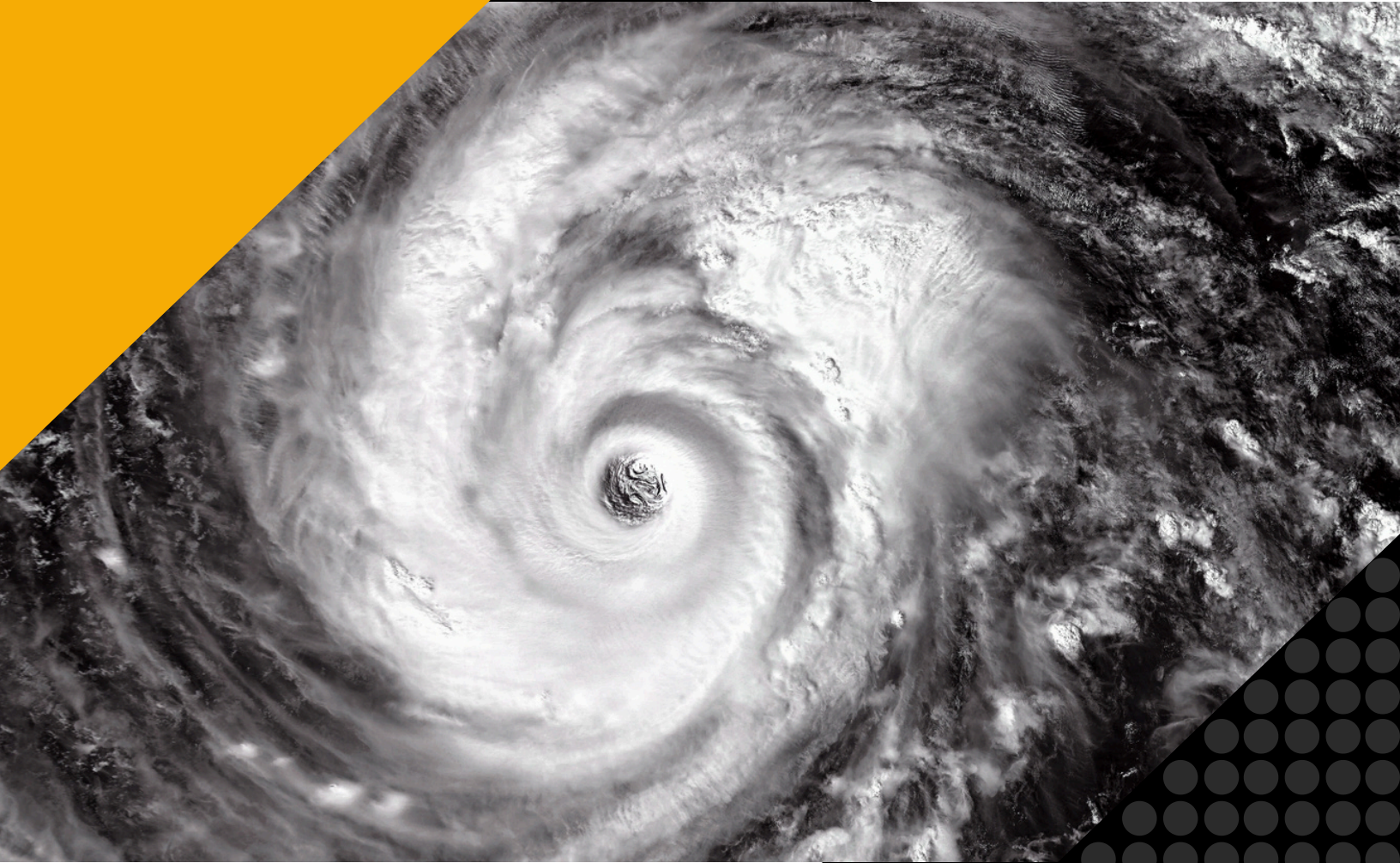


VICTORIA OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



VICTORIA'S HURRICANE & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



A Letter to Residents

With the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season fast approaching, The Victoria Office of Emergency Management wants to take a moment to speak directly to you not just as members of our community, but as neighbors who understand the realities of living on the Middle Texas Coast. Our area is no stranger to the unpredictable and often devastating impacts of hurricanes. From high winds and flash flooding to prolonged power outages and damaged infrastructure, these storms can drastically alter our lives in a matter of hours.

