

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREPAREDNESS UPDATE



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Zachary Thompson, Director

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Special Edition:
Hurricane HarveyPublic Health Preparedness
responds to Hurricane Harvey

At the wake of the largest hurricane disaster to hit the state of Texas, North Texas was called upon by Governor Gregg Abbott to aid in response efforts of Hurricane Harvey.

Governor Abbott issued a disaster declaration for the counties of Aransas, Austin, Bee, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Brazoria, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad,

impacted by Hurricane Harvey in their time of need," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director.

DCHHS Public Health Preparedness Division (PHP) and the Dallas County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) provided support to the City of Dallas and the Red Cross at the Walnut Hill Recreation Center shelter and the Tommie Allen Recreation



Left to right: DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson, Asst. Director Environmental Health Rudy Phillips, Public Health Preparedness Manager Renee Owusu-Ansah and Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins

Gonzalez, Harris, Jackson, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Liberty, Live Oak, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, Waller, Wharton, and Wilson Aug. 23.

As disaster declarations continued to extend to more counties Aug. 25 and Aug. 26 throughout Texas, DCHHS prepared to aid in the response efforts to support evacuees traveling to the Dallas Area.

"DCHHS is on the ground providing support to our Texans

Center shelter in response to Hurricane Harvey.

Through growing support initiatives, the DCHHS PHP division assisted Texas Gulf Coast residents throughout the two facilities.

DCHHS Environmental Health completed site inspections and MRC volunteers supported shelter operations by helping set up shelters and unloading sleeping cots at the two locations.

In addition, DCHHS Epidemiology staff initiated an ongoing



DCHHS Public Health Preparedness Health Nurse Specialist Cheryl Carson and Emergency Volunteer Program Coordinator Larry Henderson



Dallas County MRC team setting up sleeping cots at the Walnut Hill Recreation Center Shelter



Disease Surveillance Report to ensure there was no concern for outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Response initiatives continued as the Walnut Hill Recreation Center and Tommy Allen Recreation Center shelters began to reach capacity and more shelters

opened.

DCHHS continued to support shelter initiatives at Lively Pointe Youth Center in Irving and the largest yet, the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Aug. 29.

Dallas County supports initiatives with Dallas Mayor and city officials



Left to right: City Manager T.C. Broadnax, DCHHS Asst. Director Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins, Dallas Office of Emergency Management Director Rocky Vas, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, DCHHS Asst. Director Environmental Health Rudy Phillips and DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson

Marked as the largest shelter in Dallas, the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Mega Shelter, is estimated to hold up to 5,000 individuals and families displaced from their homes as a result of Hurricane Harvey. DCHHS worked with the City of Dallas, Red Cross, Dallas County Medical Operation Center, Dallas County Medical Society as well as mental and behavioral health agencies to open a medical clinic at the Mega Shelter.

Within the early response phases of setting up the Dallas Mega Shelter, Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel and County Administrator Darryl Martin visited the shelter to review operations and welcome displaced families to Dallas County.

“Our hearts go out to our fellow Texans affected by this devastating hurricane,” said Dr. Theresa Daniel, county commissioner. “We are going the next step by sharing our resources to help people in harm’s way.”

Many residents have inquired about how they can help victims of the Hurricane Harvey disaster. On behalf of the Commissioners Court, County Administrator Darryl Martin sent out a notice advising on how county employees and residents can give back by visiting www.dallashelpforharvey.net

“On behalf of the court, thank you all for your cares and concerns for our fellow Texans.”



Left to right: DCHHS Medical Director/Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins, Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins, Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel, DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson and County Administrator Darryl Martin

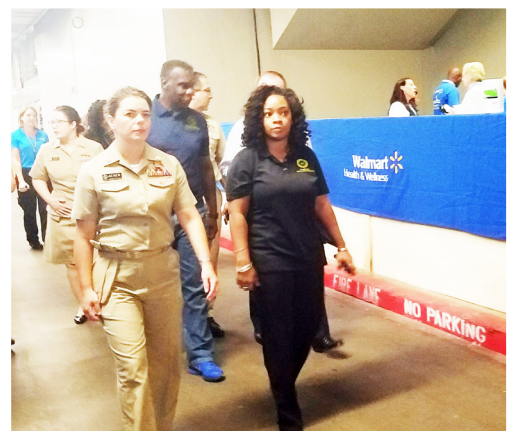
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services tour the Mega Shelter

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region VI office toured the Dallas Mega Shelter with Director Zachary Thompson and Asst. Director Public Health Communicable Disease Tammara Scroggins.

While other shelters neared capacity, attendance at the Mega Shelter slowly

poured in.

During the first few days of opening the Mega Shelter, only a few hundred were registered, however through the week, more evacuees continued to arrive with a count of 1,422 by the morning of Friday Sept.1 and 3,066 by the afternoon of Sept.5.



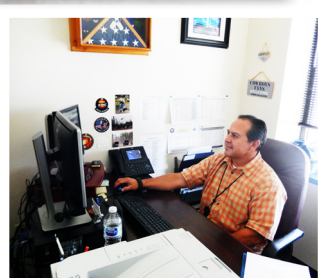
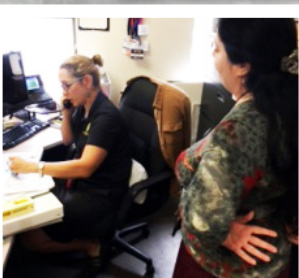
National Preparedness Month: Disasters don't plan ahead. You can.

