



City of Hunters Creek Village, #1 Hunters Creek Place, Hunters Creek Village, Texas 77024
Office: 713.465.2150, Fax: 713.465.8357, www.cityofhunterscreek.com

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Hunters Creek Village Plans for Emergency Preparedness

In the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, City personnel have taken on the task of studying how to prepare for any future events like Rita and analyzing the effects of a disaster upon a municipality such as ours. The goal has been to define the task our City plays in disaster response, and to inform our residents as to how to prepare for, survive, and recover from such an event.

This special Newsletter reflects their findings and recommendations. Please take time to read the guidelines and save it for future reference. The key message is that Disaster Management for Hunters Creek Village and the other five Memorial-area Villages is under the jurisdiction of the Village Fire Department. Please read the following from Fire Chief Calagna.

Fire Chief Calagna Speak Out: Let Common Sense Prevail



First of all, I want everyone to know that if they have a true emergency, they should call 9-1-1. Secondly, visit our website www.villagefiredept.com for real time disaster and recovery information. We have many valuable links on our page, including hurricane preparedness. Once the storm is over, we will post road closings and re-openings, in addition to other necessary information.

As you prepare for the hurricane season and the possibility of another Rita, remember this: ***the Memorial Villages are not in danger from the storm surge.*** So ask yourself as you debate whether to leave or stay: do you want to be inconvenienced at home or inconvenienced out of town?

Continued... **Fire Chief** on page 3

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Life-threatening Emergency: Call 911

Broken power line, gas line or water main: Call 911

Report power outage: **CenterPoint Energy** at 713.207.2222 or toll free at 1.800.332.7143

Real time disaster information: www.villagefiredept.com

City of Hunters Creek Village Website: www.cityofhunterscreek.com

Harris County Homeland Security and Emergency Management: www.hcoem.org

Pre-register for **Special Needs Evacuation**: Call 211

City of Hunters Creek Village City Hall: 713.465.2150

A Note from Our Mayor



All Disaster Management is under the jurisdiction of the Village Fire Department. In the event of a hurricane or other major disaster, the City has two main priorities. One, to keep the lines of communication open with the Disaster Response Team on Corbindale in order to preserve and secure our infrastructure; and two, to handle cleanup of roadways so that access can be restored in order of emergency priority. To insure continued operations of City Hall during a crisis, a back-up generator is currently being acquired to provide the City an alternate power source, and after its installation, will permit staff to handle recovery efforts.

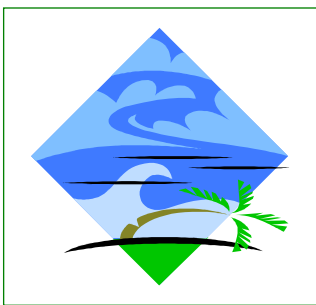
I have asked three residents to volunteer to serve on an Emergency Management Preparedness Committee to establish communications with our residents through the various homeowners associations. The committee includes Richard Heustess, Winnie Ngan, and Jim Pappas. This is especially important in helping to identify those residents who may be uncomfortable registering with the Special Needs 2-1-1 process, but who would welcome a contact after any crisis to check on their well-being.

As you restore order to your own personal property in the aftermath of a serious storm, the City will have a contract for major debris removal. Working through our contractor, we will remove all debris blocking roads as quickly as possible in order of predetermined priority. The City will not remove debris from your property for you. For instance, if your driveway is blocked, you must arrange for clearing it yourself. The City has no legal authority over construction dumpsters.

Details on how you need to present your debris for removal will be forthcoming. If you want your major debris such as fallen tree limbs or large flood-damaged items picked up, most likely they must be bundled in lengths of six feet or less and left along curbside for the announced special pickup days. Large debris is hoisted up by trucks with claws. The debris cleanup will continue until the streets are clear and the debris is gone. Please do not use this as a time to clean out your garage.

For important phone numbers and contact information, please see page 4.

Plan Ahead for Special Needs Evacuation



The Houston area has implemented a special needs registry to assist anyone who might require special help, such as the elderly or handicapped, to receive public transportation to a shelter in the event of an evacuation. If you feel you would need to be taken to a shelter in advance of a hurricane, you can pre-register by calling 2-1-1. You will be able to bring your medicines, medical equipment and any pet in a carrier. Bear in mind, by registering, you are requesting this assistance. If you feel you would be able to stay at home or leave on your own, you probably do not need to register. In the event that hospitals might be shut down, be certain you have your medicines and equipment and are prepared to fend for yourself a few days. In any case, inform your family and neighbors of your plans so they know where to check on you.