That is why early preparation is so important. Taking steps now before a storm is on the horizon can make all the difference. Knowing your evacuation routes, reviewing your insurance coverage, gathering essential supplies, and having a family communication plan in place are all vital to ensuring your safety. It's just as important to stay informed by following trusted news sources and local emergency management updates as conditions evolve.

We encourage every household to use the enclosed Hurricane and Emergency Preparedness Guide as a valuable tool. It's designed to help you take thoughtful, informed steps to prepare your family and home throughout the season. Please take time to review it, talk with your loved ones, and prepare together. If you or someone you know has a disability, medical condition, or lacks reliable transportation, please consider registering with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR). This free, voluntary program helps local emergency responders identify those who may need additional help during evacuations or emergencies. Registration can be completed by calling 2-1-1 or visiting www.TexasSTEAR.org.

In challenging times, Victoria has always shown remarkable strength, compassion, and cooperation. Preparedness is not just about individual safety, it's a commitment to one another. By working together, staying informed, and looking out for our neighbors, we continue to build a more resilient, united, and informed community.

Let's face this hurricane season with readiness and resolve.

Sincerely,
Rick McBrayer
Victoria Office of Emergency Management

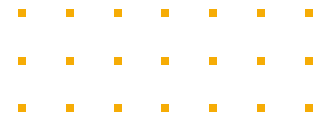


Rick McBrayer
*Emergency Management
Coordinator*

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Introduction



Mission

The Victoria Office of Emergency Management works to develop, maintain, and collaborate with local, state, and federal response agencies and community partners to sustain an effective emergency management program for Victoria County and the City of Victoria.

Community Preparedness

The Victoria Office of Emergency Management promotes and engages Victoria- area responding agencies, industry partners, and community members in becoming better equipped, knowledgeable, and resilient in the face of disaster and other emergencies. The Victoria Office of Emergency Management is employed to provide knowledge, information, and training to those groups and agencies who will ultimately need to be well informed about preparedness and resiliency; EVERYONE can benefit from being more prepared.

The Victoria OEM Team



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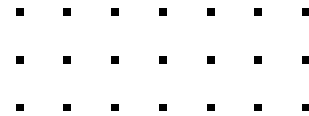


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Specialist

Understanding Hurricanes

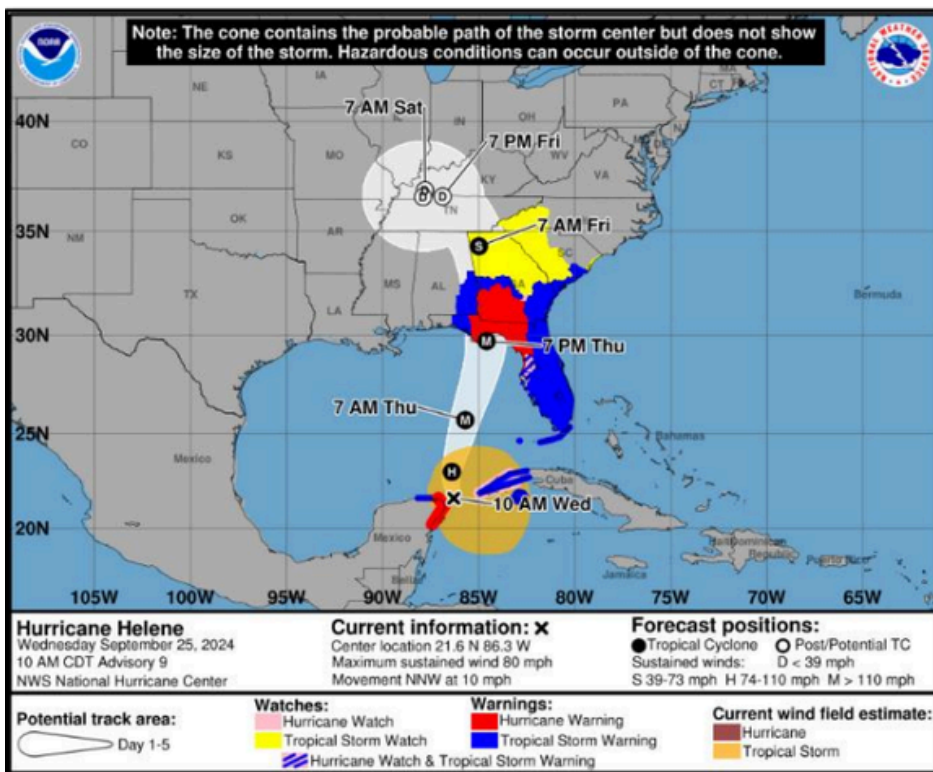


Hurricane Activity



A hurricane is the strongest type of tropical cyclone, a weather system that derives its energy from warm ocean waters and is characterized by a closed, counterclockwise circulation. The best way for individuals, businesses, and communities as a whole to protect themselves from both severe weather and hurricanes is to understand forecast modeling, terms used, and information provided by subject matter experts.





Forecast Cone



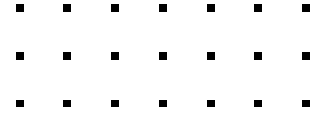
The Forecast Cone represents the probable path of the center of a tropical cyclone. It is created by connecting a series of circles (not shown) placed along the forecast track at intervals such as 12, 24, and 36 hours. The size of each circle is set so that two-thirds of historical official forecast errors over a 5-year sample fall within the circle. In 2024, the National Hurricane Center updated this graphic to include U.S. tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings. This enhancement helps better visualize the wind hazard risk, particularly for inland areas.

Understanding Hurricanes

The *Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale* estimates the potential property damage caused by hurricane's sustained wind speeds. Category 3 and higher hurricanes are major, with the potential for significant loss of life and property damage. **Category 1 and 2 storms are also dangerous and require preventative measures.**

 STORM LEVEL	 DAMAGE	 WINDS	 POWER OUTAGES
CATEGORY 1	MINIMAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some damage to roofs, siding, gutters and trees 	74-95 MPH	Could last several days .
CATEGORY 2	MODERATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material damage to buildings. Trees with shallow roots will be snapped or uprooted. 	96-110 MPH	Near total power loss that could last several days to weeks .
CATEGORY 3	EXTENSIVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive structural damage to houses. Trees will be snapped and uprooted. 	111-129 MPH	Outages can last for several days to weeks .
CATEGORY 4	EXTREME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings will sustain major structural damage. Affected areas will be uninhabitable for weeks or months. 	130-156 MPH	Outages could last for weeks to possibly months .
CATEGORY 5	CATASTROPHIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months. 	157+ MPH	Outages could last for weeks to possibly months .

Understanding Hurricanes

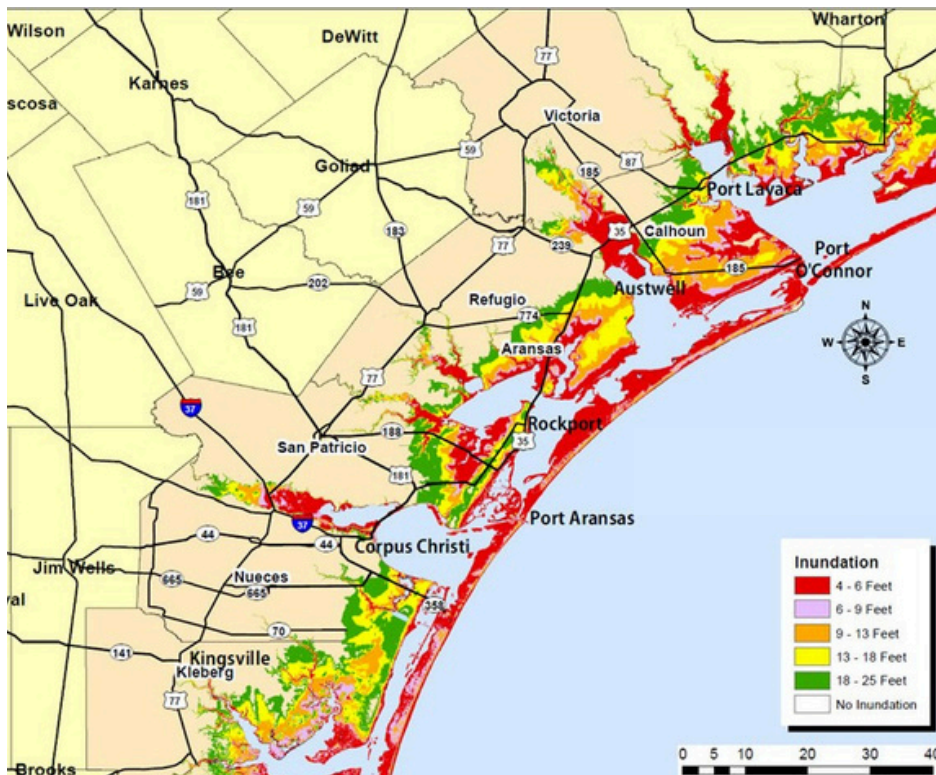


Evacuation Routes

Evacuees need to consider the projected path of the hurricane when choosing an evacuation route and destination. When evacuating, be sure to check local weather and highway conditions before departing. When local authorities order an evacuation of your area, **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!**



Storm Surge Flooding



Storm surge is the abnormal rising of water along the coast, generated by a storm, over the predicted astronomical tides. The surge is caused primarily by a storm's winds pushing water onshore. The amplitude of the storm surge at any given location depends on the orientation of the coast line with the storm track, intensity, size, and speed of the storm, and local bathymetry.

Understanding Hurricanes

Understanding 'Watch' and 'Warning' Terms

Tropical Storm Watch	High winds (39-73 mph) are possible within 48 hours.
Tropical Storm Warning	High winds (39-73 mph) are likely within 36 hours.
Hurricane Watch	Hurricane-force winds (74 mph or greater) are possible within 48 hours.
Hurricane Warning	Hurricane-force winds (74 mph or greater) are likely within 36 hours.
Storm Surge Watch	Life-threatening coastal flooding from storm surge is possible within 48 hours.
Storm Surge Warning	Life-threatening coastal flooding from storm surge is likely within 36 hours.

What should your plan be if a **WATCH** is issued for your area?

- Check supplies
- Continue to monitor TV & radio stations for instructions
- Fuel vehicles & generators
- Cover windows with plywood
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, toys, and tools

What should your plan be if a **WARNING** is issued for your area?

- Continue to monitor local TV & radio stations for instructions
- Move out of evacuation zones EARLY if told to do so by officials
- Check tie-downs if you live in a mobile home
- Verify that your emergency plan is complete
- Clean & fill bathtubs and all available containers with extra water
- Turn off utilities, if requested
- Stay away from windows, doors, and openings



Make sure to follow Victoria OEM on Facebook for updates and preparedness tips: www.facebook.com/victoria.oem

Hurricane Names

Have you ever wondered how a hurricane gets its name? The names are established by the World Meteorological Organization and then rotated every six years. If a storm is too deadly or costly, the name will be retired. If all names in a season are used up, then a supplemental list of new names will be used.

2026	2027	2028	2029
Arthur	Ana	Alex	Arlene
Bertha	Bill	Bonnie	Bret
Cristobal	Claudette	Collin	Cindy
Dolly	Danny	Danielle	Don
Edouard	Elsa	Earl	Emily
Fay	Fred	Farrah	Franklin
Gonzalo	Grace	Gaston	Gert
Hanna	Henri	Hermine	Harold
Isaias	Imani	Idris	Idalia
Josephine	Julian	Julia	Jose
Kyle	Katie	Karl	Katia
Leah	Larry	Lisa	Lee
Marco	Mindy	Martin	Margot
Nana	Nicholas	Nicole	Nigel
Omar	Odette	Owen	Ophelia
Paulette	Peter	Paula	Phillppe
Rene	Rose	Richard	Rina
Sally	Sam	Shary	Sean
Teddy	Teresa	Tobias	Tammy
Vicky	Victor	Virgine	Vince
Wilfred	Wanda	Walter	Whitney

Have a Plan Before An Emergency

Did You Know that by understanding your communities hazards and risks, you can better prepare yourself, your family, and increase your community resiliency?

Emergency Planning Recommendations

- Find safe areas within your home for when you need to shelter in place
- Determine the quickest and safest escape routes from your home, and make sure you identify two ways out of every room
- Decide on a meeting place or “rally point” for your family in case you evacuate and become separated
- Keep a list of contacts by the phone(s) and in your emergency kit
- Make sure everyone (including children) know important numbers and that children know their parents full names
- Make a plan for what you will do if you have to evacuate with pets
- Plan an evacuation route ahead of time
- Make accommodations for individuals in your family who may have access or functional needs
- Install safety equipment such as smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers within your home
- Learn basic safety skills such as hands-only CPR, basic first-aid, and how to use a fire extinguisher
- Know how and when to turn off water and electricity at their primary connections
- Teach children how to dial 9-1-1 for police, fire, or an ambulance
- Keep a list of your possessions & keep important documents in a safe deposit box or another safe and dry location

Create An Emergency Plan

Use the following information as a guide to create your emergency plan. Remember, emergency plans will vary depending on your household’s specific needs.

Contact Information

- Contact information for all members of your household including work and school numbers
- Contact information for your emergency contacts (family, friends, neighbors)

Health and Medical Information

- List allergies of all household members
- List blood types of all household members
- List all prescriptions and over-the-counter medications taken
- Doctors and pharmacy phone numbers
- Document all access or functional needs of every household member
- List all medical equipment, devices, and supplies
- Document all health and disability information

Evacuation Information

- Where will you go if an evacuation is ordered?
- How will you get there?
- Designate a meeting place in case a disaster occurs when household members aren’t home
- For additional evacuation considerations, [visit www.ready.gov/plan](http://www.ready.gov/plan)

Planning for Additional Family Needs

It is very important to plan for any access or functional needs that you or your family members may have when planning and preparing for an emergency. Below are some additional planning steps to consider:

Support Network

- Create a support network of individuals who can help you or your family in an emergency. This support network could include family members, loved ones, friends, neighbors, or paid caregivers. These individuals should know your situation, needs, and should be able to help quickly.
- Inform your support network where you keep your emergency supplies. Additionally, you may want to consider giving a trusted member of your support network a key to your house or apartment.

Daily Routine Needs

- Go over all the tasks involved in your normal day and make a list of any accommodations, specialized equipment, or other necessities that you rely on, including:
 - Special vehicle or transportation requirement
 - Medical equipment that requires electricity
 - Adaptive equipment for dressing, showering, or eating
 - Prescriptions and non-prescription medication that you take on a regular basis



This list will be the backbone of your emergency preparedness plan. For each item on your list, identify what you would do if your normal routine were to be disrupted.

Transportation

- Plan ahead for accessible transportation that you may need for evacuation or getting around before or after an emergency

The STEAR program is a **free** registry that provides local emergency planners and emergency responders with additional information on the needs in their community. Texas communities use the registry information in different ways. Registering yourself in the STEAR program **DOES NOT** guarantee that you will receive a specific service during an emergency. Available services will vary by community.

STATE OF TEXAS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REGISTRY

How To Register

- Visit <https://STEAR.tdem.texas.gov>
- Dial 2-1-1 or use video phone relay option of choice to contact 211 Texas

Required Info

- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Primary language

Who Should Register

- People with disabilities
- People who are medically fragile
- People with functional needs such as
 - Limited mobility
 - Communication barriers
 - Require personal care assistance
- People who require transportation assistance

Additional Questions Asked

- Emergency contact information
- Caregiver information
- Pets/service animals
- Transportation assistance for home evacuation
- Communication barriers
- Disability, functional, and/or medical needs

Planning For Pets Needs

When preparing for an emergency, it's essential to include your pets in your planning. Below are key steps to help ensure both your family and pets are ready for any situation.

Before The Storm

- When considering your emergency plan options for your pets see if you can find a boarding facility, veterinary clinic, pet-friendly hotels, as well as homes of friends or relatives outside of an evacuation zone.
- Have a carrier/cage for each pet - a means of containment will be needed anywhere you go.
- Choose an identification method for each animal. Examples: micro-chipping and ID tags on collars. **It might be a good idea to keep a photo of you and your animals to proof of ownership if separated.**
- Keep your animals' immunization (**especially rabies**) current and have copies of all immunization records.



Making an emergency plan for your pets is **VERY** important since animal services may not be available immediately after a hurricane.

After The Storm

- If your pet is lost, contact your veterinarian, local animal services and your local or state emergency management offices who may be able to help you search where local evacuated animals were sheltered during the storm.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may be different after a hurricane. Your pets may become confused and lost.
- Watch your animals **CLOSELY**. The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard with access to shelter and water.

Create A Pets Go Bag

- Pet first-aid kit
- 7-10 day's worth of canned/dry food and water per pet
- Disposable litter trays (**aluminum roasting pan**)
- Litter
- Liquid dish soap or disinfectant
- Disposable garbage bags for clean up
- Pet feeding bowls
- Extra collar, harness, and leash
- Copies of medical records
- A two week supply of any medicine your pet requires
- A crate, or sturdy carrier
- Comfort items (**blankets, toys, as well as chew toys**)
- Recent photos of your pets



Create A Go Bag

Everyone should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive at least several days if an emergency occurs. This list of emergency supply kit items is only a starting point, and you should include items that are unique to your family.

- At least a 7-day supply of non-perishable food for all members of your household. One gallon of water per person, per day.
- Battery-operated radio, flashlights, and extra batteries
- First-aid kit and prescription medications for all household members
- Blankets or sleeping bags, as well as extra clothing
- Cash and credit cards
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Important documentation such as : birth/marriage certificates, mortgage, household inventory, copy of insurance policy, etc.
- Any specific items for infants, elderly, or family members with disabilities
- A list of family/friends phone numbers and addresses outside of the area
- Kitchen accessories, cooking utensils, and a manual can opener
- Tire repair kit, booster cables, pump, and flares
- Toys and games for children
- Pet Go Bag ([see page 11 for details](#))
- A map showing county roads and highways
- A whistle
- Sanitation and hygiene items

Stay Informed



Timely, accurate information is key. It is crucial to ensure you are receiving information from legitimate sources. Beware of inaccurate information online during emergencies.

VOEMAAlerts

Keep yourself and your loved ones informed by signing up for VOEMAAlerts emergency notifications. If you have not signed up to receive emergency alerts, please do so by texting "VOEMALERTS" to 888777.



Get Connected Today

To find accurate information during an emergency or just for general information, please visit our website at

<https://www.vctx.org/page/oem.home>

Follow Us On Social Media



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Emergency Management



OEM_Victoria_TX

NOAA Weather Radio



NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service Office. Weather service warning, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Emergency Alerts

WEA is a public safety system that allows customers who own compatible mobile devices to receive geographically targeted, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area.



Returning Home After The Storm

If you evacuate the area, wait for an all clear from local officials before attempting to return to your home.

Debris Cleanup

- County or City officials will publish a schedule for debris pick-up and removal. Debris **CANNOT** be removed from private property.
- Construction materials, vegetative debris, household hazardous waste and household appliances will need to be placed into separate piles and moved to the curbside for pick-up.

General Cleanup

- Be cautious of structural damage and downed power lines.
- **DO NOT** attempt to move structural supports or large pieces of debris.
- **DO NOT** run power generators indoors. Inhalation of carbon monoxide from the exhaust can be deadly.
- **DO NOT** use open flames indoors.
- Restrict your driving to emergency use only. Road conditions may not be safe until road debris is cleared.

Water

- County or City officials will give instruction regarding public water supply. Use only bottled, boiled, or treated water until officials lift a boil water notice if one is in place.
- You can use household bleach to treat water for drinking or cleaning. Add $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of bleach per gallon of clear water or $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of bleach per gallon if water is cloudy. Allow water to stand for 30 minutes before using.

Interior Cleanup

- Disinfect and dry interior buildings and items inside. This will prevent growth of some bacteria, viruses, mold, and mildew that can cause illness.
- Clean walls, floors, and counter tops with soap and water. Disinfect them with a solution of 1 cup of bleach and 5 gallons of water.
- Wash all clothes and linens in hot water. Air dry and spray all un-washable items with disinfectant. Steam clean carpets. Throw away all items touched by water that cannot be disinfected.

Utility Cleanup

- Check for gas leaks. If you smell or hear gas leaking leave **IMMEDIATELY**. **DO NOT** use the phone or turn on lights in your home. Call the gas company from a phone outside of the home.
- Report any visible damage of power lines to the electric company. Turn off power at main breaker if any electrical equipment or circuits have been exposed to water.
- **DO NOT** connect generators to your home's electrical circuits. If a generator is online when electrical service is restored, it can become a major fire hazard.
- It is likely that an electric company other than your own will reconnect the lines to your home; however, they cannot turn the service back on. Only your electric company can actually turn the power back on to your home.

Sewage Cleanup

- If you suspect water or sewage lines are damaged, do not use your plumbing. Contact the water company or plumber for repairs.
- Your toilet can also be used by flushing until the bowl has no water. Then, line with heavy duty trash bags and disinfect with bleach after each use. Remove waste to an outside location.
- If significant sewer outages have occurred, instructions for disposal of human waste will be announced.
- **DO NOT** dispose of human waste through your regular trash.

Emergency Contacts

ORGANIZATION	PHONE NUMBER	SOCIAL/WEBSITE
Victoria Office of Emergency Mgt.	361-580-5770	Facebook.com/victoria.oem/
Victoria Police Dept.	361-573-3221	Facebook.com/victoriatx.police/
Victoria County Sherriff's Office	361-575-0651	Facebook.com/vcsotexas/
Victoria Fire Dept.	361-485-3450	Facebook.com/victoria-fire-department/
Victoria County Fire Marshal	361-579-9103	Facebook.com/vcfmo
Victoria County Public Health	361-578-6281	Facebook.com/victoriacountypublichealth/
Victoria LTRG	361-703-5567	Https://victorialtrg.org/
Texas Dept. of Transportation	361-293-4436	Https://www.txdot.gov/travel
National Weather Service -CC	361-289-0959	Https://www.weather.gov/crp/
FEMA Disaster Assistance	800-621-3362	Https://www.disasterassistance.gov
CDC	800-232-4636	Https://www.cdc.gov
National Flood Insurance Prog.	888-379-9531	Https://www.floodsmart.gov
Center Point Energy	800-427-7142	Https://www.centerpointenergy.com
Victoria Electric Coop. (VEC)	361-573-2428	Https://www.victoriaelectric.coop
American Electric Power (AEP)	877-373-4858	Https://www.aeptexas.com
American Red Cross- Coastal Bend	361-573-2671	Https://www.redcross.org
Poison Control	800-222-1222	Https://www.poisoncontrol.org
Salvation Army	361-572-3779	Https://salvationarmytexas.com
Victoria County United Way	361-578-3561	Https://www.unitedwayvictoria.org
2-1-1 Texas	2-1-1 or 877-541-7905	Https://www.211texas.org
Disaster Distress Helpline	800-985-5990	Https://www.samhsa.gov.find-help/disasterdistress-helpline

THANK YOU!

To all of our Victoria first-responding agencies for your coordination, leadership, and dedication to keeping our community safe!



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Victoria County Public Health Dept.