to get your emotions under control and begin to segment or compartmentalize the work that needs to be done. What follows here is the order in which I personally dealt with a flooded house along with things I have learned as a home inspector and as a disaster housing inspector working to help with recovery after seven named storms in Florida and Louisiana including Katrina and Rita.

- A. If it is wet get it out of the house! Mold grows incredibly fast and the quicker you get your house dry the less mold you will have to deal with. Be sure to wear a mask of some kind while inside a wet home.
- B. If your furniture cannot be salvaged get it out and on the roadside to be picked up. Basically if your upholstered furniture got wet and is holding water, get it out – couches, chairs, mattresses, drapes, all of it. Non upholstered furniture may be salvaged if kept dry.
- C. Wet floor coverings are next – especially carpets, rugs and pads. Carefully use a razor knife to cut these into manageable size pieces and drag them out to the curb. Most wood floor coverings will begin to warp and buckle if left in a wet environment for long so I suggest getting them out also. Tile floorings are a little different. Water may not actually damage the tile and it may look ok. The problem with tile floorings is water underneath tile. Generally speaking it is best to remove all flooded floor coverings so you can adequately dry the house.
- D. Next, remove all baseboards and get them out. Now you have to assess the condition of your interior wall coverings. Whether it is a wood product or drywall it needs to come out to some level. Here is where a reasonable assessment comes in. How high did the water get? This may vary from room to room. Remember that drywall (gypsum board quite commonly called Sheetrock, a U.S. Gypsum trademark) comes in 4 x 8 ft panels. Wood paneling, commonly found in older homes can't be repaired like drywall and you will need to remove all of it.

So, if the water level was only a foot high you do not have to remove all of the drywall. Using a razor knife (carefully) and a straight edge, cut through the drywall about 2 feet up from its lower edge which is visible because you have already removed the baseboards. Remove this layer of drywall to the outside.

Most outside walls will be insulated and that insulation may be holding water so you need to remove that also if it is wet. If you discover it has wicked water higher than two feet then go ahead and remove the drywall to four feet so you can get to any wet insulation and get it out. (When you get to four feet you will probably discover a seam where the dry wall was joined when originally installed. Make your cut in the seam as it will be much easier to do.)

- **Careful with electric** receptacles and switches and be aware that there are electric wires behind most walls. Most of them are at and above the level of wall receptacles. For safety it is a good idea to turn the power off to the room you are working in as well as the one on the other side of the wall.

If your flood level went higher you will have to remove more drywall and insulation. Remember to do this in two foot increments to gain maximum use from the minimum amount of drywall. In worst case scenarios you may be removing the ceiling as well. Be aware of insulation that is above most one story house ceilings, as it will fall on you along with any other items that might be stored (or left behind) in attic spaces.

- E. Cabinets; most bath and kitchen cabinets and bookshelves are wood products, if they got wet they will most likely need to be removed as well. Upper cabinets may not have actual water damage but it is very unlikely you will ever match them so make sure your insurance company covers their replacement as well.

If you have not already done so, gather up as many fans as possible and get them running on high speed. If for some lucky reason your air conditioning system is operational, turn it on and set it low. A/C systems are great dehumidifiers! If your A/C system was flooded, be sure to have it checked by a licensed A/C professional before turning it on.

By now you are well on the way to recovery but you need to be sure the house is well dried out before starting repairs. Unless your “do it yourself” skill level is adequate you may want to engage a professional contractor at this point.

Watch out for “fly by night” contractors as they come out in droves following a flood. Some construction trades in Texas have to be licensed by the state while others do not. Electricians, plumbers and A/C companies have to be licensed. Do not let a “handyman” or other unlicensed person perform any work in these areas. Roofers, insulators, drywall and siding repairmen do not have to be licensed. Be sure to hire professionals with a good local history and references to work in these areas.

Some items of home repair will need to be permitted by the city you live in or near. Check with your city building official’s office to see if a permit is required for any of the work you plan to do. Typically roofing and work involving licensed trades people may need a building permit.

A word about insurance adjusters: Typically adjusters work for the insurance companies – not you. Most adjusters and reputable insurance companies will treat you fairly and provide you with enough money to cover your repairs including cleanup or “demolition” costs – within the limits of your policy. If you feel like you are not being treated fairly consider engaging the services of a public adjuster.

A public adjuster (PA) is a properly licensed property claims adjuster but they work for you. A PA will assess the damages to your property and the limits of your policy and work for you to gain the maximum possible from your insurance policy. Normally they take a commission or a percentage of whatever you get. If you get nothing they get nothing. This could vary so be sure to understand their payment requirements but they may be a very helpful service provider.