What if your street is impassable?

The Village Fire Department on Corbindale is our Emergency Operations Center. All street re-openings will start from this point outward. The objective is to give the fire trucks and ambulances response access as quickly as possible. Main streets will be cleared before smaller neighborhood ones. Getting your street cleared could take hours or days, depending on location and severity of damage. Be sure you have supplies on hand to get you through this eventuality.

Remember that power outages impact traffic signals, so when you are out and about, drive defensively.



What about pets?

Images of Katrina portrayed bewildered, gaunt dogs and distraught owners. Whether you plan to evacuate or stay at home, be sure to provide for your pet's needs. They will require ample food and water just like you. Have their vaccination records with you, and bring their carriers so that they might be welcome at a shelter or hotel. Don't forget bowls, blankets, a leash, cat litter and box, and medications. Plan to purchase a carrier now, as they will probably be scarce or unavailable in the event of an impending storm.

Fire Chief from page 1 ...

The most extreme storm surge for a category 5 hurricane won't reach within miles of the Memorial Villages. Buffalo Bayou is below the Addicks Reservoir so it is unlikely to cause extensive flooding. Tornadoes are a possibility.

Remember what the experts say. Run from the water, hunker down from the wind. We're a pass-through community. People in Galveston and LaPorte have to evacuate. We don't.

Our real concern here is wind and water damage. You may lose power. You might have property damage. The Fire Department's priority is to respond to life-threatening emergencies. Once sustained winds reach 60 mph, fire trucks cannot safely roll and will not venture out.

Please read over these common sense suggestions and visit www.villagefiredept.com for even more. Make it a family priority to have a plan for hurricanes or other potential catastrophic events.

Prepare:

- ❖ Batten down your property. Trim tree limbs now. Bring in lawn furniture and other potential flying objects.
- ❖ **TURN OFF YOUR WATER SPRINKLERS.** They can put a serious drain on the water system in case it has been compromised.
- ❖ Organize your supplies. Plan on a gallon of water per person per day for a full week as well as a week's worth of food. Don't forget your pets' necessities. Include a manual can opener. Make sure you have a good supply of your medicines.
- ❖ A good idea is to fill a plastic garbage can with important items ahead of time so you won't be fighting the crowds at stores. Include food, water, first aid kit, infant needs, etc. Have enough matches, batteries, a radio, a battery generated TV. Purchase a basic plug-in phone that does not require electricity to operate such as remote or answer phones.
- ❖ Keep your cars filled with gas. Buy an automobile cell phone charger and extra phone battery.
- ❖ Have your ID, proof of residency, extra car keys, credit cards and cash ready.
- ❖ Secure your important papers. Back up your hard drive. Take insurance papers with you if you evacuate.

During the storm and aftermath:

- ❖ **STAY INSIDE.** Flood waters are full of snakes, fire ants and dangerous debris. The powerful suction of a missing manhole cover could pull a person or a pet down and away to drown.
- ❖ Beware of fallen power lines and broken gas lines.
- ❖ **DO NOT TURN OFF GAS UNLESS IT IS LEAKING.**
- ❖ Report broken gas lines.
- ❖ Report broken water mains.
- ❖ It is not necessary to report loss of power unless you see a live downed line. Lights will be restored according to predetermined priorities.
- ❖ Once power is lost, turn off appliances, air conditioners and lights to avoid a power surge on the grid when it is restored.
- ❖ Do not report downed trees on your private property. Only those affecting access can be removed by the City, and those in order of access priority.
- ❖ If you use a gas generator, be well-versed in its safe operation to avoid deadly carbon monoxide poisoning and other dangers.
- ❖ Be prepared to take care of yourself and your own property.
- ❖ Call your relatives and friends to let them know you are okay so they will not call the police and fire departments to check on you.
- ❖ Visit www.villagefiredept.com for more details on hurricane preparation.

The **City of Hunters Creek Village** is committed to restoring emergency services as quickly as possible for the safety and comfort of residents.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency

Emergency 911
Police 713.365.3700
Fire 713.468.7941

Utilities

Electricity 713.207.2222
Gas 713.659.2111
Water & Sewer 713.465.8318
Cable..... 713.462.9000
Trash Collection (Republic Waste) . 281.446.2030

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