What you need to know before the disaster

The Dallas Cowboys visited the Dallas Mega Shelter in support of Hurricane Harvey evacuees. During their visit DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson discussed appreciation of the organizations support during a time of the nations largest hurricane disaster since hurricane Katrina.

"The support of North Texas during this disaster has been the heart beat of local response efforts," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. "We are happy to see influential individuals and leadership from all levels use their platform to support evacuees from the Texas Gulf Coast."

During the visit Director Thompson did not miss the opportunity to discuss emergency preparedness and provided tips on what could be done at home in the event that a disaster strikes.



DCHHS encourages individuals and communities to take action to prepare for disasters and protect themselves. Understanding which disasters could impact families locally, knowing what to do to stay safe, taking action to increase preparedness and being able to recover from a disaster are all trainings that each family should have. In the event of any disaster, families should remember to have an emergency supply list and a communications plan.

MAKE A FAMILY PLAN

Before a disaster strikes, make sure you and your family know these details in order to stay safe.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SHOULD DETERMINE:

- ☐ Which facilities will be used as shelters in your community in case of emergency
- ☐ A designated meet-up location if your family is separated.
- ☐ A family contact outside of your area who would not be affected by a local disaster



TEACH YOUR KIDS

Your children may need to act in an emergency. Make sure they know the following information.

- ☐ Basic personal information to identify themselves if separated from you.
- ☐ Home number
- ☐ How to dial 911
- ☐ Family's meet-up locations
- ☐ How to reach the family's out-of-town contact



HAVE A communication STRATEGY

Communication systems are often unreliable during emergencies. Be sure to have a back-up plan.

- ☐ All family cell phones should have "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) programmed into the contact list with all family phone numbers plus out-of-area contacts.
- ☐ Text messages often get through in an emergency, even when a phone can't.

Dallas County Health and Human Services

PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS

Emergency supply list

A natural disaster such as a flood or a terrorist attack could force an evacuation or the need to shelter at home. These types of events occur beyond our control. The good news is there are things you can do to take control in an emergency and bring a sense of security to your family. The time to prepare is now. Keep enough of these items stocked at home for at least three days per family member.

Medical supplies

- first aid kit
- protective masks
- personal prescription drugs
- prescriptions for pets
- glucose test strips and monitor
- blood pressure monitoring equipment

FIRST AID KIT ESSENTIALS

- bandages
- thermometer
- antibiotic ointment
- gauze
- hot/cold pack
- eye drops
- cotton swabs
- rubbing alcohol
- pain-reducing medication
- medical tape
- pocket knife
- tweezers
- hydrogen peroxide
- scissors



Other supplies

- cash
- candles
- cell phone
- matches
- manual can opener
- garbage bags
- flashlights
- pocket knife
- batteries
- battery-operated clock radio



Food and water

- water
- juice
- canned food
- crackers
- cereal
- granola bars
- nuts
- dried fruit



Baby and pets

- formula
- bottles
- powdered milk
- jarred baby food
- diapers
- baby wipes
- cat litter
- leash
- collar
- ID tags
- pet food



Personal items

- hygiene products
- toilet paper
- towels
- soap
- shampoo
- hand sanitizer
- contact solution
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- pillows
- blankets



PREPAREDNESS **UPDATE** SPECIAL EDITION

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National Senior Center Month

Disaster preparedness continues at DCHHS Senior Centers

Natural disasters and other emergencies can hit older adults especially hard. In fact, seniors are more vulnerable, but less prepared during emergencies.

This month, DCHHS' Older Adult Services Program celebrates National Senior Center Month. Director Zachary Thompson is scheduled to visit Dallas County Senior Centers to discuss the importance of being prepared for an emergency and current initiatives with Hurricane Harvey. The initiative is in celebration of National Senior Center Month which is set to empower, enlighten, engage and enrich the lives of beloved senior citizens.

Since 1972, Dallas County has provided services to older adults with 11 community senior centers and counting. The program offers a supportive environment where individuals

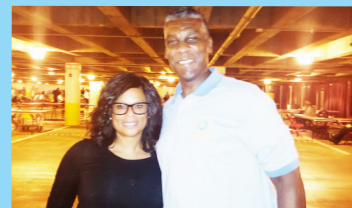
age 60 and older can participate in activities, fellowship, develop interests and remain independent.

DCHHS facilitates these programs and resources to positively address the changing demographic of senior citizens to inspire them to make the most of their time.

Activities include ongoing public health and public health preparedness education, dancing, arts and crafts, interactive games, field trips and a host of active initiatives. In addition, DCHHS offers nutritionally balanced meals to all participants and transportation services to and from the centers in designated service areas.

As National Senior Center Month and National Preparedness month join, DCHHS focuses on disaster preparedness education with senior citizens. In many cases, seniors may have more trouble accessing disaster assistance programs.

Should there be an emergency, make sure your elderly loved ones have the information to be safe at home or during an evacuation. Disasters don't plan ahead. You can. For more information about the program call 214-819-1860.



State Rep Nicole Collier discusses response efforts at the Dallas Mega Shelter with DCHHS



Dallas City Council Jennifer Staubach Gates shows support with Director Zachary Thompson



Asst. Director Housing Thomas Lewis, Dallas City Councilman Casey Thomas, Consulate General Francisco de la Torre Galindo and Director Zachary Thompson at the Mega Shelter providing referrals to Hurricane Harvey evacuees.



DCHHS
Safe families, healthy lives.

Dallas County Health and Human Services



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About This Newsletter